**ISSUE NO: 17726** 

ආ:

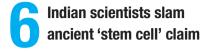
Max 20°

## The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf

www.kuwaittimes.net

Campers urged to physically check location before online reservation

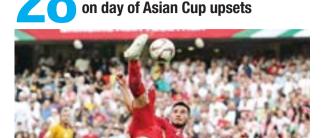






Original Danish shows take television world by storm





Aussies slump, India soar

# Opposition MPs propose to abolish constitutional court

## Early retirement law delayed for two more weeks

# Expats have more driving licenses, but Kuwaitis more cars

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah said expats hold a total of 1,664,000 valid driving licenses, while those issued to Kuwaitis only number 624,000. Responding to an inquiry by MP Ahmed Al-Fadhl about roaming taxis and the driving licenses given to each sector, Sheikh Khaled said the total number of vehicles registered to Kuwaitis is 1,039,000, while those owned by expats number only 616,000. He added 22,000 driving licenses of Kuwaitis and 15,000 of expats were withdrawn for committing severe traffic violations.

Sheikh Khaled elaborated that licenses held by Kuwaitis include 607,000 private licenses, 10,000 general, 6,400 for bikes and 146 for construction machinery, while those issued to expats include 909,000 general licenses, 730,000 private ones, 6,200 for bikes and 18,000 for construction machinery. Sheikh Khaled strongly denied the presence of any fake learning permits, noting that a few applications suspected to include fake documents were detected and referred to relevant authorities.

He also noted that the interior ministry and the manpower authority are electronically linked to verify applicants' job titles and minimum salary conditions for expats. "Degrees are verified through applicants' embassies and the foreign ministry," he affirmed.

Finally, Sheikh Khaled explained that licenses issued to expat drivers and mandoubs are cancelled if they change their profession or their residencies expire. "If an expat returns to Kuwait, they can file a new application for a license after two years," he added.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Five opposition lawmakers yesterday submitted a draft law calling to abolish the constitutional court and create a similar new court to "stop the existing court from interfering in the affairs of the National Assembly", MP Thamer Al-Suwait said. The move, which is unlikely to be accepted by the Assembly, comes just two days before the Assembly is expected to debate a highly controversial ruling by the constitutional court that declared a key article of the Assembly's internal charter as unconstitutional.

That ruling issued on Dec 19 infuriated senior opposition MPs, who charged the country's top judicial tribunal of interfering in the internal affairs of the Assembly. Suwait said the proposal calls to establish a supreme

constitutional court to compromise of five judges, a member of the government and a lawmaker, saying this setup will ensure balanced verdicts by the court without infringing on the rights of the Assembly. Other signatories to the proposal are MPs Abdulwahab Al-Babtain, Khaled Al-Otaibi, Omar Al-Tabtabaei and Osama Al-Shaheen.

The ruling by the constitutional court scrapping article 16 of the Assembly's internal charter created a legal dilemma for the Assembly, which used that article to vote to retain the membership of two opposition members Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and Jamaan Al-Harbash. The two MPs were handed a final jail term by the court of cassation for storming the Assembly building in late 2011. It was assumed that the final verdict automatically revoked their membership of the Assembly.

However, MPs in October invoked article 16 of the

Assembly's charter to vote to keep their membership, but the article was soon scrapped by the court. The Assembly is scheduled to debate the consequences of the court ruling tomorrow amid clear division in the house. Opposition MPs are adamant that the memberships of Tabtabaei and Harbash are still valid and legal, while a group of other lawmakers insist that their membership has been revoked by the court and by-elections should be announced to fill the two seats.

Meanwhile, the Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee did not complete its report on the early retirement law because of some differences. According to committee sources, the government still insists it will deduct two percent for life from those who opt for early retirement, while MPs insist that the deduction must be only for a few years.

# Malaysia king abdicates in historic first

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's king abdicated yesterday in a historic first for the country that ended weeks of speculation about his future after he took medical leave and reportedly married a Russian ex-beauty queen. Sultan Muhammad V's decision marks the first time a king has stepped aside during his five-year term in the Muslim-majority country.

The national palace confirmed the resignation with immediate effect of the 49-year-old, who had been on the throne for two years and was known for his fondness for four-wheel driving and other extreme sports. "His majesty tells the people of Malaysia to continue to be

united to maintain unity, tolerance, and work together," said a statement from the Comptroller of the Royal Household, Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz. Malaysia's Islamic rulers will now meet to decide on the next king.

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy, with a unique arrangement where the throne changes hands every five years between rulers of the nine Malaysian states headed by centuries-old Islamic royalty. The system has been in place since independence from Britain in 1957. Royal officials gave no reason for Sultan Muhammad V's move but there had been a question mark over the king's reign since he went on leave for medical treatment in November.

Reports in British and Russian media then surfaced saying that he had married the former Miss Moscow in the Russian capital in a lavish ceremony. Royal officials in Malaysia have so far

Continued on Page 24



KUALA LUMPUR: This photo taken on July 17, 2018 shows the 15th king of Malaysia, Sultan Muhammad V, saluting a royal guard of honor during the opening ceremony of the parliament. — AFP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan (right) walks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan upon his arrival at the military Nur Khan air force base yesterday.— AFP

## UAE crown prince gets red carpet welcome in Pak

**ISLAMABAD:** The red carpet was rolled out for Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan in Islamabad yesterday, just weeks after his country offered \$3 billion to support Pakistan's battered economy. In a rare gesture, Prime Minister Imran Khan met Sheikh Mohammed at the Pakistan air force base and a formation of air force jets marked his arrival with a flyby. The crown prince was also presented with a guard of honor by a contingent of Pakistani armed forces.

The United Arab Emirates is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East and a major investment source, Pakistan's foreign ministry said in a statement ahead of the visit. More than 1.5 million Pakistanis live in the Gulf state and send millions of dollars in remittances back home, it added. The crown prince last visited Pakistan in Jan 2007.

Sheikh Mohammed, who is also deputy chief of the

UAE's armed forces, had a "one-on-one meeting" with Khan, followed by delegation-level talks, the statement said. "They resolved to take all necessary measures to deal with matters related to trade enhancement, and decided to form a Task Force to achieve this objective," said a joint statement issued after talks ended.

The UAE announced in December that it would deposit \$3 billion in the central bank of Pakistan to help "enhance liquidity" as the country struggles with a widening balance of payments crisis. The statement quoted Khan as saying that "this financial support shows the UAE's continued commitment and friendship that has remained steadfast over the years".

The Pakistani rupee plunged almost five percent to a record low at the end of November, after what appeared to be the sixth devaluation by the central bank in the past year. It also secured \$6 billion in funding from Saudi Arabia and struck a 12-month deal for a cash lifeline during Khan's visit to the kingdom in October. Islamabad has also received billions of dollars in Chinese loans to finance ambitious infrastructure projects. A team from the International Monetary Fund visited Pakistan in November to discuss a possible bailout with officials but talks ended without agreement. — AFP

Robertson slammed the Thai authorities and urged the UN refugee agency to help the teenager. "What country allows diplomats to wander around the closed section of the airport and seize the passports of the passengers?" he said, adding that there is "impunity" within the family unit in Saudi Arabia to abuse women. Immigration head Surachate said Rahaf would be sent back to Saudi Arabia by today morning. "It's a family problem," he said of the case.

Saudi Arabia has come under fierce criticism following the murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the kingdom's Istanbul consulate on Oct 2 last year - a case that stunned the world. The ultraconservative kingdom has long been attacked for imposing some of the world's toughest restrictions on women. That includes a guardianship system that allows men to exercise arbitrary authority to make decisions on behalf of their female relatives. In addition to facing punishment for "moral" crimes, women can also become the target of "honor killings" at the hands of their families, activists say. Another Saudi woman, Dina Ali Lasloom, was stopped in transit in the Philippines in April 2017 when she attempted to flee her family. An airline security official told activists that Lasloom was heard "screaming and begging for help" as men carried her "with duct tape on her mouth, feet and hands" at the airport. The Saudi embassy in Thailand and officials in Riyadh could not be reached for immediate comment. — AFP

### News in brief

#### New MEW timings 'scrapped'

KUWAIT: Informed sources said Minister of Electricity and Water Khaled Al-Fadhel annulled the new work timings for ministry employees yesterday. The move came after a number of employees held a sit-in outside the ministry in protest over increasing their working hours (from 7:30 am till 2:30 pm from the beginning of January to replace the old timings of 8:00 am till 2:00 pm) without considering their personal circumstances, the sources added. — Meshaal Al-Enezi

#### Iran quake felt in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Some people in northern Kuwait felt an earthquake that struck an area near the Iran-Iraq borders yesterday, Director of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research's National Seismological Network said. Dr Abdullah Al-Enezi said people in northern Kuwait felt the tremor at 5:15 pm. No one was hurt and no material damage was reported. The earthquake hit Gilan Gharb in Kermanshah province in western Iran, injuring about 31 people, most of them lightly, Iranian state news agency IRNA reported. The US Geological Survey (USGS) initially put the magnitude of the quake at 5.9, but revised this later to 5.5. — Agencies

#### Divorce notice by text message

RIYADH: Saudi courts will notify women by text message when they get divorced, in a new regulation that took effect yesterday, officials said. The measure approved by the justice ministry appears aimed at curbing seemingly rampant cases of men secretly ending marriages without informing their wives. "Women... will be notified of any changes to their marital status via text message," the justice ministry said in a statement carried by state-run Al-Ekhbariya news channel and other local media. "Women in the kingdom will be able to view documents related to the termination of their marriage contracts through the ministry's website." The move comes as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman spearheads a liberalization drive in the conservative kingdom, which has some of the world's toughest restrictions on women. — AFP

# Fleeing woman stopped by Saudi, Kuwaiti officials at Bangkok airport

BANGKOK: A Saudi woman held at Bangkok airport said she would be killed if she was repatriated by Thai immigration officials, who confirmed the 18-year-old was denied entry to the country yesterday. Rahaf Mohammed M Alqunun told AFP she was stopped by Saudi and Kuwaiti officials when she arrived in Suvarnabhumi airport and her travel document was forcibly taken from her, a claim backed by Human Rights Watch. "They took my passport," she told AFP, adding that her male guardian had reported her for traveling "without his permission".

Rahaf said she was trying to flee her family, who subjected her to physical and psychological abuse. "My family is strict and locked me in a room for six months just for cutting my hair," she said, adding that she is certain she will be imprisoned if she is sent back. "I'm sure 100 percent they

will kill me as soon as I get out of the Saudi jail," she said, adding that she was "scared" and "losing hope".

Rahaf was stopped from entering Thailand when she flew in from Kuwait yesterday, Thailand's immigration chief Surachate Hakparn told AFP. "She had no further documents such as return ticket or money," he said, adding that Rahaf was currently in an airport hotel. "She ran away from her family to avoid marriage and she is concerned she may be in trouble returning to Saudi Arabia. We sent officials to take care of her now," he said. He added that Thai authorities had contacted the "Saudi Arabia embassy to coordinate".

But Rahaf disputed his account, saying that she was only in transit to seek asylum in Australia, and was accosted by Saudi and Kuwaiti embassy representatives when she deplaned in Suvarnabhumi airport. She took to Twitter to plead her case, creating a profile with an Arabic bio that reads "I just want to survive".

During a video livestream showing her walking around a carpeted hallway, Rahaf spoke in Arabic about how her father had told Saudi embassy officials she was a "psychiatric patient" who had to be returned, even though she had "an Australian visa". "I can't escape the airport," she said in the live video. "I tried but there's a security (offi-

Human Rights Watch Asia deputy director Phil

Local Monday, January 7, 2019

# Amir, Sisi discuss latest regional, global developments

## Amir, Crown Prince meet top state officials





**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday received a phone call from Egyptian President Abdelfatah Al-Sisi. During the phone call, the two leaders tackled issues of mutual concern and the latest developments in the region and the world. The Egyptian leader also congratulated His Highness the Amir on the New Year, wished him everlasting wellbeing as well as more progress and welfare for Kuwait. In the meantime, His Highness the Amir thanked President Al-Sisi on the initiative which embodied the depth of ties between the two Arab nations. He also wished him everlasting wellbeing and more advancement and prosperity for Egyptian people.

In other news, His Highness the Amir received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He also hosted chairman of the supreme judicial council and the court of cassation, and president of the constitutional court Justice Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawa.

Also amongst those received yesterday were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Tunisia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Khemaies Jhinaoui who handed His Highness the Amir a written letter from Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, which included an invitation to His Highness the Amir to attend the 30th ordinary session of the Arab Summit due in Tunisia in March.

misia in March. His Highness the Amir also received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, accompanied by Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al-Saud, who handed His Highness the Amir a written letter from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, regarding bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest. Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meetings.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince met with Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Justice Mutawa and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. — KUNA



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chief Justice Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawa.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al-Saud.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Tunisia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Khemaies Jhinaoui.



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



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



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chief Justice Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawa.

### Foreign Minister meets Tunisian counterpart

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah vesterday met with the visiting Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Khemaies Jhinaoui. During the meeting, they addressed close relations between Kuwait and Tunisia, ways of promoting and developing them in all fields, the latest regional and international developments and issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Fahad Al-Awadhi, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Dhafiri. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Khemaies Jhinaoui.

— Foreign Ministry photo



# Amir's representative attends Armenian Orthodox Christmas Mass

KUWAIT: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah attended Christmas Mass at the Armenian Orthodox Church. Meanwhile, Representative of His Highness the Amir also visited the Nigerian Embassy in Kuwait, where he conveyed condolences of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah over the passing away of former Nigerian president Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari. Minister Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak also conveyed condolences of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as the Kuwaiti Government and people in this regard. — KUNA

Local

Monday, January 7, 2019

# Defense Minister orders reinvestigating Eurofighter memo's financial violations

# Committee to investigate audit report on ministry's deals in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah issued a ministerial resolution yesterday to form a committee to investigate the report made by the State Audit Bureau on military enforcement contracts the defense ministry made in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years. The State Audit Bureau report also includes the results of examining the ministry's 2017-2018 budget and reinvestigating financial violations related to the Eurofighter program's memorandum of understanding. The investigation committee includes members from the ministry of justice, the military inspection authority and the military judiciary.

#### Juvenile employees

The Public Authority for Manpower's central labor inspection manager Mohammad Al-Ansari said the authority is fining employers hiring children aged under 15 who do not hold any work permits. Ansari said with the authority's permission, juveniles aged 15 to 18 can be hired according to conditions of not employing them to do hazardous jobs and having them medically examined. "Juvenile employees below 15 are banned from working in companies and stores," he underlined, noting that all commercial facilities are inspected and are subject to legal measures in case of violations.

"There is no such thing as a juvenile internship or a 100-day trial period," Ansari added, noting that the minimum age to obtain a work permit is 21. In case a juvenile under 18 is found working, they may be deported, their parents will be subjected to legal measures, the sponsor's file gets marked as 'code 72' and the employers are fined. Finally, Ansari said juveniles are not registered with the manpower authority, and accordingly do not receive any compensation for work-related injuries.

#### Guidance to the youth

Awqaf ministry undersecretary Fareed Emadi said the ministry uses all media methods to convey its guidance to the youth. Emadi added that according to studies, 90 percent of the youth are on social media networks most of the time and that the ministry uses these networks to reach out to them in collaboration with

social media celebrities. "Some people no longer accept messages made by mosque imams," he underlined, noting that a strategic plan is being prepared upon direct instructions from HH the Amir to fight extremism. Responding to a question about the prices of hajj convoys, Emadi said that supreme hajj committee formed a special committee to monitor prices, adding that the committee managed to reduce prices to KD 1,500.

#### Renewable energy projects

A recent report on following up the 2018-2019 plan issued by the ministry of state for economic affairs detected 'sluggishness' in renewable energy projects executed by three different bodies including the Ministry of Electricity and Labor. The report said the budget needed for the project of supplying, installing and maintaining photoelectric panels of Subbiya water reservoirs had not been included in the current fiscal year's budget (2018-2019) and that the project has not started.

The report also said the National Technology Enterprises Company (NTEC) is supposed to execute a project to enhance energy efficiency in government buildings and another to supply, install and operate photoelectric cells in co-ops and house roofs, but both projects are still facing financial and legislative hurdles. The report added that Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has three renewable energy projects including Al-Shaqaya - the one with the highest achievement rates - and another to build a desalination plant run by renewable energy, but stressed that no budget was set for it so far.

#### Consumption meters

The Cabinet yesterday sought the commerce ministry's opinion on a proposal made to establish a shareholding government company for examining electricity and water consumption meters and collecting fees from consumers. The Cabinet explained that the proposed company's profits should not exceed 10 percent of the shared capital, adding that 24 percent of the shares will be owned by the government and its subsidiary bodies, 26 percent to be offered for public bidding at Kuwait Stock Exchange and 50 percent will be allocated for citizens. "Government bodies have failed to collect dues from consumers and it is high time the private sector takes

over this task to achieve transparency, justice and equality," the Cabinet underlined.

#### Behind schedule

The monthly report issued by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare refuted assurances made by the authority's officials and officials of the Chinese company executing the second contract in Mutlaa City, and warned that the company is behind sched-

ule and might not be able to finish the project by October. The report explained that only 23.21 percent of the infrastructure needed for 18,519 plots is completed, whereas according to the contract, 54.06 percent should have been completed by now, which means that the company is behind schedule by 30.85 percent.

Sheikh Nasser Sabah

**Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah** 

In addition, the report showed that the company failed to meet the September achievement point of 37.44 percent and only achieved 17.81 percent. It also failed to meet the October achievement of 43.16 percent of the work and only achieved 20.54 percent of the work. The report showed that only 12 out of a total of 23 projects executed by the housing authority are ahead of schedule, while 11 are behind schedule.

#### Cooperatives' law

Ministry of Social Affairs' assistant undersecretary for cooperatives Abdul Aziz Shuaib said the final version of amendments of the new cooperatives' law has been finalized and it will be sent soon to the Cabinet for approval pending referral to the parliament. Speaking during festivities held by the Qairawan heritage village, Shuaib said the new law stipulates that elections will be held every four years to elect nine board members and that the board is entitled to change the administration following every general assembly. Shuaib added that cooperatives that do not comply with Kuwaitization policies will be gradually penalized starting from the second quarter of 2019.



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health's assistant undersecretary for medicine control Dr Abdullah Al-Bader announced taking legal measures against a private clinic that had been selling medicine to its patients, which is a clear violation of law number 28/1996 and ministerial resolution number 395/1997 that grant pharmacies exclusive permission to sell medicine. The decision was made following a number of complaints filed by private pharmacies concerning scores of patients inquiring about the expiry or the prices of certain medicines sold to them by the clinic. Bader added that in coordination with the ministry's assistant undersecretary for private medical services Dr Fatima Al-Najjar, inspection teams were sent to the clinic, where the violations were detected and documented in official reports.

Bader noted that the teams are periodically inspecting all private clinics in Kuwait to make sure all medicines are only given by pharmacies, where they are usually stored according to international specifications under specialized supervision. He also urged the public to report any medicine-related violations through the MoH website.

#### Food inspection

Public Authority for Food and Nutrition Director Essa Al-Kandari, the acting deputy director for inspection Dr Thekra Behbahani and inspection teams inspected the new Al-Mawashi Company's slaughterhouse in the capital and the truffles market in Rai. The teams checked the slaughterhouse's departments and modern facilities with a capacity of 18,000 heads per day. The teams detected no violations since the slaughterhouse only opened in October. The team also visited the truffle market where 120 truffle outlets were inspected, where only 57 had valid health certificates, while the others were found to be still working on issuing them.













KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Military Service Authority celebrated the graduation of batch 46 of recruits who underwent training at the firefighters' training center of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD). The graduates gave a demonstration during the event to highlight what they have learned during the five-month training course, the Defense Ministry's Moral Guidance Department said in a statement.

Monday, January 7, 2019 Local

#### Photo of the Day



# Gulf entrepreneurship forum kicks off in Kuwait on Jan 14

# Encouraging youth to get engaged in entrepreneurship

Organized by

**KUWAIT:** A Gulf entrepreneurship forum is scheduled to take place in Kuwait between January 14-15, with experts ship experts to set out major subjects to be discussed by the conferees, Al-Arfaj added. The ministry has played a

from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries attending, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. The second-of-its-kind event will feature eight workshops and four seminars, Manager of Public Relations and Media and Spokesman of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Nasser Al-Arfaj told a

press conference. The ministry, the organ-

Youth Affairs Ministry

considerable part in raising public awareness about entrepreneurship,

and in spurring young people to actively join this significant domain, he noted. Meanwhile, the ministry's entre-

preneurship section chief Hessa Al-Ayar said substantial entrepreneurship steps and relevant factors of success will be atop the agenda of the event. The conferees are expected to explore how to capitalize on the available tools of young people who are willing to get engaged in izer of the forum, has recently worked with entrepreneur-the realm of entrepreneurship, she added. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Manager of Public Relations and Media and Spokesman of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Nasser Al-Arfaj (right) and the ministry's entrepreneurship section chief Hessa Al-Ayar attend the press conference. — KUNA

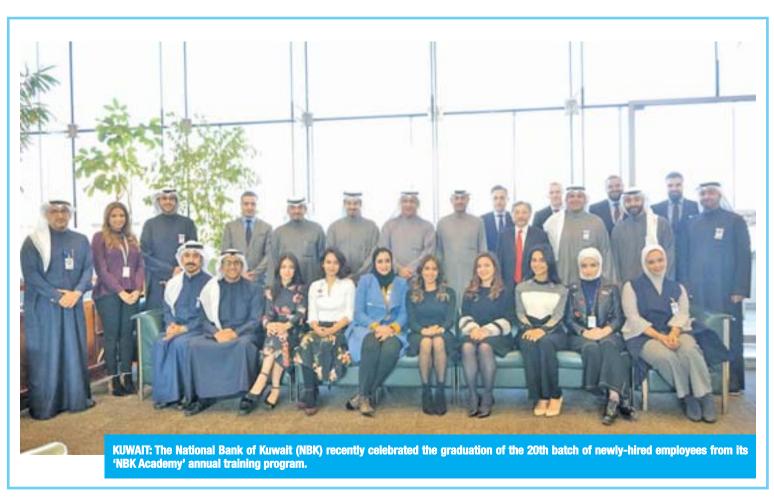
### **KUNA** chief receives Kuwait's envoy to India

**KUWAIT:** Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah received Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassem Al-Najm to discuss the role of media in boosting bilateral ties. During the meeting yes-

terday, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij noted KUNA's role in cooperating with Kuwaiti diplomatic missions to strengthen the country's relations with the world. He stressed the need for further coordination between KUNA's correspondents and Kuwaiti embassies for full media coverage of the missions' activities. The meeting was attended by KUNA's Deputy Director General for Financial Affairs and Communications Abdulhamid Malik, Deputy Director General for the Editorial Department and Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali, head of the public relations and marketing department Issam Al-Ruwayeh and director of KUNA Chairman's office Nayef Al-Otaibi. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah (left) meets with Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassem Al-Najm. — KUNA



# E ≯ E d toyetabu

# Campers urged to check location physically before online reservation

## Over 1,000 warning letters given to illegal camps

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Due to the heavy rains and floods, the camping season was postponed this year. Instead of licensing the camps from the beginning of November, registration for licenses only opened on Jan 1, 2019 by Kuwait Municipality. But many people did not wait to get the licenses and pitched their camps in the desert. Some of those tents were removed by municipal inspectors, while others still remain. This is because various factors were taken into consideration, such as the location of the camp or violations by the campers. According to the Municipality, over 1,000 warning letters were given to the illegal camps.

Until yesterday, 101 licenses had been issued, which include 98 for individuals and three for institutions. The registration is completely electronic on the Municipality's website www.baladia.gov.kw, where the applicant can pay the deposit and fees. The applicant can choose the location depending on availability.

Fahd Shteel, assistant undersecretary and head of the camping committee, advised people to check the location before registering it on the website. "The website shows the areas where camping is permitted and the availability of each location. If a location is reserved by an applicant through the website, it shows it is occupied. But there may be illegal campers on that location, which won't show in the system, as they are not licensed. So I advise applicants to avoid conflicts and check the location physically before making the reservation online. The best way is to register

while at the location," he told Kuwait Times.

According to him, the Municipality will always try to resolve any problem amicably. "We have not faced any such cases yet, but if they occur, we will try to solve it friendlily. If we are not able to do so, we will ask the squatting camper to issue a license and compensate the person who reserved it with an alternative location. This is one of the conditions for issuing the license - that the location is vacant," explained Shteel. The camping license is available for both citizens and expats and the conditions are listed on the official website of the Municipality.

Municipal inspectors have razed all illegal camps that were pitched outside the permitted space for camping set by the Municipality. "Regarding illegal camps inside the allowed area, we only removed violating camps that either had environmental violations such as building permanent utilities fixed with cement to the land or harming the environment through other violations," said Awad Abulkhair from the coordination department at the Municipality. "In addition, we also removed other camps with immoral violations or other environmental violations. We did not remove family camps that have not committed any violation, but we reminded them to apply for a license for their

He also highlighted the centers serving campers in all the camping areas. "We have three complete security centers in three locations - Salmy, Kabd and the entrance of Rahal in the south of Kuwait. These centers are equipped with ambulances, firefighting vehicles and police patrols,'

A subsidiary of ALSAYER Holding



## **Passengers** arrested with drugs

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Custom inspectors at Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4 (T4) arrested an arriving passenger with possession of 160 illicit pills and seven pieces of hashish hidden in his luggage, said security sources. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to relevant authorities. The sources added that another passenger was also arrested with possession of a piece of hashish and six





### MoH to host nine int'l consultants this month

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health (MoH) announced yesterday that nine consultants from international medical centers will visit Kuwait this January to conduct medical operations and provide consultations at a number of the ministry's centers. In a statement, the ministry said the consultants will be specialized in heart surgery, chest surgery, oncology, colorectal surgery, reconstructive surgery, liver, pancreas, knee and pelvic surgery as well as specialties of orthopedics,

otorhinolaryngology and gynecology. The statement added that the visiting consultants will provide a summary of their experiences and work through medical consultations and participation in continuing medical education programs, in addition to a case study and specialized surgery at the Kuwait Cancer Center, Al-Babtain Center for Burns, Sabah Al-Ahmad Heart Center, Farwaniya Hospital, Al-Adan

Hospital and Ar Razi Hospital. The statement noted that hosting the consultants also comes to exchange health care protocols, implement international standards from different disciplines, exchange experiences with colleagues in the public and specialized hospitals to benefit patients, and help improve the quality of health care and technical performance. The ministry confirmed that its specialized agencies have made all necessary arrangements to ensure the success of this activity for the visiting consultants. — KUNA



# International

Britain warns on travel to south India after temple unrest persists

Page 9



Youngest congress woman proposes ludicrous tax plan



# 'Yellow vests' storm French ministry

# 'The break-in an unacceptable attack on the Republic'

PARIS: "Yellow vest" protesters returned in force to Macron did not specifically refer to the incident, but the streets of France this weekend, clashing with police in several cities and smashing their way into a government ministry in Paris with the help of a forklift truck. The interior ministry put the number of protesters who took to the streets on Saturday at 50,000, compared with 32,000 on December 29 when the movement appeared to be weakening after holding a series of weekly Saturday protests since mid-November.

Government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux, who was evacuated from his ministry in central Paris when a handful of protesters in high-visibility vests smashed down the large wooden door to the ministry compound, denounced the break-in as an "unacceptable attack on the Republic". "Some yellow vest protesters and other people dressed in black ... got hold of a construction vehicle which was in the street nearby and smashed open the entrance gate to the ministry," he told AFP.

They briefly entered the courtyard where they smashed up two cars, broke some windows then escaped, he added, saying police were trying to identify them from security footage. President Emmanuel tweeted his condemnation of the "extreme violence" against "the Republic, its guardians, its representatives and its symbols".

#### 'Agitators' strike back

Griveaux had on Friday criticized the yellow vest movement, describing those still involved as "agitators" who were seeking "to overthrow the government". Police said some 3,500 demonstrators turned up on the Champs-Elysees on Saturday morning. Some then made their way south of the river to the wealthy area around Boulevard St Germain, where they set light to a car and several motorbikes and set up burning barricades, prompting police to fire tear gas to try and disperse them. Police said 35 people were arrested.

Demonstrators took to the streets of several other cities across France, with up to 2,000 people in Rouen northwest of Paris, where some set up burning barricades. One protester was injured and at least two others were arrested, police said. Some 4,600 protesters hit the streets of the southwestern city of Bordeaux, with some hurling stones at police who answered with tear gas and water cannon. Five police were hurt and 11 people arrested, local authorities said, adding that sev-

eral cars were torched and shop windows broken. Further south in Toulouse, 22 people were detained following clashes that erupted after 2,000 people turned out to demonstrate. And in the central-eastern city of Lyon, several thousands took to the streets, blocking access to the A7 motorway and causing traffic jams for those returning from Christmas holidays in the

#### **Brigitte Bardot backs protesters**

The yellow vest movement began in rural France over plans to increase fuel taxes. But it later ballooned into a wider revolt against Macron's pro-market policies and governing style, with 282,000 people joining the first Saturday rally on November 17. Macron initially refused to make any concessions, but in mid-December, after weeks of violence, he scrapped the planned fuel tax hike and promised extra cash for minimum wage earners as well as tax cuts for pensioners.

The protests have turned into the biggest political crisis of Macron's 20-month presidency and brought his popularity ratings to an all-time low. Although public anger appeared to abate following his concessions and over the holiday period, the brief arrest on Wednesday of Eric Drouet, one of the leaders of the movement, appeared to rekindle resentment among his

The latest opinion poll, published on Thursday by Odoxa Dentsu, indicated 55 percent support the protests — a figure which, although lower than the 75 percent back in November, is still important enough to suggest the anti-austerity movement retains political clout. Former cinema icon Brigitte Bardot, who is known today for her rightwing views and animal rights activism, yesterday said she understood what motivated the yellow vest movement. "When I see the millions spent on incredibly trivial things, when I see politicians using private planes and chauffeur-driven cars to get around (...) all this money spent is unacceptable," she told the Midi Libre newspaper. "It should be given instead to people in need." — AFP

## Scientists slam Hindu 'stem cell' claim

**NEW DELHI:** The organizers of a major Indian science conference distanced themselves yesterday from speakers who used the prestigious event to dismiss Einstein's discoveries and claim ancient Hindus invented stem cell research. The Indian Scientific Congress Association expressed "serious concern" as the unorthodox remarks aired by prominent academics at its annual conference attracted condemnation and ridicule.

The distinguished gathering of Indian researchers and scientists hosts Nobel laureates, but in recent years has seen Hindu mythology and faith-based theories edging onto the agenda. At this year's congress, the head of a southern Indian university cited an ancient Hindu text as proof that stem cell research was discovered on the subcontinent thousands of years ago.

"We had 100 Kauravas from one mother

because of stem cell and test tube technology," said G. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor at Andhra University, referring to a story from the Hindu epic Mahabharata. Rao, who was addressing school children and scientists at the event, also said a demon king from another centuries-old Hindu epic had two dozen aircraft and a network of landing strips in modern-day Sri Lanka. "Hindu Lord Vishnu used guided missiles known as 'Vishnu Chakra' and chased moving targets," added the professor of inorganic chemistry.

Event organizers tried to hose down the remarks, saying it was "unfortunate" the prestigious event had been derailed by controversy. "We don't subscribe to their views and distance ourselves from their comments. This is unfortunate," Premendu P. Mathur, general secretary of Indian Scientific Congress Association, told AFP. "There is a serious concern about such kind of utter-

ances by responsible people.' Another speaker, a scientist from a university in southern Tamil Nadu state, also raised eyebrows by questioning the breakthroughs of Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. India is no stranger to prominent figures debasing science or citing ancient Hindu texts like the Puranas and Vedas as

ironclad evidence of the country's technological prowess.

India's minister for higher education Satyapal Singh last year said Darwin's theory of evolution was wrong, and vowed to change the national school curriculum to reflect that. The minister hails from the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which rules 17 of India's 29 states and territories outright or through alliances. BJP leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 pointed to Hindu scriptures as proof

that plastic surgery existed in ancient India. Science minister Harsh Vardhan last year said ancient Greeks took credit from India for early mathematical principles and misquoted Stephen Hawking as praising the Vedas for discoveries greater than Einstein's theory of relativity. The Breakthrough Science Society, an Indian-based educational charity, said it was "astounded and even horrified" at the remarks made at an academic summit. "Puranic verses and epics are poetic, enjoyable, contain moral elements and rich in imagination but not scientifically constructed or validated theories," the group said in a statement Sunday. "Such a hallowed assembly of scientists has been misused to make false and chauvinistic claims about ancient India." — AFP

# 30 killed in Afghan gold mine collapse

KUNDUZ: At least 30 people were killed when a gold mine collapsed in northeastern Afghanistan yesterday, officials said, in the latest tragedy to strike the war-torn country. Another seven were injured in the incident in Kohistan district of Badakhshan province, district governor Mohammad Rustam Raghi

Villagers had dug a 60-metre deep shaft in a river bed to search for gold. They were inside when the walls fell in. "The people were using an excavator to dig a big hole in the river when it collapsed, trapping dozens of workers," Raghi said. "At least 30 people have been killed and seven wounded." It was not clear why the shaft collapsed, but the provincial governor's spokesman Nik Mohammad Nazari told AFP the miners were not professionals.

"The villagers have been involved in this business for decades with no government control over them," Nazari said. "We have sent a rescue team to the area, but villagers have already started removing bodies from the site." Defense ministry helicopters have been dispatched to deliver cash to the families of the victims and airlift the wounded to hospitals, said Hashmat Bahaduri, spokesman for the National Disaster Management Authority.

Bahaduri confirmed the casualty toll, but warned the figures could change. Families of the wounded will receive 10,000 afghanis (about \$130) in compensation, while those of the dead will get 50,000 afghanis, he said. Badakhshan is a remote, mountainous province in northeast Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan, China and Pakistan. The impoverished region is prone to landslides, particularly in the colder months when heavy snow blankets the province. Illegal mining is common in resource-rich Afghanistan, with the Taleban relying on the sector for much of its revenue. But most of the country's minerals remain untapped as the raging conflict and lack of regulation deter international miners from exploiting the huge reserves. — AFP

International

Monday, January 7, 2019

# Far-right president Bolsonaro puts stamp on Brazil in first week

#### Nationalist vision draws similarities to Trump

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's new president, Jair Bolsonaro, came out swinging in his very first week in office, introducing changes to remake his country around his far-right agenda — but proving less ambitious than expected on economic reforms. Many measures announced since his investiture Tuesday reflected the 63-year-old former paratrooper's desire to break with decades of center-left politics and embrace a nationalist vision of the sort espoused by his ideological ally, US President Donald Trump.

Bolsonaro declared Brazil and the United States to be "friends" and said in his first post-inauguration TV interview he was open to looking at his country hosting a US military base, citing regional instability from neighboring Venezuela and its backer Russia. He also issued decrees reducing protection of indigenous land rights and the LGBTQ community, and ordered that nongovernmental organizations come under government monitoring.

His government announced it has launched a purge of government contractors deemed not to fully support Bolsonaro's ultraconservatism. And his pro-free-market economy minister, Paulo Guedes, said the government's number-one priority was to tackle Brazil's costly and unsustainable pension system. Investors applauded the first bold steps, sending the stock market to a record high and strengthening the Brazilian real against the dollar.

#### Confusion

But on Thursday and Friday, Bolsonaro sowed some confusion on other issues when he spoke unscripted to journalists. First, he spoke of a minimum retirement age that was well below what his economic team is mulling, undermining hopes that he was going to firmly tackle the pension problem that consumes a third of public spending.

Then he expressed wariness about a multi-billion-dollar planned tie-up between planemaker Embraer and US giant Boeing, sending the Brazilian company's shares diving and calling into question his market-friendly campaign rhetoric. And Bolsonaro also announced a tax increase contrary to a campaign pledge. His chief of staff, Onyx



Lorenzoni, hastily said Bolsonaro was "wrong" on the tax hike.

The other topics, however, were not fully explained by Bolsonaro aides, leaving the impression of a gap between the president's ambitions and the ministers he has tasked with turning Brazil's economy around. Additionally, reports emerged Saturday of discomfort among top military brass at Bolsonaro's idea of maybe having a US military base on Brazilian soil. That dissent could reach Bolsonaro's cabinet, where seven of his 22 ministers are retired military officers.

#### 'Simplified answers'

The impression left was that Bolsonaro's first week was marked by moves aimed at appealing to his socially conservative base made up of evangelical Christian, pro-gun and pro-business groups, but with little underlying strategy. "You get the idea that the government has been taken over by people who don't have an idea what are Brazil's most serious problems, who are tackling issues most of which aren't important. When they do take on important issues, they have

very simplified answers," said Maria Herminia Tavares de Almeida, a political analyst at the University of Sao Paulo.

In terms of the outlook under Bolsonaro for Latin America's biggest economy, "for the moment, it's the honeymoon phase," said Andre Cesar with the consulting firm Hold. "The market is sometimes bipolar: euphoria today can turn into depression tomorrow." More announcements and decisions are expected from Bolsonaro and his team in the coming days and weeks as he seeks to put his stamp on Brazil while he enjoys very high approval ratings. But observers said the real test will begin in February, when the new Congress starts work.

Bolsonaro's conservative Social Liberal Party has only a tenth of the seats in the 513-member Chamber of Deputies, and the president will be relying on lawmakers from several parties reflecting his base to back him. The political risk consulting firm Eurasia Group called that "his greatest challenge: to construct a working majority in congress to approve much-needed fiscal reforms." — AFP



Career Opportunities – American International College / Opening 2019

New American Private University in Kuwait has exciting career opportunities for enthusiastic professionals to join our dynamic team. These positions are well-suited to individuals looking to advance their careers and gain hands-on experience in a thriving and supportive workplace.

Job title	Qualification / Experience
Governmental Scholarship Specialist	Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited institution required. Demonstrated experiences using computer skills; proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and database management
Registration Specialist	Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited institution required. Demonstrated experiences using computer skills; proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and database management.
Academic Advisor	Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited institution required. Demonstrated experiences using computer skills; proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, social media and database management; experience with Banner software a plus.
Testing Specialist	Bachelor's Degree required; Master's preferred2.At least 3 years of experiences in higher education; preferably in testing services or enrollment.
Librarian	Bachelor's Degree required, preferably in library or information science from an ALA-accredited school or an ALA-approved foreign equivalent. Experiences in an academic library, preferably in a higher education setting.
Director IT & Media	Bachelor's Degree required; Master's degree preferred in an IT related field and/or evidence of further professional development.3 to 5 years' experience in higher education environment; at least 3 years working in an information Technology setting with increasingly complex roles, including the management of networks, database, audio visual and telecommunications systems.
Retail Manager	Bachelor's Degree required. Prior experiences in managing retail spaces and venders to include cateteria, other retail operators.
Marketing Specialist	Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Business or Communications, or related field. At least 3 years' experience in higher education; preferably in marketing.
Maintenance Coordinator	At least three years of progressively responsible experience in the maintenance of complex facilities preferably those facilities that would be found in a college setting. Experience in the use of desktop PC computers; experience in operating and managing a computerized maintenance management and inventory system.
Security Coordinator	At least 3 years of related security or community policing experiences or equivalent military experience. Experience and/or demonstrable understanding of community safety and policing in a higher education environment, strongly preferred.
Receptionist	High School/Secondary school diploma required. Bilingual: English and Arabic required.
Support Services Coordinator	Bachelor's Degree required; Master's preferred. At least 3 years of experiences in higher education; preferably in support services.
Purchasing/Inventory Coordinator	Minimum of three years' experience in the procurement of goods and services. Bilingual: English and Arabic preferred.

If you are interested in working with a dynamic and successful team, please send resume, recent photograph and expression of interest to aic@abs.edu.kw. State the job title in the subject of email.



International

#### Monday, January 7, 2019

# America's youngest congresswoman launches term with ludicrous tax plan

## 'Green New Deal' aims to eliminate carbon emissions by 2030

WASHINGTON: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez began her term as the youngest woman ever elected to the US Congress with a bang this week by proposing to tax the ultra-rich at 60 or 70 percent. The daughter of hard-scrabble working-class parents, the 29-year-old New Yorker was working toward making good on a campaign promise. "People are going to have to pay their fair share of taxes," she told CBS television's "60 Minutes," in excerpts released ahead of its Sunday broadcast.

The proposal is part of an ambitious tax plan dubbed the "Green New Deal" that aims to eliminate carbon emissions by 2030. The self-described Democratic Socialist nicknamed AOC suggested taxing the ultra-wealthy up to 70 percent in order to finance the plan. "It's going to require a lot of rapid change that we don't even conceive as possible right now. What is the problem with trying to push our technological capacities to the furthest extent possible?" she asked.

To pay for the plan, Ocasio-Cortez floated the idea of tax rates as high as 70 percent on the ultra-rich. She referred to the progressive taxation system that was in place in the 1960s before Ronald Reagan took office as president when the top earners paid 70 percent in taxes. That rate then gradually dropped. "You look at our tax rates back in the 60s and when you have a progressive tax rate system, your tax rate, let's say, from zero to \$75,000 may be 10 percent or 15 percent, et cetera," Ocasio-Cortez said.

"But once you get to, like, the tippy tops, on your 10 millionth dollar, sometimes you see tax rates as high as 60 or 70 percent. That doesn't mean all \$10 million are taxed at an extremely high rate. But it means that as you climb up this ladder you should be contributing more." The top marginal tax rate is now 37 percent, following President Donald Trump's fiscal reforms. It was previously at 39.6 percent.

Even though it has little chance of success, the proposal backed by the young lawmaker has already garnered significant support. It landed her on the front

page of the New York Daily News, an image of which Ocasio-Cortez was quick to retweet. A Washington Post analysis found that if the approximately 16,000 Americans who earn more than \$10 million each paid 70 percent income taxes for any revenue above that marker, the federal government would rake in around \$72 billion per year.

But the sum would likely be much lower because individuals falling in that bracket would find ways to avoid the heavy tax burden. In a New York Times oped, Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman backed Ocasio-Cortez, rejecting "the constant effort to portray her as flaky and ignorant. On the tax issue, she's just saying what good economists say," he added.

#### Undeterred by her youth

Ever since her surprise victory during Democratic primaries in June over Joseph Crowley, who had run unopposed for more than a decade and was seen as a contender to become the next speaker of the House of Representatives. The victory has made her a key figure of the liberal wing of the party, and Ocasio-Cortez has demonstrated more than once that she can respond swiftly to her detractors.

When Republican campaign consultant Ed Rollins called her a "little girl" on a conservative television talk show, Ocasio-Cortez shot back on Twitter: "If anything, this dude is a walking argument to tax misogyny at 100%." On Friday, a video released online by a detractor showing a young Ocasio-Cortez dancing with fellow Boston University students to the Phoenix song "Lisztomania" in a remake of a mashup of scenes from the Brat Pack movies.

But rather than embarrass Ocasio-Cortez, the release ended up having the opposite of its intended effect. The congresswoman, who has a strong social media presence, responded by posting a new video of her dancing in front of her office on Capitol Hill, writing: "I hear the GOP thinks women dancing are scandalous.



Wait till they find out Congresswomen dance too!"

With her past as a New York bartender, Ocasio-Cortez is a figurehead of the new wave of young law-makers who entered Congress after the midterm elections, bringing fresh perspectives and more diversity to the legislature. Asked if she considers herself to be a radical, Ocasio-Cortez told CBS, "You know, if that's

what radical means, call me a radical. I think that it only has ever been radicals that have changed this country," she explained "Abraham Lincoln made the radical decision to sign the Emancipation Proclamation. Franklin Delano Roosevelt made the radical decision to embark on establishing programs like Social Security. That is radical."—AFP

# Venezuela's assembly rejects legitimacy of Maduro second term

CARACAS: Venezuela's opposition-controlled but toothless National Assembly declared Nicolas Maduro's presidency illegitimate on Saturday, calling on the military to support efforts to "restore democracy." The United States, which has sanctioned Venezuelan officials and entities, hailed the legislature as "the only legitimate and last remaining democratically elected institution" in the country.

"We reaffirm the illegitimacy of Nicolas Maduro," the assembly's new president Juan Guaido said after being sworn in at the start of a new legislative session. "As of January 10, he will be usurping the presidency and consequently this National Assembly is the only legitimate representative of the people."

Maduro, who has presided over a virtual collapse of the economy in the once-rich OPEC member state, is set to be sworn in on Thursday for a second six-year term after elections widely condemned by the international community. The ballot, on May 20, was boycotted by most of the opposition. On Friday, foreign ministers from 12 Latin American countries and Canada announced in Lima that their governments would not recognize Maduro as president if he attempts to remain in office and urged him to turn over power to the National Assembly.

The Maduro government accused the so-called Lima Group of "encouraging a coup d'etat" on instructions from Washington. Mexico, which is a member of the group, withheld its support for the statement. Guaido, in a speech attended by law-makers and members of the diplomatic corps, declared that the military's chain of command had been "broken or usurped," but called on the armed forces to support efforts "to restore democracy."

He committed to "generate conditions for a government of transition and to call free elections." The US State Department said it "celebrates" the assembly officials' swearing-in, a ceremony attended by charge d'affaires James Story. "The National Assembly should inspire hope in the Venezuelan people for a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic future, even as the corrupt and authoritarian Maduro regime and its allies seek to deny Venezuelans that right," State Department deputy spokesman Robert Palladino said in a statement.

#### Hands tied

The National Assembly has been largely sidelined by a separate regime-created Constituent Assembly, which called the elections at a time when most major opposition figures were in jail or banned from running. Washington, which called the vote a "sham," refused along with the European Union and the Lima Group countries to recognize the results

"Maduro is a usurper, an invader and should be removed," said Delsa Solorzano, an opposition deputy. But she denied that the call for armed forces' support was "to carry out a coup d'etat." The Supreme Court, which has consistently sided with Maduro, rendered the National Assembly powerless after the opposition gained the majority in 2016. "Nothing will come out of the assembly that can have the least impact," said Peter Hakim, of the Inter-American Dialogue, saying it has been "stripped of power and authority. Our hands are tied," Solorzano acknowledged. —AFP

### Merkel's partner demands answers over data breach

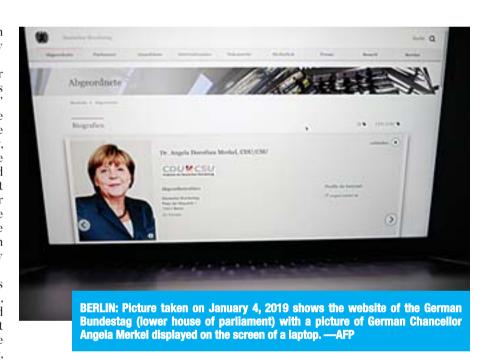
BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel's junior coalition partners, the Social Democrats (SPD), demanded yesterday that her interior minister quickly find out what Germany's security agencies knew about a huge data breach and how they reacted. The breach has shocked Germany's establishment and risks rocking Merkel's awkward 'grand coalition' again just months after a row over the fate of the domestic intelligence agency chief came close to tearing apart the ruling alliance.

The government said on Friday that personal data and documents from hundreds of German politicians and public figures including Merkel had been published online, in what appeared to be one of Germany's biggest data breaches. Lars Klingbeil, secretary general of the centre-left (SPD), told the Funke media group the

government must quickly shed light on "which agencies knew what exactly when, and how that was dealt with".

"This should be a priority for (Interior Minister) Horst Seehofer. It's about protecting our democracy," Klingbeil added. Seehofer told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung he only became aware of the breach on Friday morning, but that he would share everything he finds out with the public and intended to do so by the middle of this week at the latest. The ecologist Greens leader in parliament, Anton Hofreiter, said the president of the BSI cyber defense agency, Arne Schoenbohm, must explain himself urgently in an extraordinary parliamentary committee meeting.

The BSI on Saturday defended its role in responding to the data breach, saying it could not have connected individual cases it was aware of last year until the entire data release became public last week. Last year, Seehofer was at the centre of a political storm over another security agency chief, whose the fate almost tore apart Merkel's coalition of her conservative bloc and the SPD. Despite SPD resistance, Seehofer res-



cued Hans-Georg Maassen from dismissal in September when the domestic spy chief questioned the authenticity of videos showing far-right nationalists chasing immigrants in the east-

ern city of Chemnitz. But Maassen was subsequently sacked in November over a speech given behind closed doors condemning "naive and leftist" government policies.—Reuters

# UN council regrets Somalia's decision to expel envoy

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council on Saturday expressed regret after Somalia expelled a UN envoy but added that it expected "full cooperation" between Somalia and the United Nations. The council released the unanimous statement after UN Secretary

General Antonio Guterres on Friday agreed to appoint a new UN envoy to replace Nicholas Haysom, who was declared persona non grata by the Mogadishu government on January 1. Haysom, a South African lawyer and experienced diplomat, was ordered to leave after he questioned the government's arrest of an Al-Shabaab defector who ran for election. The British-drafted statement expressed "regret" for the decision and expressed full support for the UN mission to Somalia. Council members reiterated "their expectation of full cooperation between Somalia and the United Nations", it added.

The council met behind closed doors on Friday to discuss a response to Somalia's decision but China asked for more time to consider the text, diplomats said. China presented amendments on Saturday to stress that the council respects Somalia's "sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity," diplomats said. The council statement said 2019 will be a "critical year for Somalia" and called on its leaders "to work together to advance political and security reforms." On Friday, Guterres' spokesman said the UN chief "deeply regrets" the decision to expel Haysom but that he nevertheless intends to appoint a new envoy. Guterres spoke twice by phone with President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed to urge him to reverse the decision but the Somali president told him on Friday that Haysom would not be welcomed back, diplomats said. —AFP

## Sudan police break up protests as Bashir backers plan rally

KHARTOUM: Riot police fired tear gas yesterday at protesters in Sudan's capital planning to march on the presidential palace, witnesses said, as backers of President Omar Al-Bashir announced their own rally for next week. Deadly anti-government protests have rocked Sudanese cities including Khartoum since December 19, when unrest first broke out over a government decision to raise the price of bread.

Authorities say at least 19 people including two security personnel have been killed in clashes during the demonstrations so far, but rights group Amnesty International has put the death toll at 37. Yesterday, crowds of protesters gathered in areas of downtown Khartoum after a group organizing anti-government rallies called for a march on the palace. But riot police were quick to move in and disperse the protesters with tear gas, witnesses said.

"Police are not even allowing 10 people to gather," a witness told AFP.

Video footage posted on social media networks showed protesters fleeing down streets and alleyways in the downtown area trying to escape the noxious gas. The Sudanese Professionals' Association, a group of doctors, teachers and engineers, had called Saturday for the march after organizing similar rallies in recent weeks. "We will march on the palace on Sunday calling for President Bashir to step down," the association said in a statement.

As protesters attempted the march, Sudan's Labor Minister Bahar Idris announced that a pro-government rally would be held Wednesday at Khartoum's Green Yard, a large open ground in the capital. The rally would express "the choice of the Sudanese people and address the present crisis", Idris, a former rebel from war-torn Darfur, told reporters at a press conference. Wednesday's rally would be the first pro-regime demonstration since antigovernment protests erupted last month.

Anti-government rallies on Sunday also broke out in the city of Madani southeast of the capital, witnesses said, with demonstrators chanting for "peace, justice, freedom". A separate protest was held in the northern town of Atbara, where the current unrest first erupted on



December 19. Witnesses said the local market in Atbara was shut down as protesters took to the streets.

Sudanese authorities have launched a crackdown on opposition leaders, activists and journalists to prevent the spread of protests that initially broke out outside of Khartoum. The country has been facing a

mounting economic crisis over the past year led by an acute shortage of foreign currency. The cost of some commodities including medicines has more than doubled and inflation has hit 70 percent. Food and fuel shortages have been regularly reported across several cities, including Khartoum.—AFP

Monday, January 7, 2019 International

# Britain warns on travel to south India after temple unrest persists

## 'Monitor media reports closely and avoid large public gatherings'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Britain on Saturday warned tourists visiting the southern Indian state of Kerala after sporadic violence in recent days over the admission of women to one of Hinduism's holiest temples. In updated travel advice, London advised UK nationals in Kerala, popular with tourists particularly at this time of year, to "monitor media reports closely, remain vigilant and avoid large public gatherings".

The Sabarimala temple has been at the centre of a prolonged showdown between traditionalists and authorities since September, when India's top court overturned a ban on women of menstruating age deemed as those aged 10 to 50 — setting foot inside. After several weeks of hardliners preventing women from accessing the hilltop temple, at times violently, earlier this week two women managed to sneak inside before dawn and become the first to worship there since the landmark ruling.

A third woman from Sri Lanka said she entered the temple on Thursday night but this was disputed by the temple authorities, who performed a "purification" ritual after the two other women made their way into the shrine. The entry of the women has sparked days of clashes across Kerala involving enraged Hindu devotees, riot police using tear gas and water cannon, and activists from Kerala's leftist state government which supports the entry of women.

One man died and almost 300 people have been injured including more than 100 police officers and some 10 journalists, police say. More than 3,000 protesters have either been arrested or taken into preventive custody. Police said Saturday that unidentified attackers hurled a homemade bomb at the home of a politician from the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and set ablaze the office the hardline Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) group.

Both are opposed to the court's order to allow women inside the temple. No injuries were reported in the blast or the fire, police said. The fresh attacks came hours after unknown attackers bombed the house of a politician linked to the state's ruling Communist Party, which has vowed to implement the court order.

#### Political violence

Kerala has a history of political violence between Hindu and the left-leaning parties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Hindu nationalist BJP has joined calls by his party and the RSS for a statewide shutdown to protest the women's entrance. Modi's party accuses the state government of backing "anti-religious" groups to violate Hindu traditions. Hindu groups believe that women of menstruating age should not enter the temple because they are "impure" and the temple deity, Ayyappa, was celibate.

The Communist Party has accused the BJP and RSS of inciting violence in the state. Women are barred from a handful of Hindu temples in India, including Sabarimala, where it was considered a taboo for cen-



turies before the ban was given legal force by Kerala High Court in 1991. But the Supreme Court in a landmark judgment in September overturned the Kerala damental rights. —AFP

court's ruling after six women lawyers petitioned it in 2006, challenging a ban they said violated their fun-

### Taiwan's ruling party to elect new head

**TAIPAI:** Taiwan's ruling party began electing a new chairman yesterday — a post vacated by President Tsai Ing-wen after a recent electoral mauling — in a vote closely watched by China and the United States. Tsai and her Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won a 2016 landslide, sweeping away a government that had built much closer ties to China over the previous decade. The result rattled Beijing because Tsai refuses to acknowledge that the self-ruled island is part of "one China". Beijing cut communication with her administration, stepped up military drills, poached several of Taiwan's dwindling diplomatic allies and started economically pressuring the island. But in November, Tsai's DPP suffered a string of defeats in local elections, fuelled by a backlash over her domestic reforms and deteriorating ties with China, easily Taiwan's largest market. Tsai resigned the party chairmanship but stayed on as president. Analysts say the vote for the new party head will set the tone for the run-up to next year's presidential election.

"It's important because the international community, and China, will be watching," J Michael Cole, a Taipei-based expert with the University of Nottingham's China Policy Institute, told AFP. "Any major departure from longstanding policy under President Tsai could alarm international partners and give Beijing ammunition to further crack down on

# Pope urges leaders to

to land. "Forty nine migrants rescued in the Mediterranean by

Taiwan." Voting began Sunday morning with results expected to be announced in the evening.

#### A squeezed moderate

China still sees Taiwan as part of its territory to be reunified, despite the two sides being ruled separately since they split in 1949 after a civil war. While Beijing has reacted frostily to Tsai, she is from a much more moderate wing within her party that favors talks. She is squeezed between China and more radical members of her own party who favor pushing for independence — something Taiwan has never formally

One of those standing for the chairmanship is You Yinglung, a polling expert deeply critical of Tsai. He supported a recent call by four party heavyweights for Tsai not to seek re-election in 2020 — although he said the public should ultimately decide. "The DPP has to win the power in 2020... right now I can't see how we are going to win in the future," You said in a recent Facebook post. You's opponent is former cabinet secretary-general Cho Jung-tai, who is backed by leading DPP politicians.

Cho has taken a more conciliatory tone towards Tsai, ledging to promote unity and "restore the confidence" in the party. Yen Chien-Fa, a political analyst at Chien Hsin University, said whoever comes out on top will have significant influence on the 2020 campaign and whether Tsai is the candidate. "A chairman who is at odds with Tsai will definitely be a minus (for the party)," he told AFP. A DPP schism in the run-up to 2020 could favor the Kuomintang, the pro-Beijing

two NGO ships have been onboard for several days now, waiting to be able to disembark," Francis told thousands of people gathered in Saint Peter's square in Rome.

"I address a pressing appeal to European leaders that they show some concrete solidarity with respect to these people," he added. Amid growing concern over the plight of the migrants, some of whom have been at sea for more than two weeks, the European Commission earlier this week called on EU member states to admit them. The Netherlands and Germany have offered to take some but only if their EU partners do the same, highlighting again the

Kuwait 🗻 Times

TAIPAI: Cho Jung-tai, newly-elected Chairman to the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), speaks at a press conference at the party headquarters. —AFP

party that was turfed out two years ago.

It doubled its seats in November's elections, even defeating the DPP in its traditional stronghold of Kaohsiung. A DPP swing towards its more radical wing might also worry Washington. The US remains Taiwan's most powerful military ally but maintains the stance that Taipei must not move close to a formal declaration of independence for fear of stoking a Chinese invasion. On Wednesday, China's increasingly assertive president Xi Jinping described Taiwan's unification with the mainland as "inevitable", adding that force could be an option if independence was declared.—AFP

European Union's long-running deadlock over sharing

vessel, with another 32 on the Sea-Watch. Among them are a one-year-old baby and two children aged six and seven. Both Italy and Malta have refused port access and on Sunday they reiterated that position. "In Italy, there are no more arrivals. That is the line and it will not change," hardline Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini told the Il Messaggero newspaper. "Italian ports are closed and will remain so," he

# Australia PM slams 'ugly racial protests'

SYDNEY: Prime Minister Scott Morrison yesterday slammed "ugly racial protests" in Australia's second-largest city, after some far-right demonstrators were seen making Nazi salutes. An anti-immigration rally at St Kilda Beach in Melbourne drew hundreds of demonstrators and counterprotesters on Saturday, but a large Victoria Police presence was broadly successful in keeping the two groups apart.

"I thank Vic police for their efforts dealing with the ugly racial protests we saw in St Kilda yesterday. Intolerance does not make Australia stronger," Morrison tweeted. "Australia is the most successful migrant country in the world... Let's keep it that way, it makes Australia stronger." Victoria Police Superintendent Tony Silva said Saturday there was three arrests but no officers or member of the public were known to have been hurt. Immigration remains a hot-button issue in Australia amid concern about jobs and overcrowding in major cities. Nearly half of Australia's 25-million population was either born overseas or has at least one parent born abroad. The rally was organized by founders of the United Patriots Front, which conducts antiimmigration demonstrations in Melbourne from time to time. They said Saturday's protest was against alleged African gang violence and youth crime in the city. The location of their protest, the inner city suburb of St Kilda, and nearby Caulfield, have sizeable Jewish populations.

Far-right independent senator Fraser Anning — who demanded "a final solution" to immigration in his maiden speech to the Senate last year — attended the St Kilda rally and said it was the "start of something bigger". Morrison, whose conservative Liberal-National coalition is struggling to hang on to power in a minority government, last year pledged to slash Australia's permanent migration intake to address congestion in the big cities. But critics of the government said it was pandering to the views of the coalition's right-wingers and other far-right politicians ahead of national elections that have to be called by mid-May. —AFP

To see your ad here, call:

+965 248 35 616 / 617 E MAIL :info@kuwaittimes.net

Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

ads@kuwaittimes.net

# show solidarity with migrants off Malta

**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis yesterday urged EU leaders to show "concrete solidarity" with 49 migrants stranded on NGO ships off the coast of Malta who have been refused permission responsibility for migrants. There are 17 people on board the German NGO Sea-Eve

added in a tweet. —AFP













Best Alyousifi @ # @BestAlYousifi # BestAlYousifi • alyousifi8EST



### Analysis

CIRCULATION



THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

: 24833199 Extn. 163

Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7 FAX : 24835620/1

ACCOUNTS: 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL: 24835618
P.O.Box 1301 Safat,13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com

## Gloves come off as Greek elections loom

s Greece enters an election year, the two main political parties are deeply polarised setting the stage for a no-holds-barred campaign. With the ballot scheduled for October but expected as early as March, hostility between the ruling leftist Syriza party and the front-running New Democracy conservatives has hit fever pitch. "We know they plan to hold dirty elections," New Democracy head Kyriakos Mitsotakis said of his Syriza rivals in a recent speech, dismissing government accusations of kickbacks allegedly pocketed by his party while in power prior to 2015 as "savage propaganda".

Both sides accuse each other of marshalling web trolls to spread misinformation. New Democracy says the leftists have liberally dished out well-paid state jobs to a legion of ill-qualified friends and allies. In turn, the government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras points to ongoing investigations targeting years of alleged kickbacks to conservative ex-ministers from Swiss pharma multinational Novartis and German engineering giant Siemens.

#### State vs Skai

The government has identified prominent media group Skai as a key source of what it sees as unfair criticism of its policies. In addition to frequently attacking the station's broadcasts, Tsipras' party is boycotting its talk shows. Relations hit rock-bottom last month when a bomb exploded outside Skai's Athens headquarters, prompting media group owner Yiannis Alafouzos to say Tsipras' government was "morally" responsible for the attack.

"There is a climate that not only tolerates but often encourages extreme forms of expression in the public space," Nikos Konstandaras, a veteran columnist for liberal daily Kathimerini that is part of the Skai group, wrote after the bombing. "Today, the political polarization that breeds such violence is intensifying," he added. Brought to power on an anti-austerity ticket in 2015 after decades on the sidelines, Tsipras' government faced an overwhelmingly hostile media.

His response was to completely overhaul the powerful TV sector and force channel owners - who had played kingmaker between New Democracy and the Pasok socialists for over two decades - to pay millions of euros for new operating licenses. "In Greece, the dependence of mainstream media on the state is the most extreme in Europe, it is only comparable to Turkey," George Pleios, head of media studies at the National University of Athens, wrote in a recent article.

#### Fates entwined

With media under the control of businessmen mainly active in construction and shipping, ownership has long been a means of securing state contracts and favorable bank loans, adds Nikos Smyrnaios, a digital media professor at Toulouse university. "In this way, when the (economic) crisis struck, state (bankruptcy) brought about a similar fate for the media," he notes.

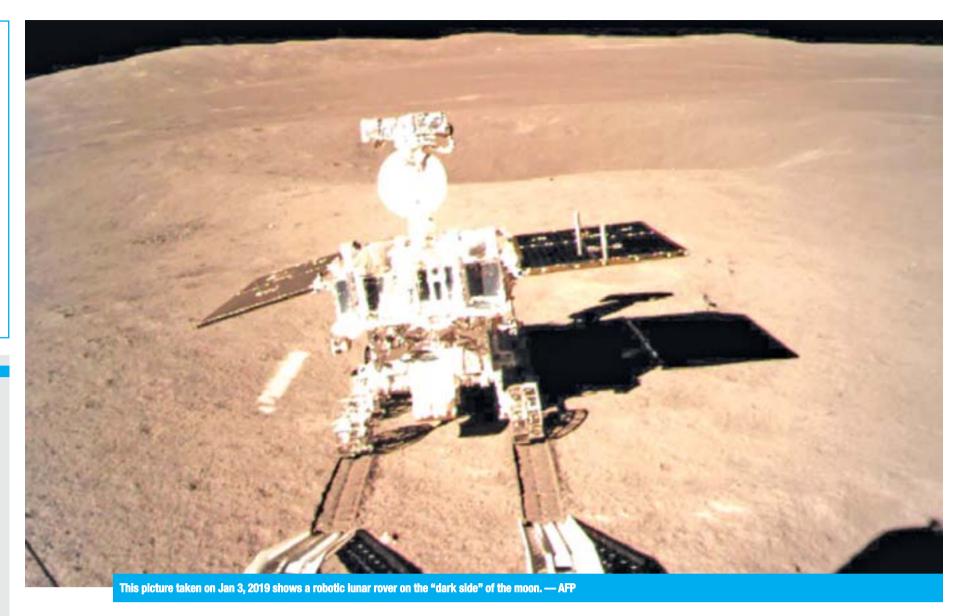
Alongside the conservative and socialist parties who had ruled the country prior to the crisis, mainstream media were also discredited, argues Stelios Papathanassopoulos, professor of media organization and policy at the University of Athens. The antiausterity demonstrations that helped propel Syriza to power also assisted the rise of social media and Twitter in Greece, mainly to the benefit of the left. "The young, who at the time formed the bulk of Syriza voters, challenged the accuracy of (mainstream) media and turned to alternative networks," Papathanassopoulos told AFP.

After two years of bitter rivalry between Tsipras and those he labelled "oligarchs", three major media groups changed hands to avoid bankruptcy, and Greece's most powerful TV station before the crisis, Mega, went bust. But the overhaul did little to promote smaller, more independent voices, notes Smyrnaios. "Media groups are still in the hands of influential businessmen," he said. In another sign of the sector's deep troubles, one of Greece's two media distribution agencies filed for bankruptcy in 2017. The one that remains is controlled by a leading media group. "As in many Latin American countries, Greek media have overstepped ethical boundaries," argues Smyrnaios. "It's more about emotion, reviving old hatred between the right-wing and the left that goes back to the (1946-1949) civil war." — AFP





Alexis Tsipras Kyriakos Mitso



# In space, US sees a rival in China

uring the Cold War, US eyes were riveted on the Soviet Union's rockets and satellites. But in recent years, it has been China's space programs that have most worried US strategists. China, whose space effort is run by the People's Liberation Army, today launches more rockets into space than any other country — 39 last year, compared to 31 by the United States, 20 by Russia and eight by Europe.

On Thursday it landed a space rover on the dark side of the Moon - a first by any country - and plans to build an orbiting space station in the coming decade. In the decade after that, it hopes to put a Chinese "taikonaut" on the Moon to make the first moonwalk since 1972. China now spends more on its civil and military space programs than do Russia and Japan. Although opaque, its 2017 budget was estimated at \$8.4 billion by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

That's far less than the \$48 billion the United States spends on its military and civilian space programs, says analyst Phil Smith of consulting firm Bryce Space and Technology. But it is more than double Russia's civilian space budget, which has been slashed to \$3 billion.

Overcoming a lag of several decades, China's leaders have very methodically replicated the stages of space development achieved by other great nations: a first satellite in 1970, its first manned space mission in 2003, the first docking of a manned spacecraft to an orbiting module in 2012, and activation of the BeiDou satellite navigation system, China's answer to GPS. "If they continue on this trajectory, they're going to quickly eclipse Russia in terms of their space technology capabilities," said Todd Harrison, an expert on military space pro-

grams at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

#### Lunar resources

China currently poses no threat to the commercial satellite launch market, which remains dominated by companies including US-based SpaceX and Europe's Arianespace, and Russia. Nor has China's progress in space exploration eclipsed that of the US. NASA's head congratulated China on its Chang'e-4 Moon landing but a 2011 US law bars space cooperation with Beijing, although Congress could lift that restriction. The real rivalry is in two areas: in the short term, military uses of space; and long-term, the exploitation of resources in space.

The mining of minerals or water on the Moon or on asteroids, notably to produce fuel for rockets, is still a long way off, but American start-ups are already working on it. Unlike the Cold War, the new conquest of space is unfolding largely in a legal vacuum. In the 1960s and '70s, Washington and Moscow negotiated several treaties on space, principally to guarantee scientific cooperation and to ban weapons of mass destruction in space. "The treaties are too vague to be really certain what the legal result is for something like space mining," said Frans von der Dunk, a professor of space law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

#### War in space

Moreover, they have been overtaken by new military technologies: Anti-satellite lasers, cyberattacks, electronic jamming, and land-based anti-satellite missiles - like the one China tested in 2007. Laws of war govern conflicts on Earth, but there is no equivalent for space. And unan-

swered questions abound. If one satellite collides with another in space, does that constitute an "attack"? What would be a proportional response? Civilian satellites should be protected from reprisals but what about satellites with dual civilian and military uses? How does a nation respond to a cyberattack of uncertain origin?

"It's very hard to distinguish between weapons and non-weapons in space," said Jack Beard, a professor in the University of Nebraska's space law program. "It's unfortunately hard to envision any major armed conflict on Earth not extending into space," he added. "The Chinese have been preparing for whatever eventuality may be in the future, and... they have been experimenting with systems to interfere with our communications, our transmissions from satellites to drones." Harrison concurs: "The United States has not been keeping pace with the threats against our space systems," and that has left the US vulnerable.

Meanwhile, US dialogue with Beijing is virtually nil, in contrast with Washington's exchanges with Moscow during the Cold War. "If there's a crisis in space involving China, it's not clear our military knows who to call," said Harrison. But other observers take a more skeptical view of portraying China as an aggressive adversary of the United States.

Brian Weeden, of the Washington-based Secure World Foundation, said some proponents of the China-as-threat argument wield it as a way to get money for NASA out of a tight-fisted Congress. They "think that will motivate the US to go off and do the stuff in space that they want to do," he said. "They see the competition with China as a key to unlocking the political will and money to fund the projects they want to see." — AFP

# China says pace of Xinjiang 'education' will slow, but defends camps

hina will not back down on what it sees as a highly successful de-radicalization program in Xinjiang that has attracted global concern, but fewer people will be sent through, officials said last week in allowing rare media access there. Beijing has faced an outcry from activists, scholars, foreign governments and UN rights experts over what they call mass detentions and strict surveillance of the mostly Muslim Uighur minority and other Muslim groups who call Xinjiang home.

In August, a UN human rights panel said it had received credible reports that a million or more Uighurs and other minorities in the far western region are being held in what resembles a "massive internment camp". Last week, the government organized a visit to three such facilities, which it calls vocational education training centers, for a small group of foreign reporters, including Reuters.

In recent days, a similar visit was arranged for diplomats from 12 non-Western countries, including Russia, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Kazakhstan, according to Xinjiang officials and foreign diplomats. Senior officials, including Shohrat Zakir, Xinjiang's governor and the region's most senior Uighur, dismissed what they called "slanderous lies" about the facilities.

Speaking in Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi, Zakir said the centers had been "extremely effective" in reducing extremism by teaching residents about the law and helping them learn Mandarin. "As time goes by, the people in the education training mechanism will be fewer and fewer," he said. Zakir said he could not say exactly how many people were in the facilities. "One million people, this number is rather frightening. One million people in the education mechanism - that's not realistic. That's purely a rumor," he said, stressing they were temporary educational facilities.

Dilxat Raxit, spokesman for the Munich-based exile group the World Uyghur Congress, told Reuters the Chinese government was using extremism as an excuse to lock people up. "What they are trying to do is destroy Uighur identity," he said.

#### Inside the centers

Human rights groups and former detainees have said that conditions in the camps are poor, with inmates subject to abuse. They said detainees did not receive voca-

tional training. Seeking to counter that narrative, the government took reporters to three centers, in Kashgar, Hotan and Karakax, all in the heavily Uighur-populated southern part of Xinjiang, where much of the violence has taken place in recent years.

In one class reporters were allowed to briefly visit, a teacher explained in Mandarin that not allowing singing or dancing at a wedding or crying at a funeral are signs of extremist thought. The students took notes, pausing to look up as reporters and officials entered the room. Some smiled awkwardly. Others just looked down at their books. All were Uighur. None appeared to have been mistreated. In another class, residents read a Chinese lesson in their textbook entitled "Our motherland is so year."

There was plenty of singing and dancing in other rooms reporters visited, including a lively rendition in English of "If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands," that seemed to have been put on especially for the visit. Several residents agreed to speak briefly to reporters, though all in the presence of government officials. Reporters were closely chaperoned at all times. All the interviewees said they were there of their own accord after learning of the centers from local officials.

Many answers used extremely similar language about being "infected with extremist thought". Pazalaibutuyi, 26, told reporters at the Hotan centre that five years ago she had attended an illegal religious gathering at a neighbor's house, where they were taught that women should cover their faces. "At that time I was infected with extremist thought so I wore a face veil," she said, speaking clear Mandarin after a year at the center. Government officials came to her village to talk to the villagers and after that, she said, "I discovered my mistake".

In the Kashgar centre, Osmanjan, who declined to give his age, said he had incited ethnic hatred, so village police suggested he go for re-education. "Under the influence of extremist thought, when non-Muslims came to my shop I was unwilling to serve them," he said in unsteady Mandarin. It was not possible to independently verify their stories. All the interviewees said they had not been forewarned of the visit. Residents said they can "graduate" when they are judged to have reached a certain level with their Mandarin, de-radicalization and legal knowledge. They are allowed phone calls with family members, but no cell phones. They are provided halal food. Only minimal security was visible at any of the three centers. Reuters last year reported on conditions inside the camps and took pictures of guard towers and barbed wire surrounding some.

#### 'A good life'

The situation in Xinjiang has stirred concern in Western capitals. At least 15 Western ambassadors wrote to Xinjiang's top official, Communist Party chief Chen Quanguo, late last year seeking a meeting to dis-

cuss their concerns. Chen did not meet reporters on the trip. Diplomatic sources told Reuters the ambassadors did not get a response. The United States has said it is considering sanctions against Chen, other officials and Chinese companies linked to allegations of rights abuses in Visiting

Maya Wang, a Hong Kong-based Human Rights Watch researcher, said international pressure needs to increase. "The fact that they feel they need to put on a show tour is a sign that this pressure is working," she told Reuters. Both Wang and Raxit noted that the tight control over the visits and interviews showed China's concern about their true nature.

Over a lunch of lamb kebabs, horsemeat and naan, Urumqi party boss Xu Hairong told Reuters that "all of the reports are fake" when it comes to foreign coverage of Xinjiang. He dismissed worries about US sanctions. "We, including Party Secretary Chen, are working all out for the people of Xinjiang to have a good life," Xu said. "If the US won't allow me to go, then I don't want to go there. That's the truth."

The government says its goal is for Uighurs to become part of mainstream Chinese society. Zakir said in parts of southern Xinjiang people couldn't even say hello in Mandarin. Officials point to a lack of violence in the past two years as evidence of program's success. Urumqi's Exhibition on Major Violent Terrorist Attack Cases in Xinjiang, normally closed to the public, displays graphic images and footage from what the government says are attacks. "Only with a deeper understanding of the past can you understand the measures we have taken today," Shi Lei, Xinjiang's Communist Party committee deputy propaganda chief, told reporters.

One member of the Chinese armed forces, who has served in Kashgar, said the security situation had improved dramatically. "You can't imagine what it was like there in 2014 and 2015. There were attacks all the time, bombings, stabbings. It was chaos," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

In Kashgar, Hotan and Karakax, petrol stations are still surrounded by barbed wire and heavy security barriers. Residential areas are dotted with small police stations. The stations have broader public service in mind, Zhang Yi, commander of one of the stations, told reporters. The one reporters visited provided pamphlets on a wide range of subjects, including how to legally

Kashgar deputy party chief Zark Zurdun, a Uighur from Ghulja in northern Xinjiang, where many ethnic Kazakhs live, told Reuters that "stability is the best human right". "The West should learn from us" on how to beat extremism, he said, dismissing concerns Uighur culture was under attack. "Did Kazakh vanish in the USSR when they all had to learn Russian?" he said. "No. So Uighur won't vanish here." — Reuters

# Business

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019

2019 takes off with risk aversion amid recession fears

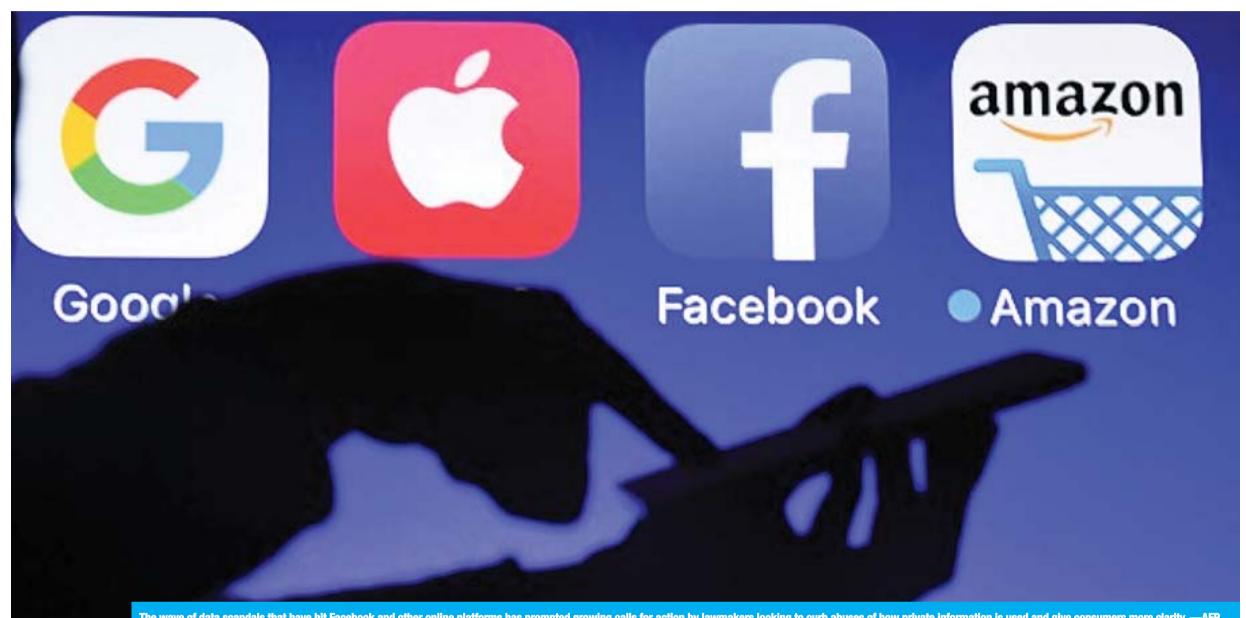


Carlos Ghosn to 'vigorously' defend himself in Japan court



Huawei moves to dispel security concerns about its products





# US Congress to see push to regulate Big Tech

## Focus on tougher enforcement of privacy and data protection

**WASHINGTON:** The newly-installed US Congress is expected to see a fresh effort to develop new regulations for big technology firms, with a focus on tougher enforcement of privacy and data protection.

The wave of data scandals that have hit Facebook and other online platforms has prompted growing calls for action by lawmakers looking to curb abuses of how private information is used and give consumers more clarity. Significantly, most tech companies are pledging to willingly accept new regulations to set a uniform standard in the United States following a sweeping set of rules that went into effect in the European Union in 2018, although few have offered details.

Federal regulations could pre-empt the enforcement of legislation enacted in California, which was modeled after the EU's General Data Protection Regulation. "Whether big tech and little tech like it or not, 2019 will be a year of regulation," said Doug Clinton of the investment firm Loup Ventures, in a recent blog post. The analyst said he expects the US to consider "the most important points" of GDPR including consent, access, portability and erasure of personal information.

#### Protecting data

Senator Brian Schatz and 14 other Democrats have endorsed a bill aimed at requiring online firms to safeguard personal information and stop the misuse of data. "People have a basic expectation that the personal information they provide to websites and apps is well-protected and won't be used against them," Schatz said in a statement last month.

### Al-Majed congratulates Dr Al-Hashel on being named the best in Mideast

KUWAIT: Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed, Boubyan Bank's Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, stated that the choice of Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, as the Best Central Bank Governor in the Middle East, confirmed the status of the Kuwaiti banking sector regionally and internationally.

"This award does not only recognize Dr Al-Hashel's efforts over the past years, rather, it extends to serve as a recognition of the financial industry in the state of Kuwait as a whole, whether in terms of

"Just as doctors and lawyers are expected to protect and responsibly use the personal data they hold, online companies should be required to do the same." Another proposal unveiled in December by the Center for Democracy & Technology, a digital rights group in Washington, in consultation with industry and activist groups, covers consumer rights to access and correct data held by online firms, data portability, and limits on third-party access to data. Significantly, it limits the kinds of data that companies can collect to what is needed for their services.

"Many apps collect your location information even if it has nothing to do with the service they are providing," said Michelle Richardson, head of data and privacy for the organization. "We want to fundamentally change how companies collect and use data." Since the revelations over the hijacking of personal data of tens of millions of Facebook users by the political consultancy Cambridge Analytica, tech firms have come under heightened scrutiny from lawmakers and privacy activists.

#### Cooperation, or not?

Instead of pushing back, big tech firms have offered to cooperate with lawmakers on a national privacy bill-although skeptics say this may be an effort to limit the reach of tougher state laws. Google chief executive Sundar Pichai told a hearing in mid-December, "I'm of the opinion that we are better off with more of an overarching data protection framework for users, and I think that would be good to do."

Apple CEO Tim Cook early this year called for federal privacy legislation, while assailing the "weaponized"

official bodies, represented in the Central Bank of Kuwait, or the private sector, which includes banks, investment companies, financial institutions, etc", he added. Al-Majed congratulated the governor on this award, wishing that the New Year would witness more achievements and successes by the CBK, which would reflect positively on the business environment of the Kuwaiti banking sector.

The Banker selected Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel as the Best Central Bank Governor in the Middle East for 2019 in its list of the best central bank governors around the world.

"He is a rising star in the region as he took office in 2012 at the age of 37 and since then has managed the country's financial sector and successfully navigated it to overcome a wide range of volatility and challenges that followed the crisis," the magazine said on Dr Al-Hashel.

The Magazine went on to add: "Al-Hashel has succeeded in taking care of one of the strongest banking sectors in the world. Today, Kuwaiti banks enjoy high

used of private data that is bought and sold online. Alan McQuinn, policy analyst at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a Washington think tank, said that following the passage of a California privacy law, "the tech sector is now trying to get out in front of hav-

ing segmented privacy rules."

Yet details of any new privacy bill are likely to be complex, with battles looming on how far legislation should go. McQuinn said there may be consensus on a need to boost transparency, consumer access and enforcement over misuse of personal data, but that many other issues are the my.

other issues are thorny.

He said there may be consensus on need for more transparency, data portability and consumer access and new enforcement mechanisms for abuse of private data.

But he maintained that GDPR has proven "incredibly burdensome" and caused some businesses to quit the EU or block their online presence. "People don't realize that legislation doesn't just affect the internet giants, it affects your local grocery store and creates costs throughout the system," McQuinn said. The analyst said requiring "opt in" consent for any type of data could have unintended consequences-hurting innovation and strengthening the biggest firms that have the resources to comply. One possible solution is to create "tiers" of data categories requiring opt-in consent only for the most sensitive categories.

Despite broad agreement on the need for privacy rules, McQuinn said a divided government and hyperpartisan political environment will mean "this will be a difficult process." —AFP





Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel

rates of capitalization and profitability and are proud of the outstanding quality of their assets. This is largely due to Dr Al-Hashel's efforts to enhance the overall stability of the financial system."

**Adel Al-Majed** 

# Iran CB proposes slashing four zeros from rial



TEHRAN: In this file photo, a man counts Iranian rials at a money exchange. —Reuters

**DUBAI:** Iran's central bank has proposed slashing four zeros from the rial, state news agency IRNA reported yesterday, after the currency plunged in a year marked by an economic crisis fuelled by US sanctions. "A bill to remove four zeros from the national currency was presented to the government by the central bank yesterday and I hope this matter can be concluded as soon as possible," IRNA quoted central bank governor Abdolnaser Hemmati as saving.

governor Abdolnaser Hemmati as saying. Proposals to remove four zeros from the currency have been floated since 2008, but the idea has gained strength as the rial lost more than 60 percent of its value in 2018 despite a recent recovery engineered by the central bank in defiance of US sanctions. The currency was trading at about 110,000 rials per US dollar on the unofficial market yesterday, according to foreign exchange websites. President Donald Trump reimposed US sanctions on Iran last year after pulling out of world powers' 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. Washington has vowed "maximum pressure" on Iran's economy to force it to accept tougher limits on its nuclear and missile programs. Iran has ruled this out. Rial weakness disrupted Iran's foreign trade last year and helped boost annual inflation fourfold to nearly 40 percent in November. The weak currency and galloping inflation have been a complaint of sporadic street protests since late 2017. After approval by the government, the proposed currency plan would have to be passed by parliament and approved by the clerical body that vets legislation before it takes effect. —Reuters

#### Business

**KAMCO Report: The year that was** 

# GCC IPO market remained active in 2018, but issuances cooled off

## Asia-Pacific led IPO activity globally; Technology IPOs led all sectors

in 2018, although primary market issuances cooled off from 2017 levels both in terms of number of issuances and capital raised. Total number of corporate IPOs and REIT IPOs combined in the region declined to 18 issuances from 28 issuances witnessed in 2017, but remained higher than the activity witnessed in 2015 (6 issuances) and 2016 (4 issuances). Capital raised via IPOs declined by 18 percent from \$3.3 billion in 2017 to \$2.7 billion in 2018.

Nevertheless, unlike in 2017 where REITs dominated the IPO market in the GCC, corporate IPOs led primary markets in 2018, as they contributed to 56 percent of the number of issuances and 62 percent of the capital raised. Moreover, it is worth pointing out the GCC witnessed the widest participation from issuers within the region, as capital was raised from issuers from all six GCC countries. Having said that, although the IPO market in the region has picked up in 2017 and 2018, corporate issuers continue to look for reduced volatility in oil prices, and a stable near term outlook for secondary markets within the region, to take to the primary market.

#### Global IPO deals drop 21 percent y-o-y in 2018

Global IPO activity in 2018 was mixed, even as equity markets waded through ongoing trade rifts between US and China, geopolitics, and volatility in secondary equity markets, after starting the year strong with higher liquidity and strong valuations. Global IPO volumes reportedly declined 21 percent y-o-y from 2017 to reach 1,359 IPOs in 2018, while IPO proceeds grew by 6 percent y-o-y from 2017, as \$204.8 billion was raised in 2018, as per EY. According to EY, mentioned that the increase in capital proceeds was largely driven by a number of unicorn IPOs (40 IPOs raked in \$32.2 billion) and mega IPOs.

#### Saudi continues to lead

In the GCC, Saudi Arabia continued to provide leadership for primary markets in 2018, as the Kingdom led in terms of number of IPOs and capital raised. Saudi Arabia contributed 11 IPOs (including REIT IPOs), and accounted for \$1.33 billion worth of capital proceeds in

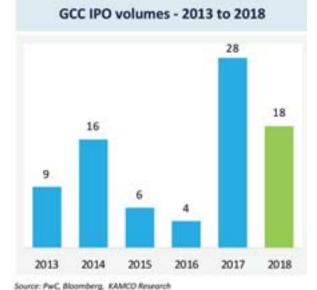
**KUWAIT:** The IPO market in the GCC remained active 2018. The largest capital issuance came from Qatar, as Oatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company (OAMCO) raised \$755 million from its IPO, that was oversubscribed by over 2.5 times.

> KAMCO Research believes that the outlook for IPO markets in the GCC in 2019 will continue to depend on secondary equity markets and stability of oil prices, even as GCC governments continue to propel the nonoil economy by largely maintaining their budget spending. Issuers are likely to watch the development of secondary markets early on in 2019, and also ascertain whether taking the debt market route for capital needs would be viable. REIT IPO volumes are likely to come down over structural issues affecting fundamental demand for real estate, and declining spreads between returns of REITs and deposit rates for safer time deposits going forward. Nevertheless, we believe that companies from the GCC with unique business models, industry classification and ability to show capital efficiency should continue to garner increased interest from both the local and international investors looking at IPO participation.

#### Asia-Pacific led IPO activity globally

In terms of regional participation, Asia-Pacific reportedly continued to dominate global activity both in terms of number of deals and proceeds in 2018, as they accounted for more than 49 percent of deal numbers (2017: 57 percent) and 48 percent of the proceeds (2017: 39 percent), based on EY statistics. Uncertainties over Brexit, political change in Germany and Italy affected European and EMEIA economies, as EY highlighted that EMEIA exchanges witnessed a 16 percent y-o-y drop in deal volumes, and a 26 percent y-o-y decline in capital issuances in 2018, as compared

IPO activity in the US continued to remain strong, as the number of IPOs on the NASDAQ and NYSE improved by 14 percent y-o-y in 2018 to 205, while capital proceeds jumped by 31 percent y-o-y to reach \$52.8 billion. Investors reportedly kept a balance between defensive and growth sectors, as the highest number of deals globally came from Technology, Industrials and Healthcare companies, while



Technology led the amount of capital issuances, followed by Telecom and Financials.

#### IPO participation

IPO participation in the region came in from all GCC countries, however 2018 performance post listing remained mixed. Qatar's QAMCO gained 33.5 percent from its offer price at the end of 2018, but was down by 25.8 percent from the listing price that the company's shares opened at, on the Qatar exchange. Oman came in second in terms of IPO volumes, as it witnessed two parallel market IPOs. Arabian Falcon Insurance Company raised \$67 million, Dhofar Generating Company raised \$52 million, and were listed on the Muscat Securities Market.

Although the UAE did not witness corporate IPOs on any of their exchanges, Dubai based companies raised capital through IPOs on international exchanges. Shelf Drilling, the Dubai based contractor and the largest shallow water driller globally, raised over \$225 million from Oslo Stock Exchange. Further, Dubai based construction specialist RA International Group



garnered \$25 million from its IPO on the London's Alternative Investment Market. During the year however, the DFM witnessed two dual listings, NAEEM Holding from Egypt and Ithmaar Holding from Bahrain. Kuwait made its way back to the primary equity markets with one issuance in 2018, as Integrated Holding Co raised \$213 million through its IPO on Boursa Kuwait. Bahrain Bourse witnessed the IPO of APM Terminals, the exclusive manager and operator of Khalifa Bin Salman Port, and capital proceeds from the IPO amounted to \$31 million.

Industry participation continued to be dominated by REIT IPOs, all from Saudi Arabia, as 8 REIT issues raised over \$1.03 million. New business models and industries did make their way into GCC's IPO market in 2018, as Consumer Discretionary/Leisure Industry play-Leejam Sports Co took the IPO route and raised \$218 million. Éducation player from Saudi Arabia -National Company for Learning and Education provided the GCC with one of its few pure-play educational names, as the company saw proceeds of \$66 million come in via its IPO.

#### **NBK Money Markets Report**

## 2019 takes off with risk aversion

worldwide are running towards safe haven assets. great financial crisis era. Economic indicators out of China and Europe are elevating the probability of a recession due to contractions in their manufacturing industries. Looking at the US, the manufacturing sector recorded the largest drop since the great financial crisis and Apple lowered its revenue forecast by around 10 percent. The corporation warned that nearly all of the disappointment is attributed to the economic downturn in China which they did not foresee. Global economic concerns have been recently rattling financial markets and especially the US yield curve inversion.

The US treasury yield curve inversion worsened quite seriously in the past 2 weeks. It's clearly inverted as 1-year (2.57 percent) is greater than the 2year (2.50 percent), 3-year (2.48 percent), 5-year (2.50 percent) and the 7-year (2.56 percent). In regards to rate hike expectations, financial markets are now pricing in a greater possibility that the Federal Reserve will cut rates rather than raise them in 2019 and 2020, while the Federal Reserve anticipates raising the cost of interest. The divergence in expectations suggests that investors believe the US central bank will not be able to continue to tighten monetary policy and is effectively saying that at some point in the near future, the central bank is going to have to not only stop hiking, but actively start easing. In the wake of last week's market panic, the best performers were the safe haven Japanese yen, gold, and US government bonds.

#### A robust labor market

The American economy added 312,000 jobs in December, the fastest rate of hiring in 10 months. Readings for October and November were revised higher by 58,000. Overall, the US economy produced 2.6 million jobs last year compared to 2.2 million in 2017. Despite the decent hiring, the unemployment rate rose from 3.7 percent to 3.9 percent as the participation rate edged higher by 0.2 percent to 63.1 percent. On the wages front, average hourly earnings inflated by 0.4 percent m/m, sending the annual rate to the highest level since 2009 at 3.2 percent.

The labor report was extremely positive and could lessen market worries that the Federal Reserve may be forced to cut interest rates. Nevertheless, the mounting concerns facing the US economy (weakening global demand, diminishing support from the tax cuts, elevated interest expenses, trade war theme, stronger US dollar, government shutdown and a yield curve inversion) continue to cast doubts over whether such strength is sustainable.

#### US manufacturing PMI

The monthly manufacturing survey out of the US (ISM PMI) has shrunk quite significantly from 59.3 to 54.1, the largest monthly drop since the 2008 financial crisis. The index is currently at its lowest level since November 2016 and just five months ago, the index was at a 14-year high. As for the main factor prompting the decline, the New Orders Index registered a reading of 51.1, a decrease of 11 percentage points from 62.1. The Production Index also fell by 6.3 points to 54.3. The manufacturing PMI is still above 50, indicating an expansionary environment. However, the 5.2 points descent seen last month has been exceeded just twice this century, both times during recessions; the

the Federal Reserve of regional manufacturing all tumbled last month, the first time they've fallen in unity since May 2016. It seems that higher tariffs and the trade war theme are starting to take its toll on the economy. As positivity in US data retreats and with monetary policy officials already stating that they intend to lessen the pace of interest-rate hikes in 2019, gives them more reason to pause on monetary tightening. Last week, Dallas Federal Reserve President said the central bank must preserve current interest rates, while it waits to see how uncertainties globally and domestically play out.

The US dollar index began last week's session on a downward trajectory, pressured by the ongoing government shutdown. However, the USD's negative momentum was short lived as investors rushed to safety assets after PMIs' in the EU and China fell into contraction territory. The latest upbeat US labor report also had a positive effect for the dollar. Before markets closed for the weekend, the dollar's positivity faded after the Federal Reserve Chairman stated that the central bank is not on a preset path of interest rate hikes and suggested that the Bank could pause its policy tightening as it did in 2016. The dollar index depreciated 0.22 percent, over the past 4 trading sessions. On the political sphere, 25 percent of the US government has been at a halt for more than 2 weeks and around 800,000 government employees are not receiving any payments from the Federal government. Republicans have so far rejected a proposal from Democrats for a funding bill that would reopen the government, but doesn't offer funds for a wall. Thus, for the time being, there is still no end in sight for the partial shutdown as Democrats are in control of the House, while Republicans govern the Senate. If the political drama persists, it may pressure the dollar into the red zone.

### Oil prices rise

In the commodities complex, oil prices rebounded on the first trading week of 2019 thanks to diminishing OPEC supplies by the largest amount in almost two years and an improving sentiment on the trade front. In details, OPEC members pumped 32.68 million bpd in December, down by 460,000 bpd from November's reading. The latest figure suggests that some OPEC members have already decreased output production even before the implementation of the 1.2 million bpd cut agreement between OPEC and 10 other oil producing nations. Brent crude oil rose around 7 percent last week.

#### Frail manufacturing data

The manufacturing sector in the euro-zone has been on a downward path in the last five months and the latest Purchasing Managers' Index is the weakest data since February 2016 at 51.4. The bigfour economies (Germany, France, Italy & Spain) posted the poorest manufacturing PMI readings of all countries monitored during December. Most importantly, for the past three months, Italy has remained in a contractionary territory (PMI below 50) and France also joined the negative environment for the first time in 27 months. The German PMI fell towards 51.5 a 33-month low, while France's reading declined to 49.7. Spain's PMI shrank by 1.5 points to 51.1, the weakest in 28

KUWAIT: As the New Year kicks off, investors first during the 9/11 terror attack and also in the months. In the last 3 months of 2018, euro-zone manufacturers reported the frailest quarterly per-Additional reports such as the five indexes from formance in terms of production since Q2 2013. The recent negativity seen in the manufacturing industry could prove transitory, being the consequence of protests in France and the auto sector struggling to adapt to new emissions guidelines. Nevertheless, weak demand and intensifying riskoff atmosphere indicates that any rebound may prove minimal at best, with Brexit concerns shadowing over Europe. Overall, the global trade war theme is still in the background and the ECB has tightened its monetary policy.

#### Disinflation in euro-zone

Additional signs of cooling down in the EU block resurfaced last week as the consumer inflation on an annual basis declined to an 8-month low of 1.6 percent in December from 1.9 percent. Yet, core inflation remained unchanged at 1 percent. Hence, it is evident that the softer consumer price growth was mainly depressed by energy prices, which sunk from 9.1 percent y/y to 5.5 percent y/y

Energy contributions towards price momentum are now coming off, so the CPI rate may have reached its recent peak of 2.2 percent. If oil prices remain subdued, while the pace of growth globally is projected to shrink, the CPI could even ease further. In conclusion, the latest reading leaves the European Central Bank in an uncomfortable position with regards to their first rate hike, which is expected to occur during O3 2019. But then again, with inflation moving away from the 2 percent objective and an economy that is decelerating, the query is whether the monetary policy setters will see a chance to hike at all.

In the currencies market, the euro was slightly subdued last week as risk aversion was the main theme. Additionally, the euro-zone manufacturing data out of Spain, France, Italy and Germany were weak. The EUR/USD opened the week at 1.1438 and ended at 1.1394.

#### China's manufacturing

China's state-owned manufacturing sector shrank to the lowest level since February 2016 to 49.4, while the manufacturing PMI for the private sector also fell into contractionary territory for the first time in 19 month. The manufacturing PMI declined from 50.2 to 49.7 in December. The 50 level is the barrier between growth and contraction. As for the sub-components, both new orders and new export orders were in negative terrain, below the 50 threshold. New export orders diminished for a seventh consecutive reading last month from 47.0 to 46.6. The second largest economy in the world has been facing domestic headwinds even before the intensification of trade tensions with the US. The latest readings indicate a weak demand externally and domestically. Looking at other economic indicators, recent statistics have also pointed to a weakening economy. Earnings at industrial businesses fell in November for the first time in nearly three years and retail sales, a closely watched indicator of domestic demand, expanded at the slowest pace in 15 years.

#### Kuwait Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30315

The USDKWD opened at 0.30315 yesterday

**Bayt.com weekly report** 

## Hiring activities in UAE continue upward direction

he United Arab Emirates is among the most booming and competitive job markets regionally and globally, with many talented professionals looking to make their next big break there. At the same time, hiring activity in the UAE has been in an upward direction during 2018 with nearly 9 in 10 companies showing intention to hire, as revealed by the Bayt.com Middle East Job Index in August 2018.

Hiring intentions in the UAE were mirrored by increased online recruitment activities. On Bayt.com, the Middle East's largest job site, nearly 30,000 UAE jobs were announced during the year 2018. This is in addition to the thousands of searches companies conduct through the Bayt.com CV Database to directly interview and hire candidates.

Sales executive (30 percent), accountant (29 percent), and project manager (23 percent) emerged among the top roles that UAE companies said they are hiring for. This is followed by sales manager (22 percent), director (marketing, project management) (20 percent), and finance analyst (20 percent).

#### Most attractive UAE industries

Based on employers' responses to the Middle East Job Index Survey, Real estate/construction/property development (34 percent) emerges as the industry that attracts top talent across the UAE. This is followed by advertising/marketing/public relations (32 percent), banking and finance (30 percent), engineering/design (26 percent), IT (24 percent), business consultancy (23 percent), and telecommunications (21 percent).

From a job seeker perspective, the most recent "Top Industries in the Middle East and North Africa" survey, April 2018, revealed that the most appealing industries for switching career in the UAE include banking/finance/accounting (10 percent), followed by Aerospace/ Airline/ Aviation (8 percent), and Manufacturing (7 percent).

When asked about their perception of job attributes in various industries, survey respondents claim that the best salary packages in the UAE are found in certain industries including aerospace/airline/ aviation (19 percent), banking/finance/ accounting (18 percent), government/civil services (18 percent), and military/ defense/ police (15 percent).

According to respondents, government/ civil service (31 percent), banking/finance/



accounting (17 percent), and education/ academia (16 percent) are among the industries with the best work-life balance, while banking/ finance/ accounting (21 percent) remains high on the list for having the best career growth opportunities.

Further, among industries perceived to have the most optimum job security are government/ civil service (31 percent), military/ defense/ police (28 percent), and banking/finance/accounting (18 percent).

For survey respondents, the industries believed to have experienced the strongest growth in the past year include tourism (17 percent), banking/ finance/ accounting (16 percent) and real estate/ construction/ property development (16 percent).

#### Top cities in the UAE

A survey conducted by Bayt.com and YouGov - global online market research company - titled Top Cities in the Middle East and North Africa, revealed that the UAE is home to the most highly rated cities in the Middle East. Both Abu Dhabi and Dubai have been ranked the top cities to live and work in the Middle East and North Africa region. The ranking of this regional survey was based on several factors including economic, environmental, standard of living, socio-cultural and entrepreneurship.

Dubai and Abu Dhabi emerge as the top cities in terms of job availability. Abu Dhabi and Dubai are also the top cities in terms of benefits for working parents. Abu Dhabi emerges as the best city in terms of health insurance and social security as well as wage protection systems. In terms of proactive policy-making, Abu Dhabi and Dubai were also rated highest.

Even when it came to Entrepreneurship factors, Abu Dhabi and Dubai are the top regional cities when it comes to lack of bureaucracy in procedures and paperwork.

Dubai is in the lead in terms of market willingness to accept new ideas. At the same time, Dubai is the top city in terms of ability to find local talent to employ. Dubai and Abu Dhabi are all rated highest on ability to find skilled and well-educated talent to employ.

Monday, January 7, 2019 Business

# Al-Raya Al-Mutameyeza Holding acquires 26% stake in Egypt's MEDAF Investments

## Al-Fajjy announces completion of Jadara Mall project in Madinah

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Al-Raya Al-Mutameyeza Holding Company announced that it has completed its 2018 operations with a major investment by acquiring a 26 percent stake in Egypt's Mediterranean and Africa (MEDAF) Investments Holding SAE.

During a press conference at Marina Hotel yesterday, CEO of Al-Raya Jassem Al-Fajjy said: "Al-Raya acquired a stake in a financial group in the Egyptian market with an estimated capital of EGP 400 million. Volume of operations is expected to exceed 1 billion pounds in the non-banking financial sector of the Egyptian capital markets in cooperation with the Egyptian Matrix Capital for Investment Group."

He pointed out that Al-Raya United Company, which

comes under the umbrella of Al-Raya Holding, will manage, operate and oversee this investment as the operating arm of Al-Raya Group, which has a long history and leadership experience in investment management and will be represented on the board of directors of the holding group. "The holding group has a structure of six joint stock companies active in non-banking financial sectors - a financial leasing company, a securities trading company, an asset management company, a financial advisory firm for securities, a brokerage company, and an electronic payment company to issue instruments. The transaction marks the first expansion of Al-Raya Holding Company to invest in the Egyptian market, which is promising and characterized by stability and has witnessed the inflow of foreign investments. This initiative is aimed to expand the investment in the Egyptian market in order to diversify our sources of income and further expand our markets with balanced

Fajjy explained that Al-Raya Holding's strategy for the coming period is based on diversifying investments



KUWAIT: CEO Jassim Al-Fajji (left) and Vice President of the Investment Department Adnan Al-Salem during a press conference at Marina Hotel yesterday.

in emerging vertical markets. He pointed out that the company's management team is currently studying a number of opportunities in Europe and the Middle East as the company continues to invest in developing its operations and expanding its services "The company is expanding and developing its hotel management services in Saudi Arabia," he said.

Fajjy confirmed the completion of work at the Jadara Mall project in Madinah and actual operations have started. The project is located on an area of 2,000 square meters and provides many basic facilities for the hotel industry, including a complete laundry with the latest equipment and machines as well as international cafes, a kitchen for all catering services for institutions and individuals, hospitals, hotels and weddings. "Al-



Raya United also continues to achieve achievements in the hotel operation and management sector in Saudi Arabia, both at the Nusk Al-Madinah Hotel and the Sky Tower in Makkah.'

Fajjy concluded that the company will begin to reap

the benefits of its strategic expansion and targeted investments, and will invest its revenues in viable opportunities, which will play a pivotal role in establishing the company's pioneering position and diversifying its income sources.

'Fat years are over',

Germany's Scholz

says on tax intake

FRANKFURT: German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz ves-

terday warned that the days when the country's tax rev-

enues consistently overshot expectations were over as

Europe's top economy loses momentum. "The good times in

which the state kept taking in more taxes than expected are

coming to an end," Scholz told the Bild am Sonntag news-

paper. "For 2018, we will once again show a tax surplus. But

more unforeseen additional income," he added. Solid eco-

nomic growth, high wages and record-low unemployment

have boosted Germany's tax take in recent years, helping

the government notch up successive budget surpluses, in

marked contrast with most of its EU partners. The 2017

But growth in the export-reliant powerhouse has

slowed in recent months in the face of US-China trade tensions, problems in the crucial car industry, and concerns over a hard Brexit. In the third quarter of 2018, the German

economy even contracted for the first time in more than

three years. The government has since cut its growth fore-

cast for 2018 to 1.5-1.6 percent, down from the 2.2 percent

Germany, which also runs a massive trade surplus with

the rest of the world, regularly comes under fire from the US,

European peers and international institutions for not spending or investing enough of the proceeds of its wealth. After

taking over from veteran finance chief Wolfgang Schaeuble last March, Scholz vowed to stick to his predecessor's "black

zero" policy of not racking up new debt, while striving to

lower Germany's public debt to less than 60 percent of gross

domestic product, the EU ceiling. —AFP

expansion the previous year.

budget surplus stood at 36.6 billion euros (\$41.7 billion).

now the fat years are over. From now on, I don't o

## Infiniti Al-Babtain's aftersales team wins 2 awards at **Dubai** conference

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the authorized dealer for Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait is proud to announce the achievement by its Infiniti Service team members. They were honored with two coveted awards during recent Annual Infiniti Aftersales conference held in Dubai. Demonstrating highest standards of Customer Excellence to guarantee exceptional service rendered throughout the year to our valued customers. The award was aimed at Highest Quality of service activities which improved in the Customer satisfaction and Increased Retention rate of customers during FY18.

Infiniti Al-Babtain Service team received 'Best Customer Quality Award FY18' and the 'Best Customer Retention Award FY18' for their commitment and hard

work towards delivering premium Aftersales care to customers. Infiniti Service achieved highest customer retention in the GCC region. The winners were congratulated

by Al-Babtain CEO - Saleh Al-Babtain, Laurent Pernet,

General Manager Automotive at Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz

Al Babtain and Chief Human Resources Officer,

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain.

Al-Babtain lives by its dynamic motto - which is to ensure the best experience possible through passion and innovation in everything they do. Each year, the home grown brand supports evolving market needs and demands by empowering its employees with modern, international best practices and up-to-date training exercises to maintain overall Customer satisfaction.



# Carlos Ghosn to 'vigorously' defend himself in Japan court

PARIS: Former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn will "vigorously" defend himself in a Japanese court this week after refusing to sign a confession in return for being released from custody, his son has told a French Sunday newspaper. The auto tycoon who has been held since his shock arrest in November on allegations of financial misconduct is due to appear in a Japanese court on Tuesday to hear the reasons for his detention.

He will give his version of events for the first time, his son Anthony told the French weekly newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche (JDD). The father-of-four has gone from heading a powerful international auto alliance to languishing in a Tokyo detention centre, where his stay has been repeatedly extended.

Anthony told the JDD that his father would be released if he signed a confession. He can "tell the prosecutor that he is

contesting the charges or instead he could confess and be released. For seven weeks his decision has been quite clear," he said.

"The paradox is that the confession he has been asked to sign is written only in Japanese," adding that his father does not understand it. He added that the defense do not yet have a complete file on the case. Authorities are pursuing three separate lines of enquiry against the 64-yearold Franco-Lebanese-Brazilian executive, involving alleged financial wrongdoing during his tenure as Nissan chief.

They suspect he conspired with his right-hand man, US executive Greg Kelly, to hide away around half of his income (some five billion yen or \$44 million) over

five fiscal years from 2010. They also allege he under-reported his salary to the tune of four billion yen over the next three fiscal years-apparently to avoid criticism that his pay was too high. The growing case against the auto tycoon represents a stunning reversal of fortune for a man once revered in Japan and beyond for his ability to turn around automakers, including Nissan. "He is ready to defend himself vigorously and is very focused on the goal of responding to the accusations against him. He is particularly calm," said Anthony, who has not spoken directly with his father. "For the first time he will



be able to explain all the charges against him and give his version and I think everyone will be quite surprised to hear his version of the story."

Ghosn will appear handcuffed in prison clothes and will have 10 minutes to speak, his son said. He has lost ten kilos since his detention began due to a

prison diet of three bowls of rice a day, and spends his time reading books. "He takes all this as a challenge," Anthony added. Prosecutors have pressed formal charges over the first allegation-that Ghosn under-reported his salary between 2010-2015 — but not yet over the other accusations. —AFP

'When you have a recovery in risk assets, those that have been undervalued can snap back the most," he said. Emerging markets have been in a bear market since September, placing them already four months into the deep declines that rocked the US equities market in December. The average bear market in emerging markets has lasted 220 days and posted a decline of 32.4 percent, or about 7 percentage points more than the roughly 25 percent drop in the MSCI Emerging Market Index since it hit near-record highs last January, according to data from Ned Davis Research.

While emerging markets started the year with another roughly 1.7 percent loss over the first two trading sessions, fund managers say they are increasing their bets on stocks in countries that are among the most beaten-down, expecting they will have the largest rebound if and when a global bull market in equities resumes.—Reuters

Al-Tijari announces winner of Al-Najma prize program

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows:- Weekly draw prize KD 5,000 - Ahmad Mohammad Al-Hamad.

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jean.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 18th 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank's branch. However, CBK noncustomers can submit an account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank' Sales Unit will call them to arrange a visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

# **Fund managers** hoping for stock rally look to emerging markets

**NEW YORK:** After emerging market stocks led global equity markets lower in a brutal 2018, some US-based fund managers are betting that the asset class may have the largest rebound in the new year.

It may not look likely at the moment, given that an economic downturn in China prompted iPhone-maker Apple Inc to lower its quarterly revenue forecast on Wednesday for the first time in a decade. Its shares slumped nearly 10 percent after Chief Executive Tim Cook blamed the US-China trade war and "economic deceleration," prompting broad selloffs around the world the following day.

Yet fund managers from Westwood Holdings Group, GMO, T. Rowe Price and Causeway Capital Management are among those who are betting that emerging market stocks will post outsized gains in 2019. They cite a combination of compelling valuations and a likely decline in the value of the dollar that will help accelerate economic growth.

As China continues to bear the brunt of US President Donald Trump's focus on trade tariffs, fund managers are expecting that shares in countries like India, Thailand, Peru, and Brazil will outperform the China-dominated emerging market benchmark index.

"We want to lean into the fear in the markets," said Sebastien Page, head of asset allocation at T. Rowe Price. He expects emerging markets will outperform in the year ahead as the Federal Reserve curtails its pace

of interest rate hikes and the dollar subsides.

Business

#### Monday, January 7, 2019

# Huawei moves to dispel security concerns about its products

## Company cooperating with Japanese government

**SHENZHEN:** Huawei is cooperating with the Japanese government and bolstering purchases of parts in Japan to ease concerns that its products could be used in espionage or cyber-attacks by Beijing.

"It is just normal for the government, telecommunications companies and society at large to take an interest in security and the protection of privacy," Wang Jianfeng, president of Huawei Technologies Japan KK, said. "Compared with our rivals, we have taken more safeguard measures to ensure security, including the use of a thirdparty safety assessment organization," Wang added.

Wang said he believes the Japanese government's decision to effectively ban ministries and agencies from buying Chinese telecommunications equipment starting in fiscal 2019 "is not targeted at specific companies," but he confirmed that Huawei is holding talks with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Wang also said that Huawei's global business prospects for 5G are good, and the company has already signed 26 contracts and shipped more than 10,000 5G base stations.

You cannot resolve concerns about cybersecurity even if you eliminate a leading company from the competition," he said. "That would only stall the introduction of the new technology and add to the burden of consumers in the end."

Japan is important market for Huawei in terms of procuring core parts. The company spent an estimated 670 billion yen (\$6.06 billion), up 40 percent from a year earlier, for parts bought in the Japanese market in 2018. Huawei will "further bolster" such purchases in 2019, Wang said. The company has already opened a new research and development center in Osaka Prefecture to strengthen its ties with Japanese suppliers, he added.

Some analysts have already suggested that banning Huawei will create a vacuum that no one can fill in a timely



fashion, and may seriously impair 5G deployments worldwide as Huawei has recently announced through its rotating chairman Ken Hu that it has secured 25 commercial contracts, ranking number one among all ICT equipment providers, having already shipped more than 10,000 base stations to markets around the world.

In his New Year Letter to the company 180.000employees working in over 170 countries worldwide, Huawei Rotating Chairman Guo Ping expressed his confidence about the company business performance as Huawei never stopped pushing forward, and as a result the company 2018 sales revenue is expected to reach \$108.5 billion, up 21 percent year-on-year.

Commenting on the current 5G challenges and allegations Huawei is faced with, Guo Ping said: "For 5G markets that choose to not work with Huawei-they will be like an NBA game without star players: the game will go on, but with less deftness, flair, and expertise".

Huawei said it will ramp up 5G development efforts. The company is rolling up its sleeves, vowing to push on with its 5G network development despite its technology being banned by some Western nations. Huawei Chairman Liang



Hua told media last week that the firm's operations remain "normal" even as it faces a "complicated environment".

"In the face of a crisis of confidence from the West, first we must do our own work well, and continue to build Huawei's competitiveness in the field of 5G. "We believe

that customers will make their own decisions." To that end, Huawei is planning to release its first 5G-enabled smartphone in the first half of 2019, and will achieve "commercial scale" of those phones by the second half of 2019,

## KFH-Bahrain offers 6 luxury apartments in **Durrat Marina**

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain "KFH-Bahrain" has announced the launch of its New 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account Campaign, starting January 2019, where over a period of 12 months more than 900 winners will stand a chance to win one of six Luxury Apartments in Durrat Marina, located near Durrat Al Bahrain, or one of six Grand Cash prizes of \$50,000; in addition to other cash prizes and new special segments.

First launched in 2012, KFH-Bahrain's award winning



Subah Al-Zavani

"Libshara" account has provided the market with a new investment savings account scheme that revolutionized this type of product offering by being the first to offer major prizes such as villas, land and apartments, and has since witnessed high success and a growing customer base. Given the variety of valuable awards offered along with the attractive financial profits,

the "Libshara" account is considered one of the best savings accounts available in the Kingdom; since its launch more than 4,000 winners have received valuable prizes including cash, luxury cars, and real estate properties; ranging from properties in Diyar Al-Muharraq, Apartments in Marassi Al Bahrain, and luxurious villas in Durrat Al-Bahrain and Ishbiliya Village. KFH continues to provide more attractive awards associ-

ated with the account, in line with its efforts and continues

to reward its customers and exceed expectations. Subah Abdullatif Al-Zayani Deputy Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain, revealed: "In line with our continuous efforts to provide the best banking products and services to our valued customers, we are pleased to announce the launch of the New 2019 edition of the 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account, which will encompass valuable prizes and new special segments, providing a variety of opportunities and increasing number of lucky winners."

The new campaign will include cash prizes, alongside six fully furnished apartments of one and two bedrooms, inclusive of a two-year contract free of service charges at Durrat Marina, located near Durrat Al-Bahrain; one of the most prestigious developments in the Kingdom of Bahrain, offering a luxurious lifestyle at the sea," he added.

The Libshara 2019 campaign also grows its Special Segment prizes categories. Along with the main grand prizes, sixty winners will stand a chance to win 10 monthly cash prizes of \$500 in categories of "Our Women," "Our children," "Our Savers" and "Our cards", as well as two new winner segments, "Our Jazeel", for Libshara customers who open a "Jazeel saving investment account" using Jazeel by KFH app, and "VIVA" where every BD 50 spent on VIVA Business Mobile, Broadband, and ICT services entitles VIVA corporate clients to win prizes with a value of \$500.

The Durrat Marina project is one of the waterfront developments in the Kingdom of Bahrain with a project value of approximately \$1.5 billion. It consists of three artificial islands with open sea faÁades and various real estate components such as residential villas and towers, condominiums, a hotel, commercial buildings, and yacht club. Located to the south of the Kingdom, this unique real estate development is a haven away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, providing a tranquil environment and laid back lifestyle perfect for the entire family.

The 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account is a shariacompliant savings scheme that offers clients valuable monthly prizes. For every BD50 or its equivalent in USD saved for a period of 30 days prior to the end of the month, clients are entitled to enter the monthly cash draws. While an investment period of 90 days is equal to one chance at entering the grand prizes raffle draws, 180 days gives two chances and 360 days three chances.

### Nissan unveils invisible-to-visible technology concept at CES

YOKOHAMA: At the upcoming CES trade show, Nissan will unveil its future vision for a vehicle that helps drivers "see the invisible" by merging both real and virtual worlds, creating the ultimate connectedcar experience.

Invisible-to-Visible, or I2V, is a future technology created through Nissan Intelligent Mobility, the company's vision and integrated into society. I2V will demonstrate the future of driving to CES visitors through an interactive, threedimensional immersion experience at Nissan's display.

I2V will support drivers by merging information from sensors outside and inside the vehicle with data from the cloud. This enables the system not only to track the vehicle's immediate surroundings but also to anticipate what's ahead - even showing what's behind a building or around the corner. To make driving more enjoyable, guidance is given in an interactive, human-like way, such as through avatars that appear inside the car.

By tapping into the virtual world, I2V opens up endless possibilities for service and communication - making driving more convenient, comfortable and exciting. "By helping you see the invisible, I2V enhances your confidence and makes driving more enjoyable," said Tetsuro Ueda, an expert leader at the Nissan Research Center. "The interactive features create an experience that's tailored to your interests and driving style so that anyone can enjoy using it in their own way."

#### Connected driving

12V is powered by Nissan's Omni-Sensing technology, which acts as a hub gathering real-time data from the traffic environment and from the vehicle's surroundings and interior. Nissan's SAM (Seamless Autonomous Mobility) technology analyzes the road environment through relevant real-time information, and the ProPILOT semiautonomous driver support system provides information about the car's surroundings.

The technology maps a 360-degree virtual space around the car to provide information about things like road and intersection status, visibility, signage or nearby pedestrians. It can also monitor the people inside the vehicle by using interior sensors to better anticipate when they may need assistance with finding something or a coffee break to stay alert. I2V can also connect drivers and passengers to people in the Metaverse virtual world. This makes it possible for family, friends or others to appear inside the car as three-dimensional, augmented-reality avatars to provide company or assistance.

#### More support during autonomous or manual driving

During autonomous driving, I2V can make the time spent in a car more comfortable and enjoyable. For example, when driving in the rain, the scenery of a sunny day can be projected inside the vehicle.

When visiting a new place, the system can search within the Metaverse for a knowledgeable local guide who can communicate with people in the vehicle in real time.

Information provided by the guide can e collected with Omni-Sensing and stored in the cloud so that others visiting the same area can access the useful guidance. It can also be used by the onboard artificial intelligence system to provide a more efficient drive through local areas.

During manual driving, I2V provides information from Omni-Sensing as an overlay in the driver's full field of view. The information helps drivers assess and prepare for things like corners with poor visibility, irregular road surface conditions or oncoming traffic.

The driver can also book a professional driver from the Metaverse to get personal instruction in real time. The professional driver appears as a projected avatar or as a virtual chase car in the driver's field of vision to demonstrate the best way to drive.

Not only will I2V display information about congestion and estimated travel time; it can communicate unique details to better inform the driver about the road ahead, removing unknowns to ease driving stress. I2V will give alternative suggestions, even down to the best-moving lane in heavy traffic, by using real-time local data mapping via Omni-Sensing.

Upon arrival at a destination, I2V can access SAM to scan for parking spaces and park the vehicle for the driver in situations requiring difficult parking maneuvers.

#### I2V demonstration at Nissan's display

Visitors to CES can experience I2V at Nissan's display by putting on a pair of augmented-reality goggles and stepping inside a demonstration cockpit featuring three-dimensional interfaces and displays. Users are guided through scenarios including a tour of a city, receiving help to find an open parking space at a busy mall, seeing a rainy day outside change to a sunny day inside the car, chasing a professional driver avatar to improve driving skills and exploring how I2V can see through buildings and around corners. CES 2019 runs from Jan. 8-11 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Nissan welcomes all attendees to its display (6906) in the North Hall.

## Panasonic unveils new steam iron range for the Kuwaiti market

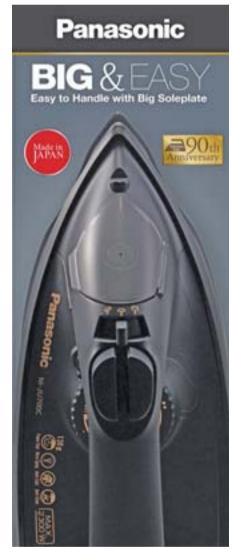
KUWAIT: Panasonic has announced the launch in Kuwait of a new range of steam irons intelligently designed for high performance and ease of use. The U Series steam iron models JU700, U550 and U400 feature a big ceramic soleplate allowing the user to cover a much wider ironing area in far fewer strokes, while their ergonomically-designed handle and low height assure maximum comfort like never before.

In addition to its wider width, the soleplate is curved and has a unique U-shape for smooth and effortless ironing. It also features 27 vents along the U-shape groove for steam distribution, essential for softening the fabric and removing wrinkles. Thanks to its precision tip, these iron models are perfect for reaching the creases in the trickiest areas, making ironing less of a chore.

Apart from these, the irons are also built with the power shot steam system. This Panasonic innovation allows large quantities of concentrated steam to penetrate deeply into the fabric so that it never loses its texture. Power shot is also ideal for removing odor caught in hardto-wash garments, such as knitted items and suits. A micro spray blast feature also adds to efficient ironing, while antidrip function prevents leakage from the steam holes.

The irons' lifespans are also assured, not only with their heavy-duty design, but with their three-way cleaning system as well. Anti-calc prevents calcium build-up in the water tank, while the self-cleaning button is for releasing excess water in the same compartment for instant and hasslefree maintenance. To top it all off, the power shot aids in removing remaining water and calcium scale completely, preventing steam holes from getting clogged.

"The JU700, U550 and U400 steam irons all boast the same excellent Japanese craftsmanship and unmatched efficiency you've come to expect from Panasonic products. Not many steam irons can boast of these intelligent fea-



tures so you can be assured of that you are getting the best of the best with our U Series," said Mr. Keisuke Nakagawa -Director, Consumer Marketing Division, Panasonic.

"Customer satisfaction is a number one priority for us at BEST Al-Yousifi Electronics and we are proud that, through the years, we have been able to build longlasting relationships with our clients through partners like Panasonic. We are excited to include in our portfolio Panasonic's U Series steam irons as these new innovations will highlight our commitment to offer only premium products, which will improve the lives of households in Kuwait," commented Omar Massouh - Director, Corporate Marketing & Public Relations at Easa Husain Al-Yousifi Company. The Panasonic U Series steam iron models are now available in in Kuwait in all Al-Yousifi Electronics showrooms and with all authorized distributors

## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi draw

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

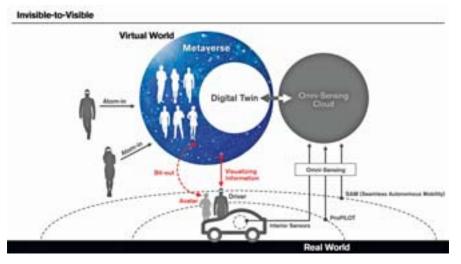
**4.** Ali Iseri

1. Sami Mijbel Nasser Hassan 2. Fakhruddin Ali Husain Dawala 3. Adel Safar Mohammad Mohammad

Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.



Health

Monday, January 7, 2019

# Bolivian bees under threat from coca pesticides

# Pale moth used as biological weapon against coca cultivation





**COROICO:** High up in the Bolivian cloud forest, a woman tends to her bees, smoker in hand, working from hive to hive under a canopy of leaves to delicately gather panels of honeycomb. It's a bucolic scene that experts say won't last, for the bees are dying. The culprit-as in so many other cases across the world-is pesticide. The difference in Bolivia is that pesticide use, along with the coca plantations it is being used to protect, is on the rise.

Environmentalists and beekeepers like Rene Villca say the bee population is being decimated by massive and intensive use of chemical pesticides to protect the region's biggest cash crop. Here in the idyllic Nor Yungas region north of the cloud-high capital La Paz, the pesticides are taking a toll on Villca's hives. "Of the 20 hives I have, 10 are producing normally and 10 are not."

On another part of the mountain where Nancy Carlo Estrada tends to her bees, a canopy of protective netting around her head, Exalto Mamami wades through a waist-high coca plantation, pumping out liquid pesticide from a canister on his back, face covered with a long cloth against harmful blowback from the spray. He is all too aware of the pesticide's toxicity, but has other priorities. "We use pesticides because the pests eat through the coca leaves and this affects our income. The plants can dry out and that way we as coca farmers

lose out economically," said Mamani. The sale of coca leaves-the base component of cocaine-is legal in this part of Bolivia. They are sold openly for traditional use in the local towns. It is chewed, used for making teas, and in religious and cultural ceremonies. According to the latest survey by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Bolivia has 24,500 hectares under coca cultivation, an increase of 7.0 percent in a year. The government is collaborating with the UNODC in alternate development programs but despite this, between 35 and 48 percent is destined for cocaine production.

#### Coca cultivation expanding

On the steep slopes of the region's valleys, the lush forest is pockmarked with small plots of coca arranged in terraces. "The area of coca cultivation has expanded and the native forest has been reduced to alarming levels," said Miguel Limachi, an entomologist at La Paz's San Andres University. Limachi says the expansion of coca cultivation has helped to destroy other plants that provide a natural defense against the coca-leaf pests, particularly the Tussock Moth.

In other parts of the Andes, the pale moth has been used as a biological weapon against coca cultivation. "A monoculture is more at risk from pests or fungi because there is no

longer native vegetation-there are no natural controllers," Limachi explained. "And then more pesticides are used in higher concentrations." Harmful organophosphates in the pesticides mean the bees-"a social insect and extremely organized," according to Limachibecome disorganized, and less able to feed and care for larvae.

In recent years across the globe, bees have been mysteriously dying off from "colony collapse disorder" blamed party on pesticides, but also on mites, viruses and fungi. The danger of increased pesticide use in the Bolivian highlands is that they "remain in the soil, on the surface of the plants and obviously contaminate all the organisms present-both the growers themselves, their children and their families, and the wildlife," Limachi said. Pesticides are also used to protect other crops in the country such as coffee plantations and some tropical fruits.

#### 'Growers have no choice'

For Exalto Mamani, there is no other option but to use pesticides. "Many of the coca growers are aware that we are affecting the environment with these chemicals, but we have no other alternative because the coca supports us and gives us the economy to support our family," he said. He says climate change has meant coca leaf pests are on the increase. Limachi

agrees that climate change has played a role in reducing bee populations. "Very dry years and other years that have too much rain change the availability of flowers from which the bees use to feed the hives," he said. Other human factors also play a role, he said.

"Electromagnetic pollution, the emission of cellular waves, microwaves, radios, television...all that can affect their communica-

tion and the operation of the hive because they interrupt processes such as food collection, care of the larvae or cleanliness of the colony," said Limachi. On the lush steep slopes around Coroico, beekeeper Villca has no doubt about the immediate threat to his bees. "We hope that the coca producers realize the value of this golden insect," he said. — AFP





Kuwait - Times
248 33 199





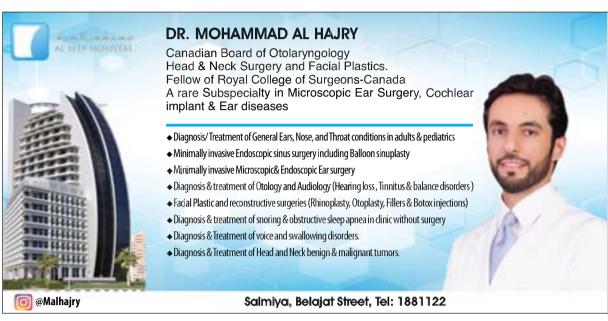




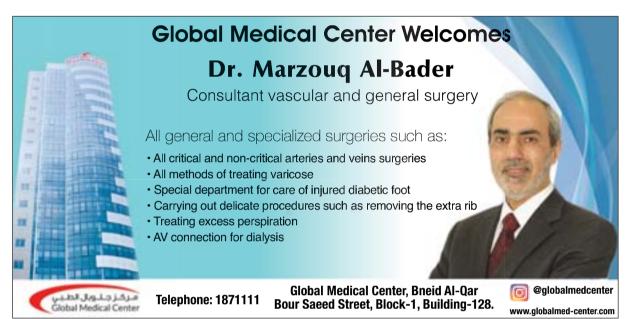
Monday, January 7, 2019

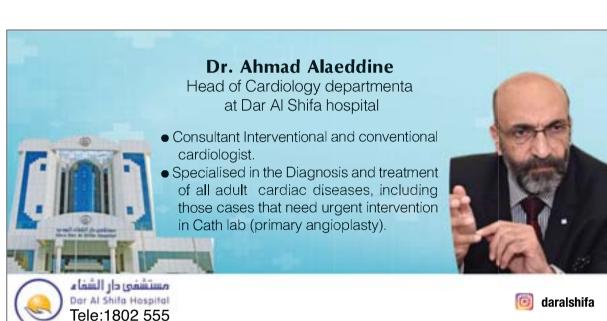


Kuwait 📤 Times 248 33 199













♦ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment



Scope of Clinical Practice:

♦ General & Laparoscopic Surgery





What's On

Monday, January 7, 2019





# The One store re-opens at Marina Mall Kuwait



The wait is finally over! After months of renovation, The One's Theatre in Marina Mall, Kuwait has finally reopened its doors with their two amazing brands: 'Fusion by The One' and 'The One.' While The One brings customers affordable home fashion with inspiring seasonal collections at low-to mid-range prices, Fusion by The One is more highend, specializing in bigger, bolder home fashion products more suitable for villas.

The One family promises an all-encompassing total sensory adventure with style-driven coordinated room sets, studios and home categories, in which products are displayed to a maximum effect. Now with the roll-out of their new concept 'Where Price and Design Matter' and defined in-store 'furniture zones' and 'show islands' the brand has created a synergy between in-store and on-line experiences for the modern customers. "We want our customers to always be both inspired and see the value of our furniture and accessories - both in-store and on-the-go." Discover our new range of sofas, beds, dining and accessories.











# ICSK Khaitan celebrates Christmas, New Year





CSK, Khaitan celebrated Christmas and New Year on December 24 and 31, 2018 respectively by organizing special assemblies in the school auditorium. The stage was decorated with a festive look with posters and drawings made by the students. Programs started with a minute of silence followed by recitation of the Holy Quran and a thought for the day. There was a small cultural program where students dressed in red and white Christmas attires performed dance on the stage, sang Christmas Carols and New Year songs which were completely hypnotic and enchanting. The children were told about the birth of Lord Jesus and the legend of Santa Claus.

In his address the Principal Gangadhar Shirsath appreciated the effort taken by students and staff to organize the assemblies with great standard. He emphasized the message of universal brotherhood, peace and harmony. He requested all the students realize the value of thankfulness and gratitude for bounties of God and to make some New Year resolutions to have a great year ahead! The boundless joy of celebration was amply visible on the faces of the children especially when the whole show got over in the ear pleasing echoes of -'We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.



# Study in Japan

The Embassy of Japan is pleased to announce that the Government of Japan offers scholarship to teachers who wish to conduct research on school education at Japanese Universities. The Japanese Government Scholarship was established in 1954 in order to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries as well as to make an international contribution to the intellectual field.

All Kuwaiti citizens who meet the qualifications below are eligible to apply:

a) Applicants are those who are born on or after April 2, 1984.

b) In principle, applicants must be graduates of universities or teachers training schools and have worked as teachers at elementary, middle or secondary schools for at least five years in total.

c) Applicants should be physically fit to participate in the program.

d) Applicants must be interested in Japan and be willing to deepen their understanding of Japan after arriving in Japan. Applicants must also have the ability to do research in Japanese and adapt to living in Japan.

e) Japanese Embassy will carry out screening, interview and written examinations.

Application forms, detailed information and other conditions can be downloaded from Embassy's page. The deadline for submitting applications is on March 3, 2019. Only hard copies, preferably printed on A4 size paper, and mailed through courier or hand-delivered to the Embassy, will be accepted. The application process consists of document screening, written exams, and personal interview. Academic exams will be held on March 5, 2019. Past exam until 2013 can be provided for public reading at the Embassy of Japan. For more inquiries, please contact cultural section, Embassy of Japan on 25309426.

#### Stars

#### **CROSSWORD 2103**

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8.	9	10	11		12	13	14
15	$^{\dagger}$	$\vdash$	п	16	$^{\dagger}$	1	T		1			п	17	T	t
18		$^{\dagger}$	п	19	$^{\dagger}$	1	T	$^{\dagger}$	T		20	21	1	$^{\dagger}$	t
22		$\vdash$	23	T		24	T	$\top$			25	$\top$	$\top$		t
		26		$\top$	27					28		$\top$	$\top$		T
29	30	Т	31		$\top$			32	Г			$\top$			Ė
33		34	Т	$\top$	$\top$		35	Т		36	T	$\top$	37	38	39
40	$\vdash$	Т				41		1				42	$\top$		t
43	$\vdash$	Т		44		45	Т			46	47		$\top$	T	T
48		$\vdash$	49	Т	П	т		50	51			1	T	T	T
52	T	$\vdash$		$\top$		53	54						55		T
			56	T	57		T		58	59	60	61	т		t
62	63	64			$\top$				65	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	66	67	68
69					70	71	72	73		$\top$			74		t
75			1		76		T	$\top$	1	$\top$			77		t
78		$\vdash$			79		+	+	+	+	+	1	80	+	t

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. An honorary degree in science. 4. Of or relating to the science of acoustics. 12. Inflammation of the urethra of unknown
- cause. 15. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
- 16. A mild rebuke or criticism. 17. (Roman mythology) Goddess of abun-
- dance and fertility. 18. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- 19. Having or denoting a high range.
- 20. A city in northeastern Ohio.
- 22. A member of the extinct Algonquian people formerly living in northern Indiana and southern Michigan 24. A barrier consisting of a horizontal bar
- and supports. 25. Made of grated potato and egg with a lit-
- tle flour. 26. A decorative musical accompaniment
- (often improvised) added above a basic melody.
- 29. A heavy precious metallic element. 31. Of or relating to or characteristic of
- Thailand of its people. 32. State in northeastern India. 33. A large faint constellation in the southern
- hemisphere containing most of the Small Magellanic Cloud.
- 36. The longest river in England. 40. The twelfth month of the civil year.
- 42. A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
- 43. Support resembling the rib of an animal. 45. Unknown god.
- 46. Characterized by undue haste and lack of thought or deliberation.
- 48. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poi-
- 52. A fencing sword with a v-shaped blade nd a slightly curved handle
- 55. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and
- 56. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan
- 58. A major god.
- 62. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voy-
- 65. (of characters in literature or drama) Evoking empathic or sympathetic feelings. 69. An Arabic speaking person who lives in
- Arabia or North Africa. 70. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North
- America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- 74. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine. 75. Having wisdom that comes with age and
- experience. 76. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 77. Being two more than fifty.
- 78. One of a pair of planks used to make a track for rolling or sliding objects. 79. Genus of beetles whose grubs feed main-
- ly on roots of plants. 80. Water frozen in the solid state.

#### **DOWN**

- 1. A fraudulent business scheme. 2. City in southwestern Colombia in a rich
- 3. Causing fear or dread or terror. 4. A skilled worker who practices some trade
- agricultural area.

- or handicraft.
- 5. An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
- 6. A drama set to music.
- 7. Relating to or concerned with a city or densely populated area. 8. Characterized by or preferring solitude in
- mode of life. 9. A unit of weight used in east Asia approxi-
- mately equal to 1.3 ounces. 10. Being nine more than ninety.
- 11. (Jewish cookery) A loaf of white bread containing eggs and leavened with yeast. 12. Situated in or facing or moving toward or
- coming from the north. 13. Support consisting of a radial member of a wheel joining the hub to the rim.
- 14. Widely distributed lichens usually having a grayish or yellow pendulous freely branched thallus.
- 21. The capital and largest city of Nepal. 23. Containing or made of or resembling or characteristic of a metal.
- 27. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- 28. Respiratory disorder characterized by wheezing.
- 30. Eurasian perennial bulbous herbs. 34. Spicy fruit of the cubeb vine.
- 35. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth. 37. A Portuguese province on the south coast
- of China and two islands in the South China 38. (computer science) A system of world-
- wide electronic communication in which a computer user can compose a message at one terminal that is generated at the recipient's terminal when he logs in.
- 39. One of the green parts that form the calyx of a flower.
- 41. A monarchy in northwestern Europe occupying most of the British Isles. 44. English monk and scholar (672-735).
- 47. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and
- thermal conductivity of any metal. 49. Perversely irritable.
- 50. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens. 51. Copy that is not the original.
- 53. An associate degree in nursing. 54. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali
- earth group.
- 57. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man. 59. The basic unit of money in Thailand.
- 60. Jordan's port. 61. (astronomy) The angular distance of a
- celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing. 63. A republic in the Middle East in western
- 64. Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
- 66. An island in Indonesia east of Java. 67. Concerning those not members of the
- clergy. 68. 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. 71. The force of workers available.

less circular object.

72. The capital and largest city of Japan. 73. The shape of a raised edge of a more or

### **Yesterday's Solution**

В	N	S		В	L	A	C	K	C	A	P		S	A	M
L	A	C		В	A	D	I	N	A	G	Е		C	P	I
A	G	A		S	T	A	T	E	D		D	P	Н	I	L
T	Α	В	I		E	M	I	L	Е		I	0	w	Α	N
			D	Α	L		F	L		0	С	T	Α	N	Е
A	U	T	0	T	Y	P	Y			R	Α	Т			
В	A	A	L			E		G	L	A	В	E	L	L	Α
A	K	U		A	R	C	T	I	I	D		R	0	0	D
D	Α	N	C	E		S	I	K	A				E	P	A
A	R	T	E	R	Y			U	N	W	E	В	В	E	D
N	1		В	0	В		H	Y	A	Е	N	A			
		S	U	В		T	A	U		В		Т	Α	K	A
P	Α	P	Е	Е	T	Е			0	В	L	I	G	Е	D
0	R	Α	L		Α	N	G	Е	L		Α	K	Α	В	Α
S	E	L	L		L	I	N	N	E	A	N		М	A	N
T	A	L	Α		L	A	P	L	A	N	D		Α	В	A

#### **STAR TRACK**



#### Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today you will wake up with a lot of energy and will probably want to hit the ground running! But to be safe, you should hold off until later in the day before charging ahead. Conserve your energy, and play this day in a smart way. Be cool, calm, and collected. If you just bust out of the gate, arms flailing, you will scare people with your erratic energy. Other people need time to prepare for your eagerness, and you can afford to give them that time.



#### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There's no telling what could grow out of a new relationship that gets its start today, so do not cast your hopes too far into the future. Taking each day as it comes is a real test of your patience, but it is the wiser way to go. Intimate friendships and true romances evolve over time. You will have to wait until the two of you are involved in more diverse situations before coming to any conclusions about who this person is or how he or she may affect your life.



#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have an incredible energy welling up inside of you, and it might just explode today (in a very happy way). To make the best use of all your enthusiasm, try to dive into projects or adventures that involve a lot of other people — the more diverse, the better. You are especially well tuned in to the rhythms of other cultures and beliefs, and there are important insights you are ready to download. This is a day of celebration, emancipation, and education.



#### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have to use your strength while you have it because you can't take it for granted. This is not a day to be parsimonious with your energy, reserving a little bit of yourself for a 'what if' situation. Look at all the day's tasks, and go at each of them with everything you've got. You have a real chance to prove yourself today, and there is no reason to talk yourself out of it. Resting is good when you need it — but when you don't, it's just sloth.



#### Leo (July 23-August 22)

When a car is stuck in snow or mud, you have to rock it back and forth until you can get traction. Likewise, if your life has felt stuck, today you will finally get that feeling of traction — also known as hope. Real signs of progress are arriving at a faster and faster pace. Check your bank account, and you might finally be able to breathe a sigh of relief. This is a turning point, a time of new beginnings, and approaching fulfillment.



#### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Take one giant step out of your oh-so-comfortable comfort zone today and put yourself in front of some unfamiliar people. You'll find that it will invigorate both your mind and your physical self. So visit a new part of town to explore new cultures, music, and food. Even shopping in an unfamiliar store will tilt your perspective just enough to make you look at the same old situations in a whole new way.

## **Wordsearch Puzzle**

#### Physics 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 58 letters spell a Bruce Feirstein quotat

т	s	C	1	N	0	R	т	C	E	L	E	E	C	R	0	F	٧	D	R	н	
E	D	1	s	В	E	L	A	5	т	1	C	1	т	Y	T	s	E	E	E	N	
P	R	0	т	0	N	N	A	A	N	C	Y	E	В	E	N	S	L	C	F	0	
T	M	0	т	1	0	N	0	W	E	A	N	E	E	0	T	A	0	- 1	L.	T	
E	Y	E	L	L	U	p	N	1	D	R	L	0	1	1	A	M	C	8	E	0	
R	E	1	F	1	L,	P	M	A	т	U	0	т	1	N	E	R	1	E	C	н	
т	J	S	N	N	Α	G	R	В	C	C	C	D	N	т	н	1	T	L	т	p	
0	0	1	0	G	1	Α	A	E	.1	A	Α	т	Y	т	C	A	Y	G	1	Y	
R	u	A	1	p	F	0	L	R	E	G	N	R	E	N	D	N	N	N	0	D	
Q	L	t.	Т	0	E	0	N	R	D	1	В	M	F	н	A	E	U	G	N	E	
U	E	A	C	1	M	R	N	-1	E	1	P	Α	E	F	L	M	G	F	E	N	
E	s	G	1	N	1	1	U	L	Z	E	s	s	N	E	-	Α	1	C	U	٧	
s	C	u	R	т	A	Y	s	5	R	A	1	T	٧	G	L	D	N	C	Α	0	
1	1	F	F	н	s	В	P	Α	s	0	т	A	A	1	R	E	м	C	5	L	
W	т	-	C	E	0	Α	T	0	N	E	W	1	L,	N	-	E	u	5	U	U	
E	E	R	R	H	5	U	L	E	R	D	R	E	0	C	C	U	T	0	N	M	
1	N	т	R	P	R	1	L	Υ	B	т	0	P	s	N	M	E	Y	т	s	E	
G	1	N	E	E	G	A	-	T	R	E	N	- 1	E	L	C	1	T	R	A	p	
н	ĸ	E	U	н	A	В	5	0	L	U	Т	E	Z	E	R	0	C	C	E	M	
T	D	C	т	H	A	L	F	L	1	F	E	N	E	u	т	R	0	N	5	S	
				UTE	ZER	0		AG				NIZ	ATIO	iN		TOP					

ABSOLUTE ZERO ADHESION AERODYNAMICS AIR MASS AMPLIFIER **BIG BANG** BOILING POINT CENTRIFUGAL CHAIN REACTION DECIBE DIFFRACTION

DRAG ELASTICITY ELECTRONICS ENTROPY FARADAY FORCE FRICTION FUNCTION GALILEO HALF LIFE HEAT INERTIA

**JOULE** PULLEY KINETICS LIGHT MATTER MOLECULE MOTION NEUTRON NIELS BOHR PARTICLE PHOTON PRESSURE

REFLECTION SPEED TEMPERATURE VELOCITY VOLUME WAVELENGTH

#### **Libra (September 23-October 22)**

This is a time of greater openness in your life — emotionally and practically. Get ready to have a lot more free time in your schedule for fun and friendships. Today, plan out a few ideas for group activities and send a mass email to see who's a definite 'yes' and who's a 'maybe.' Use your charm to convince any hesitant folks to get into the swing of things, and if they still don't want to play, ask them to come up with their own suggestions. It's time to start new traditions with old friends.



#### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have one particular habit that, as fun as it is, may be holding you back from moving forward right now. Even if it doesn't seem possible to live your life without it, you should at least give it a try today. You don't have to make huge declarations about whether or not you are going to break a habit — just give life without it a try for a while. Transitioning into a healthier, happier you takes the courage to take risks.



#### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Just when you thought a relationship was over and done with, today it will get a huge injection of new energy! Get ready for a new beginning — complete with all the excitement, enthusiasm, and adorable awkwardness it had the first time around. This is your chance to do things over again, with a lot more honesty and a lot more confidence. People seldom get second chances in life, so you should greet this opportunity with your typical gratitude and grace.



#### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are very insightful right now, and your front door is a likely stop along the way for people who are looking for answers. You'll be in demand today, by folks who simply want to compare notes and by folks who need major life help. Yet the tone of your day will not be filled with hopelessness, crisis, or sadness. It will be all about connecting with other people. There will be a lot of laughter and bonding. Realize that life is a crazy ride.



#### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

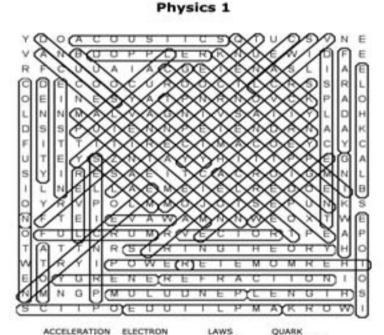
At the beginning of the day, if you suspect that something exciting is cooking with some of the people around you, you're probably right. Corner your best connection in the group as early as you can and try to get some insider information. You might not get the whole story right away, but you have enough mental agility right now to be able to separate truth from fiction. Take your conclusions to an objective third party and get the advice you need.



#### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You don't need to have a dramatic moment in order to make some necessary changes in your life. Epiphanies can be caused by quiet moments just as often as loud ones. Today, a major turning point will come in the form of a minor exchange between you and an old friend. Your answer or reaction will demonstrate how much growth you have achieved over the years. Your friend may not like what he or she hears from you, but there are new terms in your relationship — terms you are setting.

#### **Yesterday's Solution**



**AMPLITUDE** ATOM BLACK HOLE BUOYANCY CENTRIPETAL COLD FUSION CONVECTION DENSITY DISPLACEMENT

ELECTRON ENTROPY EXPERIMENT FARADAY FREEZING POINT FULCRUM GRAVITY HAWKING IMPEDANCE ISOTOPE KELVIN

LAWS LENGTH LEVER. MASS MECHANICS MOMENTUM NEWTON OPTICS PASCAL PENDULUM POWER PRINCIPLES

QUARK REFRACTION SOUND STRING THEORY TESLA THERMOMETER TRAJECTORY VECTOR VISCOSITY WAVE WEDGE

The hidden message is: YOU NEVER FAIL UNTIL YOU STOP TRYING

#### **Daily SuDoku**

				uny out	Joku			
			1	7	3			
					2	3	5	
3							7	
		2	8				1	
6	4						2	9
	8				4	7		
	7							6
	5	8	6					
			4	1	8			

#### Yesterday's Solution

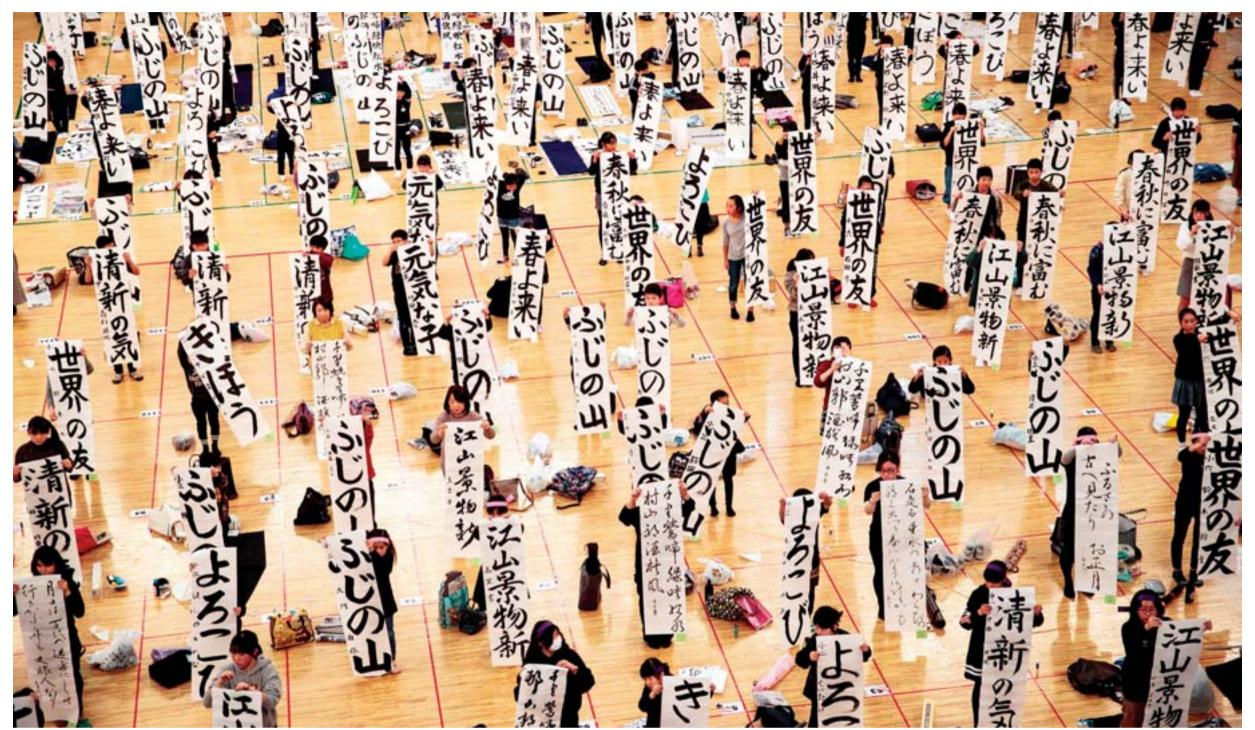
2	8	6	5	9	3	7	1	4
1	9	7	8	6	4	2	3	5
4	3	5	2	7	1	6	8	9
7	2	9	3	1	5	4	6	8
5	1	8	6	4	7	3	9	2
3	6	4	9	8	2	1	5	7
8	4	2	1	3	9	5	7	6
6	7	3	4	5	8	9	2	1
9	5	1	7	2	6	80	4	3

verv hard

hard

# Lifestyle

**MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019** 



Participants display their Japanese writings during the annual new year calligraphy contest in Tokyo. — AFP

phammed Abdul Ameer's nostalgia for better days and his roots in the Levant were what inspired him to open Basra's first mixed-gender cafe since the rule of Saddam Hussein, and themed in honour of the Lebanese singer Fairouz. The southern Iraqi city, the home of Abdul Ameer's father, has since Saddam was toppled in a 2003 U.S. invasion seen conflict, unrest, religious conservatism and an acute lack of jobs and services. Abdul Ameer hopes his customers, mostly young Iraqis, can temporarily forget that and lose themselves in the Arab literature stacked on bookshelves at his cafe while they drink coffee out of cups imprinted with Fairouz's face.

"Fairouz songs are associated with good memories. This place will bring people back to the past, to better days," the owner said at his new Fairouz Cafe and Bookshop in central Basra. "We learned Fairouz's songs during school days so we associate her name with nostalgia." Mugs picturing Fairouz, whose soothing voice emanates from car radios in Iraqi cities and throughout the Arab world, are also sold at the cafe. The 29-year-old grew up in his mother's homeland of Syria but fled for Basra in 2012 near the beginning of the Syrian civil war.

The conflict, which began more than seven years ago with protests against President Bashar al-Assad, has killed hundreds of thousands and driven millions from their homes. "Life in Syria became tough. Snipers and kidnappings became common. I decided to leave and find a new life in Basra," said Abdul Ameer.

#### Conservative city

The economics graduate's dream project - to open a cafe that emulates the Damascus cafe culture - has come to fruition, and many locals are delighted. "What I love about this place is the library and the good service. This place is quiet and free from people who try to restrict our freedom," said Samana Sajjad, a 23-year-old woman who works as a local radio presenter.



An Iraqi woman reads a book at a cafe called Fairouz Cafe after the famous female Lebanese singer Fairouz, in Basra, Iraq. —AFP photos

"After a long day, it's a place where you can forget your worries by listening to Fairouz and reading a book."

Located where the Euphrates and Tigris rivers merge near the Gulf, Basra was for centuries a melting pot of Arabs, Persians, Turks, Indians and Greeks who left their cultural imprint. After Saddam was toppled, conservative Shi'ite-led parties took power in Basra, bringing with them a religiously restrictive lifestyle. Young people in Basra took part in protests in September



Iraqi women drink tea at a cafe called Fairouz Cafe after the famous female Lebanese singer Fairouz, in Basra, Iraq.

which turned violent, complaining of unemployment, lack of services and cor-

Basra's oil fields bring in the vast majority of Iraq's oil wealth but the city

suffers from power and water shortages like much of the country. Iraq's population is predominantly Shi'ite Muslim, and much of its society in the south is conservative, with many women wearing the black head-to-toe abaya and public mixed-gender socializing often frowned upon. — Reuters

# Masked warriors: Indonesia fighters wield whips in traditional duels

ressed in bright colors and lunging at each other with long, looping whips, martial arts fighters in Indonesia were cheered by spectators as they dueled during a traditional festival yesterday. A martial art practiced by the Manggarai people from southern Indonesia, Caci bouts typically involve two men wearing masks while wielding shields and whips made out of rattan. A fighter wins by hitting his opponent in the face or the head. The duels are full of symbolism-the leather-handled whips represent masculinity and the sky, while the round shields stand for femininity, the womb

and the earth. The festival-which took place in Subaya, Indonesia's second largest city-aims to preserve and promote Caci and the Manggarai culture, the organizer said. It is held so "the tradition won't be eroded by time and the modern life", said organizer Tarius, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. In ancient times, the fighters-in the Manggarai peoples' province of East Nusa Tenggara province-were men from different villages who competed against each other to celebrate the harvest season. —AFP



Caci fighters duel with whips in Surabaya, East Java province yesterday. — AFP photos



Caci fighters duel with whips in Surabaya.



A Caci fighter gestures with his whip and shield during a duel.

# Lifestyle Fashion

Monday, January 7, 2019

# US fashion group calls for more diversity in model size

trade group representing hundreds of America's designers has called on the fashion industry to showcase women of greater size diversity, such as plus-size models Ashley Graham and Candice Huffine. Graham, of Nebraska, in 2016 became the first plus-size model to make the cover of "Sports Illustrated." She also appeared on the cover of "Vogue," helping to break down barriers in the notoriously snooty fashion world. "We are beginning to see signs of fashion moving in the right direction," Marc Karimzadeh and Nicky Campbell wrote on the website of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), which says it represents more than 500 men's and women's designers as well as jewelry and accesso-

"Designers such as Michael Kors and Christian Siriano are casting models that defy tradition," they said in a reference to the

fashion world's longstanding preference for slimness. "Body Positivity is important in fashion and we want to see more designers and companies embrace this in 2019," the CFDA communication officials wrote. A movement to recognize alternate body types started in 2017 at New York Fashion Week, with runway shows by Prabal Gurung, Christian Siriano and Michael Kors. In September, the CFDA launched with plus-sized brand Dia&Co the #TeeUpChange campaign to encourage greater diversity in size among young creators.

It also collaborated last year with Universal Standard, a brand that offers to exchange a piece of clothing in the year following its purchase if the customer's size changes. "In the past year, we put more focus on size inclusivity," through the Dia&Co and Universal Standard tie-ups, "and it continues to be a focus going forward," Karimzadeh told AFP. — AFP



In this file photo model Ashley Graham walks the runway for Prabal Gurung during New York Fashion Week: The Shows at Gallery I at Spring Studios in New York City. — AFP



British designer Bobby Abley (right) greets the audience after his catwalk show on the opening day of the Autumn/Winter 2019 London Fashion Week Men's fashion event in London. — AFP photos





# London Fashion Week Men's Fashion Event

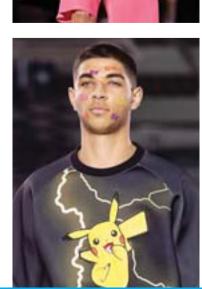




























Models display creations by British designer Bobby Abley on the opening day of the Autumn/Winter 2019 London Fashion Week Men's fashion event in London.

#### Monday, January 7, 2019

# Danish shows take TV world by storm

Tith original boundary-breaking content, thrilling plots and charismatic actors, Danish television series have captivated audiences worldwide in recent years. The latest show to hit the small screen is "Ride Upon the Storm", which is being distributed in almost 80 countries with a debut late January in Britain. The new drama was created by Adam Price, the BAFTA winner behind the acclaimed drama "Borgen", which followed the political and personal tribulations of a Danish woman prime minister.

Danish shows, with both exoticism and gritty realism, have quickly soared in popularity beyond their initial local Scandinavian viewership, Pia Jensen, an Aarhus University communications associate professor specializing in television series, told AFP. Long known for the Nordic noir crime genre, the big international breakthrough for Danish shows came with "The Killing", a hardhitting series following a Copenhagen female cop's investigations. Then came crime thriller "The Bridge" in 2011.

The Nordic noir genre has proven so popular that its aesthetic and themes are now being replicated beyond Scandinavia's borders, with shows such as "Shetland" and "Broadchurch" made in Britain, Jensen said. For foreign audiences, Denmark as it is shown on television is "an exotic society, something to aspire to because of the welfare state and the strong women characters", she said, referring also to the 2010 hit "Borgen". She added, clearly amused, that it's "as if Denmark is the fantasy land of gender equality". Paradoxically, in this almost utopian world, the characters are "normal" people with whom audiences can identify, according to Jensen.

#### Faith and family

But now Danish TV series have moved beyond Nordic noir. "Ride Upon the Storm" is a character-led drama about faith and a family of Danish priests,

dominated by Johannes Krogh, a tempestuous God-like father battling numerous demons. Actor Lars Mikkelsen, known from "The Killing" and his role as the Russian president in Netflix's "House of Cards", plays Johannes, a role for which he won an International Emmy in November. Mikkelsen "has set new standards for the portrayal of a main character in a TV series", the show's creator Adam Price told AFP.

Johannes "is the 10th generation of priests, it's a huge burden that haunts him and he lets it haunt his sons too". His eldest son Christian is lost and at odds with the family and society, while younger son August is married and following in his father's priesthood footsteps before becoming a chaplain for troops stationed in Afghanistan. "In the Bible, you have lots of stories of fathers and sons and brothers. That was the perfect ground to tell (a story) about masculine relationships, the competitive gene between men in a family,"

#### Staying relevant

Elements from "Borgen" can be seen in Price's new venture: the efficient prime minister Birgitte Nyborg and Johannes Krogh, who is headed for the top as Bishop of Copenhagen, are both characters passionate about their work. "But Johannes reacts differently than Birgitte (does) because his ambition is not within the world of politics, but with a more supernatural power," Price said.

Thoughts on faith, religion and spirituality are mixed with a complex study of family. "Religion is sometimes something imposed, as authority can be imposed on our children in a family. And both are dealt with in 'Ride Upon the Storm'," he said. Price is currently working on "Ragnarok" for Netflix, a sixpart Norwegian coming-of-age drama based on Norse mythology but set in a modern-day high school. The second season of "Ride Upon the Storm" just



Danish actor Lars Mikkelsen received an International Emmy Award for his role as a priest and father of two sons in the hit new series 'Ride Upon the Storm'.—www.pulse.com.gh

wrapped up on Danish public television DR, which produced the series, and had around 500,000 viewers.

A small country of just 5.8 million people, Denmark is proud of its reputation as an innovator on the small and big screen. "Danish producers are mainly thinking of a Danish audience. It has to stay relevant to the Danish public and that's why DR keeps experimenting," Jensen said. "Some of the shows will travel and some won't." — AFP

# Five Golden moments at the Globes



In this file photo taken on January 12, 2014 actress Emma Thompson arrives on the red carpet for the Golden Globe awards in Beverly Hills. California.

The Golden Globes is the most lively, attention-grabbing and just plain fun gala ceremony in Hollywood's awards merry-**L** go-round-primarily because it's the only one where alcohol is served. Tinseltown's elite are allowed to kick back in relaxed seating with a glass of champagne-or six-and reflect on a year's achievements. In a pre-gala interview, hosts Sandra Oh and Andy Samberg told The Hollywood Reporter that the "looser atmosphere" was part of the fun. Here are five memorable moments from past ceremonies-when adrenaline, various other hormones or the open bar have brought out the best and worst in the stars:

#### Oprah's 'new day' for women and girls

Just months after the allegations against Harvey Weinstein sparked a reckoning in Hollywood about sexual misconduct, daytime television trailblazer Oprah Winfrey delivered a stirring speech at the Globes in January 2018, declaring a "new day" for women and girls facing down abusive men. "For too long, women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men. But their time is up! Their time is up!" Winfrey said to a standing ovation and even some tears as she accepted a lifetime achievement award.

#### Jeremy Renner on J-Lo's 'globes'

Three years before in 2015, "Hurt Locker" actor Jeremy Renner found himself at the center of a Twitterstorm after an off-color joke as he gave out the award for best actor in a mini-series or TV movie alongside Jennifer Lopez.

After the nominees were announced, the "Let's Get Loud" singer asked her co-presenter if she should open the envelope, telling him: "I have the nails." "You've got the globes, too," he retorted, prompting a wave of complaints on social media that he had sexually harassed her on live TV.

#### Emma Thompson ditches her shoes

Who needs footwear to present an award? Certainly not Emma Thompson, who sauntered up to the podium, Christian Louboutins and a stiff martini in hand, to present the Globe for best screenplay in 2014. After paying lip service to the craft of script-writing, the two-time Oscar winner launched into a one-woman campaign against the cruelty of high heels. "I just want you to know, this red, it's my blood," she said, gesturing to her crimson-soled heels before lobbing the offending footwear over her shoulder.

#### Jodie Foster comes out... sort of

Nothing to do with bad behavior, but actress and director Jodie Foster's moving soliloquy in 2013 remains one of the highlights. At the time, the notoriously private Foster was still in what Out magazine witheringly called a "glass closet"-hiding deliberately in plain sight-as she prepared to accept a lifetime achievement award.

It sounded like she was finally going to put the issue of her sexuality to rest when she spluttered: "I guess I have a sudden urge to say something that I've never really been able to air in public... But I'm just going to put it out there, right? Loud and proud, right? So I'm going to need your support on this." In the end, she stops short, merely declaring, "I am single. Yes I am. I am single," to laughter and applause, before offering a sweet tribute to former long-time partner Cydney Bernard.

#### The biggest shock of all

It's one thing to behave badly at a party but it's a worse offense to spoil everyone's fun by canceling the event in its entirety. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association shelved the Golden Globes during the Writers Guild of America strike in 2008 after the Screen Actors Guild said its members wouldn't cross picket lines outside the ceremony. With the threat of an empty red carpet, the awards were replaced with a dull televised press conference announcing the winners. — AFP



In this file photo taken on January 07, 2018 Actress and TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey poses with the Cecil B DeMille Award during the 75th Golden Globe Awards, in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP photos



In this file photo taken on January 08, 2017 actor Jeremy Renner arrives at the 74th annual Golden Globe Awards, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.



In this file photo taken on January 13, 2013 actress Jodie Foster poses in the press room with her Cecil B DeMille award at the Golden Globes awards ceremony in Beverly Hills.

#### List of key Golden Globe nominees

Here are the nominees in key categories for the 76th Golden Globe Awards. Dick Cheney biopic "Vice" leads with six nominations, followed by a trio of films tied at five: "A Star is Born," "The Favorite" and "Green Book.'

FILM Best film, drama: "Black Panther" "BlacKkKlansman" "Bohemian Rhapsody" "If Beale Street Could Talk" "A Star Is Born"

Best film, musical or comedy: "Crazy Rich Asians"

"The Favourite" "Green Book" "Mary Poppins Returns"

Best actor, drama: Bradley Cooper, "A Star Is Born" Willem Dafoe, "At Eternity's Gate" Lucas Hedges, "Boy Erased" Rami Malek, "Bohemian Rhapsody" David Washington, "BlacKkKlansman"

Best actress, drama: Glenn Close, "The Wife" Lady Gaga, "A Star Is Born" Nicole Kidman, "Destroyer" Melissa McCarthy, "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" Rosamund Pike, "A Private War"

Best actor, musical or comedy: Christian Bale, "Vice" Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Mary Poppins Returns"

Viggo Mortensen, "Green Book" Robert Redford, "The Old Man & The Gun" John C. Reilly, "Stan & Ollie"

Best actress, musical or comedy: Emily Blunt, "Mary Poppins Returns'

Olivia Colman, "The Favourite" Elsie Fisher, "Eighth Grade' Charlize Theron, "Tully" Constance Wu, "Crazy Rich Asians"

Mahershala Ali, "Green Book," Timothee Chalamet, "Beautiful Adam Driver, "BlacKkKlansman"

Richard E. Grant, "Can You Ever

Best supporting actor:

Forgive Me?'

Sam Rockwell, "Vice" **Best supporting actress:** Amy Adams, "Vice" Claire Foy, "First Man"

Regina King, "If Beale Street Could

Emma Stone, "The Favorite" Rachel Weisz, "The Favorite"

Best director:

Bradley Cooper, "A Star Is Born" Alfonso Cuaron, "Roma" Peter Farrelly, "Green Book" Spike Lee, "BlacKkKlansman" Adam McKay, "Vice"

Best foreign language film:

"Capernaum" (Lebanon) "Girl" (Belgium) "Never Look Away" (Germany) "Roma" (Mexico)

"Shoplifters" (Japan) Best animated feature:

"Incredibles 2" "Isle of Dogs"

"Ralph Breaks the Internet" "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"

#### **TELEVISION**

Best drama series: "The Americans" (FX) "Bodyguard" (Netflix) "Homecoming" (Amazon) "Killing Eve" (BBC America) "Pose" (FX)

Best drama actor: Jason Bateman, "Ozark" Stephan James, "Homecoming" Richard Madden, "Bodyguard" Billy Porter, "Pose" Matthew Rhys, "The Americans"

Best drama actress: Caitriona Balfe, "Outlander" Elisabeth Moss, "The Handmaid's

Sandra Oh, "Killing Eve" Julia Roberts, "Homecoming" Keri Russell, "The Americans"

Best musical or comedy series: "Barry" (HBO)

"The Good Place" (NBC) "Kidding" (Showtime)

"The Kominsky Method" (Netflix) "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" (Amazon)

Best musical or comedy actor: Sacha Baron Cohen, "Who Is

Jim Carrey, "Kidding" Michael Douglas, "The Kominsky Method" Donald Glover, "Atlanta"

Bill Hader, "Barry"

Best musical or comedy actress: Kristen Bell, "The Good Place" Candice Bergen, "Murphy Brown" Alison Brie, "GLOW" Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"

Debra Messing, "Will & Grace"

Best limited series or TV movie: 'The Alienist" (TNT) "The Assassination of Gianni

Versace: American Crime Story" (FX) "Escape at Dannemora" (Showtime) "Sharp Objects" (HBO) "A Very English Scandal" (Amazon)

Best limited series or TV movie

Antonio Banderas, "Genius:

Daniel Bruhl, "The Alienist" Darren Criss, "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime

Story' Benedict Cumberbatch, "Patrick Melrose<sup>5</sup>

Hugh Grant, "A Very English

Best limited series or TV movie

actress: Amy Adams, "Sharp Objects"

Patricia Arquette, "Escape at

Connie Britton, "Dirty John" Laura Dern, "The Tale" Regina King, "Seven Seconds"

#### FILMS WITH MOST NOMINA-TIONS

"Vice" — 6 "The Favourite" — 5

"Green Book" — 5

"A Star Is Born" — 5

"BlacKkKlansman" — 4

"Mary Poppins Returns" - 4 —AFP

# Lifestyle | Features



A waiter holds drinks at the entrance of the bar of the Rand Club ahead of the annual Christmas dinner party in Johannesburg yesterday. —AFP photos



Members gather for an aperitif at the bar of the Rand Club ahead of the annual Christmas A members of the Rand Club stands in a street in Johannesburg. dinner party.



# Johannesburg's grandest old colonial club seeks new image

ith its imposing columned facade, hunting trophies and oil portraits, the Rand Club in Johannesburg's city center is a relic of South Africa's colonial and apartheid past. Founded in 1887 by British mining magnate Cecil Rhodes, it was the favored venue for white businessmen and free-wheeling gold prospectors to strike deals and socialize in the hushed library or at the 31-metre-long (102-feet) teak bar, reputedly the longest in Africa. But Alicia Thompson, a black woman born in Johannesburg, is seeking to reposition the club, which has struggled to stay open in recent years, by attracting the city's "young hustlers" of today while preserving its heritage.

Thompson, a 46-year-old beauty business owner who is the club's deputy chairman, said that she had faced "not one iota of resistance" in her efforts to haul the club into the modern era. "I grew up in Johannesburg, I frequented the city and I used to see this building that I was not allowed to enter," said Thompson. "It was this hallowed, ivory tower and I didn't know what happened inside. Then I attended a wedding here in 2010, and I couldn't believe that this gem was withheld from us for all our life.'

Thompson has seen the number of full-time memberspaying \$720 (632 euros) a year-grow recently to nearly 500 after years of decline, while the numbers of student and absentee members are also up. "My attitude to members is just to make it your space," she said. A life-sized portrait of Rhodes, an imperialist businessman and politician inextricably linked with racism and colonial exploitation, still hangs in a second-floor room. But the room itself, which previously bore his name, has been renamed the Founders' Room following an initiative by younger members

#### 'Our history is our history'

Books from another era bearing the words "kaffir" (an offensive racial slur) and "native" still line the shelves of the library, alongside a fireplace, wingback leather armchairs and a typewriter. "Some of our history is very unimpressive-but I'm not a 'fallist'," said member Lucky Dinake, 24, a black councilor from the main opposition Democratic Alliance party.

"Fallist" refers to supporters of the "Rhodes Must Fall" movement sparked in South Africa in 2015 by students seeking the removal of statues of Rhodes and other colonial symbols from university campuses. "Our history is our history. Our responsibility is to learn from it, move forward, not to tear it down," Dinake told AFP. Outside the library's tall windows, workers hurried along the roads of the Marshalltown district while minibuses packed with



A guest of the Rand Club holds a glass while looking from the balcony.



A hunting trophy, a mounted animal head in the Rand Club in Johannesburg.

commuters sped past.

Over the years, the club's fortunes have reflected the mixed fortunes of the surrounding inner-city streets. Unlike "clublands" in cities like London and New York in upscale neighborhoods, Johannesburg's city center has grappled with businesses fleeing, rampant crime as well as derelict and illegally occupied buildings.

But work is under way to rehabilitate the area with high-end booksellers opening nearby in recent years as well as investment in public transport and policing. "The



Rand Club and Wits university scholar Paul Taylor (left) poses with his wife Patricia for a portrait before the Club's Christmas dinner party in Johannesburg.

club is becoming a lot more relevant and a lot more accessible to more people, taking advantage of our location. In Joburg, there's a lot of renewal," said Dinake.

#### 'Now members are hustlers'

Alongside efforts to modernize the club and appeal to millennials, including the launch of a business networking



Macarthur pose for a portrait before the Club's Christmas dinner party in Johannesburg.

club, some rules still honor tradition with phones and tablets banned in the club's upstairs communal areas. "The idea is to enjoy each other's' company. It's good for the 'personal'-that's what's lacking on places like LinkedIn," said Thompson. "It's not just stuffy businessmen and bullish miners anymore.'

Jane Germaner, the 33-year-old wife of a member, praised the club's transformation policy. "One of the beautiful things about it is you get to network with all these people you wouldn't necessarily meet in your dayto-day life. You meet all kinds of characters," she said. Women were not admitted until 1993 but Germaner said she has never felt unwelcome.

Vestiges of the past like hunting trophies are also displayed less prominently than they once were. A portrait of Nelson Mandela, a member in his lifetime, takes pride of place above the sweeping staircase at the heart of the club. Conventions like the dress code have been quietly relaxed over time as the club pushes to grow its member-

It has also begun hosting weddings, parties and functions which, along with a loan from three members, have put the club on a surer financial footing. It came close to the brink of closure following a fire in 2005 and it went into "hibernation" in 2015 when its fate again hung in the balance. "Now members are hustlers, they're the entrepreneurs," said Sello Chauke, a 34-year-old Soweto resident who tends the club bar. — AFP



Waiters at the Rand Club attend a briefing ahead of the annual Christmas dinner party.



A musician plays at the bar of the Rand Club ahead of the annual Christmas dinner party in Johannesburg.



An oil painting of former South African president and Anti-Apartheid icon Nelson Mandela on the first floor of the Rand Club in Johannesburg.

# 'Brex-lit': Social tensions inspire British novelists

Tith Britain's decision to leave the EU exposing fault lines across society, fiction writers are responding with an increasing array of Brexitinfused work-from state-of-the-nation novels to futuristic satire. Brexit's influence has spread to books by established authors like Ali Smith and Jonathan Coe as well as those of debut novelists, pushing writers to examine often overlooked parts of the country and social themes. The genre-dubbed "Brex-lit" by the Financial Times-spans dystopian visions based on the angst of europhiles and more reflective novels probing the apparent divides.

"I have noticed that in the last few years, more and more (submissions) tend to be either fairly dark dystopia or relatively young nostalgia," Daniel Hiscocks, the founder of a small, independent publishing house, told AFP. "I see this as reflective of where, increasingly, pub conversations tend to be headed too," he added. Last year, Hiscocks published Douglas Board's "Time of Lies" which is set in a 2020 Britain that has elected its own version of Donald Trump.

Board, a former civil servant turned writer, said Brexit had compelled him to write "about ignorance and

contempt between ruling class and ruled". "I think there's an opportunity for novels to really be playing on a completely different radio wavelength than the news media," he said.

#### 'The national mood'

Some of the authors said they wanted to use storytelling simply to highlight the divides laid bare by the 2016 referendum. Commissioned by European publisher Peirene to write something in response, Anthony Cartwright's short novel "The Cut" depicts an urbane documentary-maker's short-lived and ill-fated romance with a laborer. Set in a working class corner of the West Midlands, the pair struggle to comprehend each other and their respective worlds.

"We need to at least try to understand people on the other side of whatever divisions we face," said Cartwright. "It's my concern that we are not doing that well enough. "What novels can do is observe a situation, offer some reflection of the national mood." Other chroniclers of these tumultuous times felt compelled to write out of sheer anger. "Brexit influenced me enormously and the book is very much a reaction against it," said James Silvester, whose "Blood, White and Blue" debut claims to be the first "post-Brexit" novel.

Married to a Slovak national working in Britain's emergency services who has faced a spike in racist abuse since 2016, Silvester wanted to "encourage people to think about the reality of Brexit ... what it's doing to people, the pain it has caused and continues to cause." In the book, the main character is "a half-Czech spy fighting for a country that hates her in the chaos of Brexit".

#### 'Finely tuned antennae'

Some of the books are set in parts of Britain often ignored in literature-like the Brexit heartlands of eastern ngland in Adam Thorpe's "Missing Fay" and the West Midlands, where much of Coe's state-of-the-nation tome "Middle England" is set. Thorpe's novel centres around the disappearance of a teenager from a rundown housing project. His portrayal of life in a small Lincolnshire town was written mostly before the referendum. It only became a so-called "Brexit novel"

because the "poverty and sense of hopelessness" depicted in it had helped explain the result, Thorpe said.

Novelists who want to reflect their times have to have finely-tuned antennae, picking up signals that the population in general ignore," he said. He nonetheless remained cautious about letting too much politics into the story. "I wanted the novel to be a litmus test of a nation at a certain moment more than a political statement," he said. Still, British novelists are starting to make a much-needed return to "forcing people to think and feel about stuff that's quite uncomfortable," said author Amanda Craig.

Her account of a marriage in crisis in "The Lie of the Land" offers a more subtle take on the forces fuelling Brexit-with the pinch on family budgets and the urbanrural divide looming large in the background. "The reason why fiction has lost a lot of its power in social terms is because too few of us are doing what people like (Charles) Dickens did," Craig told AFP. "I do think that we've lost that sense of moral purpose. Fiction is there to entertain and to move and to delight, but it's also there to make you think." — AFP

# Classifieds Monday, January 7, 2019



# STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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

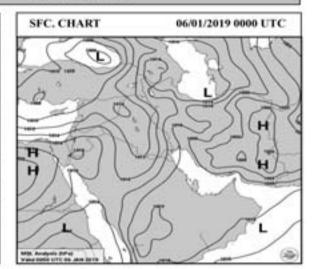
#### **Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**

BY DAY: Partly cloudy with moderate to fresh south easterly wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h with a chance for rising dust.

BY NIGHT: Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

No Current Warnings

WEATHER WARNING		
STATION	MAX, EXP.	MIN, REC.
KUWAIT CITY	25 °C	15 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25 °C	12 °C
ABDALY	25 °C	11 °C
BUBYAN	°C	°C
JAHRA	26 °C	12 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	22 °C	14 °C
SALMIYAH	21 °C	16 °C
AHMADI	22 °C	15 °C
NUWAISIB	23 °C	10 °C
WAFRA	25 °C	12 °C
SALMY	24 °C	11 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST												
50000	Mark Colors	Temper	ratures	Stewart II	Superior Constraint							
DATE	WEATHER	MAX.	MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed							
01/07	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scaftered light rain over northern areas	20 °C	13 °C	NW-N	20 - 45 km/h							
01/08	Partly cloudy to cloudy	18 °C	09 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 26 km/h							
01/09	Partly cloudy to cloudy	22 °C	12 °C	NE-NW	10 - 30 km/h							
01/10	Partly cloudy	18 °C	10 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h							
	01/08 01/09	01/09 Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scattered light rain over northern areas 01/08 Partly cloudy to cloudy 01/09 Partly cloudy to cloudy	DATE   WEATHER   MAX.	DATE   WEATHER								

PRAYER TIMES				
Fajr	05:19			
Sunrise	06:43			
Zuhr	11:54			
Asr	14:46			
Sunset	17:04			
Isha	18:26			

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT 1	KUWAIT AIRPORT
MAX. Temp.	21 °C
MIN. Temp.	07 °C
MAX. RH	99 %
MIN. RH	32 %
MAX. Wind	N 25 km/h
TOTAL PAINTALL IN 24 HP	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
Physiotherapy Hospital  Clinics	24874330/9
7 17 1	24874330/9 25716707
Clinics	
Clinics Kaizen center	25716707
Clinics Kaizen center Rawda	25716707 22517733
Clinics Kaizen center Rawda Adaliya	25716707 22517733 22517144
Clinics  Kaizen center  Rawda  Adaliya  Khaldiya	25716707 22517733 22517144 24848075

#### Shuwaikh 24814507 **Abdullah Salem** 22549134 22526804 **Industrial Shuwaikh** 24814764 Qadsiya 22515088 22532265 **Bneid Al-Gar** 22531908 Shaab 22518752 Qibla 22459381 **Ayoun Al-Qibla** 22451082 Mirqab 22456536

Sharq

Salmiya

#### STORAGE & WORKSHOP FACILITY AVAILABLE

### FOR RENT

Available 5000 sqft storage along with workshop facility having overhead crane and all necessary equipments. Electricity also available. Location at Julaiya.

Those who are interested please do contact  $+965\,\,60374237$ 

#### ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation two bed room two bathroom flat big hall fully furnished all facilities available, single couple or executive bachelor or working ladies, Abbassiya near Vigy studio, Hitec computer. Please contact 97470947 after 3:30 pm. (C 5441) 6-1-2019

# Airlines

Kuwait Airways Jazeera Airways Wataniya Airways Turkish Airlines American Airlines

FlyDubai Qatar Airways KLM Royal Jordanian British Airways Air France Emirates Air India

Jet Airways

# Flight Schedule

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

22465401

25746401

#### **DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

	Arrival Fl	ights on Monday 7/1/2019		FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	SVA	502	Jeddah	22:45	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	672	Dubai	14:25	MSC	501	Alexandria	23:05	JZR	103	Bahrain	14:40
JZR	406	Kochi	00:10	KAC	364	Colombo	14:30	JZR	128	Dubai	23:15	RBG	554	Alexandria	14:45
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:30	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	QTR	1079	Doha	15:00
JZR	254	Amman	00:13	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	FDB	071	Dubai	23.43	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	KAC	618	Doha	14:40			lights on Monday 7/1/2019		IRA	666	Esfahan	15:10
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:00	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
KAC	102	London	00:50	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:40
JZR	722	Alexandria	00:55	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:10	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:15	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:00	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	JZR	111	Doha	01:45	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	JZR	222	Riyadh	15:30	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50	KAC	743	Dammam	15:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	562	Amman	15:35	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:55	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:05
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:40	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:25	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR	732	Cairo	15:50	THY	773			ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
				SYR						Istanbul	02:30				
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40		341	Damascus	16:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	283	Dhaka	16:30
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	IGO	1758	Kochi	02:55	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
KKK	1268	Istanbul	03:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	16:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:40
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	118	New York	16:05	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:05	JZR	212	Jeddah	16:25	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
JZR	502	Lahore	03:35	KAC	502	Beirut	16:30	QTR	1087	Doha	04:00	SYR	342	Damascus	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	KAC	542	Cairo	16:30	KKK	1269	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:35	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB	051	Dubai	16:40	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JZR	114	Doha	17:10	JZR	701	Asyut	04:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KAC	203	Lahore	05:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:00
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	JZR	104	Bahrain	17:45	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30	JZR	733	Cairo	18:10
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10					FDB	070	Dubai	05:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
THY	770	Istanbul		JZR	214	Jeddah	17:45					GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
			05:10	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	JZR	215	Jeddah	06:00				
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:10	FDB	063	Dubai	18:15	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:10	KAC	621	Doha	18:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	05:15	JZR	124	Dubai	18:20	JZR	713	Sohag	06:15	JZR	127	Dubai	18:35
JZR	112	Doha	05:25	QTR	1080	Doha	18:30	JZR	121	Dubai	06:35	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:40	JZR	253	Amman	18:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	744	Dammam	19:00	KAC	167	Paris	07:10	KAC	381	Delhi	18:55
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	RJA	643	Amman	07:15	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	KAC		Bahrain	19:30	KAC	163	MXP	08:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55		616			FDB	054	Dubai	08:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
BAW	157	London	07:05	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	501	Beirut	09:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	JZR	731	Cairo	09:03	JZR	1735	Cairo	20:20
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KNE	381	Taif	20:00					KAC	357	Kochi	20:30
				KAC	620	Doha	20:15	BAW	156	London	09:10				
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	117	Shannon/New York	09:15	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	DHX	172	Bahrain	20:20	KAC	561	Amman	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	674	Dubai	20:35	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	20:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	101	London	09:45	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
SAW	703	Damascus	10:30	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40					ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	DLH	624	Dammam	21:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	10:50	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	KAC	617	Doha	10:35	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	702	Asyut	11:05	KAC	164	MXP	21:25	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	KAC	168	Paris	21:30	JZR	211	Jeddah	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	122	Dubai	11:20	UAE	859	Dubai	21:35	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:45	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	QTR	1071	Doha	10:45	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
JZR	216	Jeddah	11:45	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	KAC	162	Geneva	21:55	SAW	704	Damascus	11:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
JZR	714	Sohag	12:35	KAC	564	Amman	21:55	AXB		Kozhikode	11:50	KAC	383	Delhi	22:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JAI	574	Mumbai	22:00		396			KLM	363 445	Bahrain	
				AZQ	4565	Baku	22:00	JZR	221	Riyadh	12:00				22:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:10	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:00	KAC	783	Jeddah Darkari	22:55
QTR	1078	Doha	13:35	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	14:00					JZR	405	Kochi	12:45	JAI	573	Mumbai	23:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	14:05	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	204	Lahore	14:05	KAC	622	Doha	22:30	QTR	1075	Doha	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	SVA	514	Riyadh	22:30	JZR	123	Dubai	13:40	SVA	515	Riyadh	23:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	14:10	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:45	MSR	611	Cairo	14:10	SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45

News



# Sisi inaugurates Coptic cathedral after bomb blast kills policeman

CAIRO: Egypt's president was to inaugurate the country's biggest cathedral on Coptic Christmas Eve yesterday, a day after a deadly bomb blast near a church in a country where jihadists have repeatedly targeted Christians. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Saturday's explosion on the eastern edge of Cairo that killed a policeman who was trying to defuse the device and wounded two other officers.

Coptic Christians, who account for around 10 percent of Egypt's population, have been hit by a string of attacks by the Islamic State group in recent years. The bomb was hidden inside a bag that was placed on the rooftop of Al-Haq mosque near the Virgin Mary church in the Nasr City district of Cairo, religious officials and witnesses said.

The Grand Mufti of Egypt, Shawki Allam, denounced "the terrorist operation that targeted... the church in the Ezzbat Al-Haggan neighborhood of Nasr City", on his official Facebook page. He said "extremists" had planted "an explosive device on the roof of Al-Haq mosque... near the Virgin Mary church".

Massad Saad, the son of the prayer leader at the mosque, told AFP he was inside the building when other worshippers noticed "a man going up to the roof carrying a bag" but when they followed him they found "two bags". "We informed the police," Saad, a 35-year-old baker, said in a phone interview. There was no immediate confirmation from officials. Government newspaper Al-Ahram reported yesterday that a bomb had been placed in a bag on the roof of a building in Ezzbat al-Haggan, but it did not mention the church or the mosque.

Yesterday morning security forces were deployed around the neighborhood, keeping journalists at bay. Security has been reinforced in Cairo in recent weeks ahead of Coptic Christmas which is celebrated on Jan 7. Yesterday evening, President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi was due to inaugurate the Cathedral of Nativity in Egypt's new administrative capital, 45 km east of Cairo.

Sisi often presents himself as a defender of Christians against extremists but activists and some analysts accuse the state of discriminating against them and not providing enough protection. Yesterday, Sisi was to join the Coptic pope, Tawadros II, in the cathedral, which is touted as the largest in the Middle East. The president visited the Cathedral of Nativity for Christmas Eve last year when it was still under construction, and gave a short speech wishing Copts a merry Christmas and saying the country would prevail over militants. His atten-



CAIRO: Security forces guard a street leading to the church were an explosion occurred on Saturday. — AFP

dance yesterday marked the cathedral's official inauguration. The president was also to inaugurate yesterday the Al-Fattah Al-Alim mosque in the new administrative capital. More than 100 Copts have been killed in militant attacks since Dec 2016. IS claimed an assault in early November in which six Copts and one Anglican died in the central province of Minya. IS also killed more than 40 people in twin church bombings in April 2017, and an IS gunman in December that year killed nine people in an attack on a church in a south Cairo suburb. Hundreds of police and soldiers have also been killed in attacks.

Last week three Vietnamese tourists and their Egyptian guide died when a homemade bomb exploded on their bus on the outskirts of Cairo. The country has been under a state of emergency since April 2017. In February the army launched a large-scale operation dubbed "Sinai 2018" to rid the Sinai Peninsula of militants after an attack on a mosque that killed more than 300 people. — AFP

# Qatar coach to 'isolate' team from politics at Asian Cup

**DOHA:** Qatar coach Felix Sanchez has vowed to "isolate" his players from politics at the Asian Cup, which is taking place in the United Arab Emirates during a diplomatic crisis between the countries. The tournament represents the first visit by the Qatari national side to the UAE since the beginning of a row that has transformed the Gulf and left Doha cut off from its neighboring former allies. Since June 2017, the UAE and other regional powers have imposed a boycott on Qatar, accusing it of backing terrorism and being too close to Iran.

Two of the other nations who have enforced the boycott also have teams in the tournament, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Qatar denies the charges and says its neighbors are seeking regime change in Doha. With the dispute now into its nineteenth month, the Asian Cup is the most high-profile sporting competition so far between the former allies turned bitter rivals. And nothing is likely to be more highly-charged than the meeting between Saudi and Qatar in a Group E match in Abu Dhabi on January 17.

As if the on-pitch weight of expectation surrounding Qatar's young team ahead of hosting the 2022 World Cup was not enough, now they have to navigate a delicate off-field situation. Sanchez though has vowed to concentrate solely on football. "This [political situation] is something we've discussed with the players," he told AFP. "They are very conscious and I am convinced that during the competition they will be able to maintain their focus on the sport and to isolate ourselves from the rest of it all."

The team arrived in UAE on Saturday, having to fly via Kuwait in the first sign this is no ordinary trip - a ban on direct flights has been imposed against Doha by the UAE, Saudi and Bahrain. A leading Qatari official and tournament organizer was earlier allegedly barred from entering the UAE on his first attempt, though officials in Abu Dhabi disputed this. Saoud Al-Mohannadi eventually entered the Emirates on Friday. But Qatarbased journalists also claim they were not allowed into

the UAE to cover the tournament, after allegedly being kept waiting at Dubai airport for 13 hours before returning to Doha.

Qatari domestic sides who have played in the UAE or Saudi in the AFC Champions League have previously spoken of delays at airport immigration and comments about Qatar, or encountered rival captains refusing to shake hands before the match. However, goalkeeper Saad Al-Sheeb said the players would remain unaffected. "In the end this is football," he said. "We just control ourselves and play football."

#### Dark horses?

On the pitch, Qatar have shown a distinct improvement since Spaniard Sanchez took charge in 2017. Initially seen as a stop-gap appointment at the end of a failed World Cup qualification campaign, the 43-year-old has transformed the team. He has placed emphasis on young, largely Qatari-born players - rather than imported stars - who have progressed through the Aspire Academy, an expensively-built Doha training center which seeks to hothouse local talent.

These include forward Akram Afif, the first Qatari to play in Spain's La Liga, and defender Abdulkarim Hassan, just voted the AFC 2018 player of the year. In November, Qatar achieved its most notable international victory, beating Switzerland 1-0 in Lugano. The average age of Qatar's starting line-up in Switzerland was 24 years and 195 days, and 13 of the 25 players who travelled to Europe were Aspire graduates.

Sanchez is proving a unique problem for Qatar football association bosses who like to hire and fire coaches. Since the beginning of the century Qatar has hired 15 separate coaches, and one of those twice, as they desperately seek to put the team on the world stage. Sanchez has worked with the Qatari players at every level from the academy through the Under-19s, Under-20s, Under-23s and now the full team. It is the beginning of a massive year for Sanchez and Qatar, who will also play in the Copa America later in 2019.

In an Asian Cup group also consisting of Lebanon and North Korea, a resurgent "al-Annabi" (the Maroons) will be confident of reaching the knockouts. It is the tenth time they have qualified for the Asian Cup but have never progressed further than the quarterfinals. This time though they have a lot to prove. "I certainly nominate Qatar to be the dark horse of the tournament," said Hassan. — AFP

# Malaysia king abdicates in...

Continued from Page 1

not commented on the rumored marriage, or given any details about the state of the king's health. Speculation intensified about the king's future after his medical leave officially finished at the end of December, and the country's Islamic royals reportedly held a special meeting last week.

While their role is ceremonial, Malaysia's Islamic royal-ty command great respect, especially from Muslim Malays, and criticizing them is strictly forbidden. Sultan Muhammad V studied at St Cross College at Oxford and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, according to official media. He is known for a relaxed public persona, taking part in walkathons to promote health, and has been photographed wearing a baseball cap backwards.

According to a report from official news agency Bernama at the time of his enthronement, he "fills his free time by reading and has an interest in extreme sports such as four-wheel drive expeditions and endurance challenges and shooting". He is also the ceremonial ruler of the conservative Islamic northern state of Kelantan. The palace

statement said he was "ready to return home to the state of Kelantan to be together with the state government and... the Kelantanese people".

The palace did not indicate when the Islamic rulers would meet to pick the next king. During his leave of absence, the ruler of western Perak state had been carrying out his duties. Portraits of the king and queen adorn government buildings throughout the country. The king is also the symbolic head of Islam in the nation, as well as the nominal chief of the military. Malaysia's sultans trace a lineage back to Malay sultanates of the 15th century. The king is referred to as Yang di-Pertuan Agong, or "He Who Is Made Lord".

The New Straits Times reported there had been tensions between the palace and the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who led the opposition to an election win in May. Mahathir, known for challenging royalty during his past 22-year tenure as prime minister, said in a blog post last week that everyone "from the Rulers to the Prime Minister and Ministers, to the civil servants and ordinary citizens" are subject to the law. He did not elaborate. In June, the government and palace faced a near two-week impasse over a plan to appoint a non-Malay as attorney-general. The king eventually approved the appointment, though the incident had stoked racial tensions. — Agencies

# Nishikori and Pliskova crowned Brisbane International champions

## Japanese snapped nine-match losing streak in title clashes

BRISBANE: Japan's Kei Nishikori overcame Daniil Medvedev in the Brisbane International final yesterday for his first ATP title in nearly three years and the 12th of his career. Last year's finalist Nishikori, who prevailed 6-4 3-6 6-2, won 70 percent of points on his first serve and converted five out of 15 break point opportunities to span a nine-match losing streak in finals

snap a nine-match losing streak in finals.

"This week was one of the best for me,"
Nishikori, who beat Denis Kudla, Grigor
Dimitrov and Jeremy Chardy this week,
said. "I've never had a week like this to
start the season, so it gives me a lot of
confidence."

World number nine Nishikori started slowly, trailing 3-0 in the opening set but responded in typically determined fashion to win six of the next seven games for an early advantage. Medvedev saved four break points to take a 3-2 lead in the second set before dragging the match into a decider but his opponent, who lost their previous meeting in last year's Tokyo final, was not to be denied again.

Breaking Medvedev for a 3-1 lead in the third set, Nishikori held firm to seal the match in a little more than two hours for his first trophy since winning in Memphis in February 2016. "Great final today, I lost to him last year in the final in Japan, so I'm happy to get revenge today," Nishikori added

"I'm really happy that finally I've won



this title, it's been like seven or eight times at this tournament." Earlier, former world number one Karolina Pliskova battled back from a set and a break down to beat Lesia Tsurenko 4-6 7-5 6-2 and win the women's title for the second time.

Tsurenko served for the match at 5-3 in the second set but the tall Czech drew on

all her experience to overcome her dogged opponent and regain the title she won at the Queensland Tennis Centre two years ago.

The Ukrainian took an injury time out after rolling her ankle while being broken in the first game of the third set and was powerless to prevent the world number eight



BRISBANE: The Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova (L) poses with the winner's trophy with runner-up Lesia Tsurenko of Ukraine (R) after their women's singles final match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane yesterday. — AFP

from storming to her 12th career title. "I think everything was against me today... I felt there is no chance I can win. I felt so far away from playing good tennis tonight," Pliskova, who needed a pep talk from coach Rennae Stubbs to regain composure, said.

"Rennae said 'I am absolutely sure you can win this match,' which gave me some

confidence and belief that I can do it. "I just tried to change the things around a little bit and believed I was going to get a chance... I felt I was getting better with the time."

Victory meant Pliskova joined Victoria Azarenka (2009, 2016) and Serena Williams (2013-14) as the third woman to win the Premier event twice. — Reuters



LAHAINA: Gary Woodland of the United States plays a shot on the 12th hole during the third round of the Sentry Tournament of Champions at the Plantation Course at Kapalua Golf Club on Saturday in Lahaina, Hawaii. —AFP

# Federer, Kerber cautious on new Aus Open tie-break rule

International tennis tournament in Brisbane yesterday. —AFP

**PERTH:** Star players Roger Federer and Angelique Kerber have cautiously welcomed new tie-break rules for the deciding set at the Australian Open.

The year's opening Grand Slam, starting January 14, will for the first time feature an extended tie-break in the final set when the score reaches 6-6, rather than a traditional full set

To win the decisive tie-break, a player will need to be the first to 10 with an advantage of at least two points. The move means all four Slams now use different rules, with only the French Open holding off from introducing a tie-break in the decider.

Speaking at the Hopman Cup in Perth this week, Federer-who said he had been asked for his opinion on the change by tournament officials-admitted marathon final sets would be missed by some.

"We will miss the 70-68 in the fifth, so that's a pity," he said, referring to the famous final-set marathon between John Isner and Nicolas Mahut at Wimbledon in 2010.

But Federer, aiming for his third successive Australian Open title and seventh overall, said he was personally "a bit torn" between the options.

"I am okay with any format really," he said. "Thing is, when it goes to six-all in the fifth, you've had plenty of chances to win it, or lose it, so from that standpoint how it ends is secondary in my opinion."



Roger Federer

Kerber-who has based her game on superior physical fitness-suggested her advantage could be diluted by shortened deciders in Melbourne, where she won her first Slam in 2016. "I like physical matches and if you come here to Australia you have be really fit," she said. "With the weather, the conditions, it's really hot and humid and you have to ready for that.

"I have no idea if I like (the new rule) or not, we will see." But the German world number two, who was beaten 9-7 in the deciding set of last year's Australian Open semi-final by Simona Halep, also said she could

see both sides of the debate.

"It might be easier because you can save energy, on the other side it is a tradition to play the advantage set," she said. "Let's see how it works this year."

Among the other Slams, Wimbledon will use final set tie-breaks at 12-12 starting from 2019, the US Open plays a traditional tie-break at 6-6 and the French Open does not use a final set tie-break.

"The funny thing is we have four different formats in four Slams, so it is important to remind yourself what's going on and which one it is," said Federer. — AFP

# Woodland maintains lead, McIlroy in pursuit in Hawaii

**HAWAII:** Gary Woodland followed up a spectacular eagle on 15 with a birdie at the last to restore his three-shot lead over Rory McIlroy at the PGA Tour's Sentry Tournament of Champions in Hawaii on Saturday.

The American, who moved to 17-under 202 after three rounds, said he had to keep his emotions in check during his five-under 68 after learning of the death of his grandmother the night before.

"It was a tough night last night but today was a good day. I played great," Woodland told the Golf Channel. The 34-year-old provided the shot of the day on the par-five 15th when he banked a curving 64-foot putt off the flagstick for eagle and the outright lead, moments after McIlroy had pulled into a share with a birdie on 14.

McIlroy, on 14-under 205, was alone in second, a shot ahead of Australian Marc Leishman (68) in third on a breezy day at the scenic island course in Maui.

Woodland, who has won three times in 231 starts on the PGA Tour, said he had learned how to turn promising positions into victories.

"I've been in this position before but I'm a completely different kind of player now. I'll use all those experiences to my advantage and take what I can from them," he said. "I'll go out and play aggressive tomorrow and make a lot of birdies."

After his bogey-free 68, Northern Ireland's McIlroy said staying patient would be crucial if he was to notch his 15th career PGA Tour victory.

"I played in six final groups last year, most of them coming from behind, and I probably just pushed a little too hard trying to catch up, trying to play a perfect first six boles and it didn't really work out for me." he said

six holes and it didn't really work out for me," he said.
"I've just got to go about my business. Hit fairways,
hit greens again. I didn't have a bogey today and I can
go out and make that a goal tomorrow," he said.

"Try not to make any mistakes and pick off my birdies when I can. That hopefully might be good enough. But with the way Gary is playing, it might not be." Scoring conditions in the PGA Tour's first event of the season are expected to be ideal on Sunday as the winds that have gusted throughout the tournament are expected to die down. — Reuters

# Scarlets enjoy derby win over Dragons after Welsh defeats

LONDON: Scarlets put derby defeats by the Ospreys and the Cardiff Blus behind them to overcome the Dragons 22-13 in the final all-Welsh Pro 14 clash of the Christmas and New Year period. Second-half tries from wing Ioan Nicholas and replacement scrum-half Sam Hidalgo-Clyne, allied to four penalties kicked by Dan Jones saw the Llanelli-based Scarlets return to winning ways. The Dragons, who ended a four-year wait for a win over Welsh opposition at this level with a dramatic 23-22 defeat of the Ospreys last weekend, saw Josh Lewis kick two penalties before a fine try at the finish from James Benjamin was converted by Jason Toyey.

So extensive were the Scarlets' back-row problems-James Davies, Aaron Shingler, Will Boyde, Blade Thomson and Josh Macleod were all missing through injury-that Wales hooker Ken Owens was deployed at No 8. They were also without three Wales internationals in star goalkicker Leigh Halfpenny, Jake Ball and Rhys Patchell. But for all their pack changes, Scarlets still led 12-3 at the break on a back of scrum dominance that led to three of their four penalties, with Dragons prop Dan Suter shown a yellow card at the end of the half.

Meanwhile, Exeter coach Rob Baxter praised his side's "bravery" as they returned to the top of the English Premiership with a hard-fought 14-9 win at home to Bristol on Saturday. Argentina's Santiago Cordero scored a try for Exeter, as did Sean Lonsdale, with Gareth Steenson and Joe Simmonds adding a

conversion apiece against southwest rivals Bristol, all of whose points came courtesy of three penalties kicked by Ian Madigan.

"Beating Bristol now takes a bit of doing and we have to enjoy the win as it took some bravery to achieve it," said Baxter. Worcester created a fourpoint gap between themselves and basement club Newcastle after a remarkable turnaround saw them beat Bath 21-19. The Warriors were 19-3 down at the break but battled back in a second half at Sixways that ended with Bath down to 11 men after four players were off the field due to various offences. Replacement hooker Ross Batty was sent off 16 minutes from time for a dangerous tackle at a ruck before referee Ian Tempest showed yellow cards to three Bath players.

There were some 18 minutes of additional time, with wing Bryce Heem's second try paving the way for a match-winning conversion by fly-half Duncan Weir, who also kicked three penalties. "I've seen games go right to the death quite often, but not in that particular manner," admitted veteran Worcester coach Alan Solomons.

Harlequins marked England full-back Mike Brown's record 308th appearance for the London club with a 38-17 win away to Newcastle as they moved up into third place. "To break a 35-year-old record is incredible and on top of that he has 70 caps for his country," said Quins boss Paul Gustard. "He's the most capped Harlequin and the most capped England full-back of all time and that just shows you his resilience, his tenacity and skill," he added after a match where the visitors had a four-try bonus point at half-time.

Newcastle coach Dean Richards was disappointed by his injury-hit side's attitude, saying: "In recent games we have been creating chances and just not taking them, but today the boys just did not turn up."

Elsewhere, England wing Jonny May scored two of Leicester's four tries in a morale-boosting 34-16 win at home to Gloucester. Wasps face Northampton, the final match of a 12th round that started with Sale's shock 24-18 win at home to champions Saracens on Friday. — AFP



Rob Baxter

Sports

Monday, January 7, 2019

# Ruthless India force Australia follow-on in 30-year first

#### India need a draw to clinch first-ever series win Down Under

#### SCOREBOARD

Scorecard at stumps on day four of the fourth and final Test between Australia and India at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday:

**India first innings** 622-7 declared (C. Pujara 193, R. Pant 159 no, R Jadeja 81; N. Lyon 4-178)

Australia 1st innings (overnight 236-6) M. Harris b Jadeia 79 U. Khawaja c Pujara b K. Yadav 27 M. Labuschagne c Rahane b Shami 38 S. Marsh c Rahane b Jadeja T. Head c & b K. Yadav 20 P. Handscomb b Bumrah 37 T. Paine b Yadav P. Cummins b Shami 25 M. Starc not out 29 N. Lvon lbw Yadav 0 21 J. Hazlewood b Yadav Extras (b4, lb2, w5) Total (10 wickets, 104.5 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-72 (Khawaja), 2-128 (Harris), 3-144 (S.Marsh), 4-152 (Labuschagne), 5-192 (Head), 6-198 (Paine), 7-236 (Cummins), 8-257 (Handscomb), 9-258 (Lyon), 10-300 (Hazlewood)

Bowling: Shami 19-2-58-2, Bumrah 21-5-62-1, Jadeja 32-11-73-2, Yadav 31.5-6-99-5, Vihari 1-0-2-0.

#### Australia 2nd innings

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
M. Harris not out	2
U. Khawaja not out	4
Extras	0
Total (0 wickets, 4 overs)	6

To bat: Marnus Labuschagne, Shaun Marsh, Travis Head, Peter Handscomb, Tim Paine, Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc

Bowling: Shami 2-1-4-0, Bumrah 2-1-2-0.

**SYDNEY:** A ruthless India took a stranglehold on the final Test in Sydney yesterday as they forced Australia to follow on at home for the first time in 30 years, leaving the hosts facing a full day's batting to cling on for a draw.

Play started almost four hours late due to rain, with the home team resuming on 236 for six after lunch in reply to India's thumping first innings 622 for seven declared. But needing a win to level the four-match series, Australia crumbled to 300 all out, compounding the misery after some soft dismissals by the top order on Saturday as they stare down the barrel of defeat.

Indian skipper Virat Kohli sent them straight back into bat-the first time Australia have been asked to follow on at home since Mike Gatting's England did the same in 1988, also in Sydney.

Marcus Harris, not out two, and Usman Khawaja, unbeaten on four, survived four overs before tea was taken early for bad light. They didn't come back with play abandoned for the day. Middle-order batsman Peter Handscomb said it would be "huge" if Australia could bat out the final day and salvage a draw.

"We've got a really, really good chance to shift some momentum back into our camp, not just for the upcoming one-dayers (against India), but there's the World Cup also and the Ashes," he said. "This momentum can start tomorrow. We know as a batting group that we can take some confidence if we can last out the day and show the country, the world, that we're not far off clicking and being a really, really good team."

India's spinners had picked up five of the six wickets on Saturday, but under overcast skies when play finally began on day four Kohli took the new ball straight away and threw it to his quicks. It immediately paid dividends with Pat Cummins, who scored a gutsy 63 in the Melbourne Test, lasting just three balls, clean bowled by Mohammed Shami without adding to his overnight 25.

The recalled Handscomb began with purpose, confidently stroking two boundaries to move to 37 before swiping at a Jasprit Bumrah delivery and dragging it onto his stumps. That brought Nathan Lyon to the crease but he only lasted five balls, out lbw to a full toss from Kuldeep Yadav. Hanuma Vihari dropped a sitter when Josh Hazlewood was on nought, and it proved costly with the tailender putting on 42 with Mitchell Starc for the last wicket before he fell to Yadav, who was the pick of the bowlers with 5-99 — his second



SYDNEY: Australia's batsman Nathan Lyon is bowled LBW by India's Kuldeep Yadav (L), as India's wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant (R) shouts, on the fourth day of the fourth and final cricket Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

career five-wicket haul.

#### EFFORT COUNTS

India lead the four-Test series 2-1 and only need a draw to clinch a first-ever series win Down Under, with Kohli's men on the cusp of doing something no Indian team has managed since they began touring Australia in 1947-48.

Bowling coach Bharat Arun said India's key motivation throughout the series was simply to get in front and stay there. "The onus of this particular group is putting the team in front. Irrespective of what situation we are in, we say we are going out there to put our best foot forward and play our best cricket," he said.

"At the end of the day, the effort is what counts." It would be a deserved accomplishment to win the series

with their batsmen-spearheaded by stoic number three Cheteshwar Pujara-a class above, and their bowlers brutally exposing Australia's weaknesses.

So far in Sydney, none of Australia's batsmen have managed to put together the marathon innings needed, with Khawaja, Shaun Marsh and Tim Paine all out in the first innings to poor shots.

Harris' breezy 79 — remarkably the highest score by an Australian the entire series-was the exception. Unless someone gets a hundred in their final knock, it will be the hosts' first century-less four-Test home series in their history.

Former skipper Ricky Ponting lamented so many soft dismissals throughout the series. "Technical, mental, whatever those mistakes may be, they've made a lot of mistakes," he said. — AFP

## S Africa clinch 3-match series

**CAPE TOWN:** South Africa reeled off their modest victory target of 41 runs early on the fourth day of the second test against Pakistan to clinch the series with a comprehensive nine-wicket triumph at Newlands yesterday. Opener Dean Elgar scored an unbeaten 24 as the home side added to their victory in Pretoria last month and will be looking to sweep the series in the third match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg, starting on Friday

The Proteas will have concerns over their top-order batting, however, with opener Aiden Markram not taking to the crease in the second innings with a severely bruised right thigh and Hashim Amla retiring hurt after he was struck on the bicep.

Added to that, middle-order batsman Theunis de Bruyn, deputising for Markram at the top of the order, continued his poor run when he was the only wicket to fall, caught by wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed off seamer Mohammed Abbas for four.

"We played very well," South Africa captain Faf du Plessis, who was also named man of the match for a first-innings century, said at the post-match presentation. "There is always something in the wicket here at Newlands and you need to be on form with the bat. We know if we get runs on the board, our bowlers will do

Du Plessis felt the key to victory was restricting Pakistan to 177 in their first innings in what was the most difficult time to bat in the test on day one. "I think day one was moving day in terms of the pitch, but it got easier to bat on and yesterday Pakistan were in a good position to bat on and get a 150 lead and then who knows what happens.

"I still feel there was enough in it for batters and bowlers. At times it was difficult but that's test cricket." Pakistan will take positives from a test in which they avoided an innings defeat with a stout batting perform-



after South Africa defeated Pakistan on the fourth day of the second Test cricket match betwe Africa and Pakistan at Newlands Cricket Stadium in Cape Town yesterday.—AFP

ance on Saturday to force the contest into a fourth day. Shan Masood, Asad Shafiq and Babar Azam all scored half-centuries as Pakistan produced their best day of batting on tour and scored more than 200 runs in an innings for the first time in the series.

They were eventually dismissed for 294, setting their hosts a modest target, which South Africa had hoped to knock off on Saturday but ran out of time and were forced to come back yesterday. Pakistan scored 177 in their first innings and were critical of the uneven bounce and cracks on the wicket at the iconic Cape Town venue but South Africa, with Du Plessis scoring

103, replied with 431.

Touring captain Sarfraz admitted a bad start, in which they lost five wickets in the first session, proved their undoing. "It's hard to recover if you're losing five wickets in the first session, but the way our batsmen are batting, that's how you learn in test cricket," he said, adding the team would have benefited from more warm-up matches ahead of the first test.

"For me, playing two or three practice matches (is best) but we only played one match here. Our batsmen showed their courage, hopefully we'll have confidence (into the third test)." — Reuters

## Banned Australians Warner and Smith make BPL debut

**DHAKA:** Banned Australian cricketers David Warner and Steve Smith made a low-scoring debut in the Bangladesh Premier League yesterday, amassing just 30 runs between them as newly-minted skippers in the Twenty20 league.

The duo, who are serving international bans for ball tampering, faced off in the BPL opener in Dhaka, with Smith's Comilla Victorians edging Warner's Sylhet Sixers by four wickets

Their debut as foreign stars in the lucrative T20 franchise came as Australia's Test cricketers in Sydney stared down defeat against a ruthless India. Warner hit off-spinner Mahedi Hasan for three sixes in one over at the Shere-Bangla National Stadium before a mix-up saw him run out for 14 off 13 balls.

Warner ran for a single after his partner Towhid Hridoy

pushed Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik towards square leg. But Hridoy did not respond and both batsmen were caught at the same end as Malik dismantled the stumps. The third umpire declared Warner out but replays indi-

The third umpire declared Warner out but replays indicated the Australian reached the striking end before his partner ground his bat back to the crease. "I didn't see what happened. But apparently I was in," Warner said after the match.

"If you are standing behind the camera and you miss a decision like that, I don't know. I can't speak on their behalf of the one who makes the decision. If I wasn't out, I wasn't out. I have to accept the decision."

Smith meanwhile was declared caught from behind for

Smith meanwhile was declared caught from behind for 16 off 17 balls after the Sixers reviewed a not-out decision given by the on-field umpire. The third umpire had to rely on sound from the bat to make his decision, with no snicko metre or ultra-edge technology available at the Dhaka ground.

Smith had Shahid Afridi to thank for his side's win after the Pakistani batsman struck 39 off 25 balls to elevate Comilla to 130-6 in the penultimate delivery of their innings. The presence of Smith and Warner, banned from internationals and Australian domestic cricket after admitting to ball tampering in the South Africa test last March, is expected to be a major draw for the BPL.



DHAKA: Sylhet Sixers captain David Warner (R) runs between the wickets during a match between Comilla Victorians and Sylhet Sixers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.—AFP

"It is great to see both of us out here leading the teams," Warner said of Smith after the match. "We will try to give much knowledge to the younger players and feed off the experienced people." — AFP

# Cowboys rally past Seattle, Colts top Texans in playoffs

WASHINGTON: Dak Prescott rallied the Dallas Cowboys to an NFL playoff victory over Seattle on Saturday while Andrew Luck powered the Indianapolis Colts into the second round with a victory at Houston.

Prescott threw for 226 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score as the Cowboys edged visiting Seattle 24-22 while Luck had two touchdown passes in the Colts' 21-7 triumph over the Texans. Ezekiel Elliott ran for 137 yards and a touchdown for Dallas as the Cowboys advanced to a second-round National Conference playoff game next weekend against either top seed New Orleans or the second-seeded Los Angeles Rams.

Dallas needed two fourth-quarter touchdowns and the best rushing day against the Seahawks by any club this season to subdue Seattle. "This team, everything we've been though, we had so much confidence coming into this game and the confidence remains," Prescott said. "It's about how we compete against adversity and we just take off."

Prescott praised Elliott's punishing effort, saying, "He's a hell of a player and he always wants the ball. I'm thankful I have him." Today's final first-round playoff matchups find defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia at Chicago and the Los Angeles Chargers at Baltimore. A Chicago win sends the Bears to face the Rams and Dallas to New Orleans. If the Eagles advance, they would travel to top seed New Orleans and the Rams would host the Cowboys. In the American Conference playoff opener, Luck completed 19 of 32 passes for 222 yards while Marlon Mack ran 24 times for 148 yards and a touchdown.

Indy's defensive unit snuffed out a late rally bid by the Texans and the Colts advanced to a secondround game next Saturday at the top-seeded Kansas City Chiefs. "We get another one next week and that excites me," Luck said. "It'll be fun. That's a great team. It should be a great game."

The Saints, Rams, Chiefs and New England Patriots-who face the Baltimore-Chargers winner-had first-round byes and will host second-round playoff games next weekend.

Prescott's 11-yard touchdown pass to Michael Gallup with 24 seconds remaining in the second quarter gave Dallas a 10-6 half-time lead. Brett Maher kicked a 39-yard field goal for Dallas and Sebastian Janikowski answered for Seattle from 27 and 42 yards but hurt his left leg on a 57-yard miss to end the first half, forcing the Seahawks to chase touchdowns and 2-point conversions in the second half. The Cowboys suffered a setback when receiver Allen Hurns received a gruesome left ankle injury in the first quarter after a 14-yard reception and did not return. Seattle seized the lead on Russell Wilson's 4-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter and Mike Davis ran in a 2-point conversion.—AFP

Monday, January 7, 2019

# Curry, Warriors win 3-pointer battle with Sacramento Kings

## Leonard fills stat sheet as Raptors edge Bucks

**SACRAMENTO:** Stephen Curry connected on 10 3pointers as part of a 42-point performance Saturday night, helping the Golden State Warriors outlast the host Sacramento Kings 127-123 in a game that featured the most combined 3-pointers in NBA history. The Warriors went 21-for-47 from beyond the arc while the Kings made a franchise-record 20 in 36 attempts. The 41 3-pointers were one more than the previous record of 40 set in a game last season between the Minnesota Timberwolves and Cleveland Cavaliers. Curry, who finished 14-for-26 from the field and 10-for-20 on 3pointers, scored 20 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter, none bigger than a three-point play off a Draymond Green assist that put Golden State ahead for good at 123-121 with 2:03 to go. Kevin Durant backed Curry with 29 points and nine assists, while Klay Thompson added 20 points. Buddy Hield buried a career-high eight 3-pointers in 13 attempts to account for most of his scoring on a 32-point night for the Kings.

#### Raptors 123, Bucks 116

Kawhi Leonard finished with 30 points, six rebounds, six assists and five steals as Toronto, which was coming off a disappointing loss at San Antonio on Thursday, defeated host Milwaukee. Pascal Siakam added a career-best 30 points for the Raptors, Serge Ibaka finished with 25 points and nine rebounds and Fred VanVleet chipped in with 21 points as Toronto defeated the Bucks for the first time in three meetings this season. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 43 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for the Bucks, who had won five in a row and six straight at home.

#### Trail Blazers 110, Rockets 101

Jusuf Nurkic scored 25 points and grabbed 15 rebounds as host Portland ended both Houston's sixgame winning streak and James Harden's five-game run of scoring at least 40 points. CJ McCollum scored 24 points, and Damian Lillard contributed 17 points and 12 assists for the Trail Blazers. Harden finished with 38 points after missing a layup in the closing seconds. Austin Rivers scored 21 points, and Clint Capela added 13 points and 21 rebounds for the Rockets, who lost for only the third time in the last 11 meetings with the Blazers.

#### Nuggets 123, Hornets 110

Nikola Jokic had 39 points and 12 rebounds, Paul Millsap scored 18 points and host Denver topped Charlotte. Gary Harris added 17 off the bench for Denver, which has won five straight and nine of its last 11. Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 20 points, while Marvin Williams, Bismack Biyombo and Malik Monk

scored 16 apiece.

#### Jazz 110, Pistons 105

Donovan Mitchell racked up 26 points, five rebounds, five assists and three steals, and visiting Utah defeated Detroit. Ricky Rubio contributed 18 points, Joe Ingles had 16 and Derrick Favors added 13 for Utah. The Jazz erased an early 18-point deficit. Blake Griffin led Detroit with 34 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Reggie Bullock supplied 19 points and Andre Drummond, playing in his 500th career game, had 15 points and 18 rebounds.

#### 76ers 106, Mavericks 100

Furkan Korkmaz buried a key 3-pointer with 1:34 remaining to stall a Dallas rally, helping host Philadelphia hold on for the win. Ben Simmons recorded a triple-double with 20 points, a game-high 14 rebounds and a game-high 11 assists while Joel Embiid provided a double-double with a game-high 25 points and 12 rebounds, leading the 76ers to a third consecutive win despite the absence of Jimmy Butler, who missed the game with an illness. Wesley Matthews connected on four 3-pointers to account for a majority of his team-high 18 points for the Mavericks.

#### Pelicans 133, Cavaliers 98

Jrue Holiday and Julius Randle scored 22 points each as visiting New Orleans handed reeling Cleveland its ninth consecutive loss. Seven Pelicans scored in double figures. Anthony Davis had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Elfrid Payton scored 13 points and E'Twaun Moore added 10. Randle also had 12 rebounds and eight assists. Jordan Clarkson led the Cavaliers with 23 points, Jalen Jones and Collin Sexton had 15 each, Cedi Osman scored 13 and Tristan Thompson had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

#### Spurs 108, Grizzlies 88

Derrick White scored 19 points on 8-of-9 shooting from the floor, and LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points as San Antonio bested visiting Memphis to earn its fourth straight victory. San Antonio led by 20 points at the half and by 88-66 after three quarters and survived a 14-0 run by Memphis early in the final quarter before cruising to its 12th win in the past 15 games. Patty Mills added 15 points for the Spurs, with DeMar DeRozan and Jakob Poeltl scoring 12 and 11 points, respectively. Mike Conley led Memphis with 21 points while Jaren Jackson Jr. and Dillon Brooks added 15 each for the Grizzlies. Marc Gasol grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds while JaMychal Green pulled down 10 boards. — Reuters



#### NBA results/standings

Denver 123, Charlotte 110; Utah 110, Detroit 105; Philadelphia 106, Dallas 100; New Orleans 133, Cleveland 98; Toronto 123, Milwaukee 116; San Antonio 108, Memphis 88; Portland 110, Houston 101; Golden State 127, Sacramento 123.

	Eastern Co					Western Co				
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division						
	$\mathbf{W}$	L	PCT	GB	Denver	26	11	.703	-	
Toronto	29	12	.707	-	Oklahoma City	25	13	.658	1.5	
Philadelphia	26	14	.650	2.5	Portland	23	17	.575	4.5	
Boston	23	15	.605	4.5	Utah	20	20	.500	7.5	
Brooklyn	19	21	.475	9.5	Minnesota	18	21	.462	9	
New York	10	29	.256	18		Pacific Division				
Central Division				Golden State	26	14	.650	_		
Milwaukee	27	11	.711	-		22	16		3	
Indiana	26	12	.684	1	LA Clippers			.579		
Detroit	17	20	.459	9.5	LA Lakers	21	18	.538	4.5	
Chicago	10	29	.256	17.5	Sacramento	19	20	.487	6.5	
Cleveland	8	32	.200	20	Phoenix	9	31	.225	17	
Southeast Division				Southwest Division						
Miami	19	18	.514	_	Houston	22	16	.579	-	
Charlotte	18	20	.474	1.5	San Antonio	23	17	.575	-	
Orlando	17	21	.447	2.5	Memphis	18	21	.462	4.5	
Washington	15	24	.385	5	Dallas	18	21	.462	4.5	
Atlanta	11	27	.289	8.5	New Orleans	18	22	.450	5	

## Plucky Kyrgyzstan go from dead goats to Asian Cup hopefuls

**ABU DHABI:** Better known for horseback wrestling, eagle hunting and dead goat polo, Kyrgyzstan are hoping to turn heads at this month's Asian Cup football tournament. The former Soviet republic has made significant progress since joining the Asian Football Confederation in 1994 and the outsiders warned they will be no pushovers in their debut appearance at the continent's showpiece event.

Kyrgyzstan's White Falcons face China on Monday in their opening game in the United Arab Emirates before meeting title favourites South Korea and the Philippines, but coach Aleksandr Krestinin struck a defiant tone

"We are not here just to make up the numbers," he told AFP. "We are serious, competitive participants and we will fight to get through to the last 16. It is a new experience for us, but the whole country is behind us."

An impoverished, landlocked nation of around six million people, Kyrgyzstan is fiercely proud of its nomadic traditions, many of which are not for the fainthearted. The mountainous central Asian country is home to nearly 20 forms of wrestling, bone tossing and a handful of ancient sports famous for their eye-popping ferocity.

Most notable among them is "kok-boru"-where riders on horseback battle each other to grab a headless goat carcass from the dirt and throw it into a goal the size of a children's paddling pool. Once at the crossroads of the Silk Road, Kyrgyzstan has nevertheless made significant strides in football since gaining independence in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet

They have risen to 91st in the FIFA world rankings — 12th in Asia, above Qatar, Uzbekistan, and North Korea-and are blessed with genuine talent in players such as Anton Zemlianukhin and Vitaly Lux.

"To qualify for the Asian Cup is a remarkable achievement for us," said Krestinin, whose side have benefited from the expansion of the Asian Cup from 16 to 24 teams. "It's something the whole country has been eagerly waiting for.

"The Kyrgyz football federation is working to develop the sport despite minimal support from the government," added the Russian. "We are staying updated on the new trends and trying to play modern football."

However, their hopes of surviving Group C look likely to hinge on results against Marcello Lippi's China and Sven-Goran Eriksson's Philippines, also Asian Cupfirst-timers. South Korea, runners-up four years ago, should prove too strong even without free-scoring Tottenham forward Son Heung-min, who arrives in time for their final group game against China.

"To play against the best teams and players is the ideal situation for our development as a team and individuals," insisted Krestinin. "We just need to make sure we are prepared for the challenge."—AFP



# Marseille knocked out by amateurs in French Cup shock

PARIS: Olympique de Marseille crashed out the French Cup in sensational style yesterday when fourth-division amateurs Andrezieux beat them 2-0 on a weekend of shocks for big clubs. Andrezieux's ground was so small that they moved the game to nearby Saint-Etienne but even without home advantage they were too good for their more illustrious opponents and won with a goal in each half.

The defeat extended Marseille's winless run to seven matches in all competitions but they were not the only Ligue 1 side who failed to advance to the last 32. On Saturday, Montpellier, currently riding high in the league in fourth place, conceded in stoppage time to lose 1-0 at third-tier side Entente SSG.

Angers also lost to an amateur side, beaten 1-0 by a Viry-Chatillon, while Nimes Olympique were hammered 3-0 by Lyon Duchere. Among the Ligue 1 clubs

who did manage to qualify for the next round were Olympique Lyonnais, who beat lower league Bourges 2-0, and Stade de Reims, who beat Lens by the same scoreline.

Bottom club Guingamp won 4-2 away at Stade Pontivyen, while second-bottom AS Monaco also got a rare win, knocking out Canet Roussillon 1-0 away from home. League leaders Paris St-Germain head to fourthtier Pontivy later. —Reuters

#### **Matches on TV** (Local Timings) SPANISH LEAGUE Celta de Vigo v Athletic de Bilbao 23:00 beIN SPORTS HD 3 **ASIAN NATIONS CUP** China v Kyrgyzstan 14:00 beIN SPORTS South Korea v Philippines 16:30 beIN SPORTS Iran v Yemen 19:00 beIN SPORTS

## Yemen to make Asian Cup debut

**ABU DHABI:** Yemen will be making their Asian Cup debut when they face three-times champions Iran today and while the players are set to be thrust into the limelight like never before the team's assistant coach is confident stage fright will not be an issue.

Milos Brozek told Reuters that Yemen, the tournament's lowest-ranked national team at No. 135, had nothing to lose when they face the highly fancied Iranians in Abu Dhabi. "Sometimes if you are somewhere for the first time you don't really realize just how big it is," the Czech said in a telephone interview.

"We will show our best without any problems with nerves." The path to the 24-team competition was an unlikely one for a nation embroiled in a nearly four-year long war that has killed more than 10,000 people and triggered the world's most urgent humanitarian crisis with the country on the brink of famine. Their journey has been a rare source of good news for both the country and its players, who play abroad because the war has forced the suspension of the national league. "We have players from all over Yemen," Brozek said. "Sometimes we talk with the players about the conflict but we keep the focus on football. "We have had big support from Yemeni supporters around the Gulf and we see how the people support the players." It has not been easy for Brozek and Slovak head coach Jan Kocian, who only took over at the end of October.

The pair had little time to experiment with tactics and formations and instead have had to focus on simply getting to know what the players could do, Brozek said. And with most of the team scattered around the Gulf, logistical issues such as contacting players and clubs to get them to training camps gobbled up time, he added.

"It was a very short time to know everything and to collect the players," Brozek said. "Playingwise there was no time to try different systems. We are not in a position to switch from system to system because we have not had time to test different ones."

The Czech and Slovak coaches have guided the team to three narrow pre-tournament warm-up losses to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Syria, matches that have offered a glimmer of hope the team will not be a walkover at the Asian Cup.

But Brozek said whatever happens at the competition-where the Yemenis also face Iraq on Jan. 12 and Vietnam on Jan. 16 in Group D-the team led by former Slovak national team coach Kocian would be ready. "The players are not afraid," he said. "They are fighters and want to represent their country the best way they can. —Reuters

# Sport Cimes

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019

Nishikori and Pliskova crowned
Brisbane International champions



Ruthless India force Australia follow-on in 30-year first

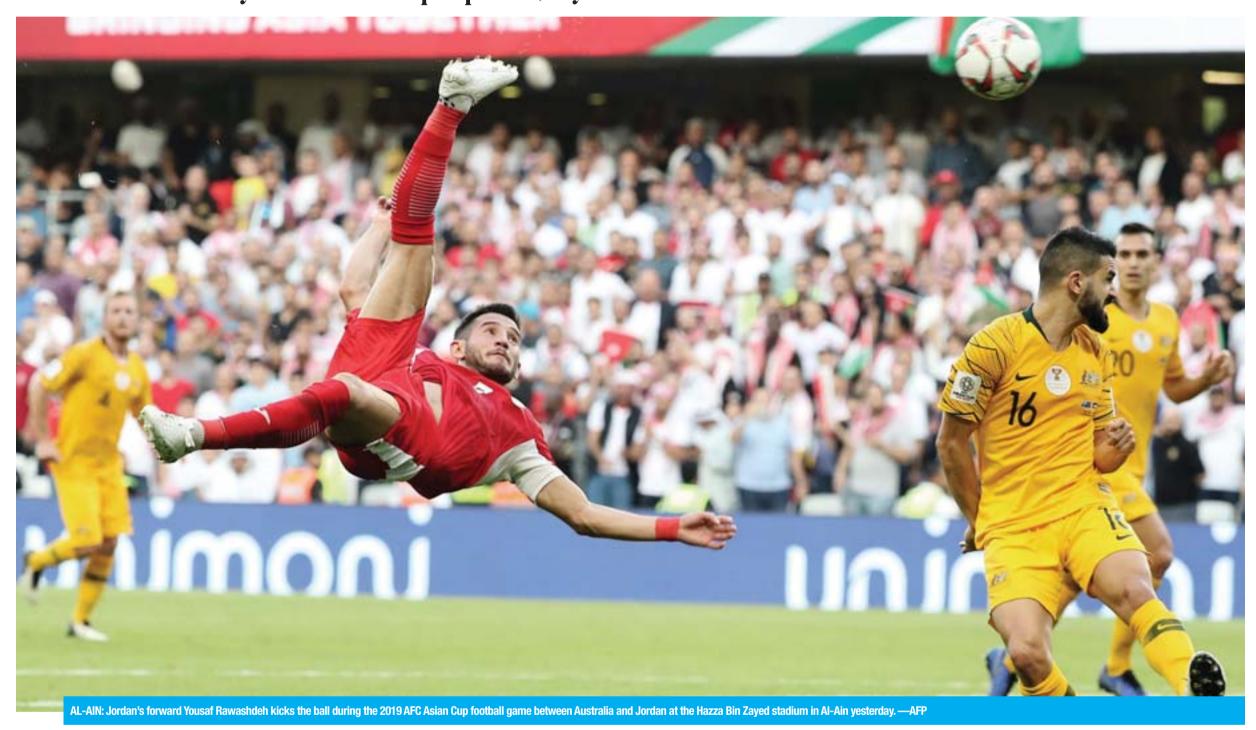


Curry, Warriors win 3-pointer battle with Sacramento Kings



# Jordan stun holders Australia

India soar on day of Asian Cup upsets, Syria and Palestine draw



**AL-AIN:** Australia made a horror start to their title defence and unfancied India stunned Thailand on a day of upsets in the Asian Cup yesterday. The Socceroos had expected to make short work of Jordan but Graham Arnold's men slumped 1-0 in their worst start in four visits to the tournament.

Later, India also sprang a surprise when they thrashed Thailand 4-1 to top Group A, after the 1-1 draw between hosts UAE and Bahrain in the tournament opener on Saturday.

Syria and Palestine rounded off the day with a 0-0 draw in Sharjah which pushed Australia to the bottom of Group B after the first round of games. Australia are targeting their third straight final but the Socceroos, weakened by injuries and retirements, failed to score despite enjoying 76 percent of possession against Jordan.

But coach Graham Arnold said he was confident of a

quick recovery in their remaining Group B games, starting with Palestine on Friday. "If you're going to lose a game, it's better to lose your first game," Arnold said.

"It's a wake-up call... it's all about where we can improve. We'll get over it very quickly." Jordan celebrated wildly with their travelling supporters after Anas Bani-Yaseen's first-half header was enough to beat the defending champions in Al Ain.

"I told them today, 'God gave you something', and today they were playing for the people of Jordan," said coach Vital Borkelmans. "They were running like they had three lungs" be added

Australia had an early warning when Brighton 'keeper Mat Ryan had to keep out Yousef Rawashdeh at his near post after QPR's Massimo Luongo was dispossessed. Jordan's goal came from defender Bani-Yaseen's thumping header from a corner on 26 minutes.

Minutes later, Ryan kept Australia in it when he tipped Baha Abdelrahman's free kick onto the bar, and while Australia improved in the second half, they couldn't find a way through.

Celtic's Tom Rogic scooped an inviting shot over and Awer Mabil hit the post, before Jordan's Amer Shafi pulled off a superb double stop in the final action of the game.

In Abu Dhabi, veteran striker Sunil Chhetri scored twice as India unexpectedly thumped Thailand to make a riproaring start to their campaign. Chhetri smashed home from the penalty spot after 27 minutes before Thai captain Teerasil Dangda's header from a Theerathon Bunmathan free kick made it 1-1. But Chhetri drilled his second moments into the second half following a lung-bursting run down the right from Udanta Singh.

Anirudh Thapa chipped in India's third in the 68th minute before substitute Lalpekhlua Jeje completed the

rout to leave India as unlikely group leaders. "There are not so many surprises anymore in football," said Thailand's Serbian coach Milovan Rajevac.

"It's very difficult to predict winners. Yesterday people expected UAE to win, Australia lost to Jordan. We were aware of India's quality and they proved it.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see them continue in this manner." Iran will have taken notice and ahead of their Group D opener against Yemen, coach Carlos Queiroz was at pains to play down the tag of favourites.

"You can't play a football game with a credit card saying you're favourites," said the former Real Madrid boss, whose Brighton striker Alireza Jahanbakhsh has been ruled out of the game with a hamstring problem.

"If you don't play well, you don't deserve to win. We have to beat whoever we come up against and we will respect Yemen's ability." — AFP

# Bayern Munich hand Ribery 'heavy fine'

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich yesterday said it will impose "a heavy fine" on Franck Ribery over an obscenity-laced outburst on social media, after the French striker became embroiled in controversy for eating a gold-coated steak.

The punishment comes after Ribery lashed out at critics in a string of angry posts on Twitter and Instagram on Saturday. It is the latest scandal to engulf the 35-year-old, who is deeply unpopular in his native France but revered by German fans.

"I had a long talk with Franck and I let him know that we would impose a heavy fine on him and he accepted it," the club's sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic told journalists in Qatar, where the club is on a training camp.

"He used words that we, FC Bayern, cannot accept and that Franck does not have the right to use, as a role-model and player of FC Bayern," added Salihamidzic. On Thursday, Ribery posted a video on social media showing him in a Dubai steak house owned by celebrity Turkish restauranteur Salt Bae and rubbing his hands before tucking into a huge chop coated in gold. That ostentatious luxury, and the reported cost of the meal, drew ferocious criticism before Ribery-who earns an estimated eight million euros a year with the German champions-hit back.

"Let's start with the envious, the angry, surely born because of a broken condom," read the first of the posts on Ribery's Twitter account. "F\*\*k your mothers, your grandmothers and your whole family tree," he wrote, having taken care to sanitise the French word "n\*quez". Salihamidzic made clear that Ribery did not pay the bill himself because he had been invited to the restaurant. — AFP



# City score seven in FA Cup stroll

**LONDON:** Premier League champions Manchester City began their FA Cup campaign with a 7-0 thrashing of Rotherham yesterday but Fulham, battling to avoid relegation from the Premier League, were beaten 2-1 by fourth-tier Oldham.

Barnet ensured there would be a non-league presence in the fourth round with a 1-0 win away to second-tier Championship club Sheffield United. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola may have made eight changes from the team that beat Premier League leaders Liverpool on Thursday but still fielded a strong side for the visit of Championship club Rotherham, with Raheem Sterling, Riyad Mahrez and Gabriel Jesus all starting as playmaker Kevin De Bruyne returned from injury.

De Bruyne played in Sterling for a 12th-minute opener and City then scored twice in the closing stages of the first half. Phil Foden, the England Under-21 international, got on the end of a cross from Ilkay Gundogan in the 43rd minute before Rotherham defender Semi Ajayi turned the ball into his own not

Jesus made it 4-0 early in the second half before Mahrez, Nicolas Otamendi and Leroy Sane added further goals. Denis Odoi put Fulham ahead in the 52nd minute at Craven Cottage but Sam Sturridge drew Oldham level with a penalty before Callum Lang's header two minutes from time sealed a comeback win. Daniel Iversen compounded Fulham's misery by saving an Aleksandar Mitrovic penalty just moments earlier.

Elsewhere, Barnet beat Championship high-flyers Sheffield United thanks to Shaquile Coulthirst's 21st-minute penalty. Watford manager Javi Gracia changed his entire starting side from the team that drew 3-3 at Bournemouth, with Venezuela forward Adalberto Penaranda making his Hornets debut against non-league Woking.

But hopes of Woking, 110 places adrift of the Hornets, enjoying a shock win suffered a setback when Will Hughes curled in a 13th-minute shot from the edge of the area.

Watford made it 2-0 16 minutes from time when Troy Deeney scored from close range. Millwall came from a goal down to beat Championship rivals Hull 2-1, substitute Shane Ferguson scoring twice inside the closing eight minutes.

QPR beat Championship leaders Leeds by the same scoreline, Jake Bidwell scoring a 75th-minute winner for the west London club. Fourth-tier Newport County are at home to Premier League Leicester. — AFP