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# Israel renewing Oman ties amid opportunity for more: Mossad

Israeli spymaster sees 'onetime' chance for peace with Arabs sharing Iran worries

## MPs pass laws on bedoons, insurance, lawyers, accounting

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly yesterday approved a host of draft laws including a law allowing the government to naturalize up to 4,000 people this year in a bid to resolve the decades-old problem of stateless people. The Assembly also passed laws regulating advocates, insurance, companies and accounting, besides a key law to regulate the personal status affairs of Shites, who reportedly form some one-third of the 1.4 million native population.

The law on naturalization was passed despite objections by a number of MPs, who said it could pose a danger to Kuwait's national identity. MP Abdullah Al-Roumi said the law was not needed since the government can naturalize people under the existing nationality law, while MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei warned the law could pose risks to Kuwait's national identity.

Continued on Page 24

## Bountiful catch as mullet season opens



**KUWAIT:** Mullet fishing resumed yesterday after a six-month ban, with 25-kilo baskets of mullet selling for KD 25-35 at the Sharq fish market auction. Chairman of the Kuwait Fishermen Union Thaher Al-Suwayyan expected the catch offered for sale to be enough for local consumers, stressing that all the fish caught by union members is for sale locally and none of it is exported. — By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**JERUSALEM:** The head of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad said yesterday his country was renewing ties with Oman and had an "unprecedented opportunity" for a thaw with other Arab states. "Just recently, renewal of formal relations with Oman was declared and the establishment of a representative office of the (Israeli) foreign ministry in that country," Yossi Cohen told a security conference in Herzliya, near Tel Aviv.

"That is only the visible tip of a much broader secret effort," he said, adding that in addition to Israel's historic treaties with Jordan and Egypt other Arab countries had discreetly joined "the states of peace, some of them in an unseen manner". "We do not yet have with them official peace treaties but there is already a commonality of interests, broad cooperation and open channels of communication," he added.

Israel and Oman agreed to open trade representative offices in the 1990s, but in 2000 the Gulf sultanate closed them after the outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada. Cohen said the current climate presents "an unprecedented opportunity, perhaps the first in the history of the Middle East, to reach a regional understanding which could lead to a comprehensive peace agreement". "Common interests, the fight against rivals such as Iran and jihadist terrorism, the close relations with the White House, and channels of communication with the Kremlin all combine to create what might be a one-time window of opportunity," he said. The Israeli foreign ministry declined to comment on his remarks.

In October, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held surprise talks with Oman's Sultan Qaboos in Muscat. The recent moves have raised Palestinian fears of a normalization of ties. Last week Oman said it would open an embassy in the Palestinian territories in support of the Palestinian people, in a first for a Gulf Arab state.

Continued on Page 24

## OPEC extends oil cut to prop up crude prices

**VIENNA:** OPEC and its oil-producing allies shifted yesterday towards extending their daily output caps, sending oil prices racing higher before the outcome of the cartel's official gathering. Ministers from the 14-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) met in Vienna to discuss output, before gathering a day later for OPEC+ - which is a grouping of 24 oil-producing countries that includes Russia and together accounts for almost half of global crude.

The enlarged crude producing club had already decided in December to remove 1.2 million barrels per day from the market to bolster prices and soak up excess supplies. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Arabia agreed on Saturday to extend the deal by between six and nine months, but the move provoked consternation from some quarters. The news nevertheless fired New York oil prices above \$60 per barrel, with sentiment boosted also by the China-US trade truce agreed at the G20 in Osaka.

Continued on Page 24

## Iran exceeds enriched uranium stockpile limit

**TEHRAN:** Iran said yesterday it had exceeded a limit on its enriched uranium reserves under a 2015 nuclear deal that has edged towards collapse as the US imposes a "maximum pressure" campaign. Russia voiced regret but said it was a consequence of the US pressure, while Britain urged Iran "to avoid any further steps away" from the landmark deal. "Iran has crossed the 300-kilogram limit based on its plan" announced in May, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told semi-official news agency ISNA.

The United States withdrew from the nuclear deal last year and reimposed biting sanctions on Iran's crucial oil exports and financial transactions as well as other sectors. Tehran, which has sought to pressure the remaining parties to save the deal, on May 8 announced it would no longer respect the limit set on its enriched uranium and heavy water stockpiles. It also threatened to go further and abandon more nuclear commitments unless the remaining partners - Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia - helped it to circumvent sanctions, especially to sell its oil.

In his comments published yesterday, Zarif said Iran had set out its intentions "very clearly" in May.

Continued on Page 24

## Japan fishermen catch first whales as hunts resume

**KUSHIRO, Japan:** Japanese whalers brought ashore their first catches yesterday as they resumed commercial hunting after a three-decade hiatus, brushing aside criticism from activists who say the practice is cruel and outdated. Five vessels set sail under grey morning skies from northern Japan's Kushiro with their horns blaring and grey tarps thrown over their harpoons. By yesterday afternoon they were back with

their catch: Two grey minke whales.

The hunts come after Japan decided to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission, a move slammed by activists and anti-whaling countries but welcomed by Japanese whaling communities. "Today is the best day," said Yoshifumi Kai, head of the Japan Small-Type Whaling Association, as the ocean giants were hauled ashore. "It was worth waiting for 31 years," he said with a smile.

One of the whales, more than eight metres long, was hoisted from a ship onto a truck and driven to a warehouse. Inside, whalers hosed it down with water and then lined up to pour ceremonial cups of the Japanese liquor sake over the animal.

Continued on Page 24

## New daily bucks trend in Lebanon

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon woke up to a new national newspaper on stands yesterday, even after a series of prominent dailies have disappeared from print over the past three years. Nida Al-Watan, a 16-page publication to be printed six days a week, could be seen on newsstands and in libraries. "The newspaper has a goal and champions a cause, which is, in brief, the sovereignty of Lebanon," editor-in-chief Bechara Charbel told AFP. It would notably address corruption, foreign meddling in internal politics,

and illegitimate use of force in the country, the veteran journalist said.

Lebanon's media landscape is rife with privately-owned newspapers affiliated with at least one of the country's many political parties, who are often the primary source of funding. This has left little room for an independent press. Nida Al-Watan, or Call of the Nation, is funded by Lebanese businessman Michel Mecattaf who unsuccessfully ran for a seat in parliament during last year's polls. He was formerly a member of the Christian Kataeb party and is affiliated with a US- and Saudi-backed alliance that became known as March 14.

The launch of Nida Al-Watan comes during a time of crisis for Lebanon's print media.

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## Freak hail storm hits Mexican city of Guadalajara

**GUADALAJARA, Mexico:** A freak hail storm on Sunday struck Guadalajara, one of Mexico's most populous cities, shocking residents and trapping vehicles in a deluge of ice pellets up to two meters deep. "I've never seen such scenes in Guadalajara," said the state governor, Enrique Alfaro. "Then we ask ourselves if climate change is real. These are never-before-seen natural

phenomena," he said. "It's incredible."

Guadalajara, located north of Mexico City and with a population of around five million, has been experiencing summer temperature of around 31 Centigrade in recent days. While seasonal hail storms do occur, there is no record of anything so heavy. At least six neighborhoods in the city outskirts woke up to ice pellets up to two meters deep. While children scampered around and hurled iceballs at each other, Civil Protection personnel and soldiers brought out heavy machinery to clear the roads.

Nearly 200 homes and businesses reported hail damage, and at least 50 vehicles were swept away by the deluge of ice in hilly areas, some buried under piles of pellets. — AFP



**KUSHIRO, Japan:** A captured minke whale is lifted by a crane into a truck bed at this port in Hokkaido prefecture yesterday. — AFP



**BEIRUT:** A man reads the headlines yesterday of the first issue of Nida Al-Watan, a new daily newspaper published in Lebanon. — AFP



**GUADALAJARA, Mexico:** A policeman stands next to vehicles buried in hail on Sunday. — AFP



## Local

# Amir receives new ambassadors of Indonesia, Chad; Lebanese politician

Sheikh Sabah congratulates Kuwait Olympic Committee executives



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly-appointed Ambassador of Indonesia to Kuwait. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly-appointed Ambassador of Chad to Kuwait.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the visiting President of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Walid Jumblatt.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the visiting President of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Walid Jumblatt.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the credentials of the newly-appointed Ambassadors of Indonesia and Chad. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Acting Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Undersecretary and His Highness the Amir's Diwan Director Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad and Chief of Amiri Protocol Sheikh Khalid Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah attended the ceremony. His Highness the Amir also received the visiting President of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Walid

Jumblatt and his accompanying delegation. Acting Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah also attended the meeting. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received Jumblatt and his accompanying delegation, with the attendance of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Abdullah Abu Al-Hasan.

In other news, His Highness the Amir congratulated the president of Kuwait's National Olympic Committee (NOC) on his ascension to the post, which he will hold for the next four years. In a letter he sent to Sheikh

Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir wished him every success as he seeks to assist Kuwaiti athletes in their bid to attain international recognition. His Highness the Amir shared similar warm sentiments with the entire NOC executive board, wishing them well amid their quest to propel Kuwaiti sports to new heights. Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent congratulatory messages to the NOC executives as well. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent them similar congratulatory cables.

In the meantime, National Assembly Speaker

Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of congratulations to the new NOC Board Chairman for winning the post for a four-year term. Ghanem also sent congratulatory cables to Vice Chairman Mohammad Jaafar, Secretary General Hussain Al-Musallam and the board members Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Nawaf Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Thamer Jaber Al-Sabah, Ali Al-Marri, Nael Al-Awadhi, MUSAED AL-AJEEL and SAUD AL-HARBI for winning the new posts. Ghanem expressed best wishes to Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah and the members of the Committee for success in serving Kuwaiti sport and contribute to the development of the sport movement at all local and international forums. —KUNA

## Amiri Diwan official receives Italy's ex-culture minister

KUWAIT: Acting Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday, in presence of Head of Amiri Diwan Financial and Administrative Affairs Abdulaziz Saud Isaac, visiting former Italian Culture Minister, President of the National Society of Cinematography, Audio, Visual Recording, and Multimedia, and Chairman of the Forum of Civilizations Francesco Rutelli and his accompanying delegation. New initiatives and means of cooperation in the field of culture and creative industries were exchanged during the meeting. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Acting Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah receives the visiting former Italian Culture Minister Francesco Rutelli and his accompanying delegation. —KUNA

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Citizens in Lebanon urged to keep low profile

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Embassy in Lebanon urged citizens Sunday to maintain a high level of vigilance and practice good situational awareness in view of current security tensions in the country. The Embassy called on Kuwaitis to steer clear of demonstrations and large crowds in some Lebanese areas, particularly Chouf and Mount Lebanon. It also advised them to stay in touch in case of an emergency on the following numbers: 00961-1792810, 00961-1792901 and 00961-1792902. The Embassy also urged Kuwaiti citizens in Lebanon to contact its 24-hour emergency number: 00961-71171441. The Kuwaiti diplomatic mission wished security, safety, and stability for Lebanon. —KUNA

#### Call for amending KFAED's law

KUWAIT: The parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee recommended Sunday amending Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development's (KFAED) law in order to "regulate loans and grants," committee chairman MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said. He told reporters committee members called for assigning State Audit Bureau to scrutinize a mechanism for rescheduling of interests, as well as methods of selecting companies executing KFAED's projects. Kandari was speaking after completion of a mandate by parliament to committee to verify how effective KFAED's loans in serving Kuwait's foreign policy. He said the committee referred a report for the house, which included mechanisms of loans, their interests and rescheduling them, offering loans and assistance, KFAED's domestic contributions and companies implementing the fund's projects. —KUNA

## UN Security Council welcomes 'strong' Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations

NEW YORK: Members of the UN Security Council paid a visit to the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq on June 28-29 in a mission co-led by the Kuwait and the United States, as members were grateful to the Governments of Kuwait and Iraq, said a Council statement late Sunday. The members of the Security Council noted that the visit underscored their support for Iraq's continued post-conflict recovery, stabilization, reconstruction and reconciliation efforts to meet the needs of all Iraqis, and emphasized the importance of the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and security of Iraq.

In Kuwait on June 28, the members met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as the members welcomed the strong bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait, commending the Government of Kuwait's continued support for Iraq in its efforts to achieve stability and prosperity. Also in Kuwait, the members met Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs for UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) Alice Walpole and the head of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Delegation in Kuwait Omar Odeh in his capacity as chair of the Tripartite Mechanism.

The members commended both organizations for their role in the implementation of resolution 2107 (2013) to resolve outstanding issues related to missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the return of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, and urged continued engagement on these issues. The members of the Security Council welcomed the June 19 joint statement by the Tripartite Mechanism on the recent recovery of remains in Al-Muthanna Governorate, Iraq, believed to be of Kuwaiti citizens,

including civilians and prisoners of war, as a result of joint efforts between the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, as well as the ICRC. The members of the Security Council also met World Bank representative Ghassan Khoja and encouraged active regional and international donor coordination and effective follow-up of international pledges to Iraq, including from the 2018 Kuwait International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq co-chaired by Kuwait, Iraq, the UN, EU and World Bank, commending their efforts towards recovery and reconstruction to meet the needs of all Iraqis.

In Iraq on June 29, the members of the Security Council met President Barham Saleh, Prime Minister Adel Abdulmahdi, Foreign Minister Mohammed Ali Al-Hakim, Speaker Mohammed Al-Halbusi of the Council of Representatives, Kurdistan Regional Government President Nechirvan Barzani, representatives of political blocs in the Council of Representatives, and members of civil society and non-governmental organizations. The members of the Security Council welcomed the positive recent progress towards the full formation of the Government of Iraq, with the confirmation of Ministers of Justice, Defense, and Interior, which will further strengthen and reaffirm Iraq's national unity, sovereignty, and independence. The members of the Security Council recognized the importance of the Government of Iraq upholding the values set forth in the Iraqi Constitution and responding to the needs of all Iraqis, including women, youth, children, displaced persons, and persons belonging to all ethnic and religious groups.

The members of the Security Council discussed efforts towards implementing the 2018-2022 National Government program, to include addressing corruption and strengthening viable and responsive state institutions. They welcomed the Government of Iraq's sustained and active outreach to promote the development of good neighborly relations and further support regional stability. The members of the Security Council welcomed the continued engagement of the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to resolve all outstanding issues, in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution. They also welcomed progress towards the

full formation of a new Kurdistan Regional Government.

The members of the Security Council recognized the challenges facing Iraq in transitioning into a post-conflict environment, including the delivery of basic services. They stressed the need for economic reform, attracting greater inward investment, and regional economic integration to better address the aspirations and concerns of the Iraqi people. The members of the Security Council also commended the Government of Iraq's efforts, in association with local and regional authorities to counter terrorism and encouraged them to further their coordination. The members also discussed the humanitarian situation in Iraq and underscored the importance of the safe, dignified and voluntary return of all internally displaced persons affected by conflicts, including in areas liberated from the Islamic State (IS). They also reaffirmed their support for UNAMI and Special Representative for Iraq and Head of UNAMI Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert to continue, in accordance with the mandate in resolution 2470 (2019), to support and assist the Government of Iraq to inter alia promote inclusive political dialogue, national and community-level reconciliation, regional cooperation, security sector reform, and judicial and legal reforms.

They further underscored the importance of, and their support for, efforts of the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by IS (UNITAD) established in resolution 2379 (2017) led by Special Adviser Karim Khan to hold IS accountable by collecting, preserving, and storing evidence of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and they underscored that UNITAD shall operate with full respect for the sovereignty of Iraq and its jurisdiction over crimes committed in its territory. They also stressed importance of UNITAD's independence and impartiality in carrying out its mandate and underlined that UNITAD should ensure its Iraqi members benefit from international expertise on the Team, and make every effort to share knowledge and technical assistance with Iraq. The members of the Security Council reiterated their support to the work being undertaken by the UN country team in support of Iraq and its people, the statement concluded. —KUNA



Local

# KOC predicts 100,000 bpd production after KD 181 million deal with Halliburton

## Supreme Council for Planning and Development discusses KPC's 2040 strategy

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) yesterday signed a KD 181 million (\$597 million) contract for offshore drilling with US field services giant Halliburton. In a press release, KOC CEO Emad Al-Sultan told a press conference the contract includes exploration and drilling operations for six offshore rigs. He added that projects enclosed in the contract aim to increase Kuwait's crude oil and free-gas production, commencing a new era of production capacities.

The deal will hopefully lead to the production of 100,000 barrels per day (bpd), Sultan added. In a press



KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) CEO Emad Al-Sultan (right) shakes hands with Halliburton's representative after signing the contract yesterday. — KUNA



Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah (left) chairs the SCPD meeting, with oil minister Khaled Al-Fadhel attending.



Govt content with financial performance

conference after signing of the deal, Sultan said that the contract involves offshore operations to install drilling towers and services connected with oil wells' drilling, logistics, and transport. All precautions have been taken and plans are set in motion to carry out the needed tasks, he affirmed. The tender for drilling operations saw the participation of three global companies and Halliburton was awarded the contract, added Sultan.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) held a meeting yesterday to discuss Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) 2040 strategy. According to the Council's General Secretariat, the meeting, headed by SCPD's chairman as well as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and attended by Minister of Oil and Minister of Water and Electricity Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel and other council members, focused on the major and general themes of the strategy. The meeting also touched on the recent global happenings and developments in relation with the Kuwait oil industry and efforts to fulfill the country's New Kuwait Vision 2035.

**Economic openness**

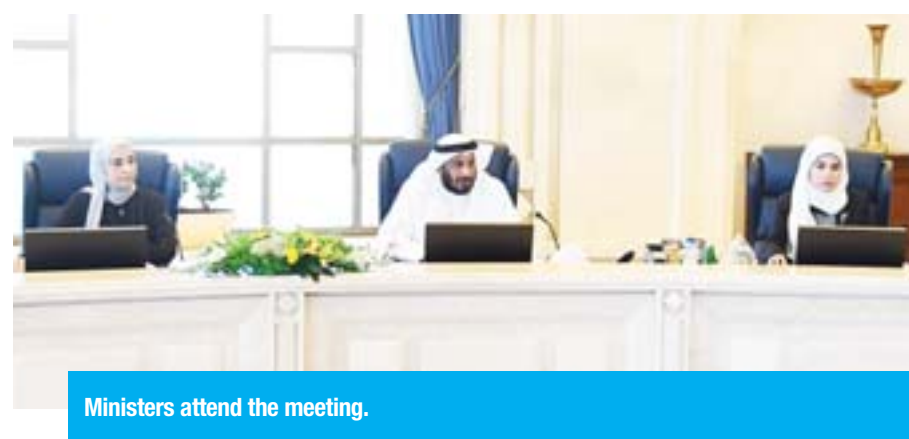
In other news, the Cabinet voiced relief for the State's policies to achieve economic openness while commending Morgan Stanley Capital International's (MSCI) upgrade of Boursa Kuwait to an emerging market. During its weekly meeting on Sunday, the Cabinet was briefed by Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, officials in the finance ministry and the Kuwait Investment Authority over the assets and obligations as of March 31, 2019. The officials also briefed the Cabinet about reserve of future generations and the State's general reserve as of March 31 this year, Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet

Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said in a statement. The Cabinet, said Saleh, voiced relief over financial positions "which reflects success of economic openness policies" with the objective of honoring His Highness the Amir's desire to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub. Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Services Khaled Al-Roudhan, meanwhile, briefed the Cabinet about MSCI's upgrade of Boursa Kuwait to an emerging market status as of May 2020. He said the upgrade was a result of reforms at Kuwait stock market which would improve the national economy and boost confidence of local and foreign investors. — KUNA

## No serious aviation security loopholes in Kuwait, says minister



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



Ministers attend the meeting.

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Services Khaled Al-Roudhan briefed the Cabinet on Sunday about a report by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), regarding security inspection carried out recently by the Universal Security Audit Program Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA) on the State of Kuwait, which found 'no serious security loopholes' that could affect aviation security. During its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet expressed faith that lawmakers would reaffirm confidence in Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, after a no-confidence motion was filed against him at the end of an interpellation by MP Mohammad Hayef Al-Mutairi.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet about a meeting of the international coalition fighting the so-called Islamic State (IS), during which he highlighted Kuwait's counter-terrorism efforts. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also talked about a recent visit by a delegation of the UN Security Council, co-chaired by Kuwait and the US, to discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.

**Terrorist attacks**

The Cabinet meanwhile strongly condemned the continued terrorist attacks by

the Houthi militia on the populated areas as well as the International Airport of Abha, Saudi Arabia, last Sunday, which resulted in a number of injuries. The Cabinet praised the achievements of the Saudi security forces in confronting and deterring the persistent Houthi aggression, affirming the solidarity of Kuwait with the kingdom, supporting all measures taken to protect its security and stability. It also called on the global community to take a strong stance against such actions threatening innocent civilians, stressing that the Houthis should halt all kinds of assaults on Saudi Arabia. The Cabinet deplored the two terrorist blasts on a police patrol and a base of the National Guard in the Tunisian capital, expressing sincere condolences to the President of Tunisia, Government and people and the families of the victims.

The Cabinet expressed sorrow over the terror attack hitting El-Arish town, Egypt, which led to the death of seven police officers and the injury of others. The Cabinet condemned the recent storming of Bahraini embassy in Baghdad by a number of protesters, stressing confidence in the ability of the Iraqi government to take all that would ensure the security and safety of diplomatic missions. The Cabinet congratulated Ould Cheikh Mohammad Al-Ghazouani on winning the presidential elections in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, wishing the President all the best and the Mauritanian people further development and prosperity. — KUNA



Kuwait Times

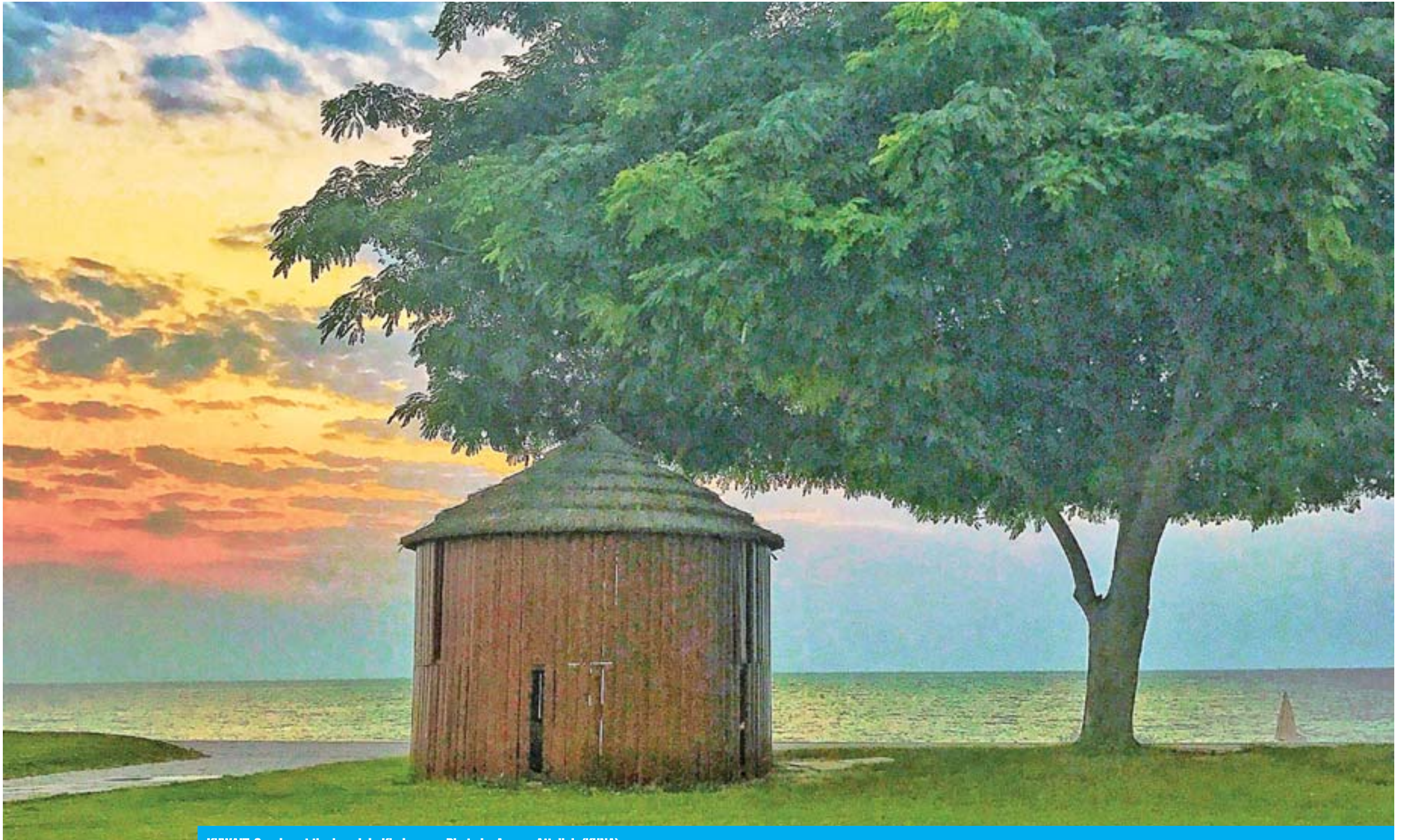
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KUWAIT: Sunrise at the beach in Khairan. — Photo by Ayman Attallah (KUNA)

# KFH honors its voluntary team for their efforts during Ramadan

## More than 1,000 daily iftar meals, over 100 initiatives throughout holy month

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized an honoring ceremony for its voluntary team in recognition of their exerted efforts during the holy month of Ramadan which culminated in successfully carrying out over 100 voluntary, social and awareness initiatives under 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 5' campaign.

The honoring ceremony was held in the Sheraton Hotel in the presence of Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh, Chairman of Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board Dr Sayed Mohammad Al-Sayed Abdul Razzaq Al-Tabtabai as well as several executives and officers at the bank. The recognition reflects the true embodiment of the communication between executive management and employees, as it encourages the concept of giving and dedication.

Dr Tabtabai said that KFH voluntary team initiatives contributed to bringing happiness to the society, pointing out that this is one of the best ways to approach Allah. He praised the great effort exerted by the KFH volunteer team during Ramadan, noting that it was sincere towards Allah and stemmed from the passion to volunteer.

He added: "We monitored and followed up your voluntary initiatives in more than one location with a record time to distribute more than 1,000 daily iftar meals, organizing Taraweeh and Qiyam prayers, providing hospitality services, organizing girgian activities, visiting hospitals, organizing staff events and many other voluntary and social initiatives. All these efforts had positive impact on society. Your initiatives and KFH program in Ramadan were welcomed and praised by society either directly, indirectly or through our social media channels. This is a source of pride for us and for you and for KFH, which puts the highest priority on sustainable social development, promoting voluntary work among youth and achieving leadership in social responsibility."

He stressed that with the help of Allah Almighty, institutions that carry out voluntary and humanitarian work are destined to succeed, noting the importance of charity, whether through distributing iftar meals, visiting patients

in hospitals or other initiatives. Giving food is the best work that human being can do because generosity is by giving the most precious possessions you have, and the most important thing man has after his religion is his body. Tabtabai thanked the Executive Management for their support for such initiatives, stressing that their ultimate support is the key to the success of carrying out over 100 social and voluntary initiatives during Ramadan.

Meanwhile, Nahedh expressed his pride in KFH volun-



**Management's support key to success**

tary team's achievements and efforts during Ramadan which delivered positive results and received the community recognition. He said that the success in carrying out more than 100 different voluntary, awareness and social initiatives during Ramadan, clearly reflects their dedication and passion for volunteering. He confirmed that the participation of the executive management in some voluntary activities under KFH Ramadan program reflected senior management interest and enhanced the communication strategy to achieve the common objectives of KFH. Nahedh mentioned that KFH excellence in achieving social responsibility goes hand in hand with its excellence in banking and leadership in the Islamic finance industry and drives it to maintain the leadership. This can be achieved by more effort and dedication to work so that KFH can remain a world leader in Islamic finance.



**KUWAIT:** Chairman of Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board at KFH Dr Sayed Mohammad Al-Sayed Abdul Razzaq Al-Tabtabai speaks during the ceremony.





Local

# Social media celebrities sued for advertising unlicensed health products

## Ministry to take legal action against doctors' slander on social media

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health (MoH) referred a number of social media figures to public prosecution for advertising the sale of unlicensed health-related products, a senior ministry official announced yesterday. Assistant undersecretary for food and medicine control Dr Abdullah Al-Bader said that according to law number 38/2002, violators of the law of regulating advertising health related products will be punished by a maximum one year in prison and/or a maximum fine of KD 1,000.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) Dr Ahmad Thowaini Al-Enezi called for ignoring complaints made through social media networks in favor of those filed through official channels, adding that MoH has a role of directing people with grievances to file them at the right department. Enezi added that a study is being prepared to sue people who use social media to slander doctors, noting that some people are now convinced that these networks are official means to convey complaints and grievances, while most complaints turn out to be baseless and misunderstood.

**Bedoon pilgrims**  
Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Fahd Al-Sholah said Saudi Arabia agreed to allow 1,000 bedoons to perform hajj this year.

**Environment law**  
Environment Public Authority's (EPA) Hawally inspection department filed a number of citations against restaurants that violated the environment law in Salmiya. EPA explained that the violations included dumping used cooking oil in garbage containers, which causes bad odors, and garbage accumulation.

**Jordanian and Palestinian staff**  
Well-informed sources said that the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Education (MoE) had received government instructions to focus on hiring

more Jordanian and Palestinian doctors, teachers, nurses and technical medical staff members. The sources justified the new instructions to the fact that the Jordanian and Palestinian communities in Kuwait are relatively small compared to Syrians, Egyptians and Asians, therefore hiring staff from those countries would not leave a negative impact on the state's demographic balance. Further, the sources said studies showed that Jordanian and Palestinian manpower is more productive and quality-focused. In addition, the sources said MoE has also been focusing on hiring Tunisian teachers for French and English, while Maths, Physics and Chemistry teachers are being hired from

Jordan and Palestine. In another educational concern, informed sources denied MoE's plans to reshuffle educational area directors, noting that this rumor has been in circulation for a while and the fact that the Capital area director is retir-

ing might have opened the door wide for such speculations. The sources added that several directors expressed wishes to fill the vacancy, adding the final decision is up to Minister Hamed Al-Azmi. Further, the sources stressed that MoE is firmly implementing the policy of mandatory retirement for employees who have been in service for 34 years, as well as replacing expats with citizens except in certain teaching subjects where Kuwaiti teachers are a minority. "MoE still needs 780 new teachers for next year and all recruitments made locally and abroad have so far provided less than a quarter of this number," the sources said, noting that 20 new schools will open next year.

**Mubarak Port project**  
The Central Apparatus for Public Tenders (CAPT) approved a request by the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to give the first phase of the Mubarak Port project to the contractor who offered the third lowest price of KD 28,761,000. Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi stressed that the new structural plan has been completed pending final touches, to be ready by the beginning of 2020.



1,000 bedoons to perform hajj this year

## Finance Minister, French official discuss 'One Planet' summit



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with the French President's envoy Lawrence Yanovitch. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf met yesterday with the French President's envoy Lawrence Yanovitch to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. A press statement by the Finance Ministry said that during the meeting both sides discussed the latest developments and preparations for Kuwait's participation in the 'One Planet' summit, as a co-founder. The summit will be held in Paris on July 10, aiming to address the effect of climate change on the financial system, added the statement. The 14th session of the joint Kuwaiti-French Ministerial Committee was held during Yanovitch's visit to Kuwait, which was attended by member of the General Investment Authority Farooq Bastaki and the French Ambassador to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy, along with Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs at the Ministry Nabeel Abdul-Jaleel. — KUNA

## US envoy applauds Kuwaiti medical facility's progress

**KUWAIT:** US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman heaped praise yesterday on a Kuwaiti medical facility for its primary healthcare program, saying the center has a close rapport with American hospitals. Amid a

visit to Dhaman Health Assurance Hospital, Silverman said Kuwait and the US have stepped up cooperation in the healthcare sector, pointing out the progress the Kuwaiti facility has made is a testament to the growth the country's healthcare industry has seen. Dhaman Health Assurance Hospital is eager to work closely with American medical facilities, its deputy chairman Hamid Al-Bassam told the press, saying the American envoy's visit is part of efforts to interact with diplomats in the country. Dhaman strives to provide patients a world-class quality healthcare plan, said its Operations Division Consultant Brian Flynn, emphasizing that improving the local healthcare sector remains the primary goal. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman visits the Dhaman Health Assurance Hospital. - KUNA

### News in brief

#### Deportees paid KD 1,000 for release

**KUWAIT:** Following up the ongoing investigation of a case involving bribing a police officer and a retired policeman, well-informed security sources said investigations conducted by detectives showed the bribes were for releasing detainees due to be deported for KD 1,000 each. The sources added that names of recently released detainees pending deportation will be reviewed as part of further investigations in the case. — Al-Qabas

#### Violators blacklisted

**KUWAIT:** In a bid to protect domestic helpers and prevent violations committed against them, as well as protect the rights of both workers and recruitment offices, Public Authority for Manpower's Director Ahmad Al-Moussa said the authority will blacklist domestic help offices and sponsors who repeatedly violate the contracts signed with laborers or those involved in violating law number 68/2015. - Al-Jarida

#### Temporary labor residence

**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel said a number of ideas are being considered concerning building labor cities, including building prefabricated structures temporarily at every project construction site for the laborers working there. Speaking on the sidelines of the workshop organized by the Municipal Council's reform and development committee, Aqeel explained that many suggestions had been discussed in this regard during the meeting of the demographics committee, including building temporary prefabricated camps at each site and dismantling them when the project is completed. "This will be the ideal and fastest solution until the labor cities under construction are completed," she underlined. — Al-Rai

#### Kuwait eyes industrial growth

**VIENNA:** Kuwait is eager to develop its industrial sector as per global standards in efforts to push its 2035 sustained development plan, an official said yesterday. It is imperative to cooperate with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to achieve the aforementioned goal, the director general of Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry Abdulkarim Taqi said on the sidelines of UNIDO talks. The talks revolve around international efforts to fight poverty and corruption, amongst other matters, the Kuwaiti official said. He highlighted such gatherings as crucial in allowing Kuwait the opportunity to pick up some insight into economic development plans, added the official. As a specialized UN body, UNIDO aims to promote and accelerate global industrial development. — KUNA

## Municipality promotes campaign against 'bachelors' residence

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality's acting public relations manager Mohammad Al-Mutairi said 124 billboards promoting the #Rest\_Assured campaign designed to fight the presence of 'bachelors' in private residential areas have been installed in various governorates. Mutairi said that the bachelors' committee, headed by deputy director for Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer affairs, had finished preparations of its teams to inspect various areas. Mutairi added that the campaign aims at boosting public awareness of the significance of banning bachelors from residing in private residential areas.



## National Guard organizes special training courses



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Guard's command announced yesterday the opening of new applications for those who would like to undergo special training courses to become National Guard officers or warrant officers. Applications will be received until July 11. This came upon direct instructions from Kuwait National

Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and his deputy Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and as part of the National Guard's strategic plan of 2020 that is mainly concerned with youth and providing enough job opportunities for them, Kuwait National Guard said in a statement yesterday.





Missile from Syria lands on Cyprus mountainside

Pakistani man kills wife, 2 children, 6 others in alleged honour killing

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HONG KONG: Police fire tear gas at protesters near the government headquarters in Hong Kong yesterday. Riot police fired tear gas as they attempted to dislodge anti-government protesters in the early hours of yesterday in chaotic scenes in the heart of Hong Kong. —AFP

# Protesters storm Hong Kong parliament

## Tension runs high as protesters smash windows

HONG KONG: Protesters stormed Hong Kong's parliament building yesterday as the territory marked its China handover anniversary, smashing through reinforced windows and steel shutters in unprecedented scenes that plunge the city further into crisis. The latest unrest ramps up tensions in the financial hub which has been rocked by three weeks of historic demonstrations against a hugely unpopular bill that would allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland. Tens of thousands of democracy activists staged another peaceful march yesterday afternoon, calling for the city's pro-Beijing leader to step down and reverse what they see as years of sliding freedoms.

But that rally was overshadowed by small groups of mainly young, masked protesters who besieged the legislature for hours, sparking renewed clashes with police after two weeks of relative calm. Under the blazing summer sky the young demonstrators made multiple attempts to smash into the building, using a metal cart as a battering ram and wielding steel poles to prize open gaps in the reinforced windows. Riot police inside the building responded by squirting pepper spray at protesters, who unfurled umbrellas to shield themselves.

But after some six hours the anti-government demonstrators eventually breached the complex, swarming through its passageways and tearing down portraits of the city's leaders. Riot police appeared to

have retreated deeper inside the complex or left the building, which had been on lockdown, an AFP reporter at the scene said. Many of those protesting said they felt compelled to take the action because the city's pro-Beijing leaders had ignored public sentiment. "We know that this is breaking the law, but we have no choice," a 24-year-old protester surnamed Cheung told AFP.

### Years of fears

The huge rallies over the last three weeks are the latest expression of growing fears that China is stamping down on the city's freedoms and culture with the help of the finance hub's pro-Beijing leaders. But the increasingly hardline tactics from some protesters have alienated some, with a large counter-rally in support of the police taking place on Sunday.

Although Hong Kong returned from British to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997, it is still administered separately under an arrangement known as "one country, two systems". The city enjoys rights and liberties unseen on the autocratic mainland, but many residents fear Beijing is already renegeing on that deal. Activists

have organised a march every handover anniversary, calling for greater democratic freedoms — such as the right to elect the city's leader.

They have mustered large crowds in recent years - including a two-month occupation of parts of the city centre in 2014 - but have failed to win any concessions from Beijing. "When I heard that there are clashes outside (parliament), I was very worried," Amy Siu, a 37-year-old accountant taking part in the rally, told AFP. "I'm worried about the youngsters' safety. I hope they can be rational." "I would not blame the young people, I blame the government," added an 80-year-old protester who gave his surname Yeung.

This year's rally is framed by unprecedented anti-government protests of the past three weeks that have drawn millions, with the public angry over police use of tear gas and rubber bullets. The spark for the current wave of protests was an attempt by chief executive Carrie Lam to pass the Beijing-backed extradition law, which she has now postponed following the public backlash. But she has resisted calls to permanently shelve the law or step

down. As a result the demonstrations have morphed into a wider movement against her administration and Beijing.

### Champagne toasts & flags

Lam - who has kept out of the public eye since her climbdown and has record low approval ratings — attended a flag-raising ceremony yesterday, marking the moment the city returned to Chinese ownership 22 years ago. But she and other dignitaries watched from indoors due to "inclement weather" — the first time in the ceremony's history. Her speech stuck to the conciliatory tone she has used in recent weeks. "What happened in recent months has caused conflicts and disputes between the government and residents," Lam said. "It has made me fully understand that as a politician, I need to be aware and accurately grasp the feelings of the people."

She then raised a champagne toast alongside cabinet officials and two of her predecessors. Police said 13 officers were also sent to hospital after being doused by an "unknown liquid" from protesters while the government released a statement condemning protesters for using "extreme violence." But activists have vowed to keep up their civil disobedience campaign. "Whatever happens we won't lose heart," Jason Chan, a 22-year-old accountant added. "Resistance is not a matter of a day or a week, it is long term." —AFP



### Hong Kong marks China handover anniversary

## Heatwave sees surge in drowning victims in Poland and Lithuania

WARSAW: Nearly 150 people drowned, the vast majority of them men, in Poland and neighbouring Lithuania in June as temperatures soared to record highs, officials said yesterday. Poland's Government Centre for Security (RCB) said that 113 people drowned in June, including ten on Sunday alone, as the EU country of 38 million people sizzled. "As successive heatwaves set in, not a day went by in June without someone drowning," Bozena Wysocka, an RCB spokeswoman said yesterday, adding that 90 percent of the victims were male.

Alcohol consumption and recklessness were cited among the leading causes. Thirty-two people drowned in neighbouring Lithuania, fire and rescue officials said. The death toll, which included 26 men, was the

highest in the last five years in the Baltic state of 2.8 million. Poland recorded its highest ever June temperature with mercury soaring to 38.2 degrees Celsius. Lithuanian temperatures also hit a record June high of 35.7 degrees Celsius (96.2 degrees Fahrenheit), forcing school closures and threatening crops.

### Hot, thirsty Italians

Meanwhile, fruit and vegetable purchases jumped 20 percent last week in Italy as a heat wave gripped the country, agricultural association Coldiretti said yesterday. The heat pushed consumers to "change their menu and bring fresh and healthy food to the table or beach", while climatic conditions "favoured the production of very sweet fruits," it said in a statement. The heat was exceptionally intense for June in Europe last week, with temperatures of over 40 degrees in Italy. Some crops on the Po plain in northern Italy were severely affected, with losses of between 10 to 30 percent of produce such as watermelons and peppers, said Coldiretti. Animals also suffered, with stressed cows on some farms producing up to 10 percent less milk than usual, it said.—Agencies



MARIGNANE: A man empties a bucket of dead fishes along the Etang de Berre lagoon in Marignane, near Marseille in the Bouches-du-Rhone department, south-eastern France yesterday. The almost week-long heatwave lowered the lagoon's oxygen, provoking the death of several tons of fishes. —AFP

## Gupta's wedding planners fined for open defecation

DEHRADUN: The wedding planners hired by South Africa's scandal-plagued Gupta family have been fined for open defecation and littering following the opulent celebrations at a scenic Himalayan resort, an official said yesterday. The wealthy Indian migrant family, who left South Africa in 2017, is being investigated over a web of murky deals involving government officials and state-owned entities during former president Jacob Zuma's nine-year reign. The three brothers had hired wedding planning firm E-Factors to organise their sons' lavish nuptials last month at Auli, a pristine ski resort ringed by the Nanda Devi mountain range in northern Uttarakhand state.

The weddings drew widespread

attention in India after photos showed the picturesque venue littered with rotting flowers, food and other garbage. SP Nautiyal, a local civic official, said the planners have been fined 250,000 rupees (\$3,621) for leaving behind the mess. Some of the workers hired by the company had even defecated in the open, he said. "For defecating in the open we have imposed a fine of 100,000 rupees and another 150,000 rupees penalty has been levied for scattering garbage," Nautiyal said.

The hotel where the weddings took place has also been fined 25,000 rupees (\$362) for "keeping sewage lines open". Local media reports said civic workers had so far collected some 30 tons of garbage, with trucks being sent daily to collect the waste since June 22. The Times of India yesterday quoted a local official as saying that temporary toilets had been set up for hundreds of guests but no such facilities were built to accommodate the workers. "We assume that they... defecated in the open", it quoted an unnamed official as saying.—AFP



## International

# N Korea upbeat on Trump-Kim surprise meeting as a chance to push nuke talks

## A fresh round of talks likely 'sometime in July': Pompeo

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump agreed at their meeting on Sunday to push forward dialogue for making a new breakthrough in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, North Korean state media said yesterday. Trump became the first sitting US president to set foot in North Korea on Sunday when he met Kim in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks.

"The top leaders of the two countries agreed to keep in close touch in the future, too, and resume and push forward productive dialogues for making a new breakthrough in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and in the bilateral relations," KCNA news agency said. The meeting, initiated by a tweet by Trump that Kim said took him by surprise, displayed the rapport between the two, but analysts said they were no closer to narrowing the gap between their positions since they walked away from their summit in February in Vietnam.

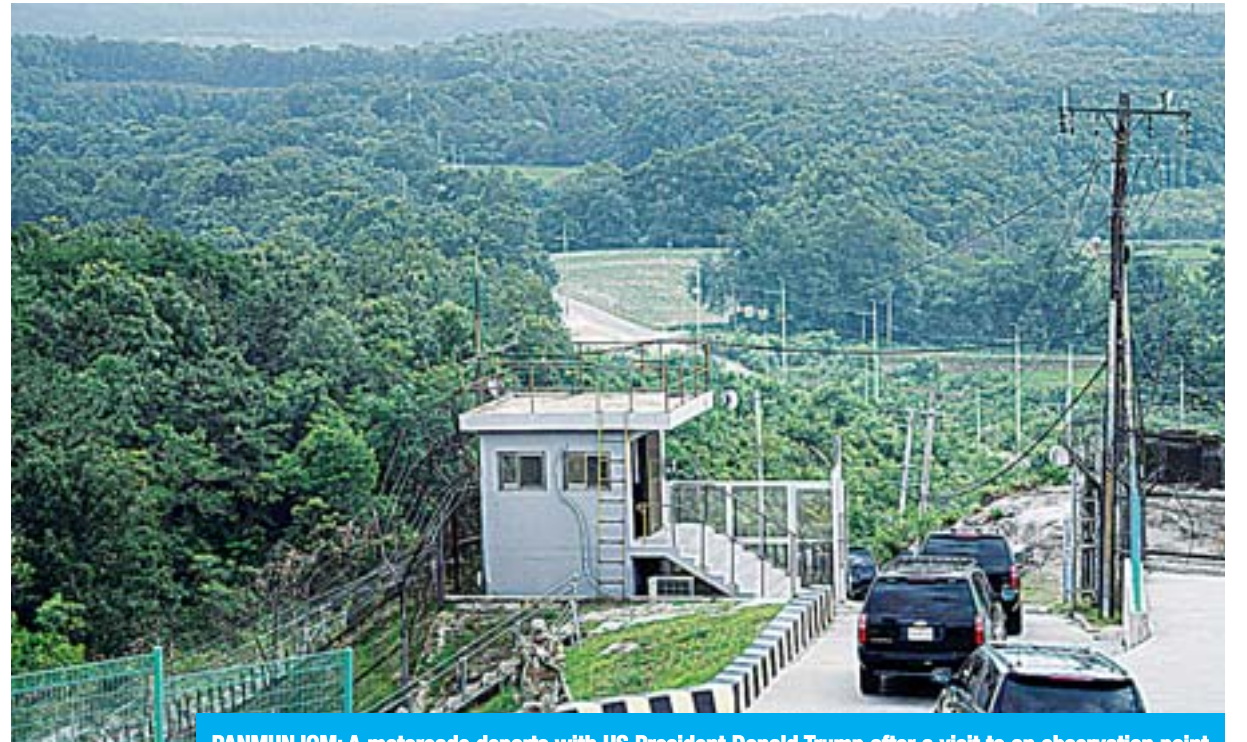
US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters shortly before departing South Korea that a new round of talks would likely happen "sometime in July" and the North's negotiators would be foreign ministry diplomats. In a photo released by KCNA yesterday, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and Pompeo are shown sitting next to Kim and Trump respectively in Freedom House, the building in which the two leaders had their one-on-one talks. KCNA said that during the chat between Trump and Kim, the two leaders explained "issues of easing tensions on the Korean peninsula," "issues of mutual concern and interest which become a stumbling block in solving those issues," and "voiced full

understanding and sympathy." Kim said it was the good personal relationship he had with Trump that made such a dramatic meeting possible at just one day's notice and that the relationship with Trump would continue to produce good results, according to KCNA.

The two leaders' "bold, brave decision" that led to the historic meeting "created unprecedented trust between the two countries" that had been tangled in deeply rooted animosity, KCNA said. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the meeting between Trump and Kim and "fully supports the continued efforts of the parties to establish new relations towards sustainable peace, security and complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula", UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

China also welcomed the meeting, with a foreign ministry spokesman describing it as "constructive and achieving positive results". But problems could lie ahead. "The fact that the nuclear talks have jump-started is very encouraging, but that doesn't mean that the two sides have already adjusted their positions and set the conditions for successful working-level negotiations," said Kim Hyun-wook, a professor at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy.

Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, dismissed a report in The New York Times yesterday that Washington is seeking to soften its approach, floating an idea of accepting a nuclear freeze - instead of complete dismantlement - and giving tacit recognition that North Korea is a nuclear state. "I read this NYT story with curiosity," Bolton said in a tweet. "Neither the [National Security Council] staff nor I have dis-



PANMUNJOM: A motorcade departs with US President Donald Trump after a visit to an observation point in the Demilitarized Zone in Panmunjom, Korea. —AFP

cussed or heard of any desire to 'settle for a nuclear freeze by NK. This was a reprehensible attempt by

someone to box in the President. There should be consequences." —Reuters

## PM: Ethiopia violence driven by an 'empty dream', not ethnicity

ADDIS ABABA: Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said yesterday that the plotters of an alleged failed coup in Ethiopia were not driven by ethnic motivations but a desire to seize power. The government has blamed a hardline security chief from Amhara state, in the country's north, for the targeted assassinations of five high-ranking officials in two Ethiopian cities on June 22.

Hundreds have been arrested in the aftermath, including many from an ethno-nationalist party in Amhara, one of several political groupings to have gained ground under Abiy as he opens political space after years of authoritarian rule. Abiy told parliamentarians in the capital Addis Ababa that the perpetrators were driven by "an empty dream to destabilise the country and take power by force, but were not ethnically inclined". "The situation was very

shocking," he added.

The attacks saw gunmen kill at least three officials in Amhara, including the regional president. A separate strike just hours later in Addis Ababa, hundreds of kilometres away, claimed the lives of the army chief and a retired general. Abiy reiterated yesterday the government's belief that the two incidents were linked, though an official investigation into the violence has yet to release its conclusions. The prime minister also said the subsequent massacre of more than 50 civilians in Benishangul Gumuz state, neighbouring Amhara, was also part of the plot.

The government said Friday that more than 250 people had been arrested in connection with the twin attacks. Amhara's security chief Asaminew Tsige, who was gunned down last week while on the run, has been pinned as the mastermind. He has been described as an ethno-nationalist who was facing likely dismissal over his fiery rhetoric and efforts to raise a militia. But little evidence has been provided regarding his motivations and who else might have been involved.

The government has described the violence as part of a thwarted coup



ADDIS ABABA: A man reads the Ethiopian newspaper 'The Reporter', depicting the portraits of killed Ambachew Mekonen (left), President of the Amhara Region, and of Gen Sere Mekonen, Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian National Forces in Addis Ababa. —AFP

attempt. Abiy told lawmakers yesterday that under a federal system any attack on a regional state was an attack on central authorities. The assassinations have heaped pressure on a government already struggling to cope with mounting ethnic tensions and violence. The

violence is seen as a backlash to Abiy's efforts to lead democratic reforms in Africa's second-most populous nation. Ethiopia is due to hold elections next year, but even before this unrest analysts had questioned whether that timeline was feasible. —AFP

## Sudan protesters blame generals for bloodshed at rally

KHARTOUM: Sudan's protest leaders blamed ruling generals yesterday for deadly violence as three blood-stained bodies were found a day after the first mass rallies since a June crackdown on demonstrators. State media reported that seven people were killed as tens of thousands rallied to demand a civilian government, while medics linked to the protest movement said five protesters had been killed. The northeast African country's protesters have been calling for the departure of generals who seized power following the April ouster of longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir.

Sunday's "million man" march had been seen as a test for protest organisers after a June 3 raid on a Khartoum protest camp left dozens dead and a subsequent internet blackout curbed their ability to mobilise support. But that did not prevent vast crowds of men and women, chanting slogans demanding "civilian rule", flooding the streets of Khartoum, twin city Omdurman and other towns and cities, AFP correspondents and witnesses reported.

Security forces meanwhile deployed en masse in key Khartoum squares, firing tear gas in several places including at protesters attempting to reach the capital's residential palace. The official SUNA news agency quoted a health ministry official saying seven people were killed, without giving further details but adding that another 181

were wounded, including 27 by gunfire. It also said a further 10 security personnel were wounded, including three from the feared paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, shot with "live ammunition".

### 'Just fall'

A doctors' committee linked to the protest movement said five protesters had been killed on Sunday, including four in Omdurman, across the Nile from Khartoum. It also said several more were seriously wounded by gunshots fired by "military council militias," a term protesters uses for the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Yesterday, three blood-stained bodies were found lying in a part of Omdurman that had seen protests the previous day, an AFP correspondent reported. Their identities were not immediately clear. Crowds of people gathered around the bodies, chanting "Just Fall, Just Fall," another catchcry of the protest movement that has rocked Sudan since demonstrations first erupted against Bashir in December. The AFP correspondent said riot police later dispersed the crowd with tear gas.

Protest leaders blamed the generals for Sunday's bloodshed. "The military council is completely responsible for these lives lost," prominent protest leader Mohamed Naji al-Assam said in a video posted on his Facebook page. "Peaceful Sudanese protesters are exposed to excessive violence, live bullets and beatings," he said. But, he added, "the Sudanese have proven that they will not back down from reaching a civilian power, as it is the only way to realise the revolution's goals."



OMDURMAN: Sudanese walk past a makeshift barricade erected along a street in the capital Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman yesterday. —AFP

### Generals accuse protest leaders

The generals in turn blamed the protest movement, the Alliance for Freedom and Change, for Sunday's violence. "Freedom and Change... incited protesters to go toward the republican palace (prompting) police forces to use tear gas to disperse protesters," General Jamal Omer said in a video posted on the ruling military council's Facebook page.

"Freedom and Change bears the entire responsibility for these violations and the casualties among regular forces and citizens." Tension remains high between the protest leaders and generals since the June 3 raid, when armed men in military fatigues shot demonstrators who had camped for

weeks outside army headquarters. According to the doctors' committee, at least 133 people have been killed since the raid, including more than 100 on the day of the crackdown.

Health ministry figures show 68 people have died nationwide since the raid, including on Sunday. The generals insist it did not order the dispersal of the sit-in, but acknowledge "excesses" after orders were given to purge a nearby area allegedly a notorious hotspot for drug dealers. The raid came after talks between the protesters and generals collapsed over installing civilian rule. Ethiopia and the African Union have been mediating between the two sides but have yet to achieve a breakthrough. —AFP

## Lebanon vows to restore security after deadly shootout

BEIRUT: The Lebanese government vowed yesterday to restore security to an area of a deadly shooting that has stirred fear of renewed strife in the Chouf Mountains, one of the bloodiest theatres of the 1975-90 civil war. Two aides of government min-

ister Saleh Al-Gharib, the state minister for refugee affairs, were killed on Sunday in the incident in the Aley region in what he termed an attempted assassination. Lebanon's Supreme Defence Council, which includes the president and security chiefs, said it had taken "decisive" measures to restore security to the area and bring to justice those involved.

"This is to bury strife, safeguard the prestige of the state and to spare innocent blood," the council said in a statement, adding that the decisions would remain secret.

No arrests have been announced yet. The incident spiralled as supporters of Walid Jumblatt, Lebanon's

main Druze leader, protested against a planned visit to the area by Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, a Maronite Christian and Jumblatt adversary. He ultimately cancelled the visit, saying he wanted to avoid any security problem.

Gharib, a Druze politician, is politically aligned with Bassil and backed by Jumblatt's Druze rival Talal Arslan. Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) has accused Gharib's bodyguards of opening fire on the protesters, leading to an exchange of fire in which two PSP supporters were also wounded. Arslan, in a televised news conference, said the state must act. "If the state does not strike with an iron fist

there will be negative repercussions in more than one area," he said.

The historic rivalry between Arslan and Jumblatt has surfaced on numerous fronts of late, including the tussle for Druze cabinet posts in Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri's national unity government. The families of the men killed on Sunday have said they will not bury them until the perpetrators are handed over. The Chouf witnessed years of fighting between Christian and Druze militias in the civil war, leading to the displacement of the Christian population. Some have returned under government-backed "reconciliation" agreements. —Reuters

## Lebanon demolishes Syria refugee shelters as ultimatum expires

BEIRUT: The Lebanese army started destroying Syrian refugee settlements in northeast Lebanon yesterday after the expiry of a government ultimatum, officials said, as aid groups warned of more demolitions in the coming days. Keen not to encourage Syrians to settle permanently, the government had given refugees in the village of Arsal until July 1 to demolish shelters made of other materials than timber and plastic sheeting, which it considers illegal.

"At 4:30 am on July 1, military units moved into several camps in Arsal and demolished at least 20 homes," said a joint statement by seven aid groups, including Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Oxfam. "We fear that this is the start and more demolitions will take place tomorrow," it added. An estimated 15,000 people, including at least 7,500 children, would be affected by the demolitions which would impact up to 3,000 units, the aid groups said.

A Lebanese security source confirmed to AFP that demolitions have started but said that only four empty concrete houses had been destroyed. The head of the Arsal municipality, Bassel Al-Hujeiri, added that yesterday's demolitions were very "limited" and impacted only homes made almost completely out of cement. The move, he said, "serves as a warning for remaining refugees who have yet to comply with the army's decision." The government's ultimatum had prompted refugees to destroy their own homes in the weeks leading up to the deadline.

As of June 27, less than half of the hard shelters in Arsal had been demolished by their inhabitants, the aid groups said in yesterday's statement. They also urged authorities "to give alternatives to refugees, allow them to retain their personal belongings and give them more time to place their families in safety" before carrying out more demolitions. Lebanon, a country of some four million people, hosts between 1.5 and two million Syrians on its soil after they fled the eight-year civil war next door.

Nearly a million of these are registered as refugees with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Lebanon only allows only informal camps to prevent the permanent settlements of Syrian refugees, who politicians and part of the Lebanese population blame for a string of economic woes. Rights groups, including Amnesty International, have warned that Lebanon is using restrictive measures such as evictions, curfews and raids to encourage repatriation. —AFP



## International

# Missile from Syria-Israel clash lands on Cyprus mountainside

## First time Cyprus caught in cross-hairs of Syria conflict

NICOSIA: An errant missile struck Cyprus yesterday, skimming the densely populated capital Nicosia and crashing on a mountainside in what authorities described as a spillover from strikes between Israel and Syria. The explosion occurred around 1 am in the region of Tashkent, also known as Vouno, some 20 kms northeast of Nicosia, with the impact starting a fire and heard for miles around. There were no casualties. But it caused widespread concern on both sides of the ethnically-split island and brought calls for warring parties to respect their neighbours' safety.

An Israeli air strike was underway against Syria at the time. Syrian state media said the Syrian air defences had fired in response. "It is understood that a missile fired from Syria fell here by accident, as a result of being fired in an uncontrolled way by batteries ... in response to the intense attacks yesterday evening by Israel," Kudret Ozersay, the Turkish Cypriot foreign minister, told a news conference. "Based on our initial assessment, it is the remains of a missile which is known as S-200 in the Russian system and SA-5 in the NATO system," he added.

In a Facebook post earlier, Ozersay said the explosion was thought to have occurred before impact because there were no craters, and debris was found at several different points. Cyprus lies west of Syria,

and the impact site about 50 kilometres (31 miles) inland. Israeli warplanes fired missiles targeting Syrian military positions in Homs - around 310 kilometres (193 miles) from Nicosia - and the Damascus outskirts overnight in an attack that killed at least four civilians and wounded another 21.



### Russian-made missile hit mountainside

into account the human and material security of neighbouring countries, to take the necessary measures and for everyone to behave calmly," said Ozersay, who is also deputy prime minister of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state recognised only by Ankara.

The incident was a wake-up call to islanders, said UniteCyprusNow, a pro-unity group. "The illusion that a permanent division on land... will protect us from crises has been shattered with the missile that landed on our head last night," it said.

Cyprus was split in a Turkish invasion in 1974 triggered by a brief Greek-inspired coup. The ageing S-200 is a surface to air missile which analysts said could have a range of up to 400 kilometres (249 miles).

It is one of the precursors of the S-400, the mis-

#### 'Behave calmly'

The freak incident was the first time that Cyprus has been caught in the crosshairs of military operations in the Middle East despite its proximity. "Undoubtedly we invite Syria, Israel and other countries in the region to take



TASHKENT, Cyprus: Turkish Cypriot police and inspectors check the remains of what officials said was a suspected Russian missile that exploded overnight yesterday in the northern part of the divided island, during an Israeli aerial raid in Syria. — AFP

sile system Turkey plans to buy from Russia and which has rattled relations with Washington. Residents told Cypriot media they saw a light in the sky then three loud explosions were heard for miles

around, which many initially thought was a plane crash. Tashkent is a small village in the foothills of a mountain range rimming northern Cyprus. Authorities evacuated some homes. — Reuters

## EU leaders adjourn summit to break jobs stalemate

BRUSSELS: Sleep-deprived European Union leaders adjourned marathon talks until today amid stalemate over filling the bloc's top jobs in the wake of May elections that have fragmented the EU political landscape. The 28 EU leaders are trying to agree on who will steer the bloc over the coming years through the looming challenges of Brexit and the rise of populist parties in Europe. Despite 18 hours of talks since Sunday, they needed more time to debate new proposals to overcome opposition to a Franco-German compromise on who will be the new chief of the European Commission, the bloc's executive arm.

European Council (EUCO) President Donald Tusk "suspends the meeting and reconvenes #EUCO tomorrow at 11h," tweeted Tusk's spokesman Preben Aamann. Summit organiser Tusk had suggested in vain to French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel around 8:00 am to drop efforts for now and reconvene in two weeks, a European source told AFP.

"The two replied to him: 'It's out of the question. We must absolutely find a deal today,'" the source said on condition of anonymity. The compromise Merkel and Macron forged on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan on Saturday called for Dutch Social Democrat Frans Timmermans to head the commission, rather than his conservative rival German Manfred Weber.

Weber would instead be put forward for election as speaker of the European Parliament, where he leads the largest politi-



BRUSSELS: France's President Emmanuel Macron gestures as he leaves a press conference at the end of an EU summit at the Europa building in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

cal bloc. A liberal candidate would succeed Tusk as president of the European Council of national leaders. But when Merkel put this to fellow centre-right leaders in the European People's Party (EPP) several rebelled, and the summit was thrown into crisis as heads of government shuffled between side meetings late into yesterday morning. Merkel said she still "hoped that with good will a compromise will be feasible."

#### 'Strong consensus'

The EPP is still the biggest bloc in the European Parliament, but no longer the dominant force it was before the May elections. The liberals, which include Macron supporters, and Greens are increasingly assertive trying to choose the top jobs after they made huge gains in those elections. Even though the Social Democrat bloc also lost ground,

Timmermans, the commission's current vice president, emerged as a compromise candidate to head the powerful commission. "There is a strong consensus for Timmermans but the situation is very volatile. I'm more optimistic than I was three hours ago," another European source said.

The latest idea is to have Timmermans head the commission, and the EPP's Kristalina Georgieva, a Bulgarian, heading the European Council, several European sources said. They also want a liberal as the diplomatic chief to replace outgoing commissioner Federica Mogherini of Italy. That could either be Belgian prime minister Charles Michel or Danish politician Margrethe Vestager, who currently oversees anti-trust policy on the commission. Another source said Vestager could serve as vice president of the commission. — AFP

## British PM hopeful Hunt unveils no-deal Brexit plans

LONDON: British prime ministerial contender Jeremy Hunt yesterday pledged billions of pounds to mitigate the effects of a possible no-deal Brexit, but the country's finance minister dismissed the plans as unaffordable. Hunt is vying with frontrunner Boris Johnson to win the support of predominately pro-Brexit Conservative Party members, who will vote this month for Theresa May's replacement as prime minister.



LONDON: Conservative MP and leadership contender Jeremy Hunt delivers a speech on Brexit during a Conservative Party leadership event in London yesterday. — AFP

Hunt, the foreign minister, who has previously said leaving the European Union without a deal "would be a mistake we would regret for generations", made yesterday his strongest commitment to back such a move by unveiling a

10-point plan. "No-deal is obviously not my preferred destination. But if a withdrawal deal is simply not on the cards then the only way to fulfil the democratic mandate of the referendum is to leave without a deal, which is what we will do," he said at the Policy Exchange think-tank event in London.

His plan would cancel all leave in government departments in preparation for a no-deal exit from the EU, and slash corporate tax rates. The government would also channel £6 billion (\$7.6 billion, 6.7 billion euros) to industries most threatened by a no-deal Brexit. "We spent just over £1 trillion bailing out the banks after the financial crisis, so if we did it for the bankers then why wouldn't we do what is needed for our fishermen and our farmers?", he said. Hunt plans to raid the £26 billion "headroom" built up by a decade of budget tightening since the financial crisis.

#### 'Wing and a prayer'

"When you face an economic shock, it is just basic economics that you find support for the industries that are affected," Hunt said. "It is temporary support, but it allows them to change their business models." But finance minister Philip Hammond who oversaw much of those cuts immediately dismissed the plan. "The 'fiscal firepower' we have built up in case of a no-deal Brexit will only be available for extra spending if we leave with an orderly transition," Hammond wrote on Twitter.

"If not, it will all be needed to plug the hole a no-deal Brexit will make in the public finances," Hunt's rival Johnson also said at the weekend that he would spend about £25 billion to fund his spending plans, including a promise to unfreeze public sector pay increases. Hunt believes the EU will reopen negotiations if there is a serious threat of a no-deal, and said he would only ask for an extension to the current October 31 deadline if a deal was about to be struck. — AFP

## Italy and Germany quarrel as migrant rescue captain readies for court

AGRIGENTO: The fate of the German migrant rescue ship captain arrested in Italy sparked fresh tension yesterday between Rome and Berlin, which called for her release ahead of a court appearance. Sea-Watch 3 skipper Carola Rackete was arrested after hitting a police boat while entering Lampedusa port with 40 people rescued from the Mediterranean. Her vessel, banned from docking by Italian authorities, knocked a police speedboat while pulling up to the pier in Lampedusa Saturday after a two-week stand-off at sea.

The 31-year-old captain was accused of putting the speedboat and the safety of its occupants at risk and she faces up to 10 years in jail if convicted. Rackete was expected to appear in court in the Sicilian city of Agrigento at 1330 GMT, and is likely to be released pending trial. "In our view the end of due judicial process can only result in the release of Carola Rackete," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas yesterday told reporters. "I will again make this clear to Italy."

#### 'Hysteria'

Maas had already said Saturday that someone who saves lives "cannot be a criminal". That prompted far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini to retort that Maas should "invite his fellow citizens not to break Italian laws". Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said he had been asked about the case by German Chancellor Angela Merkel at a summit in Brussels, but told her he "cannot intervene to dictate how judges behave".



AGRIGENTO: German captain of humanitarian ship Sea-Watch 3, Carola Rackete looks on as she arrives in a car of the Italian Guardia di Finanza law enforcement agency yesterday to appear before a judge at the courthouse in Agrigento, Sicily. — AFP

France was also quick to criticise the arrest, accusing Rome of creating "hysteria". Italy's President Sergio Mattarella called for those involved to "tone it down". If the skipper is released from what is effectively house arrest, Salvini might enforce an order already prepared by his ministry to expel her from the country.

The case sparked two fund-raising appeals which have collectively raised almost 1.2 million euros (\$1.36 million). Rackete picked up 53 migrants drifting on an inflatable raft off the coast of Libya on June 12. The Italian authorities allowed 13 migrants to be taken in for health reasons but refused entry to the others. They have now been allowed to disembark at Lampedusa and are expected to be taken in by France, Germany, Finland, Luxembourg and Portugal. — AFP

## Greek road trip: North Macedonia's deal 'last straw' for angry voters

THESSALONIKI: Five months after angry rallies in major cities against Greece's controversial name agreement with North Macedonia, the issue barely registers in the July 7 election campaign. But the so-called Prespes Agreement between Athens and Skopje that renamed the former Yugoslav republic after a bitter 27-year dispute has been a tipping point for many voters, especially in the northern Greek region of Macedonia. "After the crisis, poverty, penury and unemployment, it was the last straw," says Christos Biglikoudis, a resident of Pella in northern Greece.

"The government betrayed us. They're selling out our homeland," says the 39-year-old labourer, standing in front of the cafe he was forced to shut down because of the economic crisis. Behind him, on the town square, stands a statue of Alexander the Great, one of Greece's foremost military heroes over two centuries ago. Alexander was born in Pella, once the capital of the ancient Macedonian kingdom and today just across the border from North Macedonia. What was ancient

Macedonia today also includes parts of North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Albania.

But to many in northern Greece, Macedonia is just Greek. "People here are very angry. I cannot understand how people voted for Syriza," says Biglikoudis, referring to the leftist party of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who brokered the Prespes Agreement with his Skopje counterpart Zoran Zaev. In European Parliament elections in May, Tsipras's party was defeated by nearly 9.5 points by the conservative New Democracy party, which strongly opposed the name deal as harmful to Greek interests. In that campaign, Syriza lost voters across Macedonia, in some areas falling behind New Democracy by as many as 20 percentage points. The debacle was compounded a week later, when New Democracy took all but two of Greece's regions in local elections. Tsipras himself has freely admitted earlier that the Prespes Agreement - which saw him and Zaev nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize - was "damaging." — AFP



International

# Gun battle rocks Afghan capital after Taliban blast wounds 105

## Bomb-laden vehicle blows up near defence ministry compound

**KABUL:** Afghan security forces killed five Taliban gunmen who stormed a building in Kabul yesterday after detonating a bomb-laden truck that wounded at least 105 people, including 51 children, officials said. The gun battle lasted more than seven hours, a security official said, adding that the Taliban fighters in the under-construction building fired at Afghan forces who rushed to the blast site to evacuate the wounded. "Clashes ended with the death of all five attackers," said interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi, adding that more than 210 people had been rescued during the operation.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. "The target was the defence ministry's technical installation," the Islamist militants' spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said in a statement. Afghan security officials said the truck loaded with explosives was detonated near the ministry's engineering and logistics department at rush hour. About 100 wounded people were taken to hospital, said health ministry spokesman Wahidullah Mayar, but there was no immediate word of fatalities.

Fifty-one children in two schools near the blast site were hurt by flying shards of glass, said Nooria Nazhat, a spokeswoman of the education ministry. "These children were in the classrooms when the blast shattered the glass windows. All injured children were rushed out of their schools," said Nazhat. A security guard at Shamshad TV, a Pashto-language media organisation, was killed and several employees hurt in their office near the blast site, said director Abid Ehsas.

The blast sent a plume of black smoke rising over the city and shook buildings. The area has a cluster of military and government buildings, as well as an office of the Afghan Football Federation, whose chief, Yosuf Kargar, was among several members injured, according to spokesman Shafi Shadab. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the Taliban for attacking civilians, calling it a crime against humanity.

### Peace talks

The attack comes as US special peace envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad holds a seventh round of peace talks with the Taliban in Qatar, aimed at bringing an end to the 18-year war in Afghanistan. The talks, described by one US official as a "make-or-break moment", have focused on issues ranging from counter-terrorism and withdrawal of foreign troops to an intra-Afghan dialogue and a comprehensive ceasefire.

Two sources at the peace talks said direct negotiations between the warring sides was unlikely to go beyond Monday, but there was no official statement about the suspension of the ongoing talks. "The latest attack by the Taliban has changed the entire context of our meeting, unease has crept in," said an official present in the room where negotiations are underway in Doha. Sohail Shaheen, spokesman for the Taliban political office in Doha, said the group's key concern was to make sure a timeline for a foreign troop pullout is announced.

Taliban officials have previously said they want all foreign troops withdrawn before they hold talks with the Afghan government or declare a ceasefire. About



**KABUL:** An injured Afghan man is brought on a stretcher to an Italian aid organisation's hospital after a car bomb attack in Kabul yesterday. —AFP

20,000 foreign troops, most of them American, are in Afghanistan as part of a US-led NATO mission to train, assist and advise Afghan forces. Some US forces carry out counter-terrorism operations. Less than a week ago, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo paid a short visit to Kabul and said the Trump administration was hopeful that a peace deal with the Taliban was achievable by Sept 1.

Despite peace talks gaining momentum, fighting

between the Taliban and Afghan forces who are backed by the foreign troops, has raged across Afghanistan. The ministry of defence said on Monday 67 insurgents were killed in 11 provinces in the last 24 hours. The Taliban said their fighters had conducted 52 operations against Afghan forces in which more than 170 people were killed. Both sides accuse each other of exaggerating casualty figures to boost the morale of their fighters. — Reuters



### Afghan forces kill 5 gunmen; Taliban claims responsibility

## Who needs the G20? Question gets louder in Osaka

**OSAKA:** Donald Trump's go-it-alone approach and widening global differences on issues from trade to climate change are overwhelming the G20, analysts say, raising questions about whether the grouping still has a role to play in the world. The bloc, which expanded out of the original G7 rich-country club, has faced criticism over the years for lacking a charter, a clear mandate, or enforcement power, and holding hugely expensive yet inconclusive summits while excluding most of the developing world.

But while pressure on the bloc previously came from anti-globalisation protesters, this weekend's summit in Osaka showed that the greatest challenges to its legitimacy may come from within. Trump flew into Osaka after hurling new trade threats at G20 partners China and India. Japan failed to achieve a top priority of the summit's host, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe: forging a stronger, unanimous commitment to the Paris climate accords - due to US resistance.

Russia's Vladimir Putin said in the summit run-up that the liberalisation long championed by G20 heavyweights Europe and the US was "obsolete". And the bloc looked powerless on the biggest issue faced in Osaka - the US-China trade war, which was hashed out in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines. "The G20 was created as a forum for cooperation and the question may well be: have we reached the point where it can no longer serve that purpose?" said Thomas A. Bernes, a fellow with Canada's Center for International Governance Innovation.

### Bystanders

The G20's baseline goal is preservation of world economic stability, but Trump has taken a sledgehammer to that with his "America First" trade war against China, and tariffs imposed on longtime trad-



**OSAKA:** (From left) Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, Argentina's President Mauricio Macri, France's President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish President Pedro Sanchez, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, EU Council President Donald Tusk, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker attend a press conference at the G20 Osaka Summit. —AFP

ing partners he now derides as trade cheats. As with last year's summit in Buenos Aires, the Osaka gathering was essentially hijacked by the trade fight

between the world's two biggest economies, consigning the other 18 members to the role of hapless bystanders. —AFP

## Pakistani kills wife, children, 6 others in honour killing

**LAHORE:** A man shot his wife, their two children, and six of her family members yesterday and then burned the bodies when he set her family's home on fire in an alleged honour killing in central Pakistan, police said. Muhammad Ajmal committed the attack as revenge for a suspected affair by his wife Kiran, said Imran Mehmood, a District Police Officer for the city of Multan, where the killings occurred. Ajmal returned to Pakistan from Saudi Arabia, where he worked as a tailor, 25 days ago intending

to carry out the killings, he said.

Mehmood said Ajmal confessed to the killings. "This is clearly an honour killing. He saw a picture of his wife with another man and believed she was having an affair," Mehmood said. "He does not repent his actions." In addition to killing his wife and their two children, Ajmal also killed his three sisters-in-law, two of their children, and his mother-in-law. Ajmal and his father, who was with him at the time of the murder, are both in custody and have been charged with murder, Mehmood said. Police are searching for his brother, who is also believed to be involved.

The deaths add to the hundreds of women and girls killed in Pakistan each year, according to human rights groups, by family members angered at the perceived damage to their honour, which may involve eloping, fraternizing with men or any infringement of conservative values regarding women. — Reuters

## Taiwan president to visit US this month, angering Beijing

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen will spend four nights in the United States this month while visiting Caribbean diplomatic allies, her government said yesterday, angering China, which urged Washington not to allow her to visit. China says self-ruled Taiwan is merely a Chinese province with no right to state-to-state relations, calling it the most sensitive and important issue in ties with the United States, which has no formal ties with Taipei, but is its chief diplomatic backer and supplier of arms.

Taiwan's Deputy Foreign Minister Miguel Tsao said Tsai will spend two nights in the United States each way during her trip to St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, and Haiti from July 11 to 22. Details of the US portion of the trip were still being worked out, he added. Taiwan's Central News Agency said Tsai was expected to transit in New York and Denver.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China urges the United States "not to allow Tsai Ing-wen to transit, and cautiously and appropriately handle Taiwan related issues, to avoid harming Sino-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait". China has already expressed its concern to the United States and lodged "stern rep-



**TAIPEI:** Protesters shout slogans in the rain during a rally against pro-China media in front of the Presidential Office building in Taipei. — AFP

resentations," he told a daily news briefing. Taiwan has been trying to shore up its diplomatic alliances amid pressure from China, which has been whittling down its few remaining diplomatic allies, especially in the Caribbean and Latin America.

The four Caribbean allies share similar ideals with Taiwan, Tsao said, adding that the theme of the visit is "freedom, democracy and sustainable gover-

nance". However, he added that the visit to Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, will be less than 24 hours due to unrest there. Protesters have for months agitated to remove President Jovenel Moise, a former businessman who took office in February 2017. Tsai's time in the United States will be unusually long, as normally she spends just a night at a time on transit stops. — Reuters

### News in brief

#### Plane crash in Texas kills 10

**WASHINGTON:** A small twin-engine passenger plane crashed in Texas in the United States yesterday, killing 10 people, officials said. "The Dallas County Medical Examiner has confirmed 10 fatalities and no survivors," a spokeswoman for the town of Addison said. The plane was heading for St Petersburg, Florida and was carrying two flight crew and eight passengers. Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Bruce Landsberg said. There were few details on what caused the crash, which the NTSB is investigating, he said. "There are any number of possibilities that could occur," Landsberg told a press conference. A massive column of black smoke poured out of a building at the airport in Addison after the crash, as firefighters directed streams of water toward the blaze. — AFP

#### Bus plunges into gorge; 35 die

**SRINAGAR:** At least 35 people were killed yesterday when an overcrowded bus plunged into a gorge in Indian-administered Kashmir, officials said. It was the second deadly crash in less than a week in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, renowned for its mountainous terrain and abysmal road safety record. The bus skidded off a road in the remote Kishtwar region and fell into a deep, narrow valley, senior police official MK Sinha said. Thirty-five people died in the accident and 17 were injured, local official Angrez Singh Rana said. Seven of the injured were in critical condition and were evacuated to a nearby hospital, he said. A separate crash yesterday in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh state killed three school students and their driver, the Press Trust of India reported. Last week, 11 students on their way to a picnic were killed when their bus fell into a gorge in Shopian district of Kashmir. — AFP

#### Indonesia arrests Qaeda leader

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian police said yesterday they had arrested the leader of Al-Qaeda-linked extremist network Jemaah Islamiyah, which carried out the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people. Para Wijayanto was detained by counterterrorism police with his wife on Saturday at a hotel in Bekasi, a city on the outskirts of the capital Jakarta, National Police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said. Police said Wijayanto was a long-time leader of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), one of Indonesia's oldest terrorist groups, which was behind a series of deadly attacks in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation. Prasetyo said Wijayanto was also suspected in sending at least six batches of Indonesians abroad to fight in Syria, and provided support to militants in the terrorism hotspot of Poso on Sulawesi island. — AFP

#### 13 killed in Congo train crash

**BRAZZAVILLE:** Thirteen people, mainly stowaways, were killed when two trains collided overnight in Republic of Congo, the Congo-Ocean Railway (CFCO) company and police said yesterday. Several others were injured in the crash between a train transporting freight and another with a mineral load, a CFCO agent told AFP on condition of anonymity. "A train transporting minerals experienced a technical failure and crashed with a freight train," said the source. The crash happened near the port city of Pointe-Noire. Police confirmed the toll, and said most of the victims were stowaway riders. The mineral train belonged to the Sapro mining company, and had departed from Mayoko, some 300 kilometres northeast of Pointe-Noire, where Sapro excavates iron ore. — AFP



## Analysis

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## Social media sales soar in Facebook friendly Thailand

The son of a Thai fisherman, Anurak Saruethai never really took to life at sea. But seafood has been good to him. Hawking dried shrimp, squid and fish in nightly Facebook livestreams, Anurak, who is quick with a joke and adept at interacting with customers, can draw up to 300,000 viewers at a time. He's backed by a team who help respond to orders, answer questions on Facebook Messenger, monitor payments to his bank account and shout out tag lines off camera for comedic effect.

The formula works so well, Anurak says he made 26 million baht (\$829,000) in sales in March alone. "Facebook and Instagram give people an opportunity. If you do it right with good content, in just seven months you can make millions," he told Reuters from the seaside village of Satun. His success is emblematic of booming social media commerce in Thailand where entrepreneurs sell products directly to customers via Facebook, Instagram and messaging apps like Japan's Line Corp.

Propelled by upgrades to mobile banking apps, sales via social media in Thailand more than doubled to 334.2 billion baht (\$10.9 billion) in 2017, according to the latest report from the country's Electronic Transaction Development Agency. Moreover, those sales accounted for 44 percent of e-commerce in Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy, jumping from 21 percent a year earlier. Since then, banks have dropped transfer fees, likely driving the market further.

The popularity of so-called social commerce in Thailand owes much to the relatively late arrival of big e-commerce firms, cultural shopping preferences and the wide use of Facebook and Instagram. Some 38 million people or 57 percent of the population access Facebook every day, according to the US firm. Its growth also highlights the global business opportunities for Facebook and its Instagram unit. "Social commerce is a market to monitor because Facebook has moved more sharply in a commerce direction recently with the launch of many commerce friendly features," said Alessandro Psicini, co-founder of Crea which advises brands that want to boost their social media sales in Thailand.

Facebook said this month it wanted to expand into payments and launch its own coin. Instagram in March introduced a checkout button which allows users to shop without leaving the app, though that function is currently limited to a small number of brands and US consumers. Facebook and Instagram declined to comment on how they plan to make the most of social commerce opportunities.

### Customers first

Within Asia, only Indonesia rivals Thailand in social commerce. There it accounts for about 40 percent of e-commerce but is worth a smaller \$3 billion, says consulting firm McKinsey & Company. The market is less developed as many Indonesians do not have bank accounts and due to the challenges of delivering goods across the country's archipelago. In other parts of Asia, shopping on big e-commerce platforms like China's Alibaba, Amazon.com's Japan unit or Walmart's social media Flipkart is the norm, although selling via social media is on the rise in some countries.

Livestreaming by merchants has gained in popularity in China while in India, social commerce companies have emerged over the past year. Satish Meena, senior analyst at Forrester Research, says the firm's preliminary estimates put India's annual social selling revenue at \$100-\$150 million. Completing a sale via social media can be cumbersome.

In Thailand, customers find products on Facebook or Instagram, while chats and payments usually take place on different apps. But for many Thais, the appeal of social media shopping is the direct communication with merchants. Chonticha Srisawang, 35, who has her own brand of fake eyelashes and over 76,000 followers on her Instagram, prang\_bohktoh, says customers became comfortable placing orders after she took the time to answer queries on chat app Line. "The Thai market is very customer-centric," said Vilaiporn Taweelapontong, partner at PwC Thailand, adding that Thai shoppers love to browse and share, which favours social media over big online shopping malls. "Merchants do everything to ensure customers have a good experience. In the US and Europe there is more standardization and there are fewer choices because the emphasis is on the back-end and things moving faster."

The two biggest online malls in Thailand are now seeking to win over social media merchants - who industry experts estimate number more than a hundred thousand. Both added livestreaming services last year. Alibaba's Lazada, which launched in Thailand in 2012, also started an invitation-only program in August to bring social media sellers with a broad customer base onto its site. — Reuters

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Workers of a recycling centre of second-hand textiles of the French social enterprise "Le Relais" sort through bales of clothes in Diannadio, Senegal on June 25, 2019. — AFP

## In Senegal, old clothes get new life for profit

The market around Colobane Square in central Dakar has been a hive of activity since dawn as hundreds of buyers and sellers haggle over the latest imports from Europe. Piles of designer stone-washed jeans and jackets and shirts vie with skirts and T-shirts - all of them pre-worn. Second-hand clothing, "feugue-diaeye" in the Wolof language, is a vibrant business in Senegal. Each year, thousands of tons of garments tossed out by wealthier Europeans find a new home in West Africa, helping people to look good and businesses to make money.

"If you want cheap brand-name clothes, this is the place to come to," says Mamadou Sarr, a 23-year-old wholesaler, pointing to the bales of jeans on his stall. "All these have come from England." Binta, a 29-year-old habituee, says the bargains can be extraordinary. "You can buy dresses, jeans, T-shirts for a low price, designer gear," she says. She contends that second-hand clothes sent from Europe are "harder-wearing" than new garments exported to Senegal from China.

Retailers rummaging through the garments always have an eye out for a particular jewel: A football jersey, which is much prized by young Senegalese. Sarr and his older brother buy the clothing consignments for between 35,000 and 70,000 CFA francs (\$60-121), which they then sell off in 45-kg batches to retailers. After paying intermediaries, customs duties and transport costs, the brothers can clear as much as 450,000 CFA francs

(\$780) in a good month - roughly eight times the minimum salary in Senegal.

### Golden threads

Senegal is just part of a global industry in recycled clothes, whose biggest exporter is the United States, with 756,000 tons. Many wholesalers in Senegal get their clothes from Le Relais, a French cooperative that collects used clothing in France, the former colonial power. Le Relais sends Dakar around 500 tons of pre-sorted clothing per year and has a warehouse in Diannadio, about 30 km from Dakar, where its 51 employees sort another 200-250 tons.

The garments are sifted according to category - dresses, shirts, etc - then sorted again, graded according to their quality and state of wear. "There are some goods which aren't worth anything, but the main thing which we have been trying to do is create jobs," says Virginie Vyvermans, Le Relais' deputy chief in Senegal. Profits from sale of the clothes go into local development projects and into paying the salaries of the employees, most of whom are women. All are on permanent contracts - not temporary or daily work. One of them, Marie-Helene Marome, spoke highly of her job: "I've been able to enroll my children in a private school and buy some land for a home," she says. One of Le Relais' customers, Aliou Diallo, 34, explained how he decided to quit his job as a grocer after the warehouse opened up. "I saw a chance," says

Diallo. He has seven shops and warehouses around Senegal that employ 30 people. According to Sarr, retailers often double the markup on clothing they buy from wholesalers. "A trader who buys a T-shirt from me for 300 CFA francs can sell it in his shop up the road for 500, 700, 800," he says.

### A downside, too

If wholesalers, retailers and customers are delighted with the second-hand business, specialists say there is also a disadvantage. As developing countries elsewhere have come to experience, the dumping of cheap or free clothing can cripple the local textile industry. In the 1980s, "customs duties (in Senegal) were slashed and import quotas were abolished, and this opened the door to massive imports of second-hand clothes," says Ahmadou Aly Mbaye, a professor of economics at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar.

Textile companies "disappeared from Senegal and the neighboring region," he notes. Any attempt to revive the country's garment industry would encounter "the huge obstacle" posed by cheap imports, he says. And if the workers at Le Relais enjoy job security and other conditions, such rights are rare in the clothing recycling business, adds Mbaye. Many people have job insecurity, suffer more accidents and are lower paid than counterparts in other areas of the economy, he says. — AFP

## Double-decker buses housing the homeless

An inviting massage table, a snug chair, a sunlit field of grass - this is not a holiday resort but one of London's famous double-decker buses, which this summer will house up to 40 homeless people. A fleet of four decommissioned buses has been converted by British-based social enterprise Buses4Homeless into a shelter for homeless people, with spaces for sleeping, dining, cooking, job training and relaxing. "The most crucial thing for anyone is shelter, having a place to stay," said Buses4Homeless founder Dan Atkins, from the buses' temporary site in Croydon, south London. "And that's what's sorely missing in London as the number of beds in night shelters gets slashed and housing remains unaffordable for too many," he added.

Homelessness has been rising in England for nearly a decade amid rising private rents, a freeze on welfare benefits and a shortage of social housing. Rough sleeping in London rose by 18 percent over the last year, hitting a decade high of 8,855 people, a database funded by the mayor of London showed in June, the majority of whom were new to bedding down in parks or doorways. Atkins, who devised the initiative after seeing a friend sleeping in a coach luggage compartment, said he wanted to "understand how and why people become homeless, and help reintegrate them into society". The buses - which were donated by transport company Stagecoach - will provide a three-month program during which passengers can learn to cook, receive basic business training or enjoy a yoga class.

### Alternative shelter

Slouched on a wooden bench on the grass-covered top of the fleet's "well-being bus", a man in his fifties animatedly types on his mobile phone. James, homeless since threats from a drug-dealing neighbor forced him to leave his Brixton flat last October, has been sleeping on one of the buses after meeting Atkins - although the shelter has not officially opened yet. "It was either leave (my home) or end up dead ... but the housing association never

found me another flat," said James, whose name has been changed to protect his identity.

He finds the bus safer and more comfortable than regular night shelters, "where not every bed has its own power socket, so when you go looking for a spot to charge your phone your stuff can get stolen". Each "sleeping bus" can house up to 20 people in pods, which are equipped with storage space, a power socket and blinds for privacy. Atkins said he expected the buses would mostly accommodate men, who made up the majority of the homeless population, but that would like to create more spaces where women could feel safe.

### 'Real stories'

James, who has always worked as a community volunteer, said he hoped the revamped buses would show the "real stories of homeless people". "If you watch the news today, every homeless person is either on spice (a drug) or a beggar," said James, a former rough sleeping coordinator for Westminster City Council, flicking his dreadlock ponytail over his shoulder. "But my situation proves that you can be working with homeless people one minute and be on the streets the next."

On the fleet's "learning bus", passengers can sign up to anything from Microsoft Office skills courses to presentation workshops. Jonathan Pfahl, head of training and mentoring firm Rockstar Group, which will be running the courses, said they aim to make homeless people more employable and link them to job opportunities. "And the genius thing with a bus is that we can take it wherever it's needed ... so park it in front of a job centre, for example."

A spokesman for London Mayor Sadiq Khan would not comment on the bus initiative, but said that "record numbers of people continue to be forced onto the streets". "It will not be possible to truly end homelessness without welfare cuts being reversed, sustained investment in health services, and a step change of investment in new social housing," he said in emailed comments.

If the bus shelter project proves successful, Atkins would like to convert some of the vehicles into two to three-bedroom flats for homeless people. "There's a plethora of buses that will end up in the scrapyards as they don't meet the requirements of London's ultra-low emission zone ... so why not upcycle as many as we can?" — Reuters



Workers pour sake on a captured minke whale after it was unloaded in Kushiro in Hokkaido prefecture yesterday. — AFP

## Celebrating with sake, Japan whalers bring ashore catch

It was a catch three decades in the making, and when the Japanese whalers brought ashore one of their first minke after the resumption of commercial hunting, the moment was marked with ceremony. The whale arrived yesterday in the northern Japanese town of Kushiro, where hours earlier five ships had set out on the hunt. "Today is the best day," Yoshifumi Kai, head of the Japan Small-Type Whaling Association, said as he watched the whalers quietly bring the 8.3-m long giant ashore. "We were able to catch a good whale. It's going to be delicious."

The minke was among the first caught in a commercial hunt since Japan resumed the practice after withdrawing from the International Whaling Commission. "It was worth waiting for 31 years," Kai said with a smile. A strong smell emanated from the gaping mouth of the creature, which was hoisted inside a net from the boat to a truck. Its stomach had been cut open at sea, mostly draining the blood from the whale, a technique to keep the meat fresh.

Still once on land, a pool of the blood oozed from the carcass and was swiftly washed away by the attentive workers. The

creature was hosed down, then whalers in blue outfits, white boots and helmets, lined up to pour ceremonial cups of the Japanese liquor sake over the animal. The ritual is a tradition among Japanese fishermen, both celebrating and purifying the catch. The resumption of whaling has been controversial outside Japan, drawing criticism from activists and anti-whaling countries, and whaling communities are sensitive to the optics of the hunt.

While reporters were allowed to see the animal brought ashore, they were ushered away before work began to break it down. The whale, caught 42 km southwest off Kushiro, was driven to a warehouse where a chain was attached to its tail so it could be dragged inside. Workers shouted at photographers to step back as they pulled. "Move back! It would be bad if there's an accident," said one.

Meat from the whale, one of two minke caught by boats from Kushiro yesterday, will be sold mostly at auctions in local markets later in the week, officials said. "I myself want to eat (whale meat) as soon as possible," said Kai. Conservationists have slammed Japan for withdrawing from the IWC and resuming the commercial hunts, which they view as inhumane and outdated.

But Japan contends the practice is a long-standing tradition that should not be subject to outside interference. Asked about the criticism, Kai said whalers were "not doing anything wrong". Japan's fisheries agencies has set a quota for commercial whale hunting through December of 227 whales - 52 minke, 150 Bryde's and 25 sei whales. "We have nothing to be ashamed of," said Kai. — AFP



## Business

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019

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**BINZHOU, China:** Chinese employees working on products that will be exported to the US at a factory in Binzhou in China's eastern Shandong province. Factory activity shrank across much of Europe and Asia in June as the simmering US-China trade conflict put further strains on the manufacturing sector.— AFP

# Factories in Europe and Asia falter: Surveys

## Trade truce fails to brighten global economic outlook

**LONDON/TOKYO:** Factory activity shrank across much of Europe and Asia in June as the simmering US-China trade conflict put further strains on the manufacturing sector, keeping policymakers under pressure to deploy stronger steps to avert a global recession.

A series of mainly downbeat business surveys and official indicators released yesterday followed Saturday's warning by Group of 20 leaders who met in Osaka, Japan, of slowing global growth and intensifying geopolitical and trade tensions. The data was collected before the weekend summit.

The United States and China agreed at the summit to restart trade talks after US President Donald Trump offered concessions including no new tariffs and an easing of restrictions on tech company Huawei, providing some relief to businesses and financial markets. But analysts doubt the truce will lead to a sustained easing of tensions while lingering uncertainty could dampen corporate spending appetite and global growth.

"It's too early to turn optimistic. The two countries just kicked the can down the road and there's no knowing what could happen next," said Yoshiki Shinke, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute in Tokyo. "Global manufacturing activity hasn't hit bottom yet. US business

confidence, particularly that of manufacturers, has been weakening and if this continues, it may hurt economies across the world."

Factory activity in the eurozone shrank faster last month than previously thought, in a broad-based downturn, according to IHS Markit's Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which also suggested there would be no quick turnaround. Germany's export-dependent manufacturing sector contracted in June for the sixth time in a row, Italian activity declined for a ninth month and Spain's contracted at its fastest rate in more than six years.

France, the eurozone's second-biggest economy, bucked the trend and activity grew at its fastest pace in nine months. But against a backdrop of Brexit uncertainty and global trade tensions, British manufacturers suffered the sharpest fall in activity in more than six years, its PMI showed, adding to signs of economic weakness there.

"The global manufacturing sector has continued to deteriorate which will weigh on export orders," said Thomas Pugh at Capital Economics. In China, Asia's economic engine, the Caixin/IHS Markit PMI came in at 49.4, falling short of market expectations and the worst reading since January. It was the first time in four months the

keenly-watched index has fallen below the neutral 50-mark dividing expansion from contraction on a monthly basis.

Japan also saw manufacturing activity contract in June to hit a three-month low, offering fresh evidence of an economy under the pump as global demand weakens. Separately, a Bank of Japan (BOJ) survey showed big manufacturers' confidence hit a near three-year low, keeping its central bank under pressure to maintain or even ramp up a massive stimulus program.

In South Korea, factory activity shrank at the fastest pace in four months in June as the global trade slowdown deepened, prompting companies to cut production. Activity fell in Malaysia and Taiwan, a sign the US-China trade conflict's impact on the rest of Asia was broadening.

In India and Indonesia, where factories are less dependent on external demand for business, activity continued to grow albeit at a slower pace. Vietnam's factory activity expanded at faster rate although new orders rose at their slowest since February. The Southeast Asian economy has been a rare beneficiary of the trade war as manufacturers shift their Chinese operations there to sidestep US tariffs.

### Dwindling policy ammunition

The US-China trade war has hurt business sentiment, threatened to disrupt supply chains and jolted financial markets, drawing warnings by policymakers over the widening fallout on the global economy. International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde welcomed the resumption of trade talks between the two countries, but warned more needs to be done to resuscitate a global economy that had already hit a "rough patch".

Heightening worries over global growth have forced some central banks, such as those in Australia, New Zealand, India and Russia to cut interest rates. While G20 leaders said they stand ready to take further action to prop up growth, many major economies have little fiscal and monetary space to battle another recession.

Expectations of a US Federal Reserve interest rate cut have put pressure on the European Central Bank and the BOJ to follow suit, despite their dwindling options to arrest stalling growth. "If the Fed cuts rates, the BOJ and the ECB must do something more powerful to contain currency appreciation," said Sayuri Shirai, a former BOJ policymaker who is currently a professor at Japan's Keio University. — Reuters

## 'Good chance' for more US exports to Huawei: Trump aide

**WASHINGTON:** As the United States and China pursue trade talks, there is a "good chance" that more US firms will be granted licenses to sell products to controversial Chinese telecoms giant Huawei, White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow said yesterday.

Kudlow's comments came after President Donald Trump and China's Xi Jinping agreed on Saturday to a truce in their trade war, and Washington pledged to hold off on new tariffs while they negotiate. While Trump had signaled the softer position on Huawei, a sticking point in trade talks, by saying US companies could sell equipment "where there's no great national security problem," Kudlow added a bit of detail.

The senior Trump aide told "Fox News Sunday" that "there's a good chance the Commerce Department, Secretary (Wilbur) Ross, will open the door on that and grant new licenses." Trump told Fox News Channel's

"Tucker Carlson Tonight" that after meeting with Xi, he believes the two sides are closer to a trade deal. "We had a very good meeting. He wants to make a deal. I want to make a deal. Very big deal, probably, I guess, you'd say the largest deal ever made of any kind, not only trade," the president said, according to a transcript released by the channel.

The US has said it fears that systems built by Huawei—the world leader in telecom network equipment and number two smartphone supplier—could be used by China's government for espionage via built-in secret security "backdoors." Huawei has vigorously denied that, saying the US has never provided proof to substantiate it. Many US lawmakers, including Senate Republicans like Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, are concerned about any lifting of the effective ban against Huawei accessing crucial American technology or operating in the US market.

"If President Trump has agreed to reverse recent sanctions against Huawei, he has made a catastrophic mistake," Rubio tweeted Saturday. Kudlow emphasized that Huawei will remain on the so-called US Entity List-foreign companies and individuals that are subject to specific export and technology transfer licensing requirements.—AFP

## Dubai port operator acquires Topaz Energy for \$1.1bn

**DUBAI:** Dubai port and logistics giant DP World said yesterday it has acquired Topaz Energy and Marine, an offshore international vessel and marine logistics company for nearly \$1.1 billion. Dubai-based Topaz is a subsidiary of Renaissance, a publicly traded firm on Oman's Muscat stock exchange, with Standard Chartered Private Equity holding a minority stake.

Topaz operates a modern fleet of 117 vessels and operates mainly in the Caspian Sea, the Middle East and North Africa, and West Africa, DP World said in a statement. It has long-standing relationships with leading international energy firms like British Petroleum, Chevron, Dragon Oil and ExxonMobil among others. "We are pleased to announce the



acquisition of Topaz, which further strengthens DP World's position as a world-leading operator in maritime logistics services," said the CEO of DP World, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem. DP World is a global logistics provider and operates around 78 ports and terminals in 40 countries. — AFP



Business

# KES meeting discusses Kuwait's economic aspirations and goals

## Al-Roudhan cites significant reforms in Companies Law

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Economic Society (KES) hosted an open meeting at its headquarters in Bneid Al-Ghar on Sunday entitled "Economic Reality and Aspirations for the Business Environment" in which Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of Services Khaled Al-Roudhan attended as chief guest.

In his speech, the minister Al-Roudhan said, "This is an annual meeting to discuss economic issues of the country and hold consultations with the Kuwait Economic Society on our aspirations for the future of the country's economic development. The discussion is useful for the ministry during which we used to receive good observations and suggestions from experts in addition to the recommendations being made by the KES in a thoughtful manner," he said.

Regarding the new amendment of the Companies Law, he said that the new amendment allows Kuwaiti banks with branches across Europe to issue public offering in their overseas branches.

He noted that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has accomplished a series of significant legislative and regulatory improvements during the past three years helping Kuwait move up in Global Competitiveness Index. "The ministry's efforts came as a part of the government's efforts to realize the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial center. These achievements have been made following many seminars



**KUWAIT:** Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan speaks during the meeting. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



**KUWAIT:** A view of the participants attending the open meeting hosted by Kuwait Economic Society (KES) at its headquarters on Sunday.

and workshops," he pointed out. Roudhan noted that the Ministry has taken an important step in the development of the legislative structure by approving a series of laws. In this regard, the ministry adopted an inclusive approach that involved many relevant bodies, including public-benefit organizations, who presented their perceptions and views on the country's economic growth and development and pinpointed the problems they faced in coping with global challenges. The Ministry of Commerce has completed 12

projects in the area of mechanization. Also, six laws have been passed under the legislative reform program. "Nine other laws in legislative reform program are still underway, such as the amendment of the Family Businesses Law, Auditors Law, Amendment to the Competition Protection Law, Collective Financing Law, Civil Aviation Law, Electronic Commerce Law, Amendment to Import Law 1964, Law Establishing Kuwait Post, and the Law of Preventive Settlement, Restructuring and Bankruptcy Law," he said.

The minister said his department has "prepared" a law for audit practicing, noting auditors' key task is to screen financial data and ensure compliance of companies with the relevant laws. The draft law regulates consultancy and sets rules and criteria for auditors. The Kuwaiti government had issued, in coordination with the parliament, a number of financial, economic and investment laws, as part of the strategy to stay abreast of global economic developments.

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

## GDP set to rise as Kuwait looks to double gas output by FY2023/24

**KUWAIT:** Economic growth is stuck in a modest 1-3 percent range over the forecast period, slightly below the regional average. This reflects the large size of the oil sector where growth is capped by the recent OPEC+ agreement. Oil GDP will be lifted as Kuwait looks to almost double gas output by FY2023/24. The start-up of the Clean Fuels Project (2020) and Al-Zour refinery (2021) will nearly double refining capacity.

Non-oil growth will remain subdued due to fiscal pressures and slow pro-growth reforms. Non-oil growth is seen at 2.5-2.8 percent per year, with steady oil prices underpinning confidence and public spending rising albeit at a limited pace. Near-term prospects for consumer spending are decent with consumer loan growth at a five-year high of 11 percent y/y in April, supported in part by easing lending restrictions and employment growth. Project implementation could improve given an ample project pipeline, and a backlog from delays, and the government's commitment to capex under Vision 2035 goals. However, we do not expect much stronger non-oil growth absent progress on the reform agenda and larger fiscal stimulus.

Inflation is forecasted to remain low at 1-2 percent. Downside pressures are coming from housing rents, which showed renewed weakness in 1Q19, and food prices, which are impacted both by international prices and local subsidies. Core inflation is expected to hover at around 2 percent reflecting moderate economic growth, a strong dinar with respect to trade partner currencies, and the absence of taxes (VAT, Excise) or large subsidy cuts.

Kuwait would be included in MSCI emerging market index as of May 2020 conditional on meeting two conditions by November. This inclusion is expected to bring in about \$2.8 billion in passive inflows and an estimated \$7 billion in active inflows.

Budget to swing back into deficit

The fiscal balance could register its first surplus in four years in FY2018/19 mainly due to higher oil prices and weak spending. Assuming some rebound in spending this year, a swing back into deficit is likely. Although the government's financial reserves provide a large near-term cushion and debt levels are low, underlying fiscal pressures are rising due mainly to the absence of reforms to broaden the tax base, and continued pressures on spending including from further hiring in the public sector. We estimate assets in the General Reserve Fund - used to fund the budget shortfall - of KD 24 billion (60 percent of GDP) in March 2019 which can finance the cumulative (after transfers) budget deficit of KD 11 billion through FY2021/22 and pressure on reserves would be eased further if the new debt law is approved.

The external position by contrast is robust, with a large albeit declining current account surplus seen throughout the forecast period. As well as oil receipts, the surplus is supported by returns of around KD 5 billion (12 percent of GDP) per year on the government's assets held abroad. The financial account will see continued large net outflows, especially in the absence of sovereign debt issuance or stronger inward FDI. The latter stood at \$0.3 billion in 2018, reflecting Kuwait's low rank in measures of competitiveness and ease of doing business.

Credit growth has picked up

Credit growth has recovered, climbing back above 5 percent y/y so far this year after averaging 2.3 percent in 2018. We expect the trend to be broadly flat for the rest of this year, with stronger consumer lending more or less offset by a further cooling in housing loans. The central bank has used the flexibility of the dinar's peg to a currency basket to increase interest rates on just four out of (the US Fed's) nine. This in turn means that policy may be loosened less quickly when the cycle turns - thereby lowering the credit impact.

Outlook stable but challenges remain

Kuwait's large financial buffers provide a cushion against any possible adverse external shock. However, with budget deficits widening against an unstable oil price outlook, and in the absence of meaningful fiscal reforms that reduce current spending (the wage and subsidy bill) and lift revenues, savings in the GRF will dwindle and could be



depleted in the medium term. Foreign investors and credit rating agencies would view this unfavorably. Improving the business environment and boosting private sector growth to create jobs for the increasing number of young Kuwaitis entering the labor force would offset some of the risks and put Kuwait on a sustainable path.

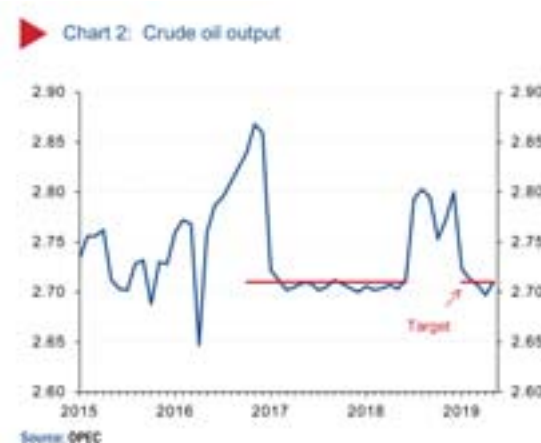


Table 1: Key economic indicators

		2017	2018	2019f	2020f	2021f
Nominal GDP	\$ bn	120	137	134	138	143
Real GDP	% y/y	-3.5	1.8	1.0	2.4	2.4
- Oil	% y/y	-7.2	1.2	-0.5	2.0	2.0
- Non-oil	% y/y	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8
Inflation	% y/y	1.5	0.6	1.0	1.5	2.0
Fiscal balance <sup>1</sup> (FY)	% of GDP	-9.0	2.0	-3.0	-4.0	-5.0
Public debt (FY)	% of GDP	20.0	14.8	12.7	14.5	16.3
Current account bal.	% of GDP	8.0	14.8	8.0	7.0	6.0

<sup>1</sup> Before transfers to the sovereign wealth fund

## Gulf Air increases direct Delhi service

**MANAMA:** Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, is set to increase its direct Delhi service from two to three daily flights starting from 9th July 2019. Strengthening relationship with Indian nationals residing in the Gulf region as well as supporting tourism between both nations, Gulf Air has provided direct air services between India and Bahrain since 1960, operating 75 weekly flights to eight destinations in India: Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin, Hyderabad, Calicut and Bangalore.

Commenting on the upcoming increase, Gulf Air's Chief Executive Officer, Kresimir Kucko said: "We are constantly developing strategies to satisfy the high demand to and from India and cater to our passengers' needs across the Gulf Air network. Gulf Air's increased Delhi frequency will enhance the existing Gulf Air service to one of our national carrier's eight destinations in India. With additional flights between Bahrain and Delhi we are offering enhanced schedule flexibility for our valued travelers while also creating improved connections for those travelling to and from Gulf Air's network of onwards destinations across the globe."

Gulf Air is well positioned to link regional travellers to Delhi while allowing seamless movement from the Indian city to several key regional and European destinations with excellent connectivity via Bahrain International Airport. The additional Delhi flights will take effect from 09th July 2019.



## EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.000
Euro	348.990
Sterling Pound	389.580
Canadian dollar	234.210
Turkish lira	53.810
Swiss Franc	314.860
US Dollar Buying	296.650
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.818
Indian Rupees	4.419
Pakistani Rupees	1.945
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.718
Nepali Rupees	2.750
Singapore Dollar	226.530
Hongkong Dollar	38.910
Bangladesh Taka	3.584
Philippine Peso	5.942
Thai Baht	9.930
Malaysian ringgit	77.779
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.121
Qatari Riyal	83.551
Omani Riyal	790.123
Bahraini Dinar	807.760
UAE Dirham	82.823
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.219
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	108.960
Jordanian Dinar	429.530
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.513

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.640
Canadian Dollar	231.025
Sterling Pound	386.455
Euro	346.375
Swiss Franc	298.070
Bahraini Dinar	807.490
UAE Dirhams	83.070
Qatari Riyals	84.310
Saudi Riyals	81.865
Jordanian Dinar	429.550
Egyptian Pound	18.210
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.719
Indian Rupees	4.379
Pakistani Rupees	1.933
Bangladesh Taka	3.596
Philippines Pess0	5.904
Cyprus pound	18.065
Japanese Yen	3.825
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.739
Malaysian Ringgit	74.225
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.515
Thai Bhat	10.825
Turkish Lira	52.785
Singapore dollars	222.971

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.378630	0.392530
Czech Korune	0.005595	0.014895
Danish Krone	0.042305	0.047305
Euro	0.338369	0.353069
Georgian Lari	0.131870	0.131870
Hungarian	0.001146	0.001336
Norwegian Krone	0.031673	0.036873
Romanian Leu	0.065123	0.081973
Russian ruble	0.004849	0.004849
Slovakia	0.009081	0.019081
Swedish Krona	0.028782	0.033782

Swiss Franc	0.304695	0.316695
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.204947	0.216947
New Zealand Dollar	0.198424	0.207924
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.226730	0.235730
US Dollars	0.299900	0.305200
US Dollars Mint	0.300400	0.306200
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003002	0.003803
Chinese Yuan	0.042713	0.046213
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036985	0.039735
Indian Rupee	0.003783	0.004555
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002731	0.002911
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070066	0.076066
Nepalese Rupee	0.002674	0.003014
Pakistani Rupee	0.001398	0.002168
Philippine Peso	0.005821	0.006121
Singapore Dollar	0.219368	0.229368
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001349	0.001929
Taiwan	0.009976	0.010156
Thai Baht	0.009571	0.010121
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.791796	0.808296
Egyptian Pound	0.018609	0.021969
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000209	0.000269
Jordanian Dinar	0.423866	0.432866
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021330	0.045330
Omani Riyal	0.783292	0.788972
Qatar Riyal	0.079234	0.084174
Saudi Riyal	0.079980	0.081280
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.102936	0.110936
Turkish Lira	0.046211	0.056056
UAE Dirhams	0.081343	0.083043
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068



## Business

# Ooredoo launches exclusive Shamel offers in Avenues

## Offer in collaboration with Apple premium reseller Gait

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, in collaboration with Apple premium reseller Gait, launched exclusive Shamel offers in Phase 4 of the Avenues Mall yesterday in which customers of the Gait store who purchase any new device can avail a special offer in collaboration with Ooredoo, giving customers up to 4 months of free services with Shamel Mobile, Ooredoo's post-paid plan. Shamel includes a number of exclusive perks and benefits, such as unlimited internet, unlimited minutes, and roaming minutes and internet, in addition to the ability to freeze contracts during travel, transferring contracts to new owners flexibly, and purchasing new devices on installments with the same contract.

Mijbil Al-Ayoub, Corporate Communications Senior Director at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "We are proud to collaborate Gait in bringing a joint product that aims to enrich the experience of customers, underscoring the two companies' joint interest in delivering products that enable people to a better digital experience. Ooredoo also reiterated its ongoing interest in expanding its portfolio of services by collaborating with like-minded entities that are in alignment with the leading telecom provider's mission."



Mijbil Al-Ayoub



## Global stocks rally on Trump-Xi breakthrough

LONDON: Stock markets surged yesterday after US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping agreed on the sidelines of the G20 summit to restart trade talks, reviving hopes of an end to their tariff war. Trump's historic visit to North Korea also at the weekend, where he met leader Kim Jong Un, further soothed geopolitical concerns and propelled the dollar, as investors shunned havens, notably gold.

Oil prices also rallied after OPEC and its oil producing allies appeared firmly on course to extend their oil output caps. "European markets are uniformly higher, particularly the heavily China-exposed DAX" index in Frankfurt, noted Fiona Cincotta, a senior market analyst at City Index trading group.

Oil prices jumped yesterday as OPEC nations moved towards extending daily oil output caps that help the price of crude rise strongly this year.

Ministers from the 14-nation Organization of the Petroleum

Exporting Countries (OPEC) were meeting in Vienna yesterday to discuss output, before gathering a day later for OPEC+ — which is a grouping of 24 oil-producing countries that includes Russia and accounts for almost half of global crude.

"Everyone supported the proposition to extend for nine months the limits agreed in December," Novak said after a gathering of oil ministers and before the cartel's main meeting later yesterday.

German stocks were supported also by official data showing unemployment in Germany held steady in June. US stocks were also solidly higher, with the DJIA index gaining 250 points at the opening bell.

### 'Nicely higher'

"US stocks are nicely higher in early action to begin the third quarter, with global markets rallying on the weekend's G20 summit in Japan that delivered a trade truce between the US and China that agreed to hold off on implementing further tariffs," analysts at Charles Schwab said. Trump said negotiations to resolve the standoff between the US and China—the world's two biggest economies—were "back on track", adding that he would hold off imposing threatened new levies on Chinese goods. Trump also signalled a softer position on Chinese telecom giant Huawei, a major bone of contention in the row, by saying US com-



VIENNA: Journalists interview oil Ministers on the sidelines of the 176th meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) conference and the 6th meeting of the OPEC and non-OPEC countries yesterday in Vienna, Austria. —AFP

panies could sell equipment "where there's no great national security problem". China meanwhile pledged to buy more US agricultural machinery.

### 'Exhausted sigh'

The news was welcome after Trump sparked volatility on markets in early May with his shock decision to hit China with new tariffs and halt talks that had seemed to be nearing a positive end. "Investors heaved a massive, but exhausted, sigh of relief that both the US and China opted to push the

reset button and restart trade negotiations amidst other pleasantries—now we'll have to see whether it all sticks," said Stephen Innes at Vanguard Markets. Elsewhere yesterday, the WTI oil price jumped back above \$60 per barrel after OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia and non-cartel producer Russia said they would extend caps on crude output.

WTI, the New York benchmark, climbed above \$60 for the first time since the end of May, before easing back a little. —AFP

## Zimbabwe to allow US dollar cash withdrawals from some accounts

HARARE: Zimbabweans will be allowed to withdraw up to 1,000 US dollars in cash a day from foreign currency accounts, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said yesterday, as the country prepares to relaunch its own currency after a decade of dollarization.

The surprise announcement will ease fears that the central bank might raid foreign currency accounts, as happened during Robert Mugabe's rule in 2008. Central bank governor John Mangudya said people and companies in Zimbabwe currently hold \$1.3 billion in foreign currency accounts.

Mangudya told a parliament committee that individuals would be allowed to withdraw up to \$1,000 a

day from their foreign currency accounts without restrictions but that companies would have to talk to their banks if they needed cash dollars. The southern African nation, whose crops were scorched by a drought this year, is in the grip of foreign currency and fuel shortages and daily electricity cuts lasting up to 15 hours. President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who replaced longtime leader Mugabe after an army coup in November 2017, is trying to repair an economy ruined by hyperinflation and a long succession of failed economic interventions. In May, his government agreed a staff-monitored program with the International Monetary Fund to help Zimbabwe implement coherent economic policies.

But a hoped-for turnaround is yet to materialize, and many Zimbabweans are distrustful of Mnangagwa's promises. Last week, the government renamed its interim currency, the RTGS dollar, the Zimbabwe dollar and made it the country's sole legal tender, ending a decade of dollarization and taking another step towards relaunching a fully-fledged currency. Mangudya said on Monday the country will initially print 400 million Zimbabwe dollars, to be

gradually introduced into circulation to plug the gap left by the end of dollarization.

### Fearful

Ncube had earlier told the same committee that individuals would be allowed to withdraw US dollars in cash from their foreign currency accounts. He defended the surprise manner of the announcement and promised that Zimbabwe would not fall into money-printing of the kind that caused hyperinflation in 2008. With inflation close to 100 percent last month and desperate levels of unemployment, Zimbabweans are impatient for progress but are fearful that abandoning dollarization will cause a new surge in prices. Unions are threatening strikes if Mnangagwa's government does not overturn the policy.

More than 80 percent of Zimbabweans are paid in RTGS dollars but many goods and services are priced in other currencies. "What we have is fiscal discipline of the highest quality," Ncube said, adding that the national treasury had been running monthly budget surpluses and would raise public sector salaries this month. — Reuters

## AUB launches a 'fee-free' money transfer campaign

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank has announced that it will launch a "fee-free" international money transfer campaign at ease and security at competitive transfer rates when making the transfers through the Bank's mobile application or online banking service. The campaign continues during July and August 2019.

This campaign aims at providing the best offers to the Bank's customers by exempting them from paying any fees for the transfers of funds. This campaign also aims to encourage customers to use the digital banking channels to make their banking transactions, which is part of the Bank's plan for the digital transformation.

On this occasion, Ranjan Sen, General Manager Retail Banking at AUB said in



view of the large number of expats in Kuwait and the advent of the travel season, funds transfer service all over the world has become a constant and urgent need within the market. The launch of this campaign is aimed at providing a competitive advantage to AUB money transfer service by using the mobile application or our online banking service which is reflected in improving customer service levels by moving towards a new era of digital technology. Sen pointed out that AUB customers can benefit from this service during the campaign period by making their fund transfers using the Bank's mobile application or online banking service, adding that AUB is keen to create innovative solutions to provide the best services to its customers.

## BIS urges central banks to 'conserve fuel'

ZURICH: The Bank of International Settlements yesterday called on countries to lighten pressure on the world's central banks and to conserve fuel in case of more serious economic downturns ahead. Presenting the annual report of the Basel-based BIS, considered the central bank for central banks, chief Augustin Carstens warned that a number of factors were weighing on global growth and that "the slowdown appears to be worsening and spreading". The recovery after the 2007-2008 global financial crisis has relied heavily on central banks using extraordinary monetary policies to restore and fuel growth.

But Carstens warned that "we have seen a slowdown in the pace of expansion since last year." "While the near-term outlook is still good, there are many vulnerabilities further out," he said, stressing the importance of "conserving some fuel to cope with possible head-

winds." The BIS pointed to a number of challenges currently facing the global economy, including swelling debt levels and the ongoing trade tensions, largely attributed to US President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff policies.

"That's probably the main factor that is reducing global economic growth," Carstens said in an interview. "Even though in a narrow sense they are concentrated in issues between a couple of countries - China, the US - they have an indirect effect in pretty much all the world economy," he said.

### 'Trade wars have no winners'

"Trade wars have no winners, only losers," he stressed in his presentation. Carstens insisted that to ensure smooth sailing going forward, countries could not rely solely on the monetary policies put in place by central banks. "A better mix is required between monetary policy, fiscal policy, macroprudential measures and structural reforms," he said. The BIS has repeatedly urged governments to put in place true structural reforms, and has long warned that after a decade of extraordinary monetary policies, central banks have limited space to manoeuvre to boost economies. — AFP

### Oxford Business Group Analysis

## The entertainment and leisure developments driving Kuwait's real estate expansion

KUWAIT: In mid-May the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects announced it had shortlisted six local developers and consortia to submit proposals for the construction of an entertainment and commercial center. This will be located in the district of Egaila, just south of Kuwait City.

The project, which will be part of a 30-year public-private partnership deal, consists of an 85,500-sq-metre entertainment, cultural, commercial and sports venue. The complex has a gross leasable area of 65,500 sq meters, and includes a 20,000-sq-metre fresh food market and a 2680-unit car park. The successful bidder is expected to be announced in the fourth quarter of this year.

### New developments in the pipeline

Other projects under development include the 380,900-sq-metre Assima mixed-use project in Kuwait City. Owned by local firm Salhia Real Estate Company, the project consists of three main sections: the Assima Mall, which will feature 72,000 sq meters of retail space; the 54-storey Assima Tower, with more than 150 offices; and the Assima Residence, a set of 170 high-end apartments to be developed by Marriott.

The shopping mall, of which 62 percent of the retail space had been leased by late February, is expected to open for business in February 2020. The apartments will follow six months later and the office space in early 2021. Another addition to the country's leisure options will be the KD250 million (\$823.2 million) Al-Khiran project, being developed by the Tamdeen Group.

Located in Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City in the south of Kuwait, the 116,000-sq-metre project incorporates the country's largest marina as well as a mall, entertainment facilities, a five-star hotel and commercial office space. The project will also support the planned development of substantial new residential stock, with homes for some 150,000 people to be constructed in the Sea City area.

### Market sales strong despite investment segment fall

The expected entry of new real estate stock comes amid strong performances and growing interest in the sector. In the fourth quarter of last year real estate sales increased by 91 percent year-on-year (y-o-y) to KD 1 billion (\$3.3 billion), the highest level in four years, according to the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK).

Reflecting this positive trend, quarterly average sales in the sector reached KD 849.1 million (\$2.8 billion) last year, far higher than the KD 543.6 million (\$1.8 billion) and KD 584 million (\$1.9 billion) recorded in the previous two years, respectively.

This momentum appears to have carried over into the beginning of this year. Although first quarter sales moderated from the previous period's result, they still recorded y-o-y growth of 2.8 percent to total KD789 million (\$2.6 billion). However, while y-o-y growth in the commercial and residential segments was strong in the first quarter, at 46.4 percent and 26.2 percent, respectively, the market suffered from a 30.5 percent y-o-y reduction in the investment segment, which consists of apartments and apartment buildings. The NBK said that the slower demand was likely due to a decline in immigration, along with the increasing amount of supply set to enter the market. There is a possibility that going forward it could drive down apartment prices and put a strain on the market, given the major projects in the pipeline.

### Real estate to boost broader economic plan

The development of real estate projects with a strong focus on entertainment and leisure is a key aspect of the government's overarching economic strategy. The flagship Northern Gulf Gateway development project, unveiled in March last year, aims to add \$220 billion to Kuwait's GDP by 2035 through the development of the non-oil sector. Officials pointed to the tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors, among others, as having significant growth potential. — Oxford Business Group



## Business

# NBK Capital wins 'Best Investment Bank in Kuwait' at 2019 Euromoney awards

## Euromoney highlights NBK Capital's business model of customer satisfaction

**KUWAIT:** Euromoney International has awarded NBK Capital the "Best Investment Bank in Kuwait" award at the 2019 Euromoney Excellence Awards held in Dubai.

Euromoney has chosen NBK Capital as the best investment bank in Kuwait for 2019 based on a number of criteria set by financial services experts, including the number and volume of transactions, services and consultancy provided, distribution network, efforts to meet market conditions, innovation, pricing, and reputation in the market. Euromoney highlighted NBK Capital's business model of customer satisfaction through providing products and tools tailored to meet customer requirements as well as achieving their short- and long-term objectives. This model based on clear transparency criteria and a mutual agreement between the client and Firm's officials on risk levels, which has made the Firm one of the largest and most important investment companies in the region.

Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO of NBK Capital said: "This international recognition by Euromoney is a testament to the ability and efficiency of the Investment Banking team to offer customized financial advisory services that provide our growing network of top-tier clients with innovative, tailored solutions that promote and sustain capital growth."

"This award comes as a result of NBK Capital's successful completion of several investment banking transactions last year. It reflects constant efforts, continuous work and an in-depth understanding of our clients' needs and growth requirements. We believe that each client has unique requirements; therefore, at NBK Capital we match specific needs with innovative solutions to meet imminent, mid and long-term strategic goals. In addition to the Investment Banking team's keenness to meet these needs through specialized expertise and flexibility in adapting to market variables, in order to achieve the best possible value for our clients, is what currently supports our instilled values," he added. Rani Selwanes, Managing Director and

## NBK CAPITAL

● *Al-Hamad: A testament to our ability to offer customized financial advisory services with innovative solutions that promote and sustain capital growth for our clients*

● *Selwanes: The award signifies our ability to achieve our clients' growth objectives, supported by NBK Capital's long-term professional experience, unrivalled expertise and a proven track record*

Head of Investment Banking at NBK Capital commented: "This award is a testimony to our continuous growth, and unrivalled dedication of the investment banking team to meet all clients' requirements."

"This international recognition underlines the leading position of NBK Capital's Investment Banking expertise locally and regionally in advising clients across the full range of investment banking services including: financing advisory, debt capital markets, equity capital markets,



M&A advisory, and other advisory services." Mr. Selwanes further added, "This award is a proof of our clients' confidence in our ability to overachieve their investment objectives, based on long-term professional experience and a proven track record," Selwanes added.

The Euromoney Awards for the Middle East have been a key part of the Euromoney Global Excellence Program Awards since the establishment of the awards in 1992 and are the most important benchmark for key financial services companies in the region.

## VIVA partners with leading entertainment platform STARZPLAY

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the Direct Carrier Billing with STARZPLAY, the region's leading SVOD (subscription on demand) entertainment platform. The new service allows VIVA's postpaid and prepaid customers to purchase movies and TV shows without a credit card. All purchases will be charged directly to customers' monthly bills or prepaid accounts, providing a convenient and faster payment option. A signing ceremony was held recently at VIVA headquarters on between VIVA and STARZPLAY.

Commenting on the partnership, Haneen Al-Fulajj, Acting Chief Consumer Officer at VIVA said: "We strive at VIVA to provide our customers with the latest products and services, thus we built this partnership with STARZPLAY to come up with an innovative service that offers ease and convenience."

Danny Bates, Chief Commercial Officer and Co-Founder at STARZPLAY, added: "This latest tie-up with VIVA demonstrates three things - our commitment to the Kuwait market, our unwavering focus on the customer and the importance of partnerships for STARZPLAY as a business as we continue to expand across the MENA region and beyond." He added: "We look forward to working closely with VIVA to ensure we are providing its customers with exactly what they are looking for - unrivalled content with flexible payment options, making their lives easier."

STARZPLAY is a subscription video on demand (SVOD) service that streams thousands of blockbuster Hollywood movies, TV shows, documentaries, kid's entertainment and same-day-as-the-US series - plus dedicated Arabic and Bollywood content - to 21 countries across the Middle East and North Africa.

It utilizes advanced technology to provide a premium viewing experience with full HD and 4K content sourced from some of the most important studios in the entertainment business, such as 20th Century Fox, CBS, Disney, Lionsgate, Paramount, Showtime, Sony, Starz, Universal and Warner Bros. STARZPLAY also delivers amazing value - for a low monthly fee subscribers can enjoy unlimited ad-free access to a wide choice of entertainment. Developed exclusively for the MENA region, STARZPLAY features one-click Arabic subtitling plus Arabic and French audio options.

Additionally, the service allows customers to watch anytime, anywhere on an iOS or Android device, supports Mac and Windows browsers, and streams via Apple TV, Chromecast, a PS4 console or directly to a Samsung smart TV. Available on regional IPTV services, STARZPLAY is continually adding support for numerous other gaming and smart devices, and allows downloads for offline playback. For the ultimate convenience STARZPLAY also offers new subscribers a free trial as well as abroad range of payment methods including credit card and mobile operator billing, with a 'no contracts - cancel anytime' proposition.



## Turkish Airlines' first Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner is in the air

**KUWAIT:** Turkish Airlines has announced that up to 30 new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft will join the airlines' young and fast-growing fleet over the next four years, and each will feature the carrier's bespoke, all-new Business Class cabins. The Turkish national flag carrier had placed 25 firm + 5 optional orders in last year for the 787-9 Dreamliner, which will be gradually added to its expanding fleet - the youngest in the world - between 2019 and 2023.

Regarded as one of the most advanced aircraft for its fuel efficiency and range flexibility, the 787-9 Dreamliner will open new routes for Turkish Airlines, reinforcing its status as the carrier that flies to more countries than any other. The new aircraft will offer passengers refined comfort during the longest journeys across 311 destinations in 124 countries.

As part of the 787 Dreamliner family, the 787-9 is powered by a suite of new technologies and a revolutionary design. It can fly 7,635 nautical miles (14,140 km) in addition to carrying more cargo and allowing the airline to profitably grow its routes. The airplane allows operators to achieve better fuel efficiency per seat compared to the previous airplanes in its class. Turkish Airlines' Dreamliner has a seating capacity for 300 passengers, including 270 economy class seats and 30 business class seats. The carrier's 787 includes long haul economy class seats and business class monuments produced in Turkey by Turkish suppliers.

Within a spacious wide-body cabin featuring larger overhead luggage bins and extra-large windows, dimmable LED window shades give greater control over light entering the cabin. A new filtration, better air pressure and greater humidity helps passengers feel less dryness and reduces fatigue. Meanwhile, the engines, interior, systems, and equipment all feature vibration isolation to create a quieter on-board experience. The modern cabins provide the perfect setting to enjoy Turkish Airlines' award-



winning on-board dining and in-flight entertainment. For Business Class passengers, the 787-9 Dreamliner elevates this experience even higher. The Dreamliners feature 30 exceptional, all-new Business Class seats, offering unique in-flight experience. The lighting scenarios are drawing inspiration from the colorful sunsets of Turkey's central Cappadocia region and idyllic turquoise beaches, a modern, traveller-friendly 1-2-1 layout offers all aisle access to Business Class passengers, enhanced privacy panels, personal closed storage space, self-care mirror and wide cocktail table maximizes space to offer ultimate comfort and introduces a privileged experience. Forty-four-inch legroom and a 180° full flat 76-inch seat bed length are provided for each of the 30 seats. Increased seclusion comes from the adjustable privacy panel between the paired middle seats and newly designed seat shell, while an 18-inch HD video display and touch-screen remote control raise the entertainment offering. Suede-like alcantara padding - commonly found in sports cars-, used for the interior trimming of each Business Class seat, adding another welcome touch of luxury and refinement.

Produced by local and national Turkish suppliers, Economy class seat offers Turkish Airlines passengers a pleasant journey with 12 inch HD screens in first 6 aircrafts and 13 inch HD screens after, new functional literature pocket design, 6 inch recline and 31 inch legroom. "Turkish Airlines has been committed to continuously expanding its range of services on and off-ground as it grows in reach and fly to more international destinations than any other carrier in the world. With this goal in mind, we're thrilled to reach new horizons with the addition of the 787-9



Dreamliner to our fleet flying from our new home, Istanbul Airport," said M Ilker Ayçi, Turkish Airlines' Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee. "The aircraft's advanced technology, fuel efficiency, and passenger-centric cabin design will all help us remain the first choice for travellers and provide our loyal flyers across the globe with a best-in-class experience for years to come."

"Turkish Airlines' growth has been remarkable in recent years, both in expanding flight options and supporting Turkey's aviation industry. We are honored that Turkish Airlines is embarking on its next chapter of expansion with the 787 Dreamliner," said Hsane Mounir, Senior Vice President of Commercial Sales and Marketing for The Boeing Company. "We are confident that the Dreamliner's unmatched fuel efficiency, performance and passenger-pleasing comforts will contribute to the airline's reputation as a five-star airline."

The first 787-9 Dreamliner flight will depart from the new home of Turkish Airlines, Istanbul Airport, to Antalya on July 8th 2019, and its first international flight will be from Istanbul to Denpasar (Bali) on July 17, one of the new routes to be added to the network for 2019. Following those, it will continue to carry passengers on a number of medium and long-haul exotic routes through the summer. They include routes into London, Dubai, Washington DC, New York, Atlanta, Mexico City, Cancun, Bali, Amsterdam, Delhi, Panama City, and Bogota. By the end of August 2019, six 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft will be operational and servicing international routes, heralding the start of a new chapter in the growth of Turkish Airlines' young and modern fleet.

## KAMCO GCC Markets Monthly Report

### Financial markets remain bullish in H1 despite trade tensions

**KUWAIT:** Financial markets across the globe remained largely positive during IH-19 with almost all asset classes showing positive returns since the start of the year. This was also one of the best ever first half performances, as investors across the globe remained optimistic. US equities was the best performing major market with a return of 17.3 percent, while Europe (ex-UK) witnessed a growth of 14.9 percent. The overall developed markets surged 15.6 percent since the start of the year resulting in the MSCI World Index gaining 14.9 percent.

Commodities were not far behind, recording a gain of 13.3 percent with the Gold index up 10 percent while Brent crude surged more than 20 percent since the start of the year. The surge in oil prices came despite worries in terms of oversupply as well as demand witnessing some cutbacks.

The US China trade war dominated news flow during the year and affected markets during May-19 when talks were inconclusive. However, this did not stop Chinese equity markets from gaining 19.4 percent this year. Nevertheless, according to latest data, the economic growth in the US has stabilized while Fed interest rates are expected to be slashed next month for the first time since the financial crisis following dovish tone from the US Federal Reserve in its June policy statement. This pushed yield on the benchmark 10-year treasury bond below 2 percent for the first time since the end of 2016.

Unlike 2018 performance, GCC markets remained

largely connected with the rest of the world during IH-19. However, a number of region specific issues affected the growth in the GCC, especially limiting growth during May-19 when the aggregate region dropped more than 5 percent. Kuwait remained the best performing market in the GCC for most part of the year recording 21 percent surge in its large cap Premier Market Index and 14.8 percent surge in its All Share Index for IH-19 primarily due to the tailwind from expectations of an MSCI upgrade which did happen during the last week of June-19.

#### Kuwait

Kuwaiti indices remained upbeat during June-19 as investors awaited the MSCI decision to upgrade the country's status from Frontier Markets to Emerging Market. The decision was favorable as MSCI upgraded Kuwait to Emerging Market provided the country implements omnibus account structures and that same national investor number cross trades be made available for international institutional investors before the end of November 2019. The upgrade had boosted trading activity on the exchange as it is expected to attract more than \$2 billion in additional passive investment in Kuwaiti stocks. This was reflected in IH-19 trading activity on the exchange with volumes increasing by 116 percent to 18.7 billion shares as compared to 8.6 billion shares in IH-18 while value traded increased at an even higher pace of 166 percent to reach KD 3.8 billion in IH-19 as compared to KD 1.44 billion during IH-18. Average daily trading during IH-19 stood at KD 31.8 billion as compared to KD 11.7 billion during IH-18.

All the three Kuwaiti benchmarks gained during June-19 with the Premier Market Index gaining 2.2 percent while the Main Market Index gained marginally by 0.6 percent resulting in a 1.8 percent gain for the All Share Index. Large-cap stocks were the main beneficiary of the upgrade as seen from the 21.1 percent gain in the Premier Market Index during IH-19 while the Main Market Index

was almost flat with a marginal gain of 0.6 percent. The All Share Index gained 14.8 percent in IH-19 as the 19 stocks in the Premier Market Index accounted for the bulk of the market in terms of market cap (73 percent) and trading activity (84 percent of IH-19 value traded).

On the sectoral front, the monthly performance was topped by the Consumer Goods sector with a gain of 12.0 percent followed by a distant second Banking index with a gain of 2.6 percent. The monthly market breadth was equally split with 71 gainers and 72 decliners while prices of 33 companies remained flat during the month. The two sectors (Banking and Consumer Goods) were also the best performing in terms of IH-19 returns with the Banking index topping the chart with a gain of 23.9 percent while the Consumer Goods benchmark gained 18.9 percent. On the decliner's side, the Technology index witnessed the steepest decline both for IH-19 and June-19 at -20.8 percent and -11.3 percent, respectively.

Prominent gainers during the year included National Investments (+33.3 percent), Burgan Bank (+32.2 percent) and Jazeera Airways (+30.8 percent). On the other hand, decliners since the start of the year mostly included small cap stocks. In terms of monthly share performance, Wethaq Takaful topped the chart in June-19 with a gain of 27.8 percent followed by Manazel Holding and Al-Eid Food with gains of 27.3 percent and 24.4 percent, respectively.

On the decliners side, IFA Hotels & Resorts topped with a decline of 27.4 percent followed by Al-Mal Investment and National International Holding with monthly declines of 20.2 percent and 19.2 percent, respectively.

Saudi Arabia recovered from last month's decline to report the best monthly performance during June-19 with TASI gaining 3.6 percent during the month. The benchmark broke the critical 9,000 mark at the end of only one trading session during the month after investors started buying post the Eid holidays. However, investor sentiments were shaken after geopolitical tensions flared up post the tanker attacks during mid-month.



Health & Science

# Insect apocalypse: German bug watchers sound alarm

Described as one of Earth's worst extinction phases since the dinosaurs

**KREFELD:** For almost 30 years they passed as quirky eccentrics, diligently setting up their insect traps in the Rhine countryside to collect tens of millions of bugs and creepy crawlers. Now the group of German entomology enthusiasts can boast a world-class scientific treasure: evidence of what is described as one of Earth's worst extinction phases since the dinosaurs vanished.

Insects, which comprise two thirds of all terrestrial species, have been dying off at alarming rates, with disastrous impacts on food chains and habitats, researchers say. The home of the Amateur Entomology Society of Krefeld on the Dutch border is a former school building where thick curtains block out the sunlight. Inside in glass cabinets are stored thousands of butterflies, their wings bleached by time, along with exotic fist-sized beetles and dragonflies, brought back from around the world by amateur collectors.

**Treasure trove**

Traditionally "entomology was mainly about drying and collecting rare specimens," says the society's president Martin Sorg, wearing John Lennon-style glasses, a multi-pocket jacket and sandals. He and an army of volunteers have over the years gathered as many as 80 million insects that are now floating in countless ethanol bottles.

Each bottle contains the amount caught by a single insect trap over a set period, and each box represents a collection of such catches over nearly three decades. "Since 1982, the traps we manufacture ourselves have been standardized and controlled, all of the same size and the same material, and they are collected at the same rate in 63 locations that are still identical," explains Sorg. The result is a treasure trove of quantitative data that dwarfs that of any funded university project, he says. But if he is visibly proud of the society's research, the outcome terrifies him: in the test period, the total biomass of flying insects here has plummeted by 76 percent.

**Quaint Sunday hobby**

To demonstrate the rapid decline, a lab technician holds up two bottles: one from 1994 contains 1,400 grams of trapped insects, the newest one just 300 grams. "We only became aware of the seriousness of this decline in 2011, and every year since then we have seen it get worse," says Sorg, the man who sounded the alarm. At the time, the news didn't make major waves outside ecological circles.

Concern about biodiversity loss focused mostly on large charismatic mammal species, and environmental monitoring such as that in Krefeld was considered a quaint Sunday hobby, largely ignored by the scientific community. Also in 2011, just across the Dutch border, ecology professor Hans de Kroon was working on the decline of birds in the region. He hypothesized that the birds suffered from a shortage of food, especially insects, but had no data to prove it. "Then our German colleagues from Krefeld got in touch and said, 'we have the data, we've witnessed a strong decline, we are very concerned, could you analyze the data?'. 'That's how it all started.'"

**'Point of no return'**

In the search for the cause, the landscape around Krefeld provides some clues. In the distance, industrial chimneys billow smoke. On one side of the road lies a protected nature reserve. On the other, a sugar beet field is being sprayed with pesticides by an agricultural machine. "You see, protected reserves are not so protected," says Sorg.

Across the border, Kroon says, "we must realize that here in western Europe our nature is getting smaller, the agriculture fields are very hostile to insects. There is no food, they get poisoned. 'And nature areas are also more and more isolated. Insects can't move from one place to another, it's too far away.' Although the exact cause for the die-off is not yet clear, he says, "the cause is anthropogenic, there's no doubt about it. 'It is our



**KREFELD:** Long-standing member of the volunteer-run Entomology Society, Heinz Schwan, edits a sample of insects from an insect trap on May 9, 2019 at the group's home. — AFP

greatest fear that a point of no return will be reached, which will lead to a permanent loss of diversity."

The Krefeld research played a central role in a meta-study published by Francisco Sanchez-Bayo and Kris Wyckhuys from the Australian universities of Sydney and Queensland. In February, they published the first synthesis of 73 studies on entomological fauna around the world over the past 40 years, listing places from Costa Rica to southern France. They calculated that over 40 percent of insect species are threatened with extinction, and each

year about one percent is added to the list.

This is equivalent, they noted, to "the most massive extinction episode" since the dinosaurs disappeared. The main drivers appeared to be habitat loss and land conversion to intensive agriculture and urbanization, followed by pollution, mainly from pesticides and fertilizers, invasive species and climate change. "The conclusion is clear," they wrote. "Unless we change our ways of producing food, insects as a whole will go down the path of extinction in a few decades." — AFP

## Warming to slash equivalent of 80m jobs by 2030: UN

**GENEVA:** As climate change worsens, growing heat stress on workers in agriculture and other sectors will cause a productivity loss equal to 80 million full-time jobs over the next decade, the UN warned yesterday. A report from the International Labor Organization estimated that in 2030, 2.2 percent of total working hours worldwide will be lost because of higher temperatures.

The percentage is expected to be more than double that in the hardest-hit regions, western Africa and southern Asia, according to the report "Working on a warmer planet: The impact of heat stress on labor productivity". This represents an economic losses totaling 1.4 percent of global gross domestic product, or \$2.4 trillion (2.1 trillion euros), ILO said. "This is roughly equivalent to the size of the United Kingdom economy," Catherine Saget, a co-author of the report, told reporters.

The UN labor body stressed that this is "a conservative estimate", since it is based on assumptions that warming will be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Current estimates suggest that the planet could see warming double that amount. ILO's findings also assume that work in agriculture and construction — the two industries most affected by heat stress — can be carried out in the shade, which is obviously not always the case.



**KIEV:** Policemen look at their smartphones as they rest in the shadow during the heatwave in the center of the Ukrainian capital. — AFP

**'Dramatic consequences'**

"Even in the best-case scenario, heat stress will lead to dramatic consequences for employers and for workers, local economies and even the global economy," Saget said. Heat stress refers to heat in excess of what the body can tolerate without suffering physiological impairment, and usually occurs at temperatures over 35 degrees Celsius, in high humidity. "Excess heat during work is an occupational health risk," ILO said, pointing out that it can restrict a worker's physical capabilities, capacity and thus productivity.

At very high temperatures, workers also risk suffering heatstroke, which can be deadly. Yesterday's report came as Europe continued to sizzle in a weeklong heatwave, which has officially claimed eight lives,

including a 17-year-old harvest worker and a 33-year-old roofer. ILO economist Nicolas Maitre said that while southern Asia and western Africa would suffer most from growing heat stress, Europe should not expect to be spared.

"We should expect to see more and more heatwaves like the one we have seen recently, more and more frequent, and more and more intense," he told reporters. While workers in all sectors can see their productivity drop when the mercury climbs, agriculture is expected to be the worst hit. Today, some 940 million people work in agriculture, which is expected to account for about 60 percent of global working hours lost by 2030, the ILO report found. — AFP

## India asks states not to partner with Philip Morris-funded foundation

**NEW DELHI:** India's health ministry has asked all state governments in the country not to partner with the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (FSFW) because of its links to tobacco giant Philip Morris International Inc, a letter seen by Reuters showed. Established in 2017, the FSFW focuses on eliminating usage of cigarettes and works towards smoking cessation using new technologies and alternative products. It says it works independently, but the World Health Organization (WHO) has said there are "clear conflicts" due to the \$80 million in annual funding the foundation receives from Philip Morris.

At least three Indian anti-tobacco groups earlier this year wrote to the federal health ministry in New Delhi calling for the rejection of any possible partnerships with FSFW, according to copies of their representations seen by Reuters. India's federal health ministry has sent a letter, dated June 24, to chief secretaries of all states, saying they should not partner with FSFW and also advised other departments and institutions in their region accordingly.

The ministry said Philip Morris was funding FSFW as well as manufacturing and promoting harm-reduction smoking devices. Reuters has previously reported Philip Morris has plans to launch its IQOS smoking device in India which it says is less harmful than conventional

cigarettes. "Any collaboration with the Foundation for a Smoke Free World should be avoided in the larger interest of Public Health," senior health ministry official, Sanjeeva Kumar, wrote in the letter, which was reviewed by Reuters.

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World, which is led by former WHO official Dr Derek Yach, said it "operates with complete independence from Philip Morris" and was committed to full transparency about who its funders were. Philip Morris, which has a stated longer-term vision to replace cigarette sales with products such as its IQOS device, in a statement said FSFW was "an independent body governed by its own independent Board of Directors".

**Tobacco in India**

In recent years, the Indian government has intensified its tobacco-control efforts, raising cigarette taxes and ordering companies to print bigger health warnings on cigarette packs. India has 106 million adult smokers, second only to China, and more than 900,000 people die each year in India due to tobacco-related illnesses. A federal health ministry official said on Sunday the letter on FSFW had been sent as a preventive measure to dissuade states from any collaboration with the foundation, and similar instructions were likely to be sent to other federal ministries. — Reuters

## New Zealand bans single-use plastic bags

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags yesterday, introducing hefty fines for businesses that continue to provide them. Plastic pollution has become a growing global concern, with a million birds and more than 100,000 marine mammals injured or killed every year by becoming entangled in packaging or ingesting it through the food chain. Companies that break New Zealand's ban will face heavy penalties, including fines of up to NZ\$100,000 (\$67,000).

"New Zealanders are proud of our country's clean, green reputation and want to help ensure we live up to it," environment minister Eugenie Sage said. "Ending the use of single-use plastic shopping bags helps do that." Under the new rules, thin plastic single-use shopping bags can no longer be supplied-but the law allows reusable carriers to continue being provided.

The legislation-which was announced in August last year and came into force on Monday-will have little practical effect, as New Zealand's major supermarkets have already voluntarily banned the bags. However, Sage said it was putting the issue of recycling



**BANDUNG:** A scavenger collects plastic waste for recycling on the Citarum River choked with garbage and industrial waste, in Bandung, West Java province. — AFP

on the agenda. "(The ban) doesn't go far enough, but what is really great is it's started the conversation," she told Radio New Zealand. "People are now talking about single-use plastics and how we can phase them out." Britain's Royal Statistical Society estimates 90.5 percent of all plastic waste-some 6,300 million metric tons-has never been recycled and is either in landfill or accumulating in the natural environment. If current production and

waste management trends continue, the ocean of plastic waste is estimated to almost double to 12,000 million metric tons by 2050. More than 80 countries have already introduced bag bans similar to New Zealand's, according to the UN Environment Program. While it praised such initiatives, it said more needed to be done to minimize other sources of plastic waste including micro-beads and single-use items such as straws. — AFP

## Paris bans old diesels to tackle pollution

**PARIS:** Paris yesterday banned all diesel vehicles aged 13 years or over from the city centre, the latest move in a campaign to tackle pollution on the city's streets. Diesel vehicles over 18 years old and petrol vehicles over 21 years old are already banned in Paris — a measure that was extended yesterday to a new "low-emissions" belt surrounding the city.

Central Paris meanwhile went further by also banning diesel cars, trucks and motorbikes aged 13 years and over — a move aimed at cleaning up the air in a city that is regularly shrouded in smog. Motorists who flout the traffic restrictions in central Paris, which were trialed during last week's heatwave, face a 68-euro (\$77) fine, rising to 135 euros for trucks and buses. A Greenpeace report listed Paris as the worst western European capital for small particle air pollution in 2018, with levels higher than cities such as the Philippines capital Manila or the Colombian capital Bogota.

Beyond the city's boundaries, the authorities are also clamping down on polluters in the 47 districts that ring the central Paris region, which are home to

around 5.5 million people. Unlike in central Paris, however, offenders in the suburbs, where car dependency is greater, face no punishment for the first two years of the ban.

The government agreed to a two-year punishment-free "learning period" after resistance from some mayors who feared that the ban could rekindle the "yellow vest" protests, which erupted late last year among motorists furious over fuel price hikes. The protests quickly escalated into an anti-government revolt, marked by weekly demonstrations in cities around France that have regularly turned violent. Reflecting on the lessons learnt, a senior official for the greater Paris area, Patrick Ollier, told reporters last week: "We don't want to force the environment on people, but rather that it be accepted as the outcome of dialogue."

The subject of air quality has become a burning issue for governments across the EU, where green parties made strong gains in May's elections to the European Parliament. In November, Madrid followed a handful of other European cities that have restricted traffic in their centers. But whereas London, Stockholm and Milan have sought to dissuade motorists by driving into the city centre by hitting them with congestion taxes Madrid went further, banning many vehicles from accessing the centre altogether and fining them if they did. — AFP



Health

# French police under fire for teargassing climate activists

PARIS: The French police drew heavy criticism yesterday after officers were filmed spraying peaceful climate activists in the face with teargas during a sit-in on a bridge in Paris last week. Interior Minister Christophe Castaner has ordered an investigation into the incident on Friday during a protest by the "Extinction Rebellion" group over the government's environment policies.

A video shared on Twitter and since widely broadcast on news channels shows at least two officers spraying protesters at close range with cans of teargas, while the demonstrators try to shield their faces, boo the police and shout "non-violent!". The officers are then seen dragging the protesters off the street one by one.

One demonstrator, who gave her name as Flora, told AFP that the police used teargas after some protesters that had earlier been forcibly removed from the sit-in returned to the scene. "They opted for a strategy of gassing people 20 centimeters from their faces," she said. The Paris police department said the officers had intervened to stop the protesters blocking traffic and that the demonstrators had been ordered "several times" to disperse. It said two people were arrested. Images of the standoff caused an outcry both at home and abroad

with Sweden's teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg tweeting a link to the video with the words: "Watch this video and ask yourself: who is defending who?"

### 'Radical' climate activists?

Launched in Britain, Extinction Rebellion organises acts of civil disobedience to draw attention to climate warming. Last month the group took part in the blockade of an open-pit coal mine in Germany. Several leading French politicians condemned the treatment of the protesters in Paris. "It's outrageous to have young people who are fighting for our climate, who are fighting for our future... and the government's only reaction is to not act and to teargas them," Yannick Jadot, a Greens member of the European Parliament, told BFM news channel.

Socialist leader Olivier Faure said "that would not happen in a dictatorship and it's happening in France." But Environment Minister Francois de Rugy, himself a former environmental activist, described the protesters as "very radical" and justified the use of the teargas "to get people to leave" the area. There was also disquiet among some members of President Emmanuel Macron's centrist Republic on the Move party with MP

Barbara Pompili telling France 2 television she was "like everyone, quite shocked at teargas being sprayed very close to people's eyes".

### Police brutality

Over the past year, Macron has come under growing criticism over what activists see as his failure to keep a 2017 promise to "make our planet great again". The French police have also been heavily criticized for their tactics during six months of weekly protests by anti-government "yellow vest" demonstrators.

Officers have been unable to stop crowds ransacking buildings and businesses while themselves drawing blame for a spate of serious injuries caused by their use of rubber bullets and stun grenades. French law enforcement is also under investigation over the disappearance of a 24-year-old man in the western city of Nantes on June 21, World Music Day. Steve Maia Canico went missing while taking part in a rave on an island in the Loire river that was broken up by the police using teargas following clashes with some of the revelers. Several people who fell into the river during the melee were brought to safety but Maia Canico was never found. A march in his memory on Saturday in Nantes drew around 1,000 demonstrators. — AFP

## Whale likely died off Canada after collision with ship

MONTREAL: A right whale found dead in Canada's Gulf of St Lawrence is likely to have died due to a collision with a ship, officials say — a worrying conclusion as experts fear for the future of the critically endangered species. Preliminary findings from a necropsy on Comet, one of six dead whales found since the start of June, are "highly compatible with death due to blunt trauma, consistent with vessel strike," Fisheries and Oceans Canada said.

Final results of the necropsy will be available "in the coming months," the government department said in a state-

ment late Saturday. The same conclusion was drawn about the death of Punctuation, a 40-year-old female right whale. Analysis of the remains of male whale Wolverine were inconclusive.

An autopsy on Clipper is set for today, and options are being considered to perform similar tests on the remaining two whale carcasses. Fisheries and Oceans Canada also said on Sunday that the Canadian Coast Guard had spotted a right whale tangled in rope in the Gulf of St Lawrence. "The state of the whale and the length of time it has been entangled is unknown at this time," the department said in a statement.

"We take this situation very seriously. As such, we will try to locate and tag the whale as soon as weather permits," the department said, adding that it was looking into how to disentangle the whale. This month's right whale deaths, as well as seven recent calf births, bring the total population estimate to 412, Canadian officials say. Transport Canada has expanded the area of the Gulf of St. — AFP

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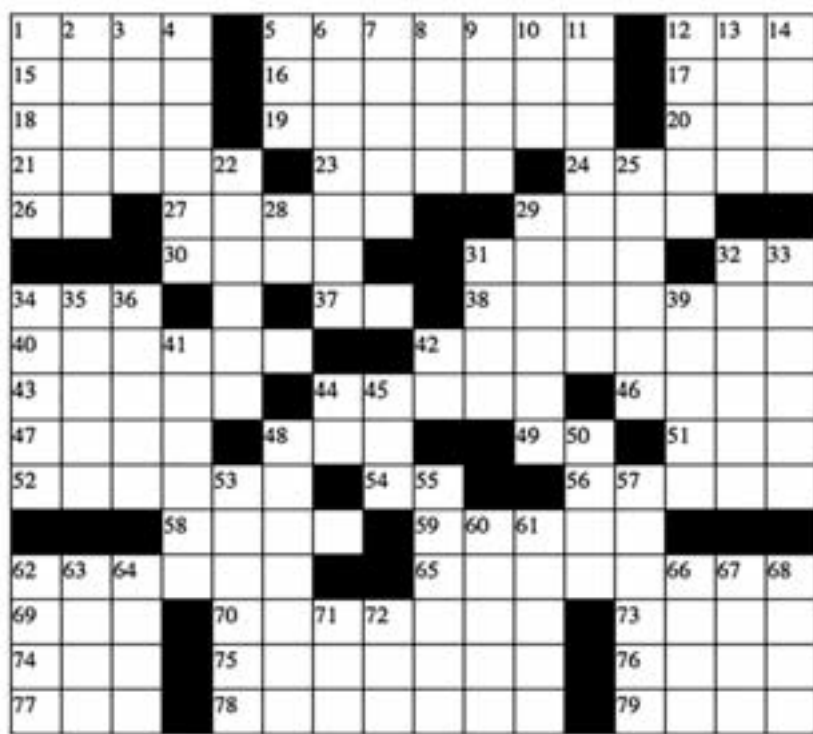
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Stars

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ACROSS

1. A loud raucous cry as of an owl.
5. Edible mushroom.
12. The state of matter distinguished from the solid and liquid states by.
15. A very light brown.
16. A loss of will power.
17. A transuranic element.
18. Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
19. Contact by fitting together.
20. Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
21. Tropical American tree bearing a small edible fruit with green leathery skin and sweet juicy translucent pulp.
23. A city in western Nevada at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
24. Lower in esteem.
26. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
27. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
30. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
34. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
37. A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
38. The least possible.
40. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
43. Not yet payable.
46. A thin strip (wood or metal).
47. (Linguistics) The form of a word after all affixes are removed.
49. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
51. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
52. A man who has been castrated and is incapable of reproduction.
54. A metric unit of weight equal to one thousandth of a kilogram.
56. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
58. Pertaining to animals or animal life or action.
59. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
62. Motivation based on ideas of right and wrong.
65. In a rakish manner.
69. The cry made by sheep.
70. The largest island of the central Ryukyu Islands.
73. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
74. An implement used to propel or steer a boat.
75. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
76. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
77. The branch of information science that deals with natural language information.
78. Low spreading tropical American shrub with long slender leaves used to make a mildly stimulating drink resembling tea.
79. Type genus of the Nepidae.

DOWN

1. A fence formed by a row of closely planted shrubs or bushes.
2. Of a moderate orange-yellow color.
3. A port city in northwestern Algeria and the country's 2nd largest city.
4. Eurasian perennial bulbous herbs.
5. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
6. Of or relating to the Iberian peninsula or its inhabitants.
7. A contestant who loses the contest.
8. Austrian chemist who did research on carotenoids and vitamins (1900-1967).
9. (Greek mythology) The Muse of history.
10. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
11. Italian violinist (1782-1840).
12. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
13. Type genus of the Anatidae.
14. Footwear shaped to fit the foot (below the ankle) with a flexible upper of leather or plastic and a sole and heel of heavier material.
22. Chiefly tropical trees and shrubs and vines usually having a tall columnar trunk bearing a crown of very large leaves.
25. A statement of fundamental facts or principles.
28. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
29. Of or relating to the spine or spinal cord.
31. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
32. A deep bow.
33. Any of various orchids of the genus *Bletia* having pseudo-bulbs and erect leafless racemes of large purple or pink flowers.
35. Of or relating to the African people who speak one of the Bantoid languages or to their culture.
36. English psychologist who collaborated with I. A. Richards in designing Basic English (1889-1957).
39. (prefix) Consisting of more than one.
41. Sumerian and Babylonian god of pastures and vegetation.
42. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
44. A Russian river.
45. One millionth of a gram.
48. Made from fermented mash of grain.
50. A Loloish language.
53. A member of a North American Indian people living around the mouth of the Colorado river.
55. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
57. The craniometric point at the bridge of the nose where the frontal and nasal bones of the skull meet.
60. The fifth month of the Hindu calendar.
61. Jordan's port.
63. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
64. A chordophone that has a triangular frame consisting of a sounding board and a pillar and a curved neck.
66. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
67. A light springing movement upwards or forwards.
68. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
71. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
72. A small drink of liquor.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may have discovered you are giving more than you are receiving. You have a tendency to give too much of yourself to others. This is a time you may need to turn your focus on you. Get serious about your health and mental well-being. Remember taking care of you is a necessity. You tend to see this as being selfish. Remember if you do not take care of you, you will not be able to continue the constant care you give to others. Feed your soul, spoil yourself, but most of all, learn to relax. Today is the day to take a deep breath, grab a quick nap, and face the world with a new refreshed attitude. Aries. Learn to put yourself first.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today you may feel led by your heart maybe even more loving and emotional than usual. Today is a great day to spend time with someone you love. This closeness is something you long for. Intimacy and love are driving factors for you today. You could be extremely sensitive and emotionally unable to express your feelings to someone very close to you. This is something unfamiliar to you as your words usually flow with grace and style. Taurus. This may leave you feeling somewhat vulnerable.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

When the heavens are in certain positions, you could feel different sensations and sense noticeable, but unseen, changes to your environment. Such are the positions now, you decide to go with the flow and let events unfold as they will. Your confidence levels are high, even when things don't appear to be working; this shows that you can't always go by what you see with the physical eyes! Being first in line doesn't always mean being served first! Accepting where the cards fall is an indication of a spiritual warrior: working with what you're given reveals your power and abilities. Spending some time alone could help with a decision that affects more than one person.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are fiercely independent, especially today. You have drive and ambition. You may be focused on a goal but may be drawn to accomplish it in a less conventional manner than you normally would. You are bored with your usual routine and seeking a bit of change. Thinking outside the box may lead to some exciting new experiences. This may also lead to recognition for your creative thinking from those around you. The choices you make today will be clear and concise. These choices will also clearly be the correct ones and will be reap great rewards in the future from decisions made today. Cancer, today is full of opportunity and your mood is perfect to grasp each and every one.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself feeling emotionally detached from your surroundings. Ideas are what are important to you now. You may not have tolerance and find yourself distancing yourself from those who do not see things this way. You seem to be drawn to all that is unusual and a bit on the eccentric side. From the way you are beginning to think to the material possessions you wish to acquire, your taste is changing. You have a desire to travel and are focused on your relationships with friends and those who are in your social circle. Pay close attention to any red flags that seem to appear. Do not ignore these signs as they may be just the encouragement you need to take a detour and avoid some type of conflict or setback.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Leave the major decisions for later, frustration and other obstacles may seem to be in your way today. You seem to find yourself wanting to be more social. A desire to hit the town. You find pleasure in surrounding yourself with friends. Choose your company wisely as you could find yourself in conflict with someone close to you. You seem to know what to say and when to say it. Others are seeking your company, and this would be a great time to spend time with your siblings or neighbors. Today is a great day for an escape. Take in a movie or curl up with a book. This may just what you need to rest your mind and start tomorrow with a new outlook on life.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

A seriousness comes over you today. This is a great time to think and study. Enroll in an online course, or sign up for classes to further your education. Your frame of mind now is perfect for it. This is a great time to reorganize for you. Getting things in order will come naturally and with ease. Connect with old acquaintances. Reach out and connect with someone you love. Clear thoughts and an open mind make for great times with those you love.



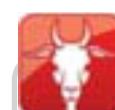
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

As clearly as you can see what direction you want to be headed, you are also able to see the past today. Memories of days gone by seem to flood in. You have come to appreciate the obstacles life has put in your path. You know that the struggles you have faced have only made you stronger. You may develop a strong bond with someone younger today. Your wisdom and life experience will be very beneficial when helping them with a situation they are dealing with.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management. You may find that you are not as appreciative of those around you. You will find others looking to you for support and advice and you are just the one to lead them in the right direction.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may have been so focused lately you have been missing out on a social life. Today is a great day to get out and about. Hit the town but choose your company wisely as not to experience any conflict while doing so. Surround yourself with like-minded friends. Choose friends who are positive and share your love of life. You may find yourself experiencing a real spiritual awakening and the desire to share this with others. You should be pleasantly pleased at how receptive your friends are. A great day for you where the lines of communication open in all aspects of your world.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You will tell on yourself by the company you keep. If all your friends look, talk, and think like you, you may want to seek out some new relationships. You can learn from children as well as elderly, and everyone in between. Cultivate people of different races and cultures, from different social and economic backgrounds. Don't avoid those whose religion is different from yours. When you feel secure about yourself, you can enjoy diversity, and your life will be enriched by each relationship.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Prepare for a major event. This may put an end to your old way of life. You may find independence is a necessity now rather than a choice. You are on your own and this may mark a time of increased responsibility and accountability. Some soul searching may be in order to face this new life. Take your time and spend sometime meditating or relaxing to access your new situation. Do not ask yourself, 'Why me?' You know why. Because you can handle any obstacle that is put in your path.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Canada Day

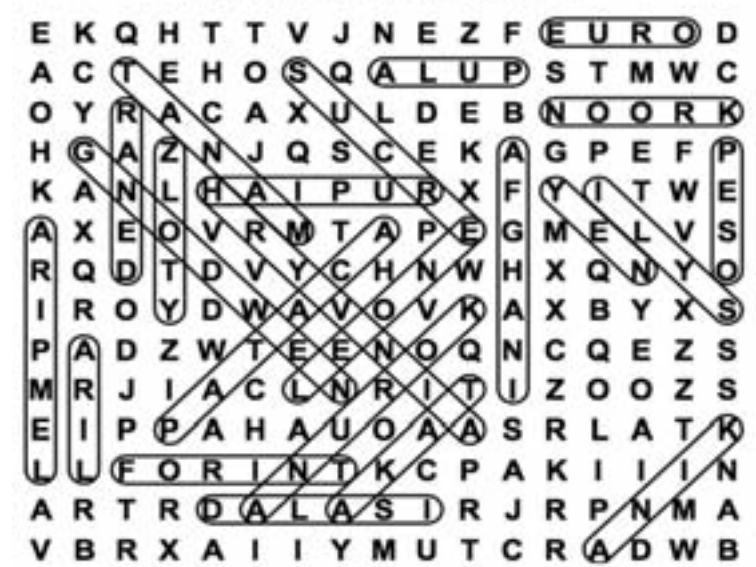
Find and circle all of the Canada Day related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Sir Wilfrid Laurier quotation.



- |               |                  |            |               |
|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| ACTIVITIES    | CONSTITUTION ACT | FLAGS      | MUSIC         |
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| BARBECUES     | DIVERSITY        | FUN        | PATRIOTISM    |
| BIRTHDAY      | DOMINION         | GALAS      | PERFORMERS    |
| BRITISH       | ENGLISH          | GATHERINGS | PRIDE         |
| CAKE          | EVENTS           | HISTORY    | RCMP          |
| CANADA        | FAMILIES         | HOLIDAY    | RED AND WHITE |
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Yesterday's Solution

World Currencies 3 - Solution

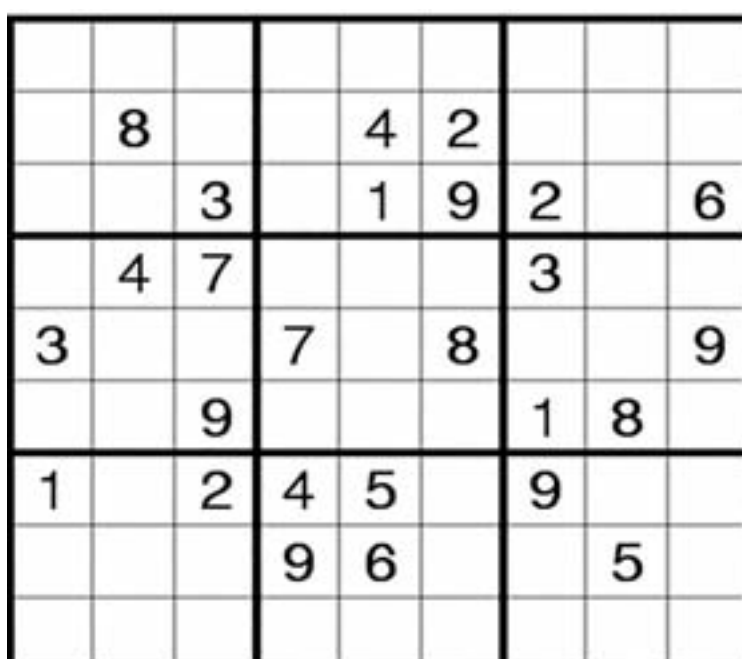


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| KINA    | PESO     |       |
| KORUNA  | PULA     |       |

Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019



This picture taken on June 30, 2019 shows a Malaysian cosplayer dressed as Batman sitting at a cafe during the DC Super Heroes Day to mark the 80th anniversary of Batman in Genting Highlands resort outside of Kuala Lumpur. — AFP

## Tutankhamun sculpture's London auction sparks Egyptian outcry

A 3,000-year-old head sculpture of an eternally-young Tutankhamun—the Egyptian pharaoh known as King Tut—goes under the hammer this week in London despite an outcry from Cairo. Christie's expects the 28.5-centimetre (11-inch) brown quartzite relic from the Valley of the Kings to fetch more than £4 million (\$5.1 million, 4.5 million euros) on Thursday. The Financial Times reported that it was the first such Egyptian statuette to go on the market since 1985. The pharaoh's finely-chiselled head—its serene eyes and puffed lips emoting a sense of eternal peace—comes from the private Resandro Collection of ancient art that Christie's last sold in 2016 for £3 million.

But Egyptian authorities overseeing the north African country's unparalleled collection of antiquities want to see the auction halted and the treasure returned. "The Egyptian embassy in London requested the British foreign affairs ministry and the auction hall to stop the sale," Egypt's foreign ministry said on June 10. Former antiquities minister Zahi Hawass told AFP on Sunday that the piece appears to have been "stolen" in the 1970s from the Karnak Temple complex of Egypt's great monuments. "The owners have given false information," he said in a telephone interview. "They have not shown any legal papers to prove its ownership."

The French-owned British auction house explained that the current lot was acquired by Resandro from a Munich-based dealer in 1985. It traces its prior origins to the 1973-74 acquisition by another dealer in Austria from the Princely House of Thurn and Taxis in modern-day Germany. The trail peters out shortly afterwards and little is known to the public about how the statue found its way to Europe.

"Ancient objects by their nature cannot be traced over millennia," Christie's said in a statement released to AFP. "It is hugely important to establish recent ownership and legal right to sell which we have clearly done," it added. "We would not offer for sale any object where there was concern over ownership or export." Britain's Foreign Office has been in touch with Egyptian authorities but is not expected to intervene.



This image released by Christie's on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, shows a 3,000-year-old stone sculpture of the famed boy pharaoh Tutankhamun at Christie's in London.

### 'Legitimate market'

Tutankhamun is thought to have become a pharaoh at the age of nine and to have died about 10 years later. His rule would have probably passed without notice were it not for the 1922 discovery by Britain's Howard Carter of his nearly intact tomb. The lavish find revived interest in ancient Egypt and set the stage for subsequent battles over ownership of cultural masterpieces unearthed in colonial times.

International conventions and the British government's own guidance restrict the sale of works that were known to have been stolen or illegally dug up. The British Museum has been wrangling for decades with Greece over its remarkable room full of marble Parthenon friezes and sculptures.

Egypt's own campaign to recover lost art gained momentum after numerous works went missing during the looting that accompanied former president Hosni Mubarak's fall from power in 2011. The late Egyptian strongman turned the existing supreme council of antiquities into a separate ministry in the last year of his rule.

It has worked with the Los Angeles-based Getty Conservation Institute to mend Tutankhamun's tomb from the damage it sustained from swarming tourists over recent years. The ministry also asked the UN cultural body UNESCO to halt Christie's sale. But Egypt has been unable to substantiate its case with firm proof that the bust was illegally obtained. The London auction house said in its defense that there was a "legitimate market for works of art of the ancient world in which Christie's has participated for generations". — AFP

## Bollywood star quits acting over Islamic faith

A Bollywood actress who starred in India's highest-grossing movie said she is quitting acting because it is incompatible with her Islamic faith, sparking a social media storm. In a lengthy social media post published Sunday, Zaira Wasim said she was leaving the profession because becoming a Bollywood star had "damaged" her relationship with God. The 18-year-old won major awards for her two film roles to date and was considered a rising star of Indian cinema. "This field indeed brought a lot of love... my way, but what it also did was to lead me to a path of ignorance, as I silently and unconsciously transitioned out of imaan (faith)," she wrote on Instagram.

"While I continued to work in an environment that consistently interferes with my imaan, my relationship with my religion was threatened," she added. Wasim, from the restive Indian-administered area of Kashmir, shot to fame in 2016 when she starred alongside Bollywood icon Aamir Khan in the hit movie "Dangal". She won a National Film Award for her role as an aspiring female wrestler, and the film went on to become India's highest-grossing movie. It also enjoyed massive success in China.

Wasim followed that up with a Filmfare Critics Award for her outing in 2017's "Secret Superstar", in which she played a young, Muslim singer-songwriter who becomes a YouTube sensation. Bollywood has a long tradition of Muslim movie stars—the three Khans: Aamir, Salman and Shah Rukh have dominated box offices for the last three decades. There are far fewer Muslim actresses however—in particular from the divided Kashmir region—and some social media users took to Twitter to criticise Wasim for invoking Islam as her reason for stepping away from acting.

"Exit is your choice, reason, by all means. Just do not demean it for everyone else. The industry where all work shoulder to shoulder, no differences, caste, religion or where you come from," wrote actress Raveena Tandon. Jammu and Kashmir police officer Imtiyaz Hussain said he respected her decision, but added that she "can't invoke religion and faith" to justify it. "Are others in the



In this file photo Bollywood actress Zaira Wasim poses for a picture as she arrives for the IIFA Awards of the 19th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) festival at the Siam Niramit Theatre in Bangkok. — AFP

field some kind of sinners? This dawning of new reality should be her own truth & her own interpretation of religion. Period," he wrote.

Others rallied to her defense. "It's her life to do with as she pleases. All I will do is wish her well & hope that whatever she does makes her happy," tweeted former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah. Wasim's last film will be "The Sky is Pink", due out in October, where she will be seen alongside Priyanka Chopra Jonas. The filmmakers said in a statement that Wasim had been "a complete professional" throughout the shooting of the movie, which finished in June. "This is a purely personal decision, which she has taken after much thought and we will be supportive of her in every way - now and always," they said. — AFP

## Stoned-baked pizza? South African eatery can oblige

If you're keen on pizza but Regina, Margherita or Hawaiian isn't your bag you can aim higher with a South African eatery proud to unveil one featuring cannabis. "We love to stay ahead of the curve and are extremely proud to be the first restaurant in SA to launch a cannabis pizza," said Kinga Baranowska, founder of the Col'Cacchio chain in Cape Town. "We have always aimed to be innovative with our menu offering and provide our loyal fan base with the latest health positive trends," said Baranowska. "It's not going to make you high," Mike Saunders, founder of the firm supplying the chain, told local media. "It's not going to make you giddy. But, by the end of your meal you'll

start to feel the calming effects of CBD (cannabis oil)," Saunders said.

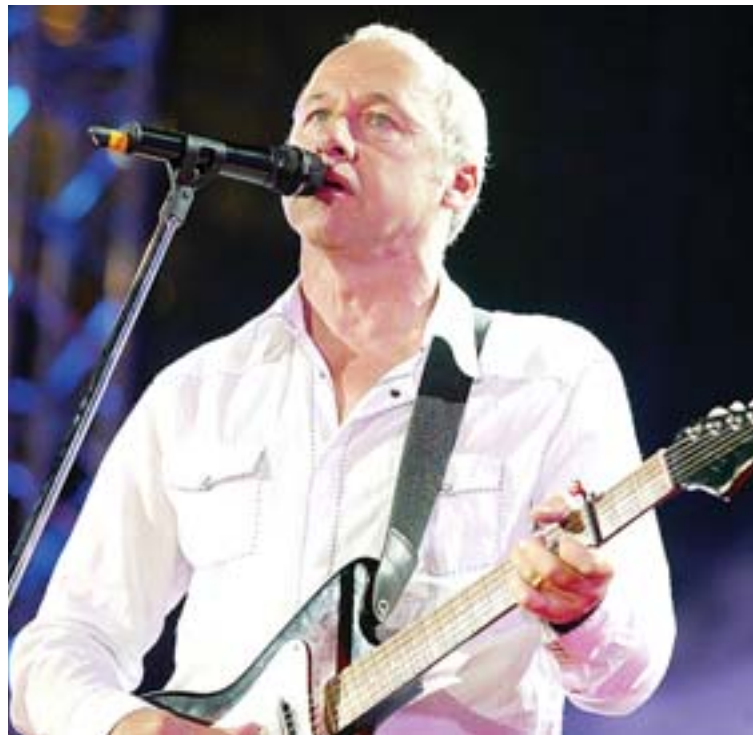
Customers wanting something more calming than traditional toppings can plump for a meat-free Green Goddess, featuring grilled zucchini, feta and fresh basil for 125 rand (8 euros/\$9), or a Not-So-Plain Mary Jane with chicken, mushrooms and avocado dressing for 140 rand. The chain has been able to embark on its new menu offerings thanks to recent amendments on regulations surrounding private cannabis use in South Africa. Last September, South Africa's constitutional court legalized cannabis consumption for personal use after a long debate similar to that in many other countries on whether

to make the leap or not. At the end of May, the government decided to legalize consumption of cannabis oil to a daily maximum of 20 mg per person.

Lawyer Ricky Stone, a specialist in cannabis legislation, urged restaurants to tread carefully following the rulings. "This is a relatively new area and there are still a lot of things which are not yet known and clear," said Stone. "For example, while the sale of CBD is now legal, it's limited to daily dosage of 20 mg. So while you can buy a pizza, if you buy, say four, then you are consuming 80 mg which is illegal". — AFP







## Mark Knopfler duets with guitar hero Hank Marvin

**M**ark Knopfler was thrilled to duet with his guitar idol Hank Marvin. The Dire Straits star grew up dreaming of being the lead guitarist in Sir Cliff Richards' backing band The Shadows - who has inspired the likes of Queen's Brian May, Eric Clapton, Neil Young and Jimmy Page with his unique guitar-playing - and insisted on having his own red Fender Stratocaster just like Marvin's as a kid. And now he has finally realized his childhood aspiration, by featuring on a re-recording of 'Wonderful Land' by The Shadows, a number one in 1962, and 1961's 'Nivram' for Marvin's 3CD greatest hits LP 'Gold'. Knopfler said: "When I was a kid all I wanted was a red electric guitar. 'It had to be red because of Hank and his magical sound.' Cliff and The Shadows achieved a total of 43 Top 20 hit singles in a decade, and instrumentalists The Shadows achieved five number ones of their own, most famously 'Apache', which showcased the distinctive sound Marvin achieved using the tremolo arm of his Stratocaster. As well as duets with Cliff, Brian May and

Duane Eddy on 'Gold', Marvin has re-released his impressive solo back catalogue. Knopfler and Marvin both have in common success as solo artists and in their respective groups. In November, the former released his ninth solo studio album, 'Down The Road Wherever'. The 'Romeo and Juliet' hitmaker previously admitted it was the group's difficult formative years which helped him to have such a successful career, as it made him realize what he wanted to achieve. He explained: "I used to hitchhike then, climbing up into lorry cabs with bags and guitars. There was snow everywhere, and I got put off in the middle of the country somewhere - in the Midlands, I think - on a slip road off the motorway. I'm standing up there, and there's nobody. I can see 360 degrees for miles all around, and there's nothing moving, just the sun shining down on all this snow. And I remember getting a very clear idea of what I'd decided I was going to do with my life."

## Carry On film series set to return after 27 years

**T**he 'Carry On' film series could be making a return 27 years after the last film was released. Film producer Brian Baker, 72, has spent £500,000 purchasing the rights to sell 'Carry On' related merchandise in an attempt to revive the comedy franchise by selling enough products to eventually finance three new movies. Baker bought the rights after winning a legal battle against ITV in which a judge ruled the network was not using the brand meaning its trademark became invalid. The last 'Carry On' movie to hit the big screen was 1992's 'Carry On Columbus' and the producer has insisted he wishes to continue the legacy of the films' founder Peter Rogers. Baker told the Daily Mail newspaper: "This ruling means we can carry out Peter Rogers's legacy and get everything into gear. The original franchise ran from 1958 to 1978 - releasing 31 films total - and although the new film will see the classic slapstick comedy of the series return, Baker confessed the new series will be "a bit more politically correct". He said: "We'll be bringing together a new team of actors with their own idiosyncrasies and personalities. They will be adapted to bring it up to modern times. We'll have to be a bit more politically correct today. The 'Carry On' film franchise carved the path for legendary stars such as Dame Barbara Windsor, Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Joan Sims and Leslie Phillips. An ITV Studios spokesperson added: "The 'Carry On' trademark is associated with the classic Carry On films which ITV will continue to distribute. ITV has already provided Mr. Baker with a license to use the 'Carry On' trademark for his new films. This was provided in 2016. "We know the British public love 'Carry On' and we welcome working with anyone interested in keeping this much loved brand alive."



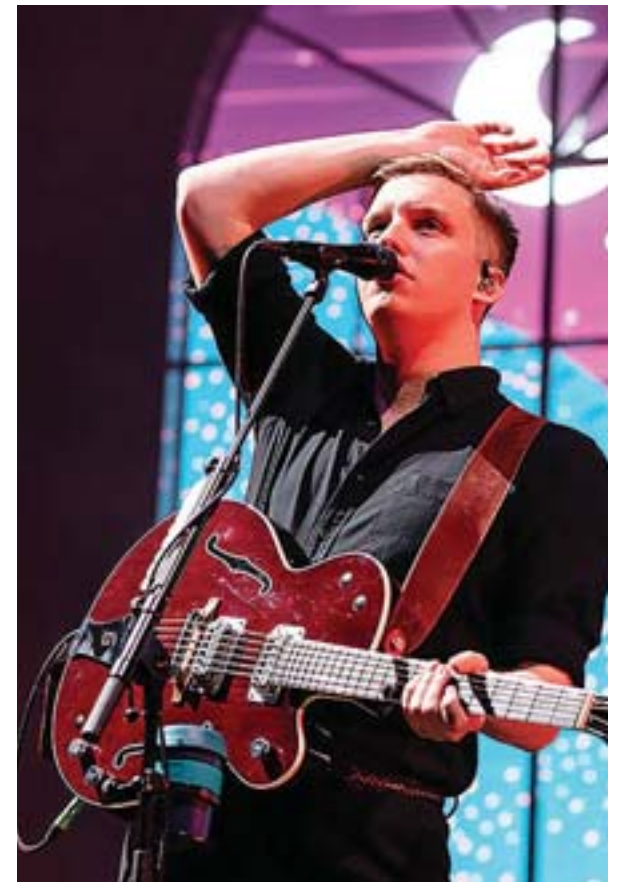
## Shaw joins cast of The Enola Holmes Mysteries

**F**iona Shaw has joined the new Sherlock Holmes film franchise. The 60-year-old actress is set to star alongside Millie Bobby Brown and Henry Cavill in a host of movies based on Nancy Springer's young adult fiction book series 'The Enola Holmes Mysteries' with Harry Bradbeer at the helm. 'The Enola Holmes Mysteries' tells the story of the titular teenage sister (Brown) of Sherlock Holmes (Cavill) and Mycroft Holmes who is also a detective. There are no details yet on who Shaw will play. Jack Thorne has penned the script for the new film and Helena Bonham Carter has also joined the cast as Enola's mother. There are a total of six novels in the series, 'The Case of the Missing Marquess', 'The Case of the Left-Handed Lady', 'The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets', 'The Case of the Peculiar Pink Fan', 'The Case of the Cryptic Crinoline' and 'The Case of the Gypsy Goodbye'. Brown, 13, developed a relationship with Legendary Entertainment after recently making her big screen debut as Madison Russell in 'Godzilla: King of the Monsters'. Legendary are producing with Brown and her sister Paige Brown via the duo's PCMA Productions shingle. Shaw recently appeared in Phoebe Waller-Bridge's BAFTA-winning spy thriller series 'Killing Eve' as the head of the Russia Section at MI6, Carolyn Martens, alongside Jodie Comer as psychopathic assassin Villanelle and Sandra Oh as agent Eve Polastri. Shaw recently credited the hit show's success to having three strong female leads who don't rely on their "husbands or sons" while admitting it was refreshing not to play a moralistic character. She said: "We've all been brought up on endless boys doing this work and enjoying them, so it's fantastic to have three people who are female running the good and bad of this world. 'It's a joy not to play plain virtue. Women often play virtue and it's very nice to not necessarily be good, and not necessarily be bad. The three women are not tied to a home or to husbands or sons."



## Casey Affleck's new film was inspired by his children

**C**asey Affleck says his new film 'Light of My Life' was inspired by his children. The 43-year-old actor-and-director recently helmed and starred in the dystopian drama film - which followed a father and his young daughter as they become trapped in the woods in a post-pandemic world where a disease has killed most of the planet's women - and confessed that the movie was heavily influenced by his own children, Indiana, 15, and 11-year-old Atticus, who he has with actress Summer Phoenix. Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, he said: "So much of the film is based on my experience as a parent." Affleck - who is the brother of Hollywood star Ben Affleck - went on to explain that although the film wasn't made as a comment on environmental and social issues, he hopes the movie - which also stars Anna Chloé, Tom Bower, Elisabeth Moss and Hrothgar Mathews - will raise awareness of current ecological concerns. He said: "I am no quite that ambitious, but I do really believe in the power of art in times like this. People keep making things and telling stories, whether they are political or not. It provokes, helping conversations and brings people together." The 'Manchester by the Sea' star also revealed that the film would have been less "violent" had the plot seen men be nearly irradiated. He said: "It would be less violent. Violence in the movie is always something [the main character] is trying to keep at bay." Affleck previously confessed he was "naive" to think it would be easy to direct the movie and admits he thought it wouldn't be too bad to take the helm of the movie because it was on a "smaller scale". He said: "I know. It is. I was naive enough to think that this would be easy because it was a smaller scale. It was hard but I would do it over and over again."



## Ezra relaxed about Glastonbury

**G**eorge Ezra treated his performance at Glastonbury festival like "any other show". The 'Shotgun' hitmaker wowed the crowds with a string of his famous hits during Friday's musical offerings at the famous festival and he has now revealed the secret of his success this time around was not to "overthink" it. He said: "My tactic this year has been to treat it like any other show. In the past, I wouldn't have had a few drinks the night before a big show. But I did and I just thought, 'Well, actually, I love our set and I love our band and there's really not much to overthink with an hour-long set.' It's really short. We call it the power hour." George particularly loves performing at Glastonbury because it reminds him of the famous Woodstock festival, where the music is part of something bigger. He added to The Guardian newspaper: "When you see old footage of Woodstock, all the people there were in their own world. They were sat down, talking, dancing. As a musician, you're just one part of that. Glastonbury is the only festival where it feels like, for the audience, the event itself is so much more important than a set. As a performer, it's a really beautiful feeling to walk on stage because it feels like you're part of something ... 'Honestly, you just think, 'It's not about me today.' There's hundreds of acts on. There are kids who will have their minds blown by someone they've not even heard of yet."



## JULIANNE MOORE NEVER FEELS SECURE AS AN ACTRESS

**J**ulianne Moore doesn't feel like she has any control over her creative choices. The 58-year-old actress confessed that throughout her career she's gone "job to job" without following any specific "trajectory" and feels that whenever she finishes working on a film she goes "back to zero". When asked at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival at what point in her career she felt she began to have choice over her creative choices, she said: "How about never? I would like to think that there's sort of a trajectory that we can all follow, where you're like, 'Now it's OK.' 'I don't know that any of us feels that way. I think particularly when you're a freelancer, as all of us are, you really just go from job-to-job. Once a job finishes, you feel like you're kind of back at zero. Now it's time to find something else and work on that.' The 'Still Alice' star's love of acting was fostered in childhood through her love of reading and make believe and although at the time she didn't think those pastimes would lead her anywhere she now realizes they were vital to her making it in Hollywood. She said: "I was one of those kids - I wasn't athletic. I didn't have a lot of hobbies. I liked to pretend, and I liked to read. And I didn't think those two things would lead me anywhere professionally, but when I started doing plays after school ... I felt like I was inside the book. "And I still feel that way when I make a film: I feel like I crawl inside the story. I always tell our children, 'Follow your interests, because you don't know where they'll lead you.' I never imagined that my interest in language and story would lead me to cinema. And it has." - Bang Showbiz



## Grace Jones quits Bond 25

**G**race Jones has reportedly quit her cameo in the new James Bond movie. The 71-year-old actress-and-singer played iconic villainian May Day in 1985's 'A View To A Kill' opposite the late Sir Roger Moore as 007 and was due to appear in 'Bond 25' to celebrate the milestone movie in the spy franchise. However, Grace decided not to go ahead with her appearance after being disappointed at the size of her role following her arrival on set. A source told The Sun newspaper: "Grace's 007 homecoming was meant to be a real crowd-pleasing moment. Bosses were really excited about landing her. Of course, she comes with a reputation, so they organized premium accommodation and rolled out the red carpet on set to make her feel welcome. "But it turns out Grace was expecting to play a bigger role in the movie and took her brief cameo as a slight. She was out of there quicker than it takes to rustle up a martini." The film will be Daniel Craig's fifth and final outing as 007 and the 51-year-old actor is currently filming scenes in London following a short break after he had "minor" surgery on an injured ankle in May. Craig suffered the setback whilst shooting on location in Jamaica but he spent the weekend in the UK capital filming across a "number of London locations" including scenes behind the wheel of an Aston Martin V8 car. A post made on the official James Bond Twitter account (@007) read: "007 star Daniel Craig, director Cary Fukunaga and the #Bond25 crew were out in the sunshine today shooting across a number of London locations, including Whitehall, where Daniel filmed a scene with a classic @astonmartin V8, first seen in a Bond film in THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS. (sic)"



## Lifestyle | Music

**Bieber** defends manager after **Swift** 'bullying' accusation

Justin Bieber accused Taylor Swift of "crossing a line" Sunday after she re-ignited their longstanding feud in a post attacking his manager for buying the rights to much of her multi-platinum back catalog. Swift said she suffered years of "manipulative bullying" at the hands of Scooter Braun, an industry powerhouse whose Ithaca Holdings recently bought Big Machine Label Group, which produced Swift's first seven albums.

"Essentially, my musical legacy is about to lie in the hands of someone who tried to dismantle it," Swift wrote, claiming she had never been offered the chance to buy the rights to her back catalog, which includes "Fearless" and "1989." "Never in my worst nightmares did I imagine the buyer would be Scooter," she wrote Sunday, signing off "Sad and grossed out." Canadian superstar Bieber took to Instagram to defend Braun, a music industry powerhouse who also manages Ariana Grande and has

worked with Kanye West-another artist who has feuded with Swift in the past.

"For you to take it to social media and get people to hate on scooter isn't fair," Bieber wrote, posting alongside an old photo of him and Swift together in the early days of their joint rise to pop superstardom. "Seems to me like it was to get sympathy u also knew that in posting that your fans would go and bully scooter." Swift's huge social media presence is backed up by legions of fiercely loyal fans-known as "Swifties"-who frequently round on those perceived as slighting her. "I feel like the only way to resolve conflict is through communication," Bieber wrote. "So banter back and forth online i don't believe solves anything." — AFP



In this file photo Taylor Swift attends the 2019 Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP photos



In this file photo singer Justin Bieber performs during his "Believe" tour at The Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.

**Minogue** tips **Lady Gaga** for Glasto's Legend's slot

Kylie Minogue thinks Lady Gaga should play the Legend's slot at Glastonbury. The 'I Should Be So Lucky' hitmaker finally got to play The Pyramid stage at the Worthy Farm extravaganza this weekend, over 10 years after a cancer diagnosis stopped her from performing, and now she has tipped more female stars, including the 'Shallow' hitmaker, to play the prestigious spot reserved for icons at the festival. Kylie - who followed in the footsteps of the likes of Lionel Richie, Dolly Parton, Dame Shirley Bassey and ELO's Jeff Lynne - told the Daily Star newspaper's Wired column: "I think Lady Gaga is a natural and gives everything to everything she does, I'm sure she would be great." And gushing over her idols, Madonna, Whitney Houston and Cyndi Lauper, she added: "I don't know Madonna like that but she will always be one of my inspirations."

"I was 14 dancing around to her and Whitney Houston and Cyndi Lauper and a lot of the romantic bands from the UK in my suburban teenage bedroom." The 51-year-old star's early work was largely penned by Stock Aitken Waterman, the songwriting and production company of Mick Stock, Matt Aitken and Pete Waterman, who together launched the 'Slow' singer's pop career in the late 1980s. Kylie admitted that whilst her acting past, including her most famous role in Aussie soap 'Neighbors' as mechanic Charlene Robinson - whom she played from 1986 to 1988 - has turned out to have a positive impact on her music career, it used to "wind [her] up" when people didn't take her seriously because so many global stars before her, including country legend Dolly, have achieved both success on screen and behind the microphone.

She explained: "I'm enjoying music more than ever. I totally am. I think starting as a young actor and getting into music I felt like I never heard the end of it



Australian singer Kylie Minogue performs at the Glastonbury Festival of Music and Performing Arts on Worthy Farm near the village of Pilton in Somerset, South West England.

for a while. "It's, 'You're not a singer you're an actress.' "It's true I didn't have the experience and hadn't earned my stripes back then." She added: "It did wind me up that if you look at some of the best performers of all time they did all sorts of things. "A lot of great female performers particularly, you've got



Australian singer Kylie Minogue performs with Nick Cave at the Glastonbury Festival. — AFP

Bette Midler, Cher, Dolly Parton - God bless Dolly she learned everybody's lines when she did '9 to 5' - that's how much she knew about acting, she thought she had to know everything." — Bang Showbiz



US singer Janet Jackson performs at the Glastonbury Festival of Music and Performing Arts.

**Janet Jackson** ditched **Together** Again after Glasto 'technical issues'

Janet Jackson was planning on ending her Glastonbury set with 'Together Again' before she was plagued with "technical issues". The 53-year-old pop superstar still wowed her long-time fans with her epic show at the Worthy Farm festival on Saturday playing an impressive 21 songs, including the hits 'Control' and 'Escapade' and a finale of 'Rhythm Nation', but she revealed she was forced to ditch the 1997 hit, which topped the US Billboard Hot 100 for two weeks, because of the sound problems she encountered earlier on during her performance on The Pyramid stage. Speaking to the Daily Star newspaper's Wired column, the pop icon admitted: "There was sunshine but I don't know if I brought it. "It's a shame because we had technical issues at the start so I couldn't play my last song, 'Together Again!'"

However, Janet said it didn't put a dampener on her first Glasto experience, and she admitted she was overwhelmed by how big the world famous festival is. She said: "It's so big, I heard stories about it every year but

had no idea and then we saw all the tents." Meanwhile, on July 24 through to August 17, Janet will continue her acclaimed Las Vegas residency. The youngest child of The Jackson family returns to the Park Theater at Park MGM resort to complete her 'Metamorphosis' shows. The production sees Janet peel back the layers of her immensely private life, sharing her transformation from a young girl with issues of self-esteem to global icon. The centrepiece of the thought-provoking show is Janet herself, captivating audiences through their senses with electrifying visuals, explosive dance numbers, chart-topping hits and fan-favorite deep cuts. Fans will follow her path to self-love, empowerment, motherhood and activism, amidst the challenges faced along her personal journey. She also encourages attendees to find their own light within themselves through her 'Metamorphosis.' — Bang Showbiz

**The Cure** close **Glastonbury** festival

The Cure closed Glastonbury festival on Sunday evening with a stunning headline performance. The 'Just Like Heaven' hitmakers wowed the crowd with their biggest hits including 'Close to Me', 'Friday I'm in Love', 'The Forest' and 'In Between Days'. The set was all about the music and The Cure - completed by Simon Gallup, Roger O'Donnell, Jason Cooper and Reeves Gabrels - rocked through their iconic songs, with frontman Robert Smith told the crowd: "I realize I'm going for the award for the person who says least at Glastonbury."

Robert - who has headlined Glastonbury with The Cure three times already - also admitted it was "weird" to be part of such an amazing event as Glastonbury. He said: "I've been here all weekend. It's hot and excellent. It's just weird to be part of it." And 90 minutes into their set, Robert confessed he felt they were "trapping" their audience with their "difficult to translate" music but he urged them to "hang on" as he promised the final half an hour of their set was Glastonbury through and through.

He told the tens of thousands who had gathered to see the final performance at the festival: "I feel like you're trapped cause what we do is difficult to translate. But hang on, the next half hour is Glastonbury." The band ended their set with their famous song 'Boys Don't Cry', and Robert was visibly emotional as him and his band bid goodbye to the crowd. And if their set at Glastonbury wasn't enough, fans have even more reason to be excited as Robert recently admitted he is driven to make a new album with The Cure. Asked if he would be disappointed if the group didn't make another LP, he said: "I would now, yeah. Because I've committed myself to going into the studio and creating songs for the band, which I haven't done for 10 years." — Bang Showbiz



Robert Smith of British band The Cure performs at the Glastonbury Festival of Music and Performing Arts.

**Teni, feminist-humanist** singer rises to stardom in Nigeria

A self-declared humanist, feminist, defender of the chubby-and-a blossoming African talent into the bargain-Teni The Entertainer is surfing a superstar's wave. The 26-year-old Nigerian singer-full name Teniola Apata-is a breakout star whose performing and songwriting talents make her one of the continent's hippest artists. Manager Edobor "Redman" is amazed to see how far Teni has come in a short time as he mulls over the hits she gets on her Instagram profile. "Look! I posted this video on her Instagram account 30 minutes ago... and we hit 47,000 views already. It's unbelievable!" Few would have ever predicted such a meteoric rise to fame for Teni, the self-styled "vice-president of fat people association", gleefully free from pressures dominating the entertainment industry to be slimmer or modelesque.

She prefers rakish headgear to the ultra-smooth blow-dried hair extensions of other high-profile songbirds and jogging pants to miniskirts. Strutting her stuff as a feminist tomboy and sassy superstar is not the easiest act to pull off in a patriarchal, conservative and strongly religious country-making Teni's rise to fame all the more remarkable on the face of it. Yet for her, making it big time in the music business comes as no surprise. Born into a family of musicians she was playing percussion from the age of just two. By four, she had performed before regional governors in Nigeria's Yoruba west, from where she hails. "If you take music away from me, I would die. Period," she tells AFP.



Nigerian singer and entertainer Teniola Apata also known as Teni performs during The Gidi Culture Festival at Landmark Beach, Oniru in Lagos.

Today, most of the country rocks to her hits such as "Case", "Uyo Meyo" or "Askamaya". Her Instagram account has more than 1.5 million followers while her videos have been viewed around 10 million times on YouTube. Domestic appreciation is one thing-but Teni has loftier goals, saying "wait till I fill up Wembley" stadium in London. But she adds that real fame to her would be performing in South America. "I want to go to a Latin country and they will sing my songs. Then you can say I am popular. "God has given me a gift," she says without false modesty. "He's made me different for a reason. why would I rob the world of my greatness?"

**High heels v football**

And different from afro-pop stars she certainly is. Her similarly successful sister Niniola more closely reflects conventional beauty ideals in Nigeria-often in trademark ultra-high heels, fake eyelashes and long manicured nails. "She's always been a diva, very pretty, even when we grew up... (whereas) I would play soccer, basketball," Teni says, speaking of her sibling with affection. "The biggest fight a human being can fight is to be yourself," she concludes-though that requires some guts in a country where "women are second class citizens."

In 'Case,' a tale of street gang love, she tells the putative love interest: "I slap police for your Case. I go to war for your Case, I go to court for your Case ... I punch the judge for your Case ... anything you want baby, get for you baby." As part of pushing the envelope on cultural conventions, Teni doesn't hesitate to portray menfolk as serving women-even as far as sending them out to buy sanitary towels in humorous videos. Although that gives her an untypical image for a Nigerian woman she's not sure it makes her a feminist. "Is there a word for humanists?", she asks to cover her world view. "I just don't want anyone to be treated badly-women, men, rich, poor... I don't want anyone to be treated any less because they are less privileged."

**'Just a regular girl'**

Such talk is at odds with the kind of patter usually associated with the world of African music, where many singers prefer to show off private jets and bejeweled teeth than empathy with the less well-off. Yet her approach goes down better than might be expected. At this year's Gidi Fest, one of the biggest festivals of contemporary African music which Lagos hosts annually, an audience of thousands roared its approval when, wearing trainers, she bounded on to the giant stage. The cheers resounded again as she launched into some Shaku Shaku, a trendy street dance which has been dubbed Nigeria's answer to the Gangnam style.—AFP



## Lifestyle | Features



Maha Abou Ouf the sister of late Egyptian actor Ezzat Abou Ouf attends the funeral of her brother yesterday at the Sayyida Nafisa mosque in Cairo. — AFP photos



Mourners carry the coffin of Egyptian actor Ezzat Abou Ouf.

## BELOVED EGYPTIAN ACTOR EZZAT ABOU OUF PASSES AWAY

Famed Egyptian actor Ezzat Abou Ouf, aged 71, died yesterday morning in a private Cairene hospital as per local news outlets. The actor, who suffered from liver and heart complications, had been confined to the hospital for over a month before succumbing. Following the death of his first wife Fatima in 2015, Abou Ouf's health deteriorated as the artist confessed suffering from bouts of breakdowns. Additional reports of his deteriorating health circulated last year, especially when he contracted pneumonia.

Nonetheless, the veteran actor's last appearance was in a commercial featuring Amr Diab during the month of Ramadan 2019. Abou Ouf was born into a family with a strong legacy in the field of arts and culture in 1948; his

father was the well-known composer Ahmed Shafiq Abu Ouf, the former dean of the Arab Music Institute. Although he completed his Bachelor's degree in medicine, Abou Ouf's passion lay in music and arts which he actively nurtured throughout his life.

Abou Ouf's career started first in music. He belonged to Les Petits Chats, a rock band in the 1960s prior to starting 4M, a band featuring him and his sisters. The actor, who is reputed for his elegance and gentleman-like behavior, started acting in 1992 in Ice-Cream in Gleem which a hit, propelling his acting career forward. He featured in over 70 films and over 100 television series through his career; he also presented a series of talk shows with artists, including Al Qahera Al Youm, and was

president of the Cairo International Film Festival several times.

Abou Ouf was working on a new film 'Kol Sana Wenta Tayeb' with famous Egyptian singer Tamer Hosny prior to his death. On Twitter #EzzatAbou Ouf is trending; fans have taken to social media to present their condolences, share how the actor has inspired them and their favorite works featuring him. — egyptianstreets.com

In this file photo taken on December 13, 2010, Egyptian actor Ezzat Abou Ouf performs a scene during the last day of shooting of a film entitled "Immoral Project" in Cairo. — AFP



Models present creations by Maurizio Galante at the end of the Women's Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



## MEXICANS HAIL PARIS DESIGNER AMID CULTURAL APPROPRIATION ROW

Italian designer Maurizio Galante gave a lesson Sunday in how to take inspiration from indigenous cultures without being accused of cultural appropriation. With the fashion world shaken this month by the Mexican government threatening legal against New York-based label Carolina Herrera for "ripping off" native designs, Galante gave Mexican artisans top billing in his Paris haute couture show. The couturier worked with Mexico's top fashion institute and makers in 18 parts of the country on a collection which picked up on the ongoing sartorial dance between Aztec, Mayan and other native cultures and Europe.

With a Mexican politician and officials in the front row giving their seal of approval, he sent out trousers suits inspired by the Aztec god of learning Quetzalcoatl—the "feathered serpent" rendered in silk organza scales—and the jaguar diety Tezcatlipoca. Each of his 21 highly-worked looks come with a spectacular halo of sun-shaped straw and metal jewelry made by indigenous artists

Antonio Rendon Cornelio and Carlos Piedras.

## Kahlo headdresses

Galante called the collection "Resplandor" after the Tehuana ceremonial headdress immortalized by the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo in her self-portraits. He included a few of his own and told AFP that legend has it that indigenous women created them by putting European dresses that washed up in a trunk on their heads. The Paris-based creator said it was this "mix and the clash between the native cultures and that of the arriving Europeans" that made Mexico such a rich cultural crossroads.

"Silks and other materials coming from the East also came through Mexico first which added another level" of colour and texture, said Galante, who visited the country four times on research trips working with a Mexican NGO. Before putting the intricate clothes together in his Paris

studio, including bolero jackets made with tiny woven maize baskets—traditionally used for necklaces—he consulted Mexican experts to find the best artisans.

## Hidden 'soul' of its makers

Galante said he turned a finely-embroidered coat inside-out to show the hidden "soul" of the garment and highlight the genius of its makers. Mexican MP Julio Carranza Areas from the ruling left-wing National Regeneration Movement sat in the front row to support the show.

He said Galante—unlike Herrera's US designer Wes Gordon—had been open and included Mexican groups and officials in his process from the start. Areas felt that Galante was showcasing the "work of Mexican hands" unlike Venezuelan-born Herrera who "did not give credit" where it was due.

Appropriation of native designs has become a political

hot potato in Mexico, with a long list of labels accused of ransacking the cultural heritage of poor villagers. Galante—who worked with Moroccan women on his collection that was based on the kaftan—refused to be drawn into the controversy. "Every show I try to tell the story of a different voyage. Like the great travellers for the 18th century, you go into the unknown, not knowing what you will find," he said. "I am not someone who invades a country to steal things. I am looking for a dialogue," he added.

"I can't speak for others, but when someone invites you to their table for dinner you have to respect their rules. It is normal that I respect the local culture and not abuse it." Haute couture is the very pinnacle of fashion, with only an elite band of designers allowed to show their luxurious handmade creations in the French capital, some of which cost tens of thousands of euros (dollars). — AFP



## Kyoto mayor steps into #KimOhNo row over Kardashian line

The mayor of Japan's ancient capital Kyoto has entered into an unlikely correspondence with the queen of selfies Kim Kardashian West, asking her to reconsider naming her shapewear line "Kimono". The American pop culture icon sparked a social media storm last week when she unveiled the new line, with some in Japan and abroad accusing her of disrespecting the traditional outfit. And now the mayor has waded into the debate—being had on Twitter under the hashtag #KimOhNo—penning a letter to

the star to ask her to reconsider. Kyoto officials told AFP. "We're concerned that a wrong understanding of kimono will spread since Ms Kardashian is such a powerful influencer," said Mai Sakai, a Kyoto city official in charge of traditional crafts. "(I) ask you to reconsider your decision of using the name Kimono in your trademark." Kyoto Mayor Daisaku Kadokawa wrote in an English-language letter sent to Kardashian West. "Kimono is a traditional ethnic dress fostered in our rich nature and history," he

wrote, asking her to visit the city to experience kimono culture.

Kimono literally means "something to wear", while Kardashian West's use of it is a play on her first name. The reality television star told the New York Times that she had no plans to produce clothes that "would in any way resemble or dishonor the traditional garment". Once a standard of the Japanese wardrobe, the kimono is now often reserved for special occasions, such as weddings and com-

ing-of-age ceremonies, and is mostly worn by women.

And while the elaborate outfits might appear to have little in common with the snug garb being offered by Kardashian West, kimonos are not only often hugely expensive but known for being hard to wear. Women frequently hire experts to dress them in kimono because the outfit requires seemingly endless nipping, tucking and strapping. — AFP



# Classifieds

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
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 Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



DAY: Monday 01/07/2019 Valid From 7 PM To 7 AM

## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Hot to relatively hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h

**BY DAY:** Very hot with moderate to fresh, strong at times north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 60 km/h causing rising dust.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 01/07/2019 1200 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	34 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	34 °C			
ABDALY	46 °C	32 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	47 °C	35 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	46 °C	32 °C			
SALMIYAH	42 °C	34 °C			
AHMADI	44 °C	35 °C			
NUWAISIB	46 °C	31 °C			
WAFRA	47 °C	28 °C			
SALMY	44 °C	30 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	07/02	Very hot + rising dust	47 °C	34 °C	NW	25 - 60 km/h
Wednesday	07/03	Very hot + rising dust over open areas	49 °C	35 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Thursday	07/04	Very hot + rising dust	48 °C	36 °C	NW	25 - 50 km/h
Friday	07/05	Very hot + rising dust	47 °C	36 °C	NW	25 - 60 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:17
Sunrise	04:52
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:26
Sunset	18:52
Isha	20:23

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	49 °C
MIN. Temp.	34 °C
MAX. RH	23 %
MIN. RH	05 %
MAX. Wind	NW 46 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

All times are local time unless otherwise stated. UP:0 2019/07/01 14:21 UTC V1.00 T2.4 8-1/ع.خ.ق

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

## CHANGE OF NAME

By this did, I undersigned Robin Kadanenkottu Mathew S/o Mathew Kadanenkottu Thomas, previously called Mathew Robin Kadanenkottu S/o Mathew Kadanenkottu Thomas, resident at Kerala, Chittar PO Pathanamthitta. Solemnly declare. (C 5651)

I, Kasim holder of Passport No. H8470593 issued in Kuwait hereby Change name on my

Passport from given name Kasim to surname Bhotvawala and given name Kasim Yusuf. (C 5653)

I, GILBERT LUCAS FERNANDES, DOB 01/01/1997, Passport No. T1942816, issued in Kuwait on 24/01/2019. Currently my surname on the passport is GILBERT LUCAS and my given name is FERNANDES. I, hereby declare that my given name(s) is GILBERT LUCAS and my surname is FERNANDES. (C 5652) 2-7-2019

## Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

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

## Flight Schedule

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 2/7/2019				Departure Flights on Tuesday 2/7/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEQ	241	Alexandria	00:05	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
KAC	122	AGP	00:20	JZR	611	Tbilisi	12:20
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	KIS	6033	Mashhad	12:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KAC	541	Cairo	13:30
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
KAC	734	Cairo	01:00	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
KAC	182	Paris/NCE	01:10	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	FBS	119	Sarajevo	14:45
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	FDB	8192	Dubai	14:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	FDB	060	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25	UAE	878	Doha	16:25
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KNE	621	Jeddah	15:55
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	FEG	442	Asyut	16:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
KAC	382	Delhi	04:40	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	SVA	381	Delhi	17:55
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	KAC	511	Riyadh	18:10
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	JZR	501	Lahore	18:35
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	JZR	261	Beirut	19:10
KAC	106	London	06:40	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
IRA	675	Lar	08:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
JZR	708	Luxor	08:45	UAE	876	Doha	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	RBG	214	Sohag	21:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
KAC	384	Delhi	09:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
OMS	223	Muscat	10:35	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
KAC	624	Doha	10:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:30	KAC	795	Madinah	22:55
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
JZR	746	Sharm el-Sheikh	12:25	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
				ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20



# Monsoon rains soak India's financial capital

**MUMBAI:** Heavy rains flooded parts of India's financial capital of Mumbai yesterday, as the country's four-month summer monsoon swung into full force. Children were seen wading through waist-high waters as they made their way to school, while some motorists were forced to get out and push their vehicles through low-lying streets. Trains on Mumbai's colonial-era rail network, a lifeline for the city's 20 million residents, were delayed due to waterlogged tracks, and traffic moved even more slowly than usual.

Mumbai's streets regularly flood during the monsoon, which runs from June until September or October, and which provides India with most of its annual rainfall. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said 91 mm of rain fell in Mumbai in the 24 hours up to 08:30 am (0300 GMT) yesterday. In 2005, 950 mm of rain fell on the coastal metropolis in just 24 hours, killing more than 500 people. In Aug 2017, intense rainfall brought the commercial hub to a virtual standstill for two days and left at least 10 people dead.

Activists say Mumbai's susceptibility to floods has worsened in recent years due to a construction boom that is trying to keep up with the city's swelling population. Much of Mumbai's mangrove cover, which is extremely effective in helping to drain water, has been destroyed over the past decade to make way for glitzy high-rises.

According to various studies, anywhere between 40 to 50 percent of the city's population live in slums, which become a sea of blue tarpaulin every monsoon as residents try to keep out the rain. The downpour follows a period in which large parts of the country endured weeks of sweltering heat - with temperatures rising above 50 degrees Celsius in the desert state of Rajasthan. — AFP



MUMBAI: Indian children jump into the water of a flooded street after heavy rain showers yesterday. —AFP

## Israel renewing Oman ties...

Continued from Page 1

The announcement was greeted warily by senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi, who warned Oman against using the new embassy as a step towards establishing formal relations with Israel. "If this has a political price attached then certainly there will be ramifications," she said. Mutual concerns about Shiite Iran have lately highlighted common interests between some Arab countries and Israel. In an apparently unprecedented step, a handful of Israeli journalists invited by the White House flew openly to Bahrain last week for a US-sponsored workshop unveiling economic planks of a broader plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace. The Gulf state has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

Yesterday, the Israeli foreign ministry said in a statement that Foreign Minister Israel Katz had visited Abu Dhabi for a UN climate conference, where he met United Nations chief Antonio Guterres and an unnamed "high ranking UAE official" to discuss bilateral ties as

well as the Iranian threat, his office said. The United Arab Emirates does not have formal diplomatic ties with the Jewish state but Israeli Culture Minister Miri Regev paid a visit to Abu Dhabi in October. The statement did not say when Katz was there but described his visit as the first by a senior Israeli minister since the Bahrain conference.

Iran announced yesterday it had amassed more low-enriched uranium than permitted under its 2015 deal with major powers, its first major step in violation of the deal since the United States pulled out of it more than a year ago. Cohen reaffirmed Israel's policy that it would not allow its arch-foe to get a bomb. "The Mossad or the State of Israel did not sign the nuclear deal (and) will do everything to ensure that Iran will never have nuclear weaponry," he said. Iran denies ever seeking to acquire a nuclear bomb.

"Currently, it's about uranium enrichment at a relatively low percentage, and in amounts that are not large. The threat is to step up enrichment and increase the amounts," Cohen said, speaking before news of the enrichment breach. "Just imagine what will happen if the material stockpiled by the Iranians becomes fissionable, at military-enrichment grade, and then an actual bomb. The Middle East, and then the entire world, will be a different place. Therefore, the world must not allow this to happen." — Agencies

crisis-stricken pair Venezuela and Libya. United Arab Emirates Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei predicted that OPEC would agree to the plan amid the brighter post-G20 demand outlook. "We in the United Arab Emirates see that nine months would be more appropriate and we look forward to a healthier demand in the second half of the year after the good results from the G20 meeting," Mazrouei said.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Khaled Ali Al-Fadhel concurred, adding: "Because of the positive outcomes of the G20 ... we are feeling more and more confident that things are looking better from now." OPEC and its oil-producer allies had decided in December to trim output after prices tanked at the end of last year on fears of slower global growth. In reaction the market soared by a third in the first quarter of 2019. The cartel meanwhile remains on red alert over escalating US-Iran tensions that have also fuelled strong oil-price gains, particularly over disputed attacks on tankers in the Straits of Hormuz.

Yet global demand worries persist and the cartel has also lost market share to the United States, whose booming shale output has transformed it into the world's biggest oil producer. In afternoon deals yesterday, West Texas Intermediate crude stood at \$59.60, up 1.9 percent, as some analysts cast doubt on whether the OPEC move would lift prices in the long run.

"As such, the new deal will probably fail to address the rising non-OPEC supplies at a time the world economy is slowing, which could mean lower demand growth," Forex.com analyst Fawad Razaqzada told AFP. "Thus, the oil market is likely to be oversupplied again in due course, which means prices may struggle to push significantly higher from here," he added. — AFP

fession of lawyers amid some controversy. The Assembly rejected an amendment by the legal and legislative committee to bar graduates of the Islamic Studies College from becoming lawyers as has been the case for years. MPs voted to scrap the amendment. For the first time, the law bars MPs, members of the Municipal Council and university law professors from practicing law or opening legal firms while in office.

The Assembly also passed a law banning the transfer of non-profit companies into commercial firms. MPs also passed two laws to regulate the insurance market and another on regulating accounting. Lawmakers also passed for the first time a law regulating the personal status affairs of Shiites. The law provides solutions based on Shiite religious beliefs. The Assembly continues to meet today, when it is expected to debate the state budget before it winds up the current term tomorrow, when MPs are scheduled to vote on a no-confidence motion against the finance minister.

## New daily bucks trend in...

Continued from Page 1

In January, Al-Mustaqbal issued its last print version 20 years after being established by late billionaire premier Rafiq Al-Hariri. In September last year, political daily Al-Anwar disappeared from print after nearly 60 years due to "financial losses". In June 2018, prestigious pan-Arab newspaper Al-Hayat closed its Lebanon

offices, where it was first founded in 1946 before later becoming Saudi owned. Its printing presses in Beirut stopped the same month, leaving its international version only available online.

In late 2016, Lebanese newspaper As-Safir closed 42 years after publishing its first edition, with the founder saying it had run out of funds. "A newspaper can't be a commercial enterprise in Lebanon," said Charbel, explaining that the country's economy and the many challenges ailing the print media sector make profitability nearly impossible. But "the newspaper still has an important place despite the decline of print media", the editor-in-chief said. "I think there is trust in newspapers, and the proof is that the most read news websites are operated by newspapers," he added. — AFP

## Iran exceeds enriched...

Continued from Page 1

The International Atomic Energy Agency yesterday confirmed Iran had exceeded the limit that the deal had imposed on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium (LEU). The IAEA "verified on July 1 that Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile exceeded 300 kilograms", a spokesperson said. A diplomat in Vienna, where the UN's nuclear watchdog is based, told AFP that Iran had exceeded the limit by two kilograms.

World powers were quick to react. Russia's deputy foreign minister, Sergei Ryabkov, said Iran's move was a cause for "regret" but also "a natural consequence of recent events" and a result of the "unprecedented pressure" imposed by the US. "One mustn't dramatize the situation," Ryabkov said in comments reported by Russian news agencies. Moscow is a close ally of Tehran and has previously called on European signatories of the nuclear agreement to respect the deal despite the US pullout.

Britain's Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt said on Twitter that London was "deeply worried" and urged Iran to refrain from taking any further steps outside the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal. "UK remains committed to making

deal work (and) using all diplomatic tools to deescalate regional tensions. I urge Iran to avoid any further steps away" the nuclear deal and "come back into compliance," he said. On Friday, the European Union said after a crisis meeting aimed at salvaging the deal that a special payment mechanism set up to help Iran skirt the sanctions, known as INSTEX, was finally "operational" and that the first transactions were being processed. But "the Europeans' efforts were not enough, therefore Iran will go ahead with its announced measures", Zarif said. INSTEX, which "is just the beginning" of their commitments, has not yet been fully implemented, he added.

The 2015 deal saw Iran commit never to acquire an atomic bomb, to accept drastic limits on its nuclear program and submit to IAEA inspections in exchange for a partial lifting of crippling international sanctions. But US President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from the deal on May 8, 2018 - and subsequent sanctions - have deprived Iran of the economic benefits it expected and plunged it into recession.

Exactly a year after the US withdrew, President Hassan Rouhani said Iran would temporarily cease to limit its stocks of heavy water and low-enriched uranium. Iran has also threatened to start enriching uranium above the agreed maximum purification level of 3.67 percent from July 7. That remains far short of the 90 percent purity required to build a weapon. The latest tensions coincide with a buildup of US forces in the Gulf and a series of incidents including Iran's shooting down of a US drone it claimed had entered its airspace. — AFP

## OPEC extends oil cut to prop...

Continued from Page 1

"Everyone supported the proposition to extend for nine months the limits agreed in December," said Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak ahead of the cartel's main meeting.

Saudi Arabia's energy minister Khalid Al-Falih was meanwhile swift to deflect criticism from archfoe Iran that OPEC could "die" in the face of Riyadh and Moscow's Osaka deal. Falih told reporters before OPEC's main meeting: "I think OPEC is more vibrant than ever. As Mark Twain said once, the reports of OPEC's death have been repeated many times, and every time it was ... greatly exaggerated. We believe that oil as a commodity is unique. It's the blood of the global economy. Ideally every producer should be around the table with us today." He added: "Saudi Arabia and Russia are the largest producers, we are delivering the largest cuts, we (...) agree first and then discuss our agreement with our colleagues from other countries."

Iran had earlier slammed the Osaka move, arguing that OPEC did not simply exist to rubberstamp a decision made outside of the cartel, but has however voiced its support for the extension. The Islamic republic, with production severely hit by US sanctions, is however exempt from the December cuts agreement along with

## MPs pass laws on bedoons...

Continued from Page 1

MP Yousef Al-Fadhlah warned the interior minister that MPs will investigate the history of all naturalized people to ensure there is no political purpose for the law. Similar legislations are passed every year, but the government rarely uses them, keeping the problem of 120,000 stateless people or bedoons unresolved. Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah last year said the government found only 100 people who fulfilled the conditions.

The Assembly also passed a law to regulate the pro-

## Japan fishermen catch first...

Continued from Page 1

- a ritual to purify and celebrate the catch. Vessels left from other ports elsewhere in Japan yesterday, including in Shimonoseki in the west of the country, and whalers and government officials hailed the resumption of the hunts.

"I'm a bit nervous but happy that we can start whaling," 23-year-old Hideki Abe, a whaler from the Miyagi region in northern Japan, told AFP before leaving from Kushiro. "I don't think young people know how to cook and eat whale meat any more. I want more people to try to taste it at least once." "This is a small industry, but I am proud of hunting whales," added Kai in a ceremony before the boats left from Kushiro. "People have hunted whales for more than 400 years in my home town."

Whaling has long proved a rare diplomatic flashpoint for Tokyo, which says the practice is a Japanese tradition that should not be subject to international interference. As an IWC member, Japan was banned from commercial hunts of large whales, though it could catch small varieties in waters near its coastline. But it also exploited a loophole in the body's rules to carry out highly controversial hunts of whales in protected Antarctic waters under the banner of "scientific research".

Activists said the hunts had no scientific value, and

Japan made no secret of the fact that meat from whales caught on those hunts ended up sold for consumption. With its withdrawal from the IWC, Tokyo will carry out whale hunting off Japan, but will end the most contentious hunts in the Antarctic. The country's Fisheries Agency said yesterday it had set a cap for a total catch of 227 whales through the season until late December - 52 minke, 150 Bryde's and 25 sei whales.

Humane Society International slammed the resumption of commercial hunts. "This is a sad day for whale protection globally," said the group's head of campaigns Nicola Beynon, accusing Japan of beginning a "new and shocking era of pirate whaling". Japanese officials say the hunts will protect an ancient tradition. "The resumption of commercial whaling has been an ardent wish for whalers across the country," Shigeto Hase, the head of Japan's fisheries agency, said at the departure ceremony in Kushiro. "The culture and way of life will be passed on to the next generation."

Whale meat was a key source of protein in the immediate post-World War II years in Japan, when the country was desperately poor. Most reports suggest consumption has declined significantly in recent decades - with much of the population saying they rarely or never eat whale meat. But a Japanese government official said "demand has been stable". "It is totally false that commercial whaling will not be viable as demand is declining," he said.

Some believe that Japan's return to commercial whale hunting will effectively sound the death knell for the industry, with a shrinking market and dwindling subsidies. "What we are seeing is the beginning of the end of Japanese whaling," said Patrick Ramage, director of marine conservation at the International Fund for Animal Welfare. — AFP



## Sports

# Yankees rally with nine-run inning, beat Boston Red Sox

## Pillar drives in five, leads Giants over Diamondbacks

**NEW YORK:** Gary Sanchez hit a go-ahead, two-run single as part of a nine-run seventh inning as the New York Yankees rallied past the Boston Red Sox 12-8 on Sunday for a two-game sweep in Major League Baseball's first trip to London. Gio Urshela (single) and DJ LeMahieu (double) added two-run hits with the bases loaded, and two more came home on a sacrifice fly and an error as the Yankees sent 14 men to the plate in the inning to blow the game open. Adam Ottavino (3-2) got the win in relief as New York was victorious for the 13th time in its past 14 games. New York outscored Boston 29-21 as 50 combined runs mark the most in a two-game span in the storied Yankees-Red Sox rivalry. The Red Sox homered three times in the first inning for the first time since 1979 but were held scoreless from there until the eighth. The Boston bullpen blew its American League-leading 17th save, and the club has dropped five of its past seven games.

### Mets 8, Braves 5

Jeff McNeil's two-run single highlighted a five-run rally in the eighth inning and helped New York end its seven-game losing streak by beating Atlanta, winning for the first time since June 22. The rally began when Todd Frazier crushed a solo homer, his 11th, off Sean Newcomb (2-1) to cut the deficit to 5-4. McNeil, who finished 3-for-5, put the Mets ahead with a single off A.J. Minter. Pete Alonso completed the outburst with a two-run double to left. Noah Syndergaard was activated from the injured list to make his eighth career start against the Braves. He pitched 5 2/3 innings and allowed three runs on seven hits, three walks and five strikeouts. The Braves remain the only National League team he has never beaten.

### Dodgers 10, Rockies 5

Joc Pederson had three hits and drove in three runs, while Matt Beaty, Kike Hernandez and Russell Martin had two hits each, as Los Angeles beat Colorado in Denver. Dylan Floro (3-2) got the final two outs of the fifth inning to get the win for the Dodgers, who earned a split of the four-game series. Charlie Blackmon and David Dahl, both of whom were named All-Stars earlier in the day, homered, and Tony Wolters had two hits for Colorado.

### Cardinals 5, Padres 3 (11 innings)

Catcher Matt Wieters drove a two-out, two-run homer 390 feet onto the top balcony of the Western Metal Supply Co. building in left field at Petco Park in the 11th inning, giving St. Louis a win at San Diego. Wieters' fourth homer of the season followed a two-out single rolled by Koltan Wong to Padres first baseman Eric Hosmer. Right-hander Carlos Martinez (2-0) allowed a hit and a walk with four strikeouts over 2 2/3 innings of scoreless relief to get the win. Dominic Leone picked up his first save. The Padres built a 3-0 lead in the first five innings against Cardinals starter Miles Mikolas on a two-run homer by Manny Machado, his 20th of the season-giving the Padres three players with 20 homers before the All-Star break for the first time in franchise history along with Franmil Reyes and Hunter Renfroe.

### Astros 6, Mariners 1

Gerrit Cole produced another strong pitching performance, while rookie Yordan Alvarez notched his sev-

enth multi-RBI game as Houston completed a three-game series sweep of Seattle. Cole (8-5) posted his ninth double-digit strikeout game and surrendered five hits and one walk over seven innings. The Mariners mustered just one extra-base hit off Cole, on shortstop J.P. Crawford's third homer of the season. Alvarez knocked in three runs with a single and double, and Jose Altuve added three hits for Houston, which improved to 9-1 against Seattle this season.

### Brewers 2, Pirates 1

Eric Thames homered in the bottom of the eighth inning to lift Milwaukee over visiting Pittsburgh and take the rubber game of their three-game series. Thames, who homered and tripled in a 3-1 win against the Pirates on Saturday night, led off the eighth by hitting an 0-1 fastball from Kyle Crick (3-4) deep over the fence in center for Milwaukee's first lead. Christian Yelich collected his 1,000th career hit, and the Brewers went 2-for-14 with runners in scoring position but still won for the third time in four games. Starling Marte had three hits for Pittsburgh, which lost its second straight game.

### White Sox 4, Twins 3

Alex Colome navigated a fielding error and a wild pitch in the ninth inning to complete a four-out save and help Lucas Giolito become the first 11-game winner in the major leagues, as host Chicago defeated Minnesota. Moncada smacked a two-run home run, and Giolito (11-2) pitched five shutout innings before a lengthy rain delay as Chicago claimed a series victory in the three-game set. Nelson Cruz and Miguel Sano homered for Minnesota, which nearly erased a 4-0 deficit after six innings.

### Giants 10, Diamondbacks 4

Kevin Pillar drove in a career-high five runs with four hits, powering Madison Bumgarner to a win as host San Francisco romped over Arizona. Bumgarner (5-7) won his second straight decision and beat the Diamondbacks for the second time this season, allowing just four hits and one run over seven innings. The four-time All-Star struck out nine and did not walk a batter as the Giants salvaged a split of the teams' four-game weekend series. D-backs starter Robbie Ray (5-6) lasted just four innings, charged with four runs on six hits. He walked three and struck out five. Adam Jones had two hits for Arizona.

### A's 12, Angels 3

Third baseman Matt Chapman punctuated his All-Star nod by going 2-for-2 with a triple, double and three RBIs in the eighth inning alone, part of Oakland's seven-run inning that put the stamp on a blowout at Los Angeles in Anaheim, Calif. Chapman also hit a three-run home run in fifth inning, leaving him with a career-high six RBIs and just a single shy of hitting for the cycle. After losing the first game on Thursday, the A's came back to win the final three games of the four-game series. Oakland starter Chris Bassitt (5-3) gave up two runs on five hits and one walk in 5 2/3 innings, striking out seven, to earn the victory. Shohei Ohtani homered twice for the Angels.

### Reds 8, Cubs 6

Rookie Nick Senzel capped a four-run eighth inning



**LONDON:** Didi Gregorius #18 of the New York Yankees hits a home run during the MLB London Series game between Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees at London Stadium in London, England. — AFP

with a two-run bases-loaded single as Cincinnati beat visiting Chicago. Eugenio Suarez hit a three-run homer, his 17th, in the first inning for the Reds, who held on after giving up three runs in the ninth. Jon Lester (7-6) took a rare loss against the Reds, allowing four runs (three earned) on five hits in 5 2/3 innings. Lester struck out eight, walked two and threw 32 of his season-high 117 pitches in the first inning. He fell to 7-2 lifetime against Cincinnati.

### Phillies 13, Marlins 6

Bryce Harper went 3-for-4 with a homer and four RBI to lead Philadelphia over Miami, snapping its five-game losing skid against the team with the worst record in the National League. Harper's two-run opposite field blast off Miami reliever Jeff Brigham in the eighth was his 15th of the season and gave Philadelphia a 12-6 lead. The homer and three-hit performance moved Harper within one of 200 career homers and 1,000 hits. Trevor Richards (3-9) allowed three runs and six hits in five innings. Richards, whose nine losses are the most in the National League, walked two and struck out three.

### Nationals 2, Tigers 1

Max Scherzer struck out 14 batters in his return to Detroit's Comerica Park as Washington edged the Tigers. The Nationals' ace held Detroit to one run on four hits and didn't issue a walk in eight innings. The former Tiger was making his first appearance in Detroit since signing with Washington after the 2014 season. Scherzer (8-5) struck out 20 Tigers in a home game during the 2016 season. Anthony Rendon scored both Nationals runs, including the go-ahead homer in the eighth. Sean Doolittle recorded his 18th save. Brandon Dixon's homer accounted for Detroit's run. The Tigers have lost nine of their last 10.

### Indians 2, Orioles 0

Carlos Santana drove in two runs with a pair of two-out singles, and Shane Bieber continued to mystify Baltimore, throwing eight shutout innings as visiting Cleveland defeated the O's in the finale of a three-game series. The Orioles were trying for their first sweep of a series this season after routing Cleveland 13-0 in each of the first two games. Nevertheless, this was just the first time since late April that the struggling Orioles won a series. For the Indians, Santana got RBI singles in the third and the seventh innings. Bieber (7-3) gave up three hits and fanned 11 in his eight innings of work.

### Rays 6, Rangers 2

Yandy Diaz hit three doubles and scored three runs, and Blake Snell struck out 12 to win for just the second time in his past 10 starts as Tampa Bay beat Texas in St. Petersburg, Fla. Tommy Pham homered, and Kevin Kiermaier went 2-for-4 with a triple, two runs scored and two RBIs for Tampa Bay, which won the rubber game of the three-game series. Snell (5-7) gave up two runs on three hits over six innings and didn't walk a batter. Joey Gallo went 2-for-2 with a mammoth home run and two RBIs, and Elvis Andrus also had two hits for Texas.

### Royals 7, Blue Jays 6

Jorge Soler homered and added an RBI single, Alex Gordon had a two-run single and visiting Kansas City defeated Toronto. Justin Smoak hit two home runs for the Blue Jays, who won the first two games of the four-game series that ends Monday afternoon. Kansas City starter Brad Keller (4-9) allowed six runs, eight hits and two walks in five innings. It was his first win since May 22, a span of six winless starts with four losses. Ian Kennedy pitched around a ninth-inning walk to earn his 11th save. — Reuters



The newly elected Kuwait Olympic Committee's board of directors. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## New KOC chief aims to take Kuwait sport to new heights

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The new Chairman of Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) Board of Directors Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad insisted that the new board has a working plan and several goals aiming at taking Kuwait sport further ahead.

He said the plan includes approaching the Ministry of Education and other ministries to seek cooperation. He said the board of directors, which received a unanimous vote from the sixteen sports federations will strengthen its relations with international bodies, as well as evaluating administrative work of Kuwait Olympic Committee, as well as providing all means to prepare and qualify athletes who can compete in international arenas and represent Kuwait including in the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Sheikh Fahad thanked the government and sports associations for their efforts that ended the suspension of Kuwait sport at the international level, to start a new era that will turn the page on all previous differences and restore confidence in Kuwait sport.

The elections of Kuwait Olympic Committee board was attended by representative of International Olympic Committee Jerome Buffet in addition to the six member committee that were entrusted to solve the crises, they are Saqer Al-Mulla, Dr Saleh, Al-Qahtani, Hussein Al-Musallam, and representative of the Olympic council of Asia Taha Al-Kushari.

The election process was supervised by three members made of Chairman of Handball Federation Nasser Bu Marzouq, Deputy Chairman of Football Federation Ahmad Al-Enezi and Secretary of Gymnastics

Federation Abdellatif Murad.

Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah proposed the general assembly appointment of two members on the board with the right to vote, they are the head of the woman committee Fatima Hayat, and head of athletes committee Fai Al-Sultan. He also proposed the appointment of Bader Al-Mutawa and Ghazi Al-Jeraiwi as non-voting members, and the proposals were also approved unanimously.

The woman's committee included two members Sheikha Bibi Al-Salem and Najlaa Al-Jeraiwi.

The International Olympic Committee, which lifted the suspension partially as a goodwill gesture on August 16, 2018, approved all steps, decisions and amendments approved by the extraordinary general assembly on the new statute of the Olympic Committee.

## Verstappen reconciles with Leclerc, says win is right for the sport

**SPIELBERG:** Max Verstappen reconciled with his rival Charles Leclerc and declared yesterday that race stewards' belated confirmation of his thrilling wheel-banging victory in the Austrian Grand Prix was "the right decision for the sport".

A week after a dreary procession race at the French Grand Prix, the Dutchman's dramatic triumph for Red Bull ended Mercedes' early-season stranglehold on the title race and blew away talk of crisis and calls for knee-jerk rule changes.

His late and controversial passing move on fellow 21-year-old Leclerc of Ferrari may have caused a three-hour delay in confirming the result, but on a sweltering afternoon in the Styrian Alps it provided a spectacular, uplifting conclusion. "It has been stressful few hours, but this is the right decision for me and for the sport," said the super-confident Verstappen, revelling in his sixth career win. "He would have done the same thing in my place - it's just racing."

Earlier, following Sunday's race, the sport's young tyro had said: "It you can't race like that and do that,

what's the point of Formula One. We may as well go home now." The stewards, who delayed starting their hearing until 90 minutes after the end of the race, eventually decided the 69th lap clash between the two drivers, who had started together as the youngest front row pairing in F1 history, was no more than "a racing incident".

It was a verdict that was welcomed by everyone except those at Ferrari who hoped that their Monegasque driver had finally claimed his maiden Grand Prix triumph. As Red Bull headed off to celebrate their first win in 11 races since Verstappen finished first at last year's Mexican Grand Prix, Leclerc and Verstappen reconciled their differences following a frosty post-race silence before and during the podium ceremony.

As the Dutchman cavorted and sprayed sparkling wine, his rival turned his back and departed, but the rift was repaired swiftly - long before their planned shared flight home to Monte Carlo. "We're good, we're good," Verstappen said. "Already, after the stewards, we're good. We are racing drivers and I have known Charles a long time and he, for sure, will this year take his first victory as well. "You have to accept it, of course, and it's disappointing to lose your first victory in the last few laps. I've lost out on pole positions, which were very painful. "These things happen in this sport and, as I said, Charles is a great driver. He will come far... I think we have another 15-20 years' racing together..." — AFP



## Sports

# India defend Dhoni after limp end to England World Cup chase

## Mayank Agarwal replaces injured Vijay Shankar in India World Cup squad

**BIRMINGHAM:** India team bosses yesterday defended M.S. Dhoni after the wicketkeeper-batsman came under fire for slow batting towards the end of his side's World Cup defeat to England.

Chasing a stiff target 338 to win, previously unbeaten India needed 71 runs from the last five overs of Sunday's match at Edgbaston, with veteran big-hitter Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav at the crease. But the pair added just 39, scrambling singles but failing to find the boundary regularly, to finish on 306-5. Dhoni was unbeaten on 42 off 31 deliveries while Jadhav was 12 not out off 13 balls.

The two batsmen were criticised in the Indian press and on social media, with pundits labelling their approach as "baffling". But assistant coach Sanjay Bangar said the criticism levelled at the former captain surprised him, adding that 37-year-old Dhoni was "doing the job for the team".

"Except for one odd innings, he has done the role always. Five out of seven games he has done the job for the team," said Bangar. "If you see the earlier games, against South Africa he stitched together a partnership of 70 (the partnership was 74) with Rohit (Sharma). After that, what was required of him against Australia he did that."

"In Manchester on a difficult track (against West Indies) he got a vital fifty for us. Here also he was striking the ball really well. I'm surprised that this question continues to come up every now and then."

A powerful middle-order batsman who led India to World Cup glory at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium in 2011, Dhoni's finishing prowess has recently been questioned. Earlier in the current tournament he faced flak for his slow knock against Afghanistan, when he scored just 28 off 52 deliveries. Bangar said England's excellent

bowling was the reason for India's struggles in Birmingham, rather than Dhoni's alleged lack of intent.

"If you look at the way they bowled towards the end, they used the dimensions really well and created difficult angles for our batters to hit," said Bangar.

"In those large boundaries and with the type of balls they were bowling—slower bouncers, a lot of into-the-wicket deliveries, slower balls, I just felt maybe last one or two overs, the difference between runs required and balls left were a bit too much."

Rising star Rishabh Pant impressed with his cameo at number four and Bangar said the young batsman would keep his place in the side for Tuesday's match against Bangladesh, also at Edgbaston.

The 21-year-old Pant, who joined the team in the middle of the tournament after an injury to opener Shikhar Dhawan, made 32 off 29 balls. India need one win from their remaining two matches to guarantee a place in the World Cup semi-finals.

Meanwhile, India all-rounder Vijay Shankar has been ruled out of the rest of the World Cup, with Mayank Agarwal announced on Monday as his replacement in the 15-man squad. "Vijay Shankar sustained a non-displaced fracture of the left big toe, which will require a minimum of three weeks to heal. The injury rules him out of the ongoing World Cup," said a statement from the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Shankar was hit on the foot by a yorker from pacer Jasprit Bumrah during a training session in Southampton on June 19 and was not in the team for India's defeat to England at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Shankar played three matches at the tournament in England and Wales, against Pakistan, Afghanistan and the West Indies, but did not bowl in his last two matches. The 28-year-old Agarwal, a top-order bats-



**BIRMINGHAM:** India's captain Virat Kohli (L) speaks with teammate and wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match between England and India at Edgbaston in Birmingham, central England. —AFP

man, has played two Tests but is yet to play a one-day international.

Injuries have troubled India throughout their World Cup campaign, with opener Shikhar Dhawan earlier forced out of the tournament with a broken thumb. Fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar suffered a

hamstring strain against Pakistan and has not played since but he is fit and will be available for selection for India's next game, against Bangladesh in Birmingham today. Virat Kohli's India need to win one of their remaining two matches to guarantee a semi-final spot in the 10-team event. —AFP

## McIlroy sees no need for superstar caddie

**NEW YORK:** Rory McIlroy has little interest in following Jason Day's example and teaming up with a so-called superstar caddie, the Northern Irishman said in the wake of Day's decision to hire the sport's best known bagman.

Day coaxed Steve Williams out of retirement starting at the recent US Open, saying he thought the veteran caddie's experience would be an asset as he tried to play his way back to world number one status. Williams caddied for Tiger Woods in 13 of the American's 15 major victories.

Day's decision to hire Williams raised the question of whether other top players might follow suit, perhaps trying to lure someone such as Jim "Bones" Mackay, who worked for Phil Mickelson for 25 years.

McIlroy has been using his lifelong friend Harry Diamond for nearly two years now, with the Northern Irishman saying that he no longer needed an old hand on the bag. "Maybe back in the day when I wasn't as experienced, but I've been on tour for 12 years," McIlroy said in a recent interview with Reuters.

"Caddies don't hit the shots. I want someone out there I'm comfortable with first and foremost that's the big thing for me and that's why I have Harry on the bag." Diamond is expected to work for McIlroy at next week's Scottish Open and the following week's British Open at Royal Portrush, where McIlroy shattered the course record with an 11-under-par 61 in the 2005 North of Ireland Amateur Championship.

McIlroy, 30, has not tasted victory in one of golf's four biggest championships since 2014. His previous caddie J.P. Fitzgerald was on the bag at all four of McIlroy's major victories between 2011-14. But McIlroy, speaking in his role as ambassador for GOLF-PASS, an NBC subscription website which will have live streaming video of every shot by the player at the Scottish Open, said Diamond brought an extra asset to the job. "Having someone by your side that actually knows the game and knows how to play the game, and can sort of see different shots, and have a feeling of what way a ball's going to come out of a certain lie in the rough, all of that stuff (is an asset)," he said of Diamond, who was a top-level amateur player. "Harry's my best friend. We were best man at both of our weddings. I'm comfortable out there with him and feel like he does a better job. I don't envision a day where I go to a superstar caddie, or a well-known caddie. I just don't think it's in my approach." — Reuters

## KJA congratulates KOC new chief, board

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA)'s secretary and head of the sport media committee, Adnan Al-Rashed congratulates the Olympic Committee board of directors headed by Sheikh Fahad Al-Ansser Al-Sabah for winning the new tenure of 2019-2023 wishing them success in leading Kuwait's sports movement and achieving the substantial shift forward anticipated by the Kuwaiti public opinion.

Al-Rashed also thanked the previous board under Sheikh Talal Al-Fahad for their sincere efforts exerted during their four year tenure.



Adnan Al-Rashed

## Mashrafe urges Bangladesh to raise game for must-win clash

**BIRMINGHAM:** Skipper Mashrafe Mortaza says Bangladesh will have to raise their game against a strong India side today if they are retain any chance of reaching the World Cup semi-finals.

Mashrafe's side have seven points after three wins and a washout, three points behind fourth-placed England. To retain any chance of qualifying from the 10-team group phase they need to win both of their final fixtures, against India and Pakistan, and hope results elsewhere go in their favour.

"India are very strong in this World Cup and it is not going to be easy but we have to play hard and be at 100 percent in every area," he said. "Are we going to still be in it? Maybe, maybe not. Let's see but we have

## Rashford agrees new 4-year deal at Man United

**LONDON:** Marcus Rashford committed his long-term future to Manchester United yesterday by agreeing a new four-year contract with the option for a further year. The 21-year-old's previous deal was due to expire in 2020 and the England striker had attracted interest from Barcelona among others across Europe.

However, United have reportedly committed to a bumper contract worth £250,000 (\$317,000) a week to ensure that Rashford remains at Old Trafford. Rashford has scored 45 goals in 170 appearances since breaking into the United first team as an 18-year-old.

"Manchester United has been everything in my life since I arrived here at the age of seven. This club has shaped me, both as a player and as a person, so it is such a privilege every time I get the opportunity to

to play better than what we have done so far."

Shakib Al Hasan, the world's top-rated all-rounder in one-day internationals, has scored 476 runs and picked up 10 wickets in the tournament. "Shakib has been doing whatever he can do," said Mashrafe. "He has been doing everything in batting, bowling and fielding. He has been the best performer at this World Cup."

"There is much left and hopefully he can do whatever he has done and finish on a good level." England handed India their first defeat of the tournament at Edgbaston on Sunday, blunting their spin attack to rack up 337-7, with the home batsmen making the most of a short boundary on one side.

But Mashrafe, whose side will take on India on the same ground in Birmingham, said they had their own plans against the two-time champions. "The Indian spinners are doing a lot better if you look at their stats in the last two, three years. Both (Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav) are doing very well," said Mashrafe.

"We can't think just because England did it we will and get success. Our batting has been very good and we will stick to the plan. "Maybe against New Zealand we could have done better but the way we are playing we should stick to our plan. England stuck to their plan, we stuck to ours." — AFP



Mashrafe Mortaza

wear the shirt," said Rashford in a club statement.

Rashford has been handed a more prominent role since Ole Gunnar Solskjaer replaced Jose Mourinho as manager in December. And Rashford hailed the Norwegian's influence for keeping him at his hometown club after a previously stormy relationship with Mourinho.

"I want to thank Ole and his staff for everything they have done for me; they are the perfect group of coaches to learn from as I continue my development and look to push on to the next level," added Rashford.

"I will be giving everything I have to help get this club back to where it belongs and deliver the success that our fans deserve." United are in need of a major rebuild after finishing sixth in the Premier League last season to miss out on Champions League qualification.

However, Solskjaer is keen to construct his squad around a core of young British talent and, after the signings of Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James, retaining Rashford is an another important step in the right direction for the Red Devils.

"Marcus is one of the most talented English players of his generation," said Solskjaer. "He is an outstanding player; blessed with natural pace and energy." — AFP



Marcus Rashford

## Dutch back in the groove: Miedema

**LYON:** The Netherlands have recovered their flow at the women's World Cup after feeling the pressure from being European champions, forward Vivianne Miedema said yesterday ahead of their maiden semi-final clash against Sweden.

The Dutch upset the odds to win the Euros on home soil two years ago, their first title in women's football, but looked far from their best at the start of their second World Cup, despite going on to top Group E.

Miedema, who plays for English champions Arsenal, said the rough start was behind them as they looked forward to facing a Swedish side they knocked out in the quarter-finals of that triumphant Euro 2017 campaign.

"At the Euros no one really expected a lot from us. Once we started winning, our country stood behind and we just kind of got in that flow," Miedema, who is the all-time top scorer for her country with 60 goals, told a news conference. "And we came here and in Holland

everyone said 'oh they'll be world champions' and that gave us a lot of pressure. "In the first couple of games we didn't always play good football but we still got nine points and we are in the semi-finals right now so I think you can say we're back in that flow."

Coach Sarina Wiegman, who took charge in January 2017 and oversaw their rise in the world rankings from 12th to 8th, said the team had no choice but to adapt to the extra scrutiny.

"Since we won the Euros we've become much more visible, we have more media attention for our team and it's become part of our lives right now and we need to deal with it and get better every game, so that's what we're working on," Wiegman said.

The 49-year-old, a former midfielder who in 2001 became the first Dutch woman play 100 internationals, said she was hopeful influential striker Lieke Martens would play a part in Wednesday's match despite carrying a toe injury.—Reuters

## Vettori urges NZ not to panic after World Cup blow

**LONDON:** Former New Zealand star Daniel Vettori insists his country are still World Cup contenders despite their recent stumbles. New Zealand suffered their second defeat of the tournament against Australia at Lord's on Saturday, losing by 86 runs against the holders after a defeat to Pakistan in their previous game.

The Black Caps are not assured of a semi-final berth with one game left against title rivals England next week. But Vettori remains confident the 2015 World Cup runners-up will stay calm ahead of the England clash and should be capable of advancing to the knockout stages.

"I still definitely feel that this New Zealand side can make history and win it all," Vettori said in an ICC Media column. "Two losses at this stage will be tough to take but they have been so good for so long and have so many experienced players that I am sure they will pull through."

"It is a bit tighter now, but I still think they will feel pretty confident. Even if every result goes against them, their net

run rate should still put them into the semi-finals. "The nature of this New Zealand team for an extended period of time now has been to stay pretty constant, to not panic."

Vettori says New Zealand have been playing well enough not to lose faith in their game-plan. "They will understand that they have played some really good cricket in this tournament," he said. "They will need to call on all their nous to get through against the hosts."

"But even if they don't win against England and go through via net run rate, or other results going their way, I still think they will walk into the semi-finals thinking they can beat anyone on their day."

Vettori's main concern is New Zealand's ability to score enough runs to put opponents in trouble on slow pitches, with the Black Caps yet to reach 300 in the tournament. "The only question mark for them will be the surfaces they were playing on. It looks like across the board the surfaces are getting lower and slower," he said.—AFP



Sports

# England star Bronze revels in return 'home' for WCup s-final

## England's q-final victory over Norway was one of the highlights of the tournament

LYON: England's Lucy Bronze said the two years spent fine-tuning her talent at leading club side Lyon have helped her become one of the top stars in the women's game as she prepares for today's World Cup semi-final against the United States in her adopted home city.

Bronze is one of the focal points of Phil Neville's English team who are hoping to reach a first ever World Cup final when they take on the holders in Lyon, the city Bronze has called home since moving to Europe's dominant club from Manchester City in 2017.

"I think the player that I was two years ago, I had a desire to win and I've always had that competitiveness, but going to Lyon I had to change my game for the better," Bronze said at a packed news conference yesterday ahead of the hotly anticipated semi-final.

The 27-year-old, whose goal in England's 3-0 quarter-final victory over Norway was one of the highlights of the tournament, has won back-to-back French titles and consecutive Champions Leagues with Lyon.

The club who have been European champions six times in a row contributed seven members of the French World Cup squad, while Ballon d'Or winner

Ada Hegerberg—missing from the tournament due to a dispute with her Norwegian federation—also plays alongside Bronze.

It is also the home of Germany's Dzsenifer Marozsan, the midfielder who Bronze ranks as the best in the women's game. "I have played with all the best players, all the superstars that are around in the world now, and I studied them. I wanted to get better on the ball, I wanted to get my technique better, and they are probably the reasons why I scored that goal the other night," she said.

The full-back revealed she has received messages of support from her club, including from Gerard Houllier, the former Liverpool manager who has spent the last few years working as an advisor at Lyon. While admitting that she has not yet mastered French, Bronze has benefited hugely from the "world-class" players around her in the Lyon dressing room, notably star France defender Wendie Renard.

"She walks into a room and you just feel her presence," Bronze said. "There is a lot of leadership. You've got Saki Kumagai, who is the Japanese captain, and I think that's something that I've been asked to do more now at England and I've been able to learn

off all these great captains from all over the world."

### 'DESTINED' FOR THE FINAL?

From her position at right-back, today, Bronze will come directly up against USA star Megan Rapinoe, who scored all of her team's goals in the wins over Spain and France in the last two rounds. Nevertheless, Bronze promised not to change her attacking style as England seek to make up for the disappointment of losing the 2015 World Cup semi-final to Japan. They also lost in the semi-finals of Euro 2017.

"It is an amazing achievement to be able to do it on a consistent basis, but we are short of that last step, we have still got that hunger," said Bronze, who played alongside US star Tobin Heath during a stint at college level on the other side of the Atlantic a decade ago.

In contrast to England, while the USA are the holders, the Netherlands are the reigning European champions and Sweden reached the Olympic final in 2016. However, said Bronze, that could mean it was England's turn.

"These are three teams who have reached finals in recent years, so we probably have that edge, we're maybe more destined to go to a final in that respect." —AFP



LYON: England's defender Lucy Bronze speaks during a press conference in Lyon, yesterday, during the France 2019 Women's Football World Cup. England will face USA in the next semi-final football match of the France 2019 Women's World Cup today. —AFP

## USA and Jamaica win close contests to set up s-final clash

LOS ANGELES: Weston McKennie scored in the first half as the USA dodged a bullet by edging upstart Curacao 1-0 Sunday to reach the semi-finals of the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament. The unbeaten Americans recorded their fourth straight shutout victory but the tiny Caribbean island of Curacao gave them their biggest test of the tournament so far.

The US looked sluggish in the second half at Lincoln Financial Field Stadium in Philadelphia and needed some superb goalkeeping from Zack Steffen to move on. They advance to face Jamaica who beat Panama by the same 1-0 score in the other quarter-final on Sunday.

"It wasn't one of our best games but it is about moving on and that's what we did," McKennie. McKennie scored in the 25th minute, finding open space near the back post and heading home a perfectly-timed cross from teammate Christian Pulisic. McKennie said the play is something they work on in training.

"He (Pulisic) likes to cut in a lot and I like to make late runs into the box," said McKennie. "I always tell him when he cuts in to look for me around the back post." Curacao, who were the surprise second place finishers in Group B, controlled most of the play in the second half as they pressed for the equalizer.

Steffen faced more shots on Sunday than the US faced in the entire group stage. Curacao came close to levelling the score in the 84th minute when Leandro Bacuna weaved around a couple of defenders and aimed his shot for the top corner but Steffen made a desperate stab at the ball and managed to deflect it over the crossbar with his finger tips.

Curacao had the Americans on their heels and for awhile it looked like they might have a chance to follow



PHILADELPHIA: Tyler Boyd No 21 of the United States passes in front of Darryl Lachman No 4 of Curacao during the first half of the CONCACAF Gold Cup Quarterfinals match at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. —AFP

Haiti, who knocked out Canada, and score a big upset. "We fought like lions. We did everything to win," said Curacao's Cuco Martina.

Elsewhere, Jamaica moved a step closer to reaching their third straight Gold Cup final as they booked their spot in the semis on Sunday with a 1-0 victory over Panama. Darren Mattocks converted a penalty in the 75th minute for Jamaica, who won their group but struggled to do so after playing to draws with El

Salvador and Curacao.

The Reggae Boyz got a break Sunday when Panama's Michael Amir Murillo was called for a controversial hand ball as he was challenging Mattocks for a header at Lincoln Financial Field. The Jamaican players then argued over who would take the penalty kick before Mattocks won out. He made no mistake, pushing it into the open side after Panama keeper Luis Mejia guessed wrong. —AFP

## Salah scores as Egypt maintain perfect Cup of Nations record

CAIRO: Mohamed Salah scored from a free-kick as host nation Egypt defeated Uganda 2-0 in Cairo Sunday to win Group A at the Africa Cup of Nations with a perfect three-win record. Pre-tournament favourites Egypt will remain in Cairo for the round of 16 and play one of the best four third-place finishers next Saturday. After prolific Liverpool scorer Salah put Egypt ahead against the run of play on 36 minutes, captain Ahmed Elmohamady added a second just before half-time. Uganda had plenty of possession in both halves and often threatened to score without managing to put the ball in the net.

Egypt topped the final standings with nine points and Uganda came next with four to also qualify automatically for the knockout phase. The Democratic Republic of Congo came third with three points after trouncing Zimbabwe 4-0 in another Cairo stadium.

Elmohamady said: "Nine points out of three games is something Egypt is used to - the difficult part is what comes next. "As of tomorrow, we will start to prepare, regardless of the team we will meet in the last 16.

"We scored five goals in three matches and kept three clean sheets. For me these are good numbers." Uganda were more impressive than Egypt for the first 30 minutes on a hot night at a packed 75,000-capacity Cairo International Stadium.

Goalkeeper Mohamed Elshenawy did well to push a sizzling, long-range Allan Kyambadde drive over at the expense of a corner. Abdu Lumala was a constant threat for the Cranes and had a shot and a header saved in quick succession with the Pharaohs defence not its normal assured self.

Salah then turned the tide toward the record seven-time African champions by lifting a free-kick over a defensive wall and past goalkeeper Denis Onyango into the corner of the net. It was the second goal of the tournament for the Egyptian idol and Elmohamady notched his second in first-half stoppage time.

A low cross eluded two Egyptians, including Salah, but fell to Elmohamady, who unleashed a low shot that



CAIRO: Egypt's forward Mohamed Salah (L) vies for the ball with Uganda's midfielder Michael Azira during the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) Group A football match between Uganda and Egypt at the Cairo International Stadium in the Egyptian capital. —AFP

took a slight deflection en route to the far corner of the net. It was a massive blow for the Ugandans, who did not deserve to be two goals behind as they walked to the changerooms.

The pace of Salah gave him a chance to score his second goal soon after the break, but Onyango made a superb one-handed block to foil the 2018 African Footballer of the Year. Uganda regained their composure to cause constant problems for the home team, but lacked a clinical finisher like Salah.

Earlier, Africa Cup of Nations newcomers Madagascar pulled off a stunning upset of powerhouse Nigeria with a 2-0 win over the three-time former champions to clinch a place in the last 16. Lalaina Nomenjanahary gave Madagascar a shock 12th-minute

lead in Alexandria and Charles Andriamatsinoro sealed the victory.

At the 30 June Stadium in Cairo, the Democratic Republic of Congo put a two-loss start to the tournament behind them with a 4-0 triumph over Zimbabwe, the biggest of the competition so far.

Jonathan Bolingi punished a blunder by goalkeeper Elvis Chipezeze to head the Congolese Leopards in front on four minutes and Cedric Bakambu added a second before half-time. China-based Bakambu netted again midway through the second half and Britt Assombalonga added a fourth. The Congolese will know only tonight after the final group matches whether they are among the best four third-place finishers and remain in the competition. —AFP

## Morgan happy to sacrifice Golden Boot for team glory

LYON: Alex Morgan says she would be happy to forgo the Golden Boot for top scorer at the women's World Cup if it meant the United States retained their title in France, as she prepares for today's semi-final showdown with England.

Striker Morgan is the tournament's joint leading scorer alongside in-form teammate Megan Rapinoe, England's Ellen White and the already-eliminated Australia's Sam Kerr with five goals, but has not found the net since hitting five in the Americans' record 13-0 thrashing of Thailand.

"I'd like someone on our team to win the Golden Boot," Morgan said at Sunday's pre-match press conference.

"It would be a great accolade but that's not my goal, my goal is to help this team win a World Cup, so as long as the goals continue to come then I'm happy. And that's not goals continuing to come for me, but this team."

Rapinoe has joined Morgan at the top of the charts after carrying the USA to the last-four meeting with Phil Neville's side, scoring all four goals in their tense 2-1 wins over Spain and France in the previous rounds.

Morgan was substituted at half-time of the USA's final group game with Sweden and has not looked on top form, although she played a key role in Rapinoe's brace at the Parc des Princes on Friday.

She won the free-kick from which Rapinoe gave her side a fifth minute lead, and set Tobin Heath through to lay on the 33-year-old for her decisive second.

"Megan Rapinoe has put this team on her back from Spain to France and it's going to take players like that and a couple of individuals to step up and help carry this team," Morgan added.

USA coach Jill Ellis insisted that her team is not an arrogant one after her staff were seen checking out England's team hotel in Lyon to use for the final should they win today.

Reminded of defender Ali Krieger saying the USA had such a deep squad they had the best and second best team in the world, she said: "I don't think it's in any way an arrogant team.

"They know they have to earn everything," she added. "They know that we've got tough opponents as we did the other night and we have to earn every right to win this tournament." —AFP

## Southampton sign Ings on permanent deal from Liverpool

LONDON: Southampton have signed striker Danny Ings from Liverpool on a permanent deal after an impressive loan spell at St Mary's, the Premier League club said yesterday.

Ings joined the south coast side on a season-long loan in August 2018, and the club yesterday said it has now signed the player on a three-year deal.

British media reported the Saints paid Liverpool 20 million pounds (\$25.3 million) for the 26-year-old. Ings, who scored seven league goals in 24 games with the Saints last season, reported back at their training base for the first day of pre-season yesterday and said he was happy with the move.

"It feels good," Ings, who has one England cap to his name, told the club website <https://southamptonfc.com/news/2019-07-01/announcement-danny-ings-southampton-liverpool-permanent-transfer-completed>.

"Obviously being here for a season already, I felt like it was very up and down for me personally, with a few niggles and small injuries, and that was off the back of not having a strong pre-season.

"Now I've signed permanently, I feel great. I've looked after myself over the summer, and I'm just raring to go for the new season." —Reuters



## 25 Yankees rally with nine-run inning, beat Boston Red Sox



## 26 India defend Dhoni after limp end to England World Cup chase



## 27 England star Bronze revels in return 'home' for WCup s-final



CHESTER-LE-STREET: Sri Lanka's Avishka Fernando (L) plays a shot as teammate Lahiru Thirimanne looks on during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match between Sri Lanka and West Indies at the Riverside Ground, in Chester-le-Street, northeast England, yesterday. —AFP

# S Lanka survive scare to beat W Indies

## Sri Lanka post an imposing total of 338 for six in 50 overs

**CHESTER-LE-STREET:** Sri Lanka held off a West Indies charge at Chester-le-Street yesterday to win an exciting battle of two World Cup also-rans by 23 runs. Both teams came into the match aware they could not reach the semi-finals but the Caribbean side came close to pulling off the highest successful chase in World Cup history.

Sri Lanka batted brightly to post an imposing total of 338 for six in their 50 overs, thanks largely to Avishka Fernando's first one-day international century. That total looked beyond the West Indies in the early part of their innings but Nicholas Pooran dug deep, also scoring his maiden ODI ton.

The West Indies found themselves in early trouble at 22-2, with Sunil Ambris and Shai Hope back in the dressing room, both dismissed by veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga. Chris Gayle flickered briefly but was caught for 35 from a steeping top edge by Jeffrey Vandersay off the bowling of Kasun Rajitha.

Pooran, 23, held the innings together but the West Indies' hopes were badly hit when Carlos Brathwaite was unluckily run out when bowler Isuru Udana diverted the ball into the stumps off his fingertips, with the batsman well out of his ground.

The West Indies looked down and out at 199-6 in the 35th over but Pooran put on 83 for the seventh

wicket with Fabian Allen to keep them in the hunt before a second run-out. The Caribbean side needed 31 runs off the final three overs when captain Dimuth Karunaratne summoned Angelo Mathews to bowl for the first time in an ODI since 2017.

He struck with his first ball, removing a distraught Pooran, who slashed at an innocuous wide delivery and was caught behind by wicketkeeper Kusal Perera. Earlier, Fernando hit a sparkling maiden ODI century, with all of the top order chipping in to help him.

The 21-year-old reached three figures off exactly 100 balls with eight fours and two sixes but was caught by Fabian Allen off the bowling of Sheldon

Cottrell for 104. Sri Lanka revived their fading hopes of reaching the World Cup semi-finals by beating England but a heavy defeat to South Africa and results elsewhere ended their chances.

West Indies started the tournament with a thumping seven-wicket win against Pakistan but have not won a single match since, with their batsmen in particular letting them down. Australia are still the only side mathematically certain of their place in the last four, with India, New Zealand and England currently occupying the other top-four slots.

Pakistan and Bangladesh still have a chance of progressing. —AFP

## Osaka, Zverev, Tsitsipas crash on Wimbledon 'Black Monday'

**LONDON:** Naomi Osaka, Alexander Zverev and Stefanos Tsitsipas crashed out of Wimbledon on a black Monday for the stars at the All England Club. Japanese superstar slumped to a 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 defeat to 39th-ranked Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan who had defeated the world number two on grass in Birmingham two weeks ago.

She was joined at the exit door by German sixth seed Zverev and Tsitsipas, the seventh seed, both players tipped as potential champions this year. US Open and Australian Open winner Osaka is the first top-two seed to lose in the first round since Martina Hingis in 2001.

The defeat follows her third round exit at the French Open. "Can we stop now? I think I am going to cry," she told reporters as she made a quick exit

from her post-match news conference. Osaka has yet to make a final since her Australian Open win in January.

"There are answers to questions that you guys ask that I still haven't figured out yet," she admitted.

Zverev, 22, lost 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 to Czech qualifier Jiri Vesely, the world number 124. "Everything outside the court affects you, I won't get into details now, but the last couple of days have been very rough for me," said Zverev who has never got beyond the last 16. Just 15 minutes after Zverev's defeat, 20-year-old Tsitsipas lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (8/10), 6-3 to world number 89 Thomas Fabbiano of Italy.

Tsitsipas had reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open in January and the last-16 at Roland Garros as well as the fourth round at Wimbledon last year. "If I won today I would not have deserved it. It should have been over in three sets," said Tsitsipas. "I feel devastated."

Canadian 18-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime kept 'NextGen' hopes alive by beating Canadian compatriot Vasek Pospisil 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

Victory made the 19th seed the first player born in the 2000s to win a match at Wimbledon.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic got his campaign for a fifth Wimbledon title off to a winning start with newly-hired coaching team recruit, and 2001 winner, Goran Ivanisevic helping steer the ship.

Djokovic, chasing a fifth title at the All England Club, saw off 35-year-old Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-3, 7-5, 6-3. If his victory was routine, there was nothing predictable about Djokovic's decision to bring Ivanisevic into his inner sanctum over the weekend. "I have always looked up to Goran. When he won here in 2001, I feel I was part of that as he had trained in Germany at the same base as me when I was 13-14," said Djokovic.

"I feel as if I contributed to his victory," joked Djokovic who next faces Denis Kudla of the United States. Fourth seed Kevin Anderson, runner-up to Djokovic in 2018, eased into the second round beating Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Anderson will now play Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic who registered his first win at the tournament in seven years when he defeated Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

In the women's event, third seed Karolina Pliskova made it through, beating China's Zhu Lin 6-2, 7-6 (7/4).

Czech former world number one Pliskova, fresh from winning the Eastbourne title, has never got past the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova, a semi-finalist in 2017, put out 10th seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-4 in just 70 minutes. Also heading home was French Open runner-up and 16th seed Marketa Vondrousova. The 19-year-old Czech lost 6-4, 6-4 to America's Madison Brengle who is used to pulling off Wimbledon shocks having knocked out two-time winner Petra Kvitova in 2017.

Former French Open champion Simona Halep overcame an injury scare to make the second round with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

Halep, seeded seven and a semi-finalist in 2014, needed to have her left ankle strapped after a worrying fall on Court One. Later Monday, five-time champion Venus Williams, now 39, who first played at the All England Club in 1997, takes on 15-year-old compatriot Cori Gauff. Gauff is the youngest player ever to have qualified for Wimbledon and comes into the tournament ranked at 313 in the world. —AFP



WIMBLEDON: Japan's Naomi Osaka reaturns the ball to Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva during their women's singles first round match on the first day of the 2019 Wimbledon Championships. —AFP