



**6** Blackout disrupts Manhattan, darkens Broadway theaters



**22** Egypt opens two ancient pyramids, unveils new finds



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**28** England win World Cup after Super Over drama



# EU opens new mission in Kuwait to boost relations, cooperation

## Mogherini commends Amir's wisdom, hails Kuwait as force for peace

### Zain Saudi Arabia's net income growth soars to record-high

**Bader Al-Kharafi: Market capitalization of Zain KSA has more than doubled over the last 12 months**

**RIYADH:** Zain Saudi Arabia (Zain KSA), announces record-high financial results for all key indicators for the first six-months and second quarter ended 30 June, 2019, with the operator serving 8.3 million customers.

**Key Operational and Financial notes for the three months ended 30 June, 2019:**

1. In June 2019, Zain KSA signed a new Islamic two-year (renewable) Murabaha Junior Credit facility agreement amounting to SAR 2.25 billion with a syndicate of five core Saudi Arabian and regional banks to refinance a US \$600 million facility
2. During Q2 2019, the company made an early voluntary payment towards the Senior Murabaha financing agreement amounting to SAR 300 million, reflecting the company's solid cashflow generation; bringing the total repayment amount to SAR 1.425 billion in the past nine months
3. Zain KSA made the first 5G call in



**Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi**

the Kingdom on its network, successfully exceeding speeds of 1000 Mbps

4. Zain KSA's 5G technology became available at Neom Bay Airport, making it the first airport in the region to offer a 5G network
5. The launch of appealing B2B and individual data monetization initiatives and packages have resulted in an impressive uptake leading to healthy growth in customers, ARPU and revenue. (See Page 11)

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The EU's diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini said yesterday the bloc is increasing its engagement in the Middle East, as she opened a new mission in Kuwait City. The office in Kuwait's tallest skyscraper is the third such EU mission in the Gulf, after Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. "This also sends a message to the whole region; the European Union is increasing its presence and engagement in the Middle East," Mogherini said at the opening ceremony. "What happens to the Gulf matters to Europe and what happens to Europe matters to the Gulf," she added.

The ceremony in the Al Hamra Tower, which is also home to the French embassy, was attended by Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. The opening, decided several months ago, comes amid a tense standoff between the United States and Iran which has affected the Gulf. "In a moment of regional and global tensions, Kuwait is a voice of wisdom and force for peace and this is what made us natural partners," Mogherini said.

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**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and European Union Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini pose for a picture during the opening ceremony of the European representative office yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 3)

## MPs blast Al-Arabiya for insulting Kuwait

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Lawmakers yesterday strongly lashed out at Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya news channel after they claimed an announcer deliberately slandered and insulted Kuwait. Saudi news anchor Sarah Darandawi was reading a story about Qatar reportedly lowering the price of alcohol in preparation for the World Cup 2022, which Doha is hosting.

After finishing the story, the anchor commented "we are waiting for comments by their friends in Kuwait over this Qatari gen-

erosity", a clear reference to Kuwait's neutral stance in the two-year old feud between Qatar on one hand and Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt on the other. The four countries imposed a total boycott against Qatar accusing it of backing terrorists. At the same time, Kuwait's Amir and government remained neutral and have exerted great efforts to end the rift.

Lawmakers and social media activists strongly criticized the announcer, describing her action as "insolence" and insulting to the country, insisting that Kuwait has not taken

sides in the rift but made huge mediation efforts to resolve it. The information ministry issued a statement yesterday strongly criticizing the Dubai-based channel for the insult. It said Kuwait refuses to get involved in matters that do not concern the country, deploring remarks by the news anchor on Al-Arabiya as tantamount to a grave insult.

Kuwait will always be committed to the unity of the Gulf region through its efforts to quell any internal discord, read a statement by the ministry, which called for an end

Continued on Page 24

### News in brief

#### Ashour: Halt expat recruitment

**KUWAIT:** MP Saleh Ashour yesterday accused the government of failing to rectify the distorted demographic structure and called for an immediate halt in the recruitment of expatriates and dismissing large numbers of foreign workers who are not needed, who constitute a big burden on public services. Ashour said on Twitter that a report in a local daily said labor offices in Egypt receive 5,000 applicants monthly for jobs in Kuwait, which means 60,000 workers come annually from Egypt alone, and many others from other countries. — B Izzak

#### PACI wants to set up new centers

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Civil Information has written to the finance ministry about opening service centers for expats just like those for Kuwaitis. Informed sources said PACI deals with more than 3.3 million expats from all governorates to register their data and issue civil IDs. PACI wants specialized companies in this field to open these centers and link them with the main database, maintaining data privacy at the authority. The role of these centers will only be to update and enter data. PACI will not bear the cost of establishing these centers, but will fix the fees and provide supervisors. — Al-Rai

#### Airport sees 12% rise in passengers

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Airport's passenger traffic rose by 12 percent in June compared to the same period a year earlier, the Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday. Some 1.36 million travelers converged on Kuwait airport last month, compared to 1.2 million passengers in the same period last year, according to the Deputy Director General for Air Transport Safety Emad Al-Jalawi. The number of arrivals spiked to 586,700 passengers versus 505,600 in the same period last year, with 778,200 departures in comparison to 716,700 in 2018. He added around 10,672 flights took off from and landed at Kuwait International Airport in June, compared to 10,071 flights the previous year, while freight volume was 14.5 million kg. — KUNA

## Kuwait moves to protect seaports amid tensions

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) signed Saturday a cooperation protocol with the ministry of defense, enabling the navy to prepare security plans for the protection of ports nationwide. "The protocol was signed at a time the region is experiencing a critical security situation," KPA Director General Sheikh Yusuf Abdullah Al-Sabah said in a statement. "Therefore, we need collaboration of efforts between the two sides (KPA and navy) in order to maintain security of Kuwaiti sea ports, and to make sure we are ready for any emergency," he added.

The protocol, signed at Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base, stipulates training of navy forces on towing and guiding of ships

approaching Kuwaiti ports or leaving them, explained Sheikh Yusuf. Relations between Iran and the West have become increasingly strained after Britain seized an Iranian tanker in Gibraltar last week and London said its warship HMS Montrose had to fend off Iranian vessels seeking to block a British-owned tanker from passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

The most recent incidents followed a spate of attacks on tankers since May around the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, which the United States has blamed on Iran and are denied by Tehran. The two foes came close to direct military conflict last month when Iran shot down a US drone and President Donald Trump ordered retaliatory air strikes, only to call them off minutes before impact. Tensions have risen sharply since Washington stepped up economic sanctions against Iran and moved to bring its oil exports to zero as part of a "maximum pressure" policy to make Iran halt actions that it said undermined regional security. — Agencies



**Qatar's coastguards take part in the inauguration ceremony of the new building of the General Directorate of Coasts and Borders Security yesterday. — AFP**

## Qatar opens biggest coast guard base

**SEMAISIMA, Qatar:** Qatar inaugurated its largest coastguard base yesterday as a standoff between Iran and the United States continues to boost tensions in strategic Gulf waters. Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa

Al-Thani and commander of US Naval Forces in the Middle East Vice Admiral Jim Malloy attended the ceremony at the Al-Daayen naval base in Semaisima, 30 km from Doha on Qatar's eastern coast.

Qatar, a key US ally in the region, is home to Washington's largest Middle East military base. Malloy, commander of the US Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, said the new base was "a wonderful opportunity for us to interface more strongly with the Qatari coast guard". Tensions in the Gulf - through which nearly a third

Continued on Page 24



**KUWAIT:** Representatives of the ports authority and navy sign a cooperation protocol on Saturday. — KUNA

## Muslims in Assam fear for future

**KAMRUP, India:** Born in India 71 years ago, Mohammed Rehat Ali is still traumatized a month after his release from a detention camp, struggling to shake off a fear for the future shared by millions - many of them Muslims - under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The push to render stateless people described as "infiltrators" by Modi's right-hand man has been limited to the north-eastern state of Assam, but his Hindu nationalist party wants to replicate it nationwide, alarming Muslims, who critics say are the real focus.

"I have never expected that I would have to prove my citizenship. I am an Indian citizen, we are born here in Assam and living here for generations," Ali, an illiterate farmer, told AFP. But when he was unable to produce the required documents, a "Foreigners' Tribunal" declared



**ASSAM, India:** In this photograph taken on July 1, 2019, Mohammed Rehat Ali holds a supreme court order declaring him an Indian citizen. — AFP

him a Bangladeshi and sent him to a detention camp. After three years, his sons secured his release by appealing to a higher court, but only after selling their land and cattle to raise legal fees.

He is one of the lucky ones. Over four million others in the state of 33 million - where immigration has been a hot topic since British colonial rule - were left off a draft "National Register of Citizens"

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.

# Amir, Crown Prince receive top state officials at Bayan Palace

## Amir offers condolences over Nepal's monsoon rain victims

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday at Bayan Palace. His Highness the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince met with Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences yesterday to Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari offering his condolences over the victims of landslides caused by heavy monsoon rains. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables. — KUNA



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



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



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His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.

Local

# Amir receives visiting EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister praises distinguished relations with European Union



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the visiting European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Federica Mogherini. —Photos by Amiri Diwan, KUNA and Yasser Al-Zayyat



**His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the visiting European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Federica Mogherini.**

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the visiting European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Federica Mogherini. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah later received Mogherini and her accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace. During the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister praised the distinguished relations between the State

of Kuwait and the European Union, pointing out mutual keenness on permanent coordination in various situations and issues that enhance security and peace in the world. He said the opening of the headquarters of the EU mission in Kuwait confirms the keenness of the Union to consolidate and maintain its historical relationship in areas that serve the interests of the people of Kuwait and the friendly peoples of the European Union. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi, Ambassador of Kuwait to Belgium and head of its missions to the European Union and NATO Jassim Al-Bedawi, and Undersecretary for Petitions in the Office of the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Ahmad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

**Deeply-rooted ties**

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled congratulated the European Union on the official opening of its new mission in Kuwait. This came as the minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Mogherini on Saturday in Kuwait ahead of her attendance of the mission's official launch, which took place yesterday. He praised the long-standing and deeply-rooted ties between his country and the regional bloc, saying that the landmark is an "inevitable result of the ongoing development of positive and fruitful cooperation between the two sides." Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister also commended the EU's "prominent role and its crucial and notable contributions" to ensuring regional and global security and stability.

Meanwhile, the senior EU official said she was proud of the joint efforts linking both sides, describing the mission as a clear sign of their extremely close proximity and a reflection of the EU's keenness towards boosting its relationship with Kuwait. She also recalled Kuwait's endeavors to support regional and international efforts for peace, security and conflict resolution amid the difficult situation the region is experiencing. Both senior officials proceeded to attend a dinner banquet, held in honor of the visiting EU official and her delegation. Speaking in Brussels ahead of her visit, Mogherini had lauded Kuwait as a "voice of wisdom and a force for peace in these difficult times for our region," saying the Gulf country and the EU were "natural partners." —KUNA



**Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the visiting European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Federica Mogherini.**



**European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Federica Mogherini speaks during a press conference yesterday as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah looks on.**



**European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah inaugurate the EU's delegation office in Kuwait.**



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## Local



KUWAIT: The Fateh-el-Khair dhow at the Scientific Center. — Photo by Mohammad Al-Hadoud (KUNA)

# Finance Minister underlines Kuwait's active role in AIIB fourth meeting

## Hajraf meets AIIB officials after attending annual meeting

**LUXEMBOURG:** The 2019 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) annual meeting concluded on Saturday in Luxembourg, with the participation of Kuwait Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf. The minister had held meetings on the sideline of the two-day event with AIIB President Jin Liqun and Vice President Sir Danny Alexander, in which they discussed Kuwait's contribution to the bank's work, in addition to discussing ways to enhance cooperation between Kuwait and AIIB. They also tackled the benefit from the expertise of Kuwaiti institutions in the field of international development.

"China is the second largest economy in the world and is expected to become the first, and the bank is based in Beijing, China, and with 100 member states which reflects the great interest and the hoped-for role of this development bank," Hajraf said after the meeting. "Kuwait has made sure to be one of the first countries to join the AIIB, and one of the countries that have an active role and presence in the organization through its participation in the meetings, not only as a founding member, but also it brings great experience in the field of financing development projects to AIIB," he added.

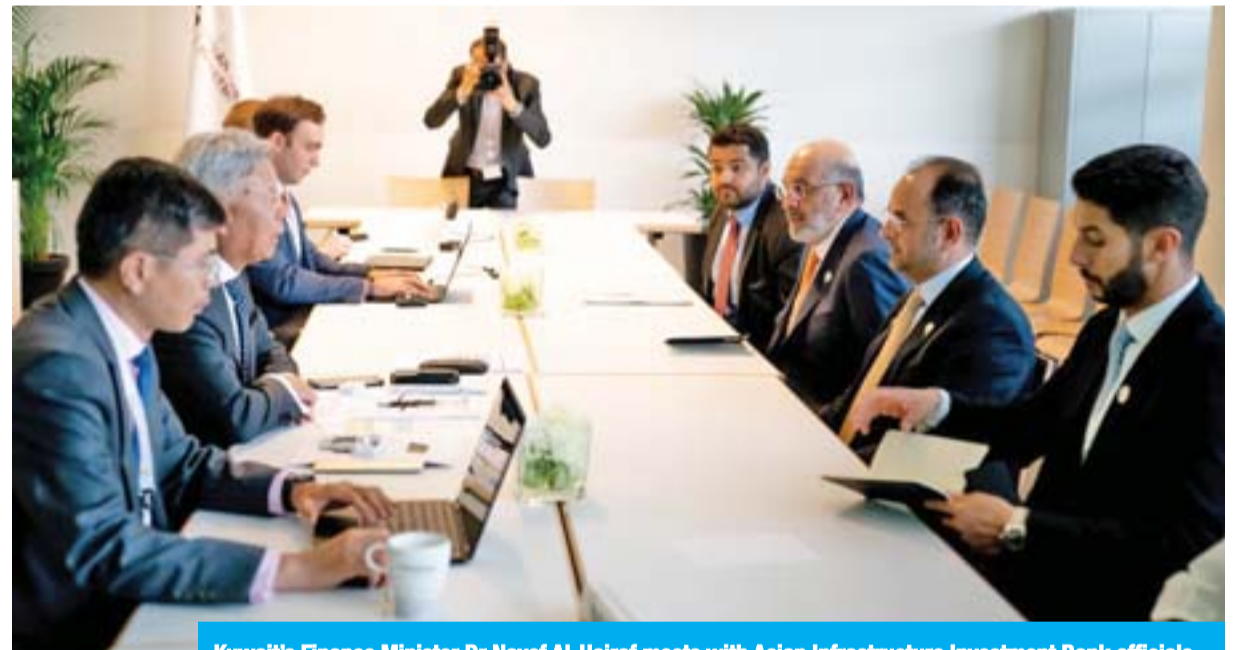
### Kuwaiti-Chinese relations

On the Kuwaiti-Chinese relations, Hajraf said that the brotherly countries enjoyed distinguished relations, as he praised His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's historic visit to China in June 2018, and the opening of the General Investment Authority office in Shanghai, which is the first office to be opened after the Authority's office in London in 1953. "This reflects the importance of Kuwait's trade and investment relations with



LUXEMBOURG: Kuwait's Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with AIIB President Jin Liqun. — KUNA

China," Hajraf said. The AIIB fourth meeting included sessions of the bank's Board of Governors, which witnessed the discussion of the annual report and the joining of Benin, Djibouti and Rwanda as new bank members, as it discussed ways to invest in sustainable infrastructure projects and achieve economic integration among member states. The theme of the two-day meeting was 'Cooperation and Connectivity' in recognition of the economic and social benefits to be realized through better



Kuwait's Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank officials.

connectivity within and between countries and regions, including Europe and Asia. The 2019 Annual Meeting brought together AIIB's Governors and Directors to engage with delegations from members, prospective members, partner institutions, business leaders, civil society and experts from a range of fields. The bank was estab-

lished in 2014 with 97 members from around the world and with capital of \$100 billion, by investing in sustainable infrastructure and other sectors such as energy, transportation and telecommunications, urban development and logistics for countries. Kuwait's share of the bank is 0.536 percent, of about \$536 million. — KUNA

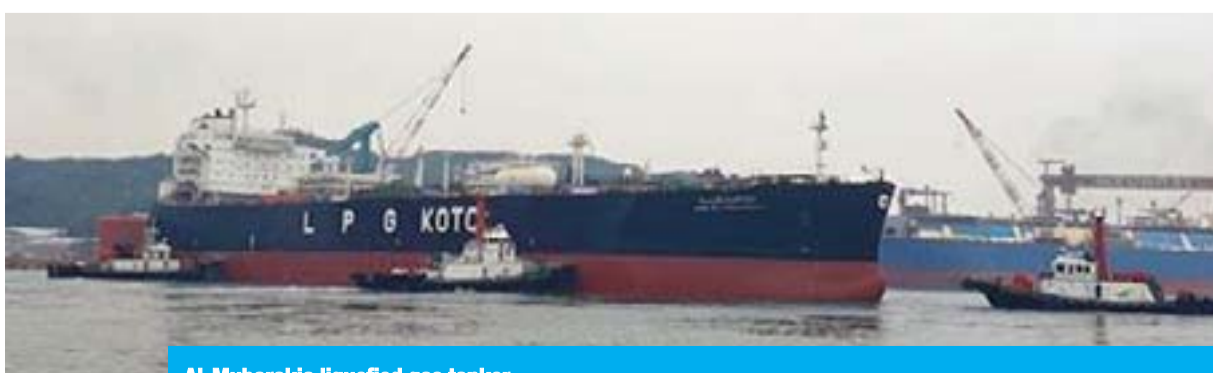
## KOTC successfully launches gas tanker

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) announced its successful launch of Al-Mubarakia liquefied gas tanker in the sea with the help of Hyundai Heavy Industries in Ulsan, South Korea. Director of the fleet construction projects group and spokesperson of the KOTC Captain Yousef Al-Saqer said in a statement that the tanker, which is the first of three gas tankers built by Hyundai Heavy Industries, was launched on June 12, 2019. Saqer pointed out that the building process is going as scheduled and the tankers are expected to be delivered ahead of schedule. KOTC is now in the fourth stage of developing its fleet in line with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) plan to provide strategic and marketing needs, he added. Saqer noted that the fourth stage includes eight tankers involving three large gas tankers built by Hyundai Heavy Industries in Korea, four petroleum

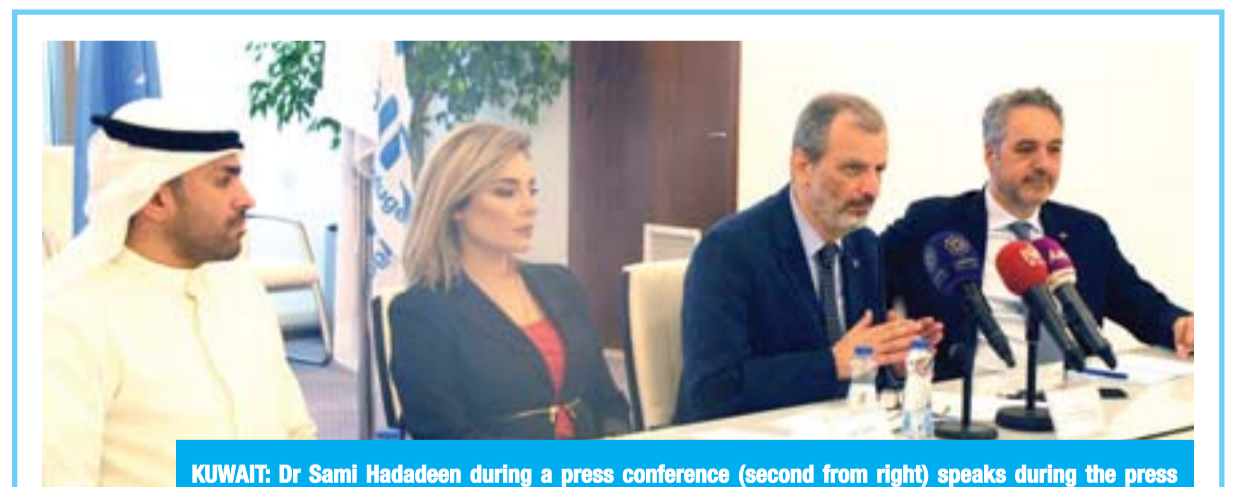


Officials attend the launching of Al-Mubarakia liquefied gas tanker.

tankers built by Hyundai Mipo, and a large crude petroleum tanker built by Bohai shipbuilding Heavy Industry Company in China. — KUNA



Al-Mubarakia liquefied gas tanker.



KUWAIT: Dr Sami Hadadeen during a press conference (second from right) speaks during the press conference. — KUNA

## UNHCR office in Kuwait starts Eid campaign on July 20

**KUWAIT:** The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Kuwait will start a new fund-raising campaign for refugee and displaced children between July 20 and August 20. The initiative, entitled 'Joy of Eid,' includes clothes, health care, food and shelters, said Director of the UNHCR office in Kuwait Dr Sami Hadadeen during a press conference held to

launch the campaign. He added that the aid suggested by the UNHCR will enable the children to stay alive, referring to the pioneering Kuwaiti role in the humanitarian field that helped millions of refugees and displaced people to gain access to a decent life. He mentioned that Kuwait is one of the top five donor countries for the UNHCR on the international scale. Hadadeen clarified that donation process will be done through the official UNHCR website. He concluded his statement by saying that naming Kuwait as a center of humanitarian action led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is a translation of what is being seen on the ground. He expressed thanks to all those who contributed to the campaign from the Government of Kuwait and all donors and partners who support the Commission. — KUNA

Local

# Foreign companies must hire minimum 30% Kuwaiti manpower to enjoy privileges

## Manpower authority to build shelter for abused male laborers

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) mandated that all foreign investment companies hire Kuwaitis in order to enjoy the privileges it provides to them, said informed sources. The sources added that KDIPA Director Sheikh Meshaal Al-Jaber issued a decision on the mechanism to be followed on licensing foreign companies and the privileges they get according to the following conditions on the ratio of citizens hired: License and privileges will be rejected if Kuwaiti manpower is less than 30 percent; Only the license will be given for 30-55 percent Kuwaiti employees; License and one selected incentive to be given to those hiring 60-80 percent of the manpower from citizens; License and all incentives for companies hiring 85-100 percent citizens.

### Males shelter

The Public Authority for Manpower has started

building a new shelter for male expatriates, which is expected to be completed soon, official sources at the authority said. The authority currently has a shelter for female domestic helpers experiencing problems with



### Mobile units to handle water cuts, emergencies

their sponsors, the sources noted, adding that the shelter provides psychological, social, legal and health services for them during their stay.

### Labor demands

Ministry of Social Affairs' acting undersecretary Hana Al-Hajeri stressed that all ministry sectors fully respect laws and regulations in terms of protecting workers' rights and un-biasedly enforce the law. Responding to tweets made by the head of the ministry's employees' syndicate in which he criticized the ministry's labor demands' committee, Hajeri said he should have instead submitted a complaint and discussed them with the committee.

### Water cuts

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) recently offered a tender for public bidding to purchase, supply and install 30 mobile reverse osmosis units with a daily 100,000 imperial gallon capacity each to be used for desalinating water with low salinity in various locations around the country. Informed sources at the ministry said this step comes within MEW's efforts to develop its capacity to handle water



cuts and emergencies during blackouts that take a long time to be fixed. The sources added that MEW will be using the new units, costing KD 5,360,000, in residential areas, National Guard camps, water reservoirs and wherever water is needed during power outages.

### Bedoon pilgrims

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is expected today to announce the final lists of bedoon pilgrims accepted to perform hajj this year, ministry sources said. The sources added that accepted pilgrims had been notified by SMS over the past few days, urging them to check with the hajj convoys allocated to bedoons.

## Minister inaugurates Wafra clinic: Projects eyed in Jahra, Capital, Ahmadi



KUWAIT: Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah inaugurates the Wafra residential area's clinic. — KUNA photos

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's health ministry is currently in the process of carrying out several developmental health projects in Jahra, the Capital and Ahmadi health zones, a senior government official said yesterday. Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah made those remarks during a ceremony to inaugurate a new health clinic at the Wafra residential area. The minister also explained that the new center is spread over a total area of 2,400 sq m and includes both general outpatient and casualty departments, adding that it is open 24/7. The minister added there are 31 clinics in Ahmadi health zone providing primary healthcare and preventive services according to the latest international standards. He also noted that opening the new clinic coincides with launching the second phase of the retirees' health insurance project.

In other news, Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Humoud issued a number of decisions reshuffling the heads of Kuwaiti health offices and health attaches abroad. According to the decisions, Dr Ali Al-Enezi will be transferred from Washington to Jordan, Dr Mansour Sarkhouh from the Cairo health office to the health ministry undersecretary's office and Dr Bader Al-Enezi will be transferred from Jordan to the health ministry undersecretary's office. Dr Khaled Al-Abdul Ghani was assigned to replace Dr Abdul Aziz Al-Rasheed in Germany.



Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah attends the inauguration of the Wafra residential area's clinic.



Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah tours the new clinic.

## KFSD officials discuss deadly fire's aftermath

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's fire department chief called for extra efforts to make sure that all buildings around the country adhere to fire safety precautions, including taking punitive measures against violators of safety regula-

tions. Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrad made those remarks during a meeting with other senior KFSD officials to discuss the aftermath of a Mahboula building blaze which left three people killed and two others injured on Saturday. Mikrad was also briefed on the measures taken to evacuate scores of people who were trapped inside the building, which helped avoid causing more casualties. Deputy Director for Firefighting Major General Jamal Al-Bulaihees, Deputy Director General for Prevention Maj Gen Khalid Fahad and other officials were present at the meeting. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrad chairs the meeting.

## Partial lunar eclipse expected in Kuwait Wednesday

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti astronomer Adel Al-Sadoun said yesterday that a partial lunar eclipse is expected on Wednesday at 12:32 am local time and will remain in sight until 02:00 am local time. A partial lunar eclipse occurs when the full moon passes through the shadow of the earth, he noted. On July 27, 2018, Kuwait and the world witnessed the longest lunar eclipse occurring in a century. A lunar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly behind the Earth and into its shadow, this can occur only when the sun, Earth, and moon are aligned (in syzygy) exactly or very closely so, with the planet in between. Hence, a lunar eclipse can occur only on the night of a full moon. — KUNA

## Motorist dead, two injured in separate accidents

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A motorist died and another was injured in an accident reported on King Fahd road. Mina Abdullah fire station responded to a car accident on the road, and found one Kuwaiti man dead on the scene, while another man was found critically injured. An investigation was opened to reveal the

cause of the fire.

Meanwhile, two children escaped injury while their mother was injured when the vehicle they were in flipped over on Arabian Gulf Road. Salmiya fire station men responded to a call about a car flipping over and hitting a lamppost. The trapped woman was freed and handed to paramedics.

In other news, Kuwait Municipality said its Hawally branch carried out several campaigns resulting in the removal of 42,996 cubic meters of debris and rubbish. Acting Director of Public Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department Nawaf Al-Mutairi said 149 transactions were processed including the issuance of 106 new licenses, while 43 were renewed. He said that 139 cars were impounded.



KUWAIT: Firemen deal with an accident reported on Arabian Gulf Road.



A vehicle pictured after a fatal crash on King Fahd road.

## Nurse fired for causing medical error

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's health ministry terminated the contract of an expatriate nurse after she was blamed of causing a medical error. Investigations had confirmed that the nurse was responsible for the medical error which took place at a public hospital where she worked, Al-Anbaa reported yesterday without providing any further details about the incident.

### Impersonation

A Kuwaiti man who works in a restricted area was arrested as he attempted to leave the country through Salmi land border post using his brother's

ID, as he is wanted for issuing dud cheques and other financial issues. An employee at the passport control had doubts about the ID, so he referred him to security supervision and it was discovered the ID belongs to his brother. He was detained for forgery and will be sent to the public prosecution, Al-Rai reported.

### Theft

A Jordanian woman who betrayed her Syrian friend and stole KD 3,000 from his room was arrested, reported Al-Rai. The Syrian told police his apartment was broken into and discovered the money was missing. The woman was called and she admitted she stole the money.

### Drug possession

Police arrested two Kuwaitis and found heroin and shabu with them, Al-Rai reported. The two were found in a car, with one in deep slumber. One of the men is an ex-convict. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai



At least 50 dead in Nepal's monsoon

In Iraq, minority children haunted by ghosts of IS captivity



PARIS: France's President Emmanuel Macron (left) stands in an Acmat VLRA vehicle next to French Armies Chief Staff General Francois Lecoindre as they review troops before the start of the Bastille Day military parade down the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris. —AFP

# Macron showcases Europe military prowess

## France marks annual Bastille Day amid tension

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron yesterday sought to showcase European military cooperation in France's annual Bastille Day parade at a time of growing tensions between Europe and the United States. Key EU leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, joined Macron in Paris to watch the parade down the Champs-Elysees that commemorates the July 14, 1789, storming of the Bastille fortress in Paris during the French Revolution.

Some 4,300 members of the armed forces, including regiments from other European armies, marched down the avenue's famed cobblestones in a tradition that dates back to the aftermath of World War I. Army dogs festooned with medals, members of France's celebrated Foreign Legion and mounted cavalry in glittering uniforms brandishing ceremonial sabres all paraded in front of the high-ranking guests. Meanwhile, French inventor and entrepreneur Franky Zapata showed off his futuristic flyboard, soaring above the Champs Elysees and the assembled leaders.

"The army is transforming: it is modernizing for our soldiers, our sovereignty and our independence," Macron told France 2 television in brief remarks. Standing in an open-top command car alongside France's chief of staff General Francois Lecoindre, Macron was met with some jeers and whistles from supporters of the "yellow vest" movement who have staged weekly protests against the government since

last fall. Two prominent members of the movement, Jerome Rodrigues and Maxime Nicolle, were both detained by the police, sources told AFP.

### 'Europe never so important'

Closer European defense cooperation has been one of Macron's key foreign policy aims and the president shows no sign of wavering despite growing political turbulence in Germany and Britain's looming exit from the European Union. At the 2017 parade, Macron's guest of honor was the newly inaugurated President Donald Trump as the young French leader sought to take the initiative in forming a bond with his US counterpart.

But since then ties between Trump and Macron have soured over the US pullout from the Paris climate accord and the Iran nuclear deal, as well as France's new law for a tax on digital giants, mostly US companies. "President Trump has been an excellent ambassador for a Europe of defense," Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly told the Parisien newspaper yesterday, pointing to "questions, even thinly veiled threats he made towards Europe or on the durability of American commitment".

Macron, who pushed the idea of the European Intervention Initiative (EII2) to undertake missions outside of existing structures like NATO, insisted on the importance of European defense cooperation. "Never, since the end of World War II has Europe been so

important," Macron, who after coming to power in 2017 controversially dispensed with the president's traditional July 14 television interview, said in a written statement.

Merkel told reporters after the event that the parade was a "great gesture for a European defense policy" and Germany was "honored" to have taken part. Forces from all nine countries taking part alongside France in the initiative - including Britain and Germany - were represented at the parade. In a sign of France's ambition to be a leading modern military power under Macron, the president Saturday announced the creation of a national space force command that will eventually be part of the air force.

### Eyes on Merkel

A German A400M transport plane and a Spanish C130 took part in fly-bys, as well as two British Chinook helicopters. The Chinooks are a major symbol of British-French defense cooperation even as Brexit looms, with Britain deploying three of the aircraft and 100 personnel for France's operation in the African Sahel region. Outgoing British Prime Minister Theresa May had been expected to attend, but Britain was instead represented by senior cabinet minister David Lidington, the Elysee said.

Also present were members of the 5,000-strong Franco-German Brigade (BFA), which was created in



PARIS: French soldiers perform a military exercise in front of France's President Emmanuel Macron and other leaders prior to the Bastille Day military parade down the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris yesterday. —AFP

1989 as a symbol of postwar unity between France and Germany, and celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Merkel, who is battling to keep her grand coalition together at home, was again under close scrutiny after she suffered three episodes of shaking at official events in recent weeks. But she appeared to suffer no problems and also stepped off the tribune with Macron to greet wounded veterans. —AFP

## Israel warns Hezbollah of crushing retaliation

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday warned the head of Lebanon's Tehran-backed Hezbollah that "crushing" retaliation would follow any attack, after its leader said the group's rockets could reach Tel Aviv. "Over the weekend we heard (Hassan) Nasrallah's boasting about his attack plans," he said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting.

"Let me be clear — if Hezbollah dares to make the mistake of attacking Israel, we will lay upon it and on Lebanon a crushing military blow." In a Friday interview broadcast on Hezbollah's Al-Manar television, Nasrallah warned that key Israeli sites along the Mediterranean coast, including Tel Aviv, were "within range of our rockets". The head of the Lebanese Shiite movement also said that

Israel's arch-foe Iran was "able to bombard Israel with ferocity and force," but "will not start a war".

Last week, Netanyahu said that "Iran has been threatening the destruction of Israel" and warned that Israel's fighter jets "can reach anywhere in the Middle East, including Iran." Hezbollah is considered to be a terrorist organization by the United States, and is the only faction not to have disarmed after Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. But it is also a major political player in the small Mediterranean country, taking 13 seats in parliament last year and securing three posts in the current cabinet.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in neighboring Syria against what it says are Iranian and Hezbollah military targets. It has vowed to keep Iran from entrenching itself militarily there. The Jewish state recently uncovered and destroyed six tunnels passing under the border from Lebanon into Israel. It alleges Hezbollah had planned to use the tunnels for attacks in Israel. Nasrallah's interview was to mark the anniversary of the start of his movement's 2006 war with Israel, which killed more than 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and more than 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers. —AFP

## Huge power outage plunges Manhattan into darkness

NEW YORK: A power outage that gripped New York's Manhattan ended on Saturday after it plunged Broadway theaters into darkness, brought subways to a halt and flicked off billboards in Times Square. About 42,000 customers lost electricity in the early evening, according to power utility Con Edison, which didn't indicate a cause of the power failure. The power returned around 10:00 pm (0200 GMT), accompanied by applause that could be heard throughout the formerly darkened streets.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Twitter that the outage was caused by a "manhole fire," but later told CNN it was under investigation. Earlier in the day, dozens of people posted photos on social media of streets, subways and apartments shrouded in darkness. The blackout disrupted services across the United

States' most-populous city, with New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority on Twitter encouraging "everyone to avoid below-ground subway stations," which account for most of the city's rail network.

Firefighters said they responded to numerous requests for help, particularly from people trapped in elevators, and the strobes of police cars and ambulances were some of the few to stand out in a city where light is rarely in short supply. New Yorkers in general took Saturday's outage in stride, with passersby manning intersections to direct traffic and a disrupted Carnegie Hall concert continuing in the street. Officers shouted "let's go!" at drivers as they tried to keep traffic flowing, while people strolled nonchalantly on streets that were temporarily closed to vehicles.

### 'Blackout'

At the Row NYC hotel on 8th Avenue, dozens of guests were sitting on the sidewalk outside the property. Hotel staff had asked them not to go inside as there were no lights for them to see by and the elevators weren't working, 16-year-old Spanish tourist Alba Moreno said. Con Edison said it would have most of its customers back online by mid-

night, but there were few details about the cause of the outage.

"This appears to be something that just went wrong in the way that they transmit power from one part of the city to another to address demand," said de Blasio. The mayor was not in New York but rather Iowa, where he was pursuing the Democratic nomination for president despite low poll numbers, which did not escape the notice of New Yorkers. "Drop out of the presidential campaign," one commenter wrote on Twitter. "You clearly have to be in the city to-you know-do your job." The cut affected the western chunk of Manhattan, particularly the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood and the Broadway theater district.

Most Broadway shows were canceled, including hit musicals "Hamilton" and "The Lion King," while a choir performing at Carnegie Hall moved out to the sidewalk to continue their show. It took place on the anniversary of a 1977 power cut that affected virtually all of New York as it was struggling through an economic crisis. Looting and vandalism then broke out, affecting more than a thousand businesses before the lights came back on 25 hours later. —AFP

International

# Israel court halts park entry ban deemed racist by Arabs

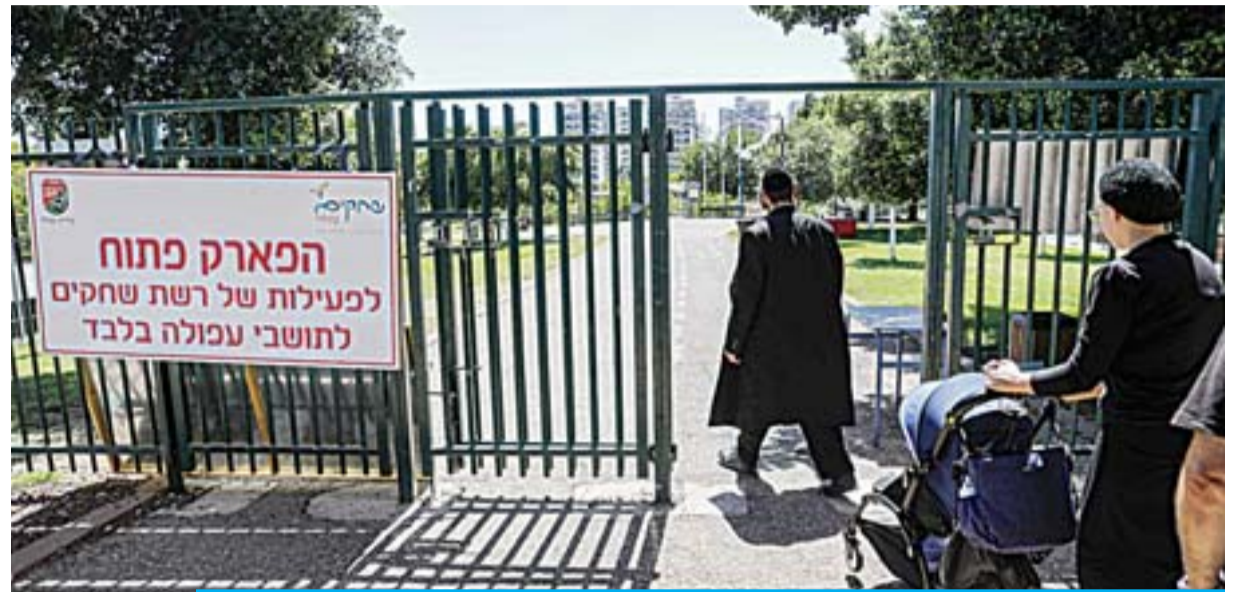
## Park popular among Arabs with little recreation space

**AFULA:** A court yesterday ordered a predominantly Jewish town in northern Israel to lift a ban on non-resident visitors to its parks, a prohibition that a rights group said was aimed at keeping Arabs out. The town of Afula denied the edict was racially motivated. In instructing the town to lift the order, Judge Danny Sarfati stopped short of accusing it of racism and cited a legal opinion by Israel's attorney general, who said municipal parks were public property open to all. Afula imposed the prohibition a month ago, effectively cutting off access to the 10-hectare (25-acre) park by residents of nearby Arab villages who frequented the popular site.

"This was really to exclude Palestinian citizens from entering the park," said Fady Khoury, a lawyer with Adalah, an Arab rights group that raised the challenge in Nazareth district court. Lawyers for Afula, a city of 50,000 people, contended the restrictions stemmed solely from a desire to reduce overcrowding during the summer months and keep maintenance costs down. "We don't argue with the law," Avi Goldhammer, a lawyer for the city, said after the court ruling. "If the law permits everyone to come inside this park, OK."

Israel's Arab citizens make up 21% of the population and often identify as Palestinian. They were angered last year by the passage of a "nation-state" law declaring that only Jews have the right to self-determination in Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who supported the bill, said the legislation did not detract from the equal individual rights enjoyed by all of Israel's citizens. On Saturday, guards inspected identification cards at several entrances to Afula Municipal Park, where families strolled past playgrounds and petting zoos and joggers ran along trails lined with Israeli flags.

In the nearby Arab village of Sulem, Shua'a Zoabi said he often brought his children to the park in Afula. "There is no space for our kids to play in our village. Public investment here is terribly low," Zoabi said. The ban, he said, was a "racist restriction" against Arabs, many of whom contend that their communities face discrimination in areas such as health, education and housing. Israel's Arab minority are mainly the descendants of the Palestinians who remained in their communities or were internally displaced during the 1948 war that surrounded Israel's creation. —Reuters



**AFULA:** An Israeli family walks past a sign reading in Hebrew 'the park is open for activity by Reshet (Group) Shehakim and to residents of Afula only', while entering a park in the northern Israeli city of Afula. Afula will end a selective closure at one of its parks that Arab citizens said was a racist policy meant to keep them out after a court decision yesterday. —AFP

## Armed man dead after attacking US immigration jail

**LOS ANGELES:** An armed man who attacked a US immigration detention facility with "incendiary devices" has been shot dead after a confrontation with police in the northwestern city of Tacoma, authorities said. Officers arrived at the Northwest Detention Center early Saturday after a report the man-armed with a rifle had set a car on fire and had attempted to ignite a large propane tank, the city police department said in a statement.

The man, who was carrying flares and a satchel bag in addition to his weapon, died of gunshot wounds after officers arrived on the scene, police added. The assailant was identified by police as 69-year-old Willem Van Spronsen. He had previously been convicted of obstructing a police officer after an altercation during a protest

outside the facility last year, according to local media reports.

None of the officers involved in the shooting was injured. All four men were placed on administrative leave in line with regular department policy, police said. Immigration has been the subject of a divisive political battle in the US, which has struggled for more than a year with a migration crisis on its southern border as thousands of people travel to the US each month.

Demonstrators across dozens of US cities protested against nationwide raids planned for Sunday that President Donald Trump has promised would lead to the mass expulsion of undocumented immigrants. GEO Group, which operates the Tacoma center on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, said reports of overcrowding and the detention of unaccompanied minors at other immigration centers had endangered its staff.

"The outrageous and baseless accusations that have been leveled against our facilities have led to misplaced aggression and a dangerous



**CHICAGO:** Protesters march to offices of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Chicago, Illinois. The rally is calling for an end to criminalization, detention and deportation of migrants. —AFP

environment for our employees," the company said in a statement. "We are thankful for the quick and brave action by the Tacoma Police Department,

which prevented innocent lives from being endangered." Police said operations at the facility had returned to normal. —AFP

## Thousands in Sudan mark 40 days since deadly crackdown

**KHARTOUM:** Tens of thousands demonstrated in cities across Sudan on Saturday, witnesses said, to mark 40 days since security forces killed dozens when they stormed a protest camp in the capital Khartoum. The demonstrations were the first since the ruling military council and civilian opposition agreed in principle to a power-sharing arrangement ahead of elections. The deal has yet to be finalized and signed.

A meeting between the two sides planned for Saturday was postponed till yesterday, a leader of the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) coalition told Reuters. But the military council denied the meeting was being delayed. "Saturday's session will discuss the constitutional document as determined by the mediation," state news agency SUNA said, citing the council.

African Union mediator Mohamed Hassan Lebat had said on Thursday

the council and the FFC would meet on Saturday to study and ratify a constitutional declaration. They had agreed to a political declaration that determines the transition's different institutions, he said. After the meeting, the Sudanese Professionals' Association, which leads the FFC, said: "The draft constitutional declaration is 'not final' and is not open to final signature in its current form."

The constitutional declaration's signing was pushed to yesterday for further consultations based on FFC's wishes, Lebat said on Sky News Arabia earlier on Saturday. In Khartoum on Saturday, thousands protested on Sitteen Street, a major thoroughfare in the capital, a Reuters witness said. Some lit candles to remember those killed at the protest camp on June 3, while others lit the torches on their mobile phones.

"We came out to express our opinion and convey our voice and salute the memory of our eternal martyrs," said protester Mostafa Sayed Ahmed. Six vehicles belonging to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), each carrying about six men armed with assault rifles and sticks, drove through a portion of Sitteen Street as protesters chanted "Civilian!" at them, a Reuters witness said. "The fate of the former regime, to



**KHARTOUM:** Sudanese protesters take part in a demonstration in the capital Khartoum's northern district of Bahri, to mourn dozens of demonstrators killed last month in a brutal raid on a Khartoum sit-in. —AFP

us, until now, is vague and many things are unclear," said Osama Iskandar, a young protester, referring to the government of Omar al-Bashir, who was overthrown by the military on April 11.

"We will be on the Sudanese street level until our demands are fulfilled," he said. A Reuters witness also saw more than 20 RSF vehicles carrying men in riot

gear at Abu Janzir Square in the heart of Khartoum. "Look at these crushed people," said Hussein Ismail, a middle-age demonstrator who was chanting "We either get their rights or die like them!" "Their demands are clear, which are a civilian government, a democratic state, which is a people that calls for justice and peace and love." —Reuters

## Three years on, Turkey purge victims struggle to make ends meet

**ANKARA:** Three years ago, Elif was a teacher at a high school in southeast Turkey. Today, she still works in an education centre, but she is only allowed to cook and clean. Elif, whose name has been changed upon request, is one of 33,000 teachers sacked over suspected links to an Islamic network accused of trying to overthrow the government on July 15, 2016. "While other teachers teach, I make food and clean toilets," said Elif. "I am 37 and I am starting my life from scratch again."

She is far from alone: from the former academic who now works as a construction worker, to the ex-head of an NGO who now runs a cafe, and from an ex-judge who sells tea to a former police officer who works as a caretaker - there are many examples in a country where 150,000 public sector workers have lost their jobs since the attempted putsch. The government says it is

necessary to purge followers of US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen from the highest echelons of the military and judiciary down to every part of public service. Gulen, who has lived in the US for 20 years and was once seen as an ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, strongly denies the government's claim that he ordered the putsch in 2016. Described by the government as a "terrorist organization", the slightest whiff of association with Gulen has destroyed lives. Elif describes herself as a "leftist Muslim" and admits to being a "sympathizer" of the movement, but says she has never been an active part of the network. She was even acquitted in court last summer of being a member, but that was not enough to save her career.

### 'Shock'

Many highly-educated Turks like her in the public sector have been stigmatized and frozen out of their professions simply over suspicions of Gulenist ties. Ahmet, a former chemistry academic who also wished to use a pseudonym, says he has applied for 1,200 jobs and only been granted around 30 or 40 interviews, of which none was successful. He has been forced to grow fruit and vegetables and sell them on a street corner to survive.

The 44-year-old and his wife are among



**ISTANBUL:** A man reads newspapers near a shop in Istanbul, following the failed military coup attempt of July 15. —AFP

6,000 academics sacked by decree during the two-year state of emergency which followed the attempted coup. "It was a shock," he told AFP. "When I explain my situation to employers, they

don't want to hire me. Maybe if I did not say anything, I could work in the black market," he added, but he refuses to do so since he believes he has nothing to hide. —AFP

## Desperate for next fix; heroin-based 'nyaope' grips South Africa

**SOWETO:** After helping an elderly woman load her bags into a mini-bus taxi at a busy intersection in Soweto, a scrawny and strung-out young man is rewarded with a few coins for his efforts. High on nyaope, a street drug whose main ingredient is heroin, he is determined to make 30 rand (\$2) within the next two hours before withdrawal symptoms start to creep in. "It has been 11 years straight up, just smoking non-stop," he told AFP as he drew on a cigarette (tobacco) with his trembling hands.

"The thing that made me start smoking nyaope was stress, I had too much stress in my life. So I ended up relying on nyaope to calm me down," said the frail and distant-eyed 28-year-old. Heroin has been wreaking havoc in South Africa's cities and rural areas since the early 2000s, according to a recent report by ENACT, an EU-funded project against cross-border organized crime.

Highly addictive, the nyaope cocktail is made of heroin cut with methamphetamine, codeine and other substances reputedly ranging from anti-retroviral drugs to even powder from flat-screen televisions. Smoked in a rolled joint laced with marijuana, or else liquidized and injected, it often leaves users with zombie-like sleepiness.

"That is why you find guys at street corners always sleeping. From the moment when you get the fix, you forget all the problems," said the nyaope user in Soweto, a township on the outskirts of Johannesburg. The drug is known as "unga" in the Western Cape, "spices" or "whoonga" in Kwa-Zulu Natal province, and "nyaope" in Gauteng, the province that is home to both Johannesburg and Pretoria.

### 'Underpinning criminal economy'

The ENACT report - "Hiding in Plain Sight: Heroin's Stealthy Takeover of South Africa" - estimates there are more than 100,000 regular heroin users in South Africa and a trafficking market generating about 3.6 billion rand (\$260 million) in annual revenue. "Heroin is a key commodity underpinning the criminal economy in South Africa, and has facilitated the expansion of the criminal economy," report author Simone Haysom said. "The drug trade has had the most destructive effect in poor communities," she added.

Heroin moves from Afghanistan, which is the world's top grower of the poppy from which heroin is produced, across the Indian Ocean to east Africa, down through southern Africa and then inland for distribution. "For 50 meters around us here, you can buy any drug. It's a known fact," Robert Michel, the frustrated director at the non-profit Outreach Foundation, told AFP at their offices in a churchyard in Johannesburg's Hillbrow district.

Shaun Shelly, founder of the SA Drug Policy Week awareness program, agreed, saying "as a total stranger you could probably get heroin there in 15 minutes on the street." In Hillbrow, one of the most notorious crime-ridden neighborhoods in downtown Johannesburg, heroin peddling is mostly done by gangs, organized crime syndicates and corrupt police. "The worst part of it is that the police is not really doing anything. In many cases, what we hear is that the police and the drug dealers are working hand in hand," Michel said.

### Child addicts

The scourge has reached many children around age 15, and even some as young as nine, according to Hillbrow social worker Sizwe Bottoman. "Others have stopped at school as it affects their brain so badly to an extent that they don't concentrate," she said. Last month South African President Cyril Ramaphosa vowed that a "national drug master plan" would reduce demand, cut off supply and "ultimately free our young people from the harm that they cause." —AFP

## International

# Blood, bones paired to probe IS crimes against Iraq Yazidis

## Entire families massacred; women, girls pushed into 'sex slavery'

**BAGHDAD:** Six drops of blood and a vial of ground-up bone: a sample of evidence that an Iraqi forensics lab has gathered of the Islamic State group's multiple brutal crimes against the Yazidis. "It's like a puzzle," says forensic specialist Mohammad Ihsan from behind a medical mask, as he lays out yellowed bones under fluorescent lights at the shabby Medico-Legal Directorate in eastern Baghdad.

The bones, recently exhumed from mass graves in the Yazidi stronghold of Sinjar in northwest Iraq, will be compared with blood samples from surviving members of the community to help determine the fates of those still missing after IS's 2014 rampage through their villages. Entire families were massacred, boys forcibly recruited to fight and women and girls pushed into "sex slavery" in what the United Nations has said could amount to "genocide".

Five years on, a joint criminal investigation is seeking to bring legal and emotional closure to the ethno-religious minority. But the high-profile probe has been complicated by weathered evidence and the difficulty of building a genetic database for a community as insular as the Yazidis, where the search for DNA may take scientists as far as Australia. Since March, the bones, hair and personal belongings from 12 grave sites in Sinjar have been brought to Ihsan's lab, which builds an initial biological profile of the victim including height and gender. "Our trauma specialists determine the cause of death, the fractures and injuries," he adds.

### 'Families wiped out'

Specialists then try to identify victims through their DNA, best preserved in the femur and teeth. These items are ground into a fine powder and run through machines to match them with blood samples drawn from Yazidi survivors and dripped onto a piece of paper. "The newer the body you're testing, the better you can extract the DNA," says genetics analyst Mais Nabil.

But the graves in Sinjar were packed with bodies and exposed to floods, fires and fighting over five years, making the samples less than ideal. "Sometimes, we're getting samples that are very deteriorated, and we can only try a few times to extract the DNA before it is no longer usable," Nabil tells AFP. Then comes the identification process. The Yazidi community numbered 550,000 in northwestern Iraq before 2014, but IS's rampage forced 100,000 to flee abroad and several times that number into displacement camps.

Mass violence against a minority often means there are more victims than survivors in each family, and the rate of intermarriage among Yazidis is so high that DNA samples do not necessarily provide a definitive profile. "There are families that were completely wiped out. Who would register the missing person's name in that case?" says Amer Hammoud, associate director at the Medico-Legal Directorate.

His facility has logged the names of 1,280 missing individuals, is storing 1,050 blood sample cards, and is awaiting another 2,600

samples from Kurdish authorities. But the real trove of evidence is abroad. "There are 2,200 Yazidi families in Germany that I aspire to reach so I can get DNA samples to match. There are 800 families in Australia, 800 in Canada and nearly 150 in France. This list would be bigger than the samples we have here in Iraq," says Hammoud.

### 'Never be at ease'

Just 10 years old, his facility has been examining victims of decades of violence in Iraq. The cardboard boxes containing evidence from Sinjar are surrounded by identical cartons labelled "Anfal," "Karrada," and "Basra," — respectively storing evidence from a massacre of Kurds in the 1980s, a 2016 explosion in Baghdad and a province hit by the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. "We've had years of experience identifying victims. But to minimise the margin of error here, we need time," he says.

The exhumation and identification efforts are supported by the UN special probe into IS crimes (UNITAD), which is gathering evidence and witness testimony for eventual trials in "national courts", perhaps including Iraq. Those cases could take years to put together, but Bashar Hamad is desperate for an answer much sooner. Hamad, 51, last saw his brother Nawaf in 2014 as they clambered up Mount Sinjar to flee approaching IS fighters. Nawaf set off to a nearby village to scavenge for food, but jihadists captured him and five other relatives and they were never seen again.

"There's no more Daesh (IS), and in the Al-



**BAGHDAD:** Staff at Iraqi forensics lab Medico-Legal Directorate in eastern Baghdad inspect samples. The bones, recently exhumed from mass graves in the Yazidi stronghold of Sinjar in northwest Iraq, will be compared with blood samples from surviving members of the community to help determine the fates of those still missing after the Islamic State group's 2014 sweep across their villages. — AFP

Hol camp (housing people who once lived under IS), there are only women and children. No men," he says. Hamad and his family, who remain displaced in northwest Iraq, provided blood samples to authorities last year but

have little hope of finding Nawaf alive. "We will never be at ease. As long as these events are in our memories and the whole world shuts its doors to us, we can't be," Hamad said. "But it would still be better to know." — AFP

## Iraq's minority Yazidis, brutalized by jihadists

**LALISH:** It has been five years since the Islamic State group swept across Sinjar, a mountainous corner of northwest Iraq home to an ethno-religious minority known as the Yazidis. Little was known about the Yazidis prior to the jihadists' infamous brutalization of the community, which included killing men en masse and abducting thousands of girls and women as "sex slaves". As the sect prepares to mark five years since the crisis, here is some background.

### An ancient faith

The Yazidi faith emerged in Iran more than 4,000 years ago and is a "closed" faith, meaning one cannot convert to it. Adherents believe in one God to whom they pray by facing the sun. They also worship seven angels — especially Melek Taus, the Peacock Angel. In their traditional homeland Sinjar, this Kurdish-speaking sect relied mainly on farming to get by. Their holiest site is Lalish, a serene stone complex of shrines and natural springs in Iraq's mountainous northwest where visitors must walk barefoot.

The faith is led by a five-member High Spiritual Council based in nearby Sheikhan, which includes both the worldwide "prince" of Yazidis and Baba Sheikh, their religious chief. Yazidis are organized into three castes — sheikhs, pirs, and murids — and cannot wed across them or outside the sect. Children are Yazidi only if both their parents are. Over time, the faith has integrated elements from other religions: children are baptised in holy water like Christians, boys are circumcised and men can take up to four wives like Muslims.

### Yazidis in numbers

Of the world's nearly 1.5 million Yazidis, the largest number — 550,000 — lived in Iraq, with smaller numbers in Kurdish-speaking areas of Turkey and Syria. Decades of emigration have seen sizable Yazidi populations spring up across Europe too, chiefly in Germany which is home to around 150,000. Other communities can be found in Sweden, France, Belgium and Russia. But since IS swept across Sinjar in 2014, around 100,000 emigrated from Iraq to Europe, the US, Australia and Canada. Around 360,000 still live in displacement camps scattered across northwestern Iraq. Only a few thousand have been able to return to Sinjar, where most homes remain in ruins and services like electricity, hospitals and clean water are scarce.

### Long persecuted

Their status as non-Arabs and non-Muslims has placed Yazidis among the most vulnerable minorities in the Middle East, where Orthodox Muslims have derided them as "devil-worshippers". Yazidis say they have been subject to 74 "genocides", including the IS attack in 2014. One of the worst, according to the High Spiritual Council, saw 250,000 Yazidis perish several hundred years ago. They were also persecuted by the Ottoman Empire in the early 1900s and more recently by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, whose iron-fisted rule between 1979 and 2003 forced thousands of Yazidi families to flee. — AFP



**KHANK:** Iraq's Yazidi survivor Layleh Shemmo displays her tattoo bearing the date fighters from the Islamic State group entered the village of Sinjar. — AFP

## Men still missing, Yazidi women stitch together incomes

**KHANK:** On the floor of her stuffy, dimly-lit tent in Iraq, Yazidi survivor Layleh Shemmo nimbly tugs floral pink fabric through her sewing machine, stitching together a living for her broken family. Working in the Khanke displacement camp in the country's northwest, Shemmo glances down at the name tattooed on her left hand: Kero, her husband, still missing five years after the Islamic State group rampaged across the Sinjar region.

At the time, IS killed Yazidi men en masse, took boys as child soldiers and sold women as "sex slaves", with survivors streaming into ramshackle displacement camps. They remain unable to return to Sinjar, where IS destroyed the fields and farming infrastructure that were the backbone of the ethno-religious minority's livelihoods.

While it had long been frowned upon for Yazidi women to work publicly, survivors found themselves deprived of their family's traditional breadwinners and with little state support. So, they took matters into their own hands. Dresses for a few dollars, baby clothes for the camp's newborns, custom-made pillow cases — mother and former IS captive Shemmo can make them all, using a sewing machine and fabric donated by Sikh NGO Khalsa Aid.

"If I was sitting here with one hand on top of the other, I'd be constantly thinking about what IS did to me, why my husband isn't here, where my two kids are, about my nine relatives still in IS hands," says Shemmo. "With the income from the sewing machine, I'm taking care of my son and daughters — my sister and brother-in-law, too," she says, her eyes shining proudly behind edgy translucent glasses. Abducted by IS when seven months pregnant, Shemmo

## Agony of Yazidi women torn between IS kids, returning home

**BAADRE:** Freed after years in jihadist captivity, Jihan faced an agonizing ultimatum: abandon her three small children fathered by an Islamic State fighter or risk being shunned by her community. "Of course I couldn't bring them home. They're Daesh (IS) children," said Jihan Qassem matter-of-factly, sitting in a sparse concrete structure she now calls home.

"How could I, when my three siblings are still in IS hands?" she added, highlighting the harsh reality that the children serve as constant reminders of the brutalities inflicted on the closed, tight-knit Yazidi community by the so-called Islamic State group. Dozens of Yazidi women and girls systematically raped, sold and married off to jihadists after being abducted by IS from their ancestral Iraqi home of Sinjar in 2014 have faced the same gut-wrenching dilemma. What to do about the children born of these forced unions?

Now freed, the women are desperate to heal from the wounds inflicted on the conservative minority — but raising jihadist offspring would make closure impossible, they said. Kidnapped at 13, Jihan was forced to marry a Tunisian IS fighter at 15 and then fled with him and their children from IS's bombarded Syrian holdout of Baghouz four months ago.

When US-backed forces learned she was Yazidi, they whisked her and her two-year-old boy, year-old girl and four-month-old infant to a northeast Syria shelter hosting other mothers from the brutalized minority. The safehouse, known as the Yazidi House, circulated her photograph on

Facebook and her older brother Saman, still in northern Iraq, recognized his long-lost sister.

He wanted her home. But without the children, after days of an anguished back-and-forth, Jihan decided she would leave her infants with Syrian Kurdish authorities in exchange for what she said was her real family. "They were so young. They were attached to me and I to them... but they're Daesh children," she murmured. She said she doesn't have any pictures of her children and doesn't want to remember them. "The first day is hard, and then little by little, we forget them," she said.

### 'In my heart, on my hands'

She and three of her children were freed, but her husband, two teenage children, and other loved ones remain missing. "They're always in my heart, but with these tattoos they're on my hands too. I see them when I work," Shemmo said. Her pieces come in eye-popping colors: shimmering turquoise, swirling gold-and-burgundy patterns, or tropical satin prints, which she loves using for girls forced to wear head-to-toe black veils for years by IS. "Hopefully when my daughter comes back, I can dress her in bright colours too, instead of black clothes," she says.

But Shemmo says she will keep donning black herself until her husband, Kero, is home: "I'm still mourning." There is a striking absence of men in Khanke camp. Scrawny kids dart between endless rows of tarp tents, chased by elderly Yazidi women heaving in the heat. Over centuries and around the world, war has left communities without working males, and women step in to fill the vacuum. The role reversal is particularly stark for the tiny, conservative Yazidi community.

"Before, in Sinjar, it was shameful for women to get jobs. Right now, it's the opposite. Women are working more than men," says Asima, 30, a make-up artist in the camp. When IS attacked her hometown in 2014, her family spent nearly two weeks sleeping in the open on Mount Sinjar, before they secured safe passage down. She has lived in Khanke ever since, opening a beauty parlour just two months ago with help from the Jinda Foundation, a local NGO which bought her makeup supplies. "My family needed a breadwinner," says Asima.

### 'Girls can escape'

Of the 550,000 Yazidis in Iraq before 2014, around 100,000 have emigrated abroad and 360,000 remain

internally displaced. Roughly 3,300 Yazidis have returned from IS captivity in the last five years, only 10 percent of them men. The vast majority of remaining returnees are women and girls forced by IS into "sex slavery".

The closed-off Yazidi sect would have once excommunicated them for outside marriage. But a landmark decree by Yazidi religious chieftain Baba Sheikh in 2014 demanded women survivors be welcomed back. The community has yet to fully open up. Asima asked that her full name and picture not be used because her family remains conflicted about her working alone. Around a dozen customers are packed into her salon ahead of a wedding, shouting gossip above Kurdish music and the intrusive hum of a generator outside.

Every few minutes, a power cut brings an abrupt halt to the buzz, but Asima doesn't flinch as she daubs thick foundation and plants eyelash extensions on her teenage customer's face. Her makeovers cost around \$8 (seven euros), while hair styling can run up to \$35 for elaborate bridal updos. — AFP



**BAADRE:** Iraq's Yazidi Jihan Qassem, 18, prepares tea as she talks to an AFP reporter at a makeshift house in an area housing many displaced people on the outskirts of the northwestern Iraqi town of Baadre. — AFP

cally," said Kheder in the Council's headquarters in Sheikhan.

Islamic law, on which the Iraqi constitution is based, stipulates that religion is inherited from the father. Psychologically too, Kheder said the Yazidi society remained too scarred by the prolonged abductees of their own people to accept raising the children of their abusers. "Until now, we have thousands of Yazidi women and girls in IS hands. No one asks about them. They ask about a few children that can be counted on one hand," said Kheder. The Council said it does not keep statistics on returning Yazidi survivors with infants born of rape.

### Flesh, blood, tears

While most Yazidi mothers leave their children at the Yazidi House in Syria, some brought IS-born infants home to Iraq. They declined interviews because of the subject's sensitivity. One woman insisted to her

Yazidi family that she would raise her year-old infant fathered by a missing IS fighter, but balked when she discovered she could not acquire Iraqi identification papers for him as his father was not present. She gave him up for adoption, her doctor said.

Another 18-year-old arrived in Iraq in the spring after finally being freed, but was heavily pregnant by her IS captor, according to a social worker involved in her case. She spent weeks in a safehouse without her family's knowledge until she gave birth, sent the newborn away and joined her relatives in a displacement camp. Last year, five children born to Yazidi mothers and IS fathers were left at an orphanage in Mosul, which helped local Muslim families adopt them, according to Mosul's director of women and children's issues Sukaynah Younes.

They are now registered as Muslim. The psychological impact of this separation will likely be long-lasting. Jihan herself still seemed torn. — AFP



## International

# Hong Kong extradition protesters escalate fight, tension in suburbs

## US, British flags waved in gesture to rile Beijing

**HONG KONG:** Tens of thousands rallied in a large Hong Kong suburb yesterday, driven by abiding anger at the government's handling of an extradition bill that has revived fears of China tightening its grip over the ex-British colony and dismantling its freedoms. Millions have taken to the streets over the past month in some of the largest and most violent protests in decades over an extradition bill that would allow people to be sent to mainland China for trial in courts controlled by the Communist Party.

Police equipped with riot gear clashed with some protesters who used metal barriers and other objects to block off roads. Demonstrators marched in sweltering heat of about 32 degrees Celsius (89.6F) in Sha Tin, a town between Hong Kong island and the border with China, extending the protests outwards from the heart of the financial centre into surrounding neighborhoods.

"These days there is really no trust of China, and so the protesters come out," said Jennie Kwan, 73. "Didn't they promise 50 years, no change? And yet we've all seen the changes. I myself am already 70-something years old. What do I know about politics? But politics comes to you." Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula that guarantees its people freedoms for 50 years that are not enjoyed in mainland China, including the liberty to protest and an independent judiciary.

Beijing denies interfering in Hong Kong affairs, but many residents worry about what they see as an erosion of those freedoms and a relentless march toward mainland control. Hong Kong's embattled leader, Carrie Lam, has said the extradition bill is "dead", but opponents say they will settle for nothing short of its formal withdrawal.

Some protesters yesterday waved banners appealing to US President Donald Trump to "Please liberate Hong Kong" and "Defend our Constitution". Such scenes are certain to rile Beijing, which has been angered by criticism

from Washington and London over the controversial bill. Others waved British and American flags, while banners calling for Hong Kong's independence billowed in the sultry breeze from makeshift flagpoles.

One placard featured a picture of Chinese leader Xi Jinping with the words: "Extradite to China, disappear forever." Chants of "Carrie Lam go to hell!" rang through the crowd, gathered well away from the island heart of the financial centre which has witnessed the largest and most violent demonstrations over the past month. Organizers said around 115,000 attended yesterday's rally. Police put the number at 28,000 at its peak.

### Protesters span generations

The bill has stirred outrage across broad sections of Hong Kong society amid concerns it would threaten the much-cherished rule of law that underpins the city's international financial status. Young, elderly and families joined the latest protest. The protests have caused the former British colony's biggest political crisis since its handover to China.

Demonstrators stormed the Legislative Council building on July 1 and ransacked it. "I never missed a march so far since June," said a 69-year-old man who gave only his surname, Chen. "I support the youngsters, they have done something we haven't done. There is nothing we can do to help them, but come out and march to show our appreciation and support."

Protesters are also demanding that Lam step down, the withdrawal of the word "riot" to describe demonstrations, the unconditional release of those arrested and an independent investigation into complaints of police brutality. Police have condemned what they describe as "violent protesters" and stressed that officers will investigate all illegal acts. One woman, in her mid-50s, said protesters had harassed her after she tried to defend the police, whom activists described as "dogs".



**HONG KONG:** Protesters attend a rally against a controversial extradition law proposal in Sha Tin district of Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

"It's verbal violence," said the woman, who gave her name only as Catherine. "People just surrounded me and shouted rude language and that makes me feel I am living in fear." Mass protests over the bill since June have morphed into demonstrations over democracy and broader grievances in society. On Saturday, a largely peaceful demonstration in a town close to the Chinese border

turned violent as protesters hurled umbrellas and hardhats at police, who retaliated by swinging batons and firing pepper spray.

The government condemned violence during Saturday's protests against so-called "parallel traders" from the mainland who buy goods in bulk in Hong Kong to carry into China for profit. — Reuters

## At least 50 dead in Nepal's monsoon

**KATHMANDU:** Floods and landslides caused by torrential monsoon rains have killed at least 50 people across Nepal while dozens more are missing, officials said yesterday. Northeast India has also been hit by floods with 11 deaths recorded as rivers burst their banks. Heavy rains since Thursday have hit several districts in Nepal, especially in the country's eastern region and the southern plains, affecting thousands.

Nepal police spokesman Bishwaraj Pokharel said 33 people are missing while over 1,100 people have been rescued. "We have mobilized all resources in the country for search, rescue and relief and have been able to reach all affected areas," Pokharel said. Authorities said river levels are expected to return to normal from Monday. Monsoon rains from June to September cause widespread death and destruction across South Asia each year.

In India at least 11 people have died in the country's northeast, officials said, with some 20,000 being housed in relief camps in badly-hit Assam state. In Bangladesh aid groups were providing rations to Rohingya refugees in the southeast of the country with the UN World Food Program saying Friday that two people including a child had died. Last year, more than 1,200 people were being killed across South Asia in monsoon storms, with India's Kerala suffering its worst floods in nearly 100 years.

### Monsoon Rohingya camps

In another development, at least 10 people have died and thousands of shanty homes have been destroyed since April by monsoon rains in overcrowded Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh's southeast, officials said yesterday. Bangladesh's meteorological department said the Cox's Bazar district - home to nearly one million Rohingya Muslims who have fled a military crackdown in Myanmar - has seen at least 58.5 centimeters (nearly two feet) of rain since July 2. An International Organization for Migration (IOM) spokeswoman said heavy rains triggered mudslides in the refugee camps - which are mostly built on hillslopes - destroying some 4,889 tarpaulin and bamboo shacks. More than 200 landslides have been reported



**KATHMANDU:** Nepal traffic police personnel try to carry away a motorcycle among floodwaters after the Balkhu River overflowed following monsoon rains at the Kalanki area of Kathmandu. — AFP

since April in the camps, built near the border with Myanmar, and at least 10 people were killed, a UN report said. In the last week alone, two Rohingya minors died and another 6,000 people were left without shelter because of heavy rains. Displaced refugees said they were suffering as rain disrupted logistics and daily activity in the camps.

"It's tough to go to food distribution centers by wading through a swamp of mud," Nurun Jan, a Rohingya refugee said. "Rains and gusty wind have made our life miserable." World Food Program (WFP) spokeswoman Gemma Snowden said they had to significantly increase assistance in the camps to cope up with the monsoon. "So far 11,400 people have required the extra food assistance due to the heavy rains, compared to 7,000 during the whole of July 2018," she said.

Last year the UN refugee agency moved 30,000

Rohingya out of areas considered at high risk of landslides and floods. Heavy rains frequently trigger flooding and landslides in Bangladesh's southeastern hill districts, and in 2017 at least 170 people were killed. Some 740,000 Rohingya fled a military crackdown in Buddhist-dominated Myanmar's Rakhine state in August 2017, joining about 200,000 already living in camps in Bangladesh.

Officials said landslides were increasing in the region because forests had been cleared to make way for the sprawling Rohingya camps. One of the settlements, Kutupalong, is now the world's largest refugee centre. Bangladesh wants to relocate up to 100,000 of the refugees to Bhashan Char, a remote island in the Bay of Bengal, but this is opposed by the refugees and international rights groups. Dhaka says any relocation to the island would be voluntary. — Agencies

## Shanghai leads battle against China's rising mountain of trash

**SHANGHAI:** Nie Feng used to toss his rubbish outside his Shanghai flat without a thought while rushing to work, but saving China from a garbage crisis now requires him to consult a complex diagram each morning. On July 1, Shanghai launched China's most ambitious garbage separation and recycling program ever, as the country confronts a rising tide of trash created by increasing consumption.

But the program is the talk of China's biggest city for other reasons as well: confusion over rules and fines for infractions, and thousands of volunteers inspecting citizens' private garbage each day. Nie examines a wall-sized diagram saying fish and pork bones must be separated from each other, and from the plastic bag he carries them in. "It's for the good of our homeland, but we keep making mistakes," said Nie, a trading company staffer, laughing as he struggled to separate the bag's contents into various bins.

"We have to get this right before the fines really start." Shanghai is piloting a program set for eventual nationwide adoption in what would likely be the world's largest waste separation and recycling scheme - and it is desperately needed. With its 1.4 billion consumers, China is becoming swamped by trash. Every day, Shanghai's 25 million people alone produce around 26,000 tons-equal in weight to the Statue of Liberty. The issue is straining municipal services nationwide and prompting unrest.

### Growing anger

Last week authorities in the central city of Wuhan sent



**SHANGHAI:** A man looks at piled up garbage at a housing complex in the former French concession in Shanghai. — AFP

riot police to quell protests by thousands of citizens against construction of a waste incinerator. China is spending billions of dollars on waste-to-energy incineration plants across the country, but repeated protests have flared over fears they will emit toxins. Wuhan has shelved its plan, for now.

China produced just 30 million tons of trash in 1980, but that soared to 210 million in 2017, according to World Bank figures. That is still less than the world's trash titan, the United States, which produced 258 million tons. But China is gaining fast and the World Bank predicts Chinese garbage could reach a staggering 500 million tons annually by 2030. Several factors are blamed, including rapid growth and the Communist Party's ongoing push to develop a domestic consumer economy to lessen reliance on the outside world.

Led by the likes of Alibaba, Chinese e-commerce has exploded, producing billions of parcel deliveries annually with their associated packaging. The government indicated its alarm last year by banning certain imports of foreign waste that it used to accept for years for recycling, a move that has up-ended global garbage flows. "We need a really

big push and I think the government realized that. There is really a sense of urgency," said Alizee Buyschaert, founder and director of environmental consultancy Zero Waste Shanghai.

With a phased national roll-out set to gain pace next year, Shanghai's experience has become one of the most talked-about topics in the country, though sometimes for the wrong reasons. Critics have taken aim at seemingly contradictory sorting guidelines and the limited daily hours during which dumping is allowed, which causes problems for those with irregular schedules. Chinese media reports also have indicated that a lot of garbage was still entering bins unsorted. Government officials declined AFP interview requests.

### 'So much rubbish'

Previous city-level sorting schemes have fizzled, but Buyschaert sees a difference this time. "The big shift is that it is much more centralized and it's incentivized now. That's really a game-changer because now everyone is talking about it and everyone is involved and on their toes," she said. Authorities say strict sorting is crucial, making it far easier to separately process recycled items, hazardous waste, compost and biomass.

But tempers have flared. Chinese media said a 33-year-old woman was detained last week for choking a volunteer sorting inspector unconscious during a rules dispute. Fines range from 200 yuan (\$29) for household infractions to 50,000 yuan for businesses, though authorities are going easy on imposing them for now. The scheme is a business opportunity for others, with start-ups offering app-based garbage collection and sorting services.

True to form, the Communist Party is pushing obedience via a public campaign larded with red banners emblazoned with revolutionary exhortations such as "storm the citadel of trash sorting." "We weren't used to it at first. It was really inconvenient," said 67-year-old pensioner Zhou Shenzhu. But she has been won over by a noticeable reduction in flies and odor since sorting started, she says. "The propaganda on television says we face great harm if we don't separate." "Shanghai has lots of people, and so much rubbish. So much!" — AFP

## Calls to sack Israel education minister over 'gay therapy'

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Education Minister Rafi Peretz has spoken of his belief in therapy to convert gays to heterosexuality and claimed he has engaged in the practice, leading to calls for him to be sacked. The comments late Saturday in a television interview were only the latest controversial views voiced by the recently installed minister who heads a far-right party popular with Israeli settlers.

Asked by Israel's Channel 12 whether he was in favor of so-called conversion therapy and if he believed he could change a gay person, Peretz, who is also a rabbi, said "I think you can, I think you can." "I can tell you that I have a deep knowledge of education, and I have done it too," he said. He then talked about a student who approached him and told him he was gay. Peretz said he hugged him, was kind to him and sought to help him "understand himself well and then decide on his own."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who brought Peretz's Union of Right Wing Parties into his government after April 9 elections, firmly condemned the remarks. But Netanyahu, who heads what is seen as the most right-wing government in Israel's history, signaled no intention of firing Peretz as members of Israel's opposition demanded. "The education minister's remarks about the gay community are not acceptable and do not reflect the stance of the government I head," he said in a statement.

He said he spoke with Peretz "who clarified his remarks and stressed the Israeli education system will continue to accept all of Israel's children as they are, without any regard to their sexual orientation." Gay conversion therapy has been widely found, including by Israel's health ministry, to be unscientific and potentially damaging to young people. — AFP



**Israeli Education Minister Rafi Peretz**

## Quake causes panic in eastern Indonesia

**JAKARTA:** A magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck the Moluccas islands in eastern Indonesia yesterday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) reported, causing panic among residents, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage. The quake occurred at a depth of 10 km in an area 168 km south-southeast of the city of Ternate, the USGS said. Indonesia's meteorology agency (BMKG) said the quake was not in danger of causing a tsunami. At least seven aftershocks stronger than magnitude 5 were recorded following the main quake. BMKG official Rahmat Triyono said in a statement.

The agency said the main quake was felt in other parts of Indonesia, including cities on Sulawesi island and in Sorong in Papua island. The quake hit hours after a magnitude 6.6 struck offshore Western Australia, south of Indonesia. "There are no reports of infrastructure damage yet," said Iksan Subur, an official with Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency based in the regency of South Halmahera, near the earthquake's epicentre.

"But people panicked and ran out of their houses. Some people who live near the ocean are starting to move to higher ground," he told Reuters by phone. — Reuters

## Analysis

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## As US agents prepare to arrest 'thousands' migrants live in fear

Thousands of undocumented immigrants were waiting in fear and uncertainty ahead of nationwide raids Sunday that President Donald Trump said would lead to a wave of expulsions. Demonstrators in dozens of cities protested the planned raids, and local and state officials called for restraint, but to no effect. Before dawn yesterday, agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were expected to hit the streets of at least 10 major American cities with plans to arrest some 2,000 undocumented migrants who entered the United States recently.

The scope of the operation appears far more modest than the "millions" Trump had promised would be detained and expelled when he first mentioned the raids - and subsequently postponed - last month. But that has not eased the anguish felt by those who fear they might be targeted. Adding to their concerns are media reports that ICE agents are prepared to scoop up not just those targeted by removal orders but also other undocumented migrants that agents may come upon incidentally. That, potentially, could include some migrants who have been in the country for years, with homes, jobs and children who are US citizens.

### 'It's traumatizing'

"This uncertainty, this fear, is wreaking havoc," Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said on CNN. "It's traumatizing people." Trump insisted on Friday that "most mayors" want the raids. "Most mayors do. You know why? They don't want to have crimes in their cities," he said, repeating his frequent - and incorrect - assertion that migrants are more likely to be criminals than native-born Americans. Several mayors have expressed concern about the federal operation.

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez pointed out that in 2018, his first year in office, his Florida city experienced its "lowest homicide rate in 51 years - so I don't understand the rationale for choosing Miami." "It doesn't make it easier for us, as mayors, to keep our citizens and those who are in our city ... quiet and calm."

### 'A political act'

Some city officials, as well as pro-migrant and civil rights groups, have sought to educate those who might be targeted on their rights in the event of a raid. "We're asking people, if you are in fear of deportation, to stay in on Sunday, to travel in groups," Atlanta Mayor Keisha Bottoms said on CNN. If "someone comes to your door, please don't open the door unless they have a warrant". New York Mayor Bill de Blasio told MSNBC he sees the raids as "a political act to convince a lot of people in America that immigrants are the problem". Like many other city officials, he fears the aggressive roundup could intimidate migrants, making them less likely in future to cooperate with local police, thus making it harder to ensure public safety.

### 'Millions 'in line'

"We have millions of people standing in line waiting to become citizens of this country," Trump said Friday. He said it would be unfair to them if others could simply cross the border in an attempt to gain the privileges of American life. But the impending raids have raised concerns about how a new influx could affect federal detention centers already badly overcrowded. The United States has been struggling for more than a year with a migration crisis on its southern border, as thousands of people stream into the US each month, mostly from Central American countries riven by violence and poverty.

The number of undocumented arrivals totaled more than 100,000 last month - down 28 percent from May but still at a "critical" level, according to the Department of Homeland Security. On Friday and Saturday, dozens of protests were organized across the country by groups demanding the closing of overcrowded detention centers and opposing the planned raids.

### Requisitioning hotels?

Several American news outlets have reported on centers holding young children, separated from their parents, in crowded and unhygienic conditions. US officials have acknowledged the overcrowding but insisted they are doing their best to provide decent conditions. Some reports Saturday suggested that ICE might have to requisition hotel rooms to accommodate those detained in the upcoming raids. A major hotel chain, Marriott International, was asked by AFP whether it had been contacted by the government. It said it had not yet been contacted, but added, "Marriott has made the decision to decline any requests to use our hotels as detention facilities." — AFP

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US President Donald Trump gestures to the crowd before speaking on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade agreement at Dercos Aerospace Inc plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 12, 2019. — AFP

## Trump's favorite parts of economy are the weakest

At rallies and whistle-stop campaign tours, President Donald Trump proclaims a renaissance in US factories rebuilding the nation with "American steel", "American heart" and "American hands". But in reality, despite his relentless use of punitive tariffs to help skew the playing field in favor of US companies, the very industries he has tried to help have become the weakest links in the otherwise solid economy. With just over a year to go before he faces reelection, Trump takes credit for the most vigorous economy in the industrialized world, with the expansion entering its 11th year and historically low unemployment.

But while services and office jobs dominate the US economy, Trump continues to promote the factory and mining jobs that were the lifeblood of the economy in the last century. "American steel mills are roaring back to life," he declared last month in Florida - the same day US Steel announced it would idle plants in Michigan and Indiana until "market conditions improve". And to West Virginians he said, "The coal industry is back."

But in fact each of the sectors Trump has championed - coal mining, steel, aluminum and auto manufacturing - have been buffeted by a combination of market forces and changing technologies - factors beyond his control - or damaged by the very things he did to protect them, economists and analysts say. Last month, a national survey of manufacturing activity hit its lowest level in nearly three years - narrowly avoiding slipping into contraction - while regional surveys have also seen record declines.

In March, the number of workers in US manufacturing

shrank for the first time in nearly two years and it is now growing more slowly than the rest of the American workforce. "There's clearly a rather large element of hyperbole in what the president has said," said Scott Paul, president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, which supported the tariffs Trump has put on steel, aluminum and Chinese imports. But he adds: "I think it's also fair to say a lot of Americans wanted to see a president fight for American industry."

Trump has imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions in imports, renegotiated trade agreements and dangled the threat of worse over China and Europe and Mexico - all while publicly browbeating companies that close US factories or move production offshore. But weak foreign demand, a strong US dollar and a decades-long evolution away from domestic manufacturing have progressively shrunk America's industrial sector, said Gregory Daco, chief US economist at Oxford Economics. Trump's world trade war has not helped either.

### Automakers' 'greatest threat'?

"The policies that have been implemented in terms of protectionism have hurt the very sectors they were meant to protect. There's no escaping that," Daco told AFP. To boost the coal industry, the president has rolled back regulations on the climate and pollution. Last month, he ordered the Energy Department to pour millions into research to boost the performance of coal-fired power plants.

But coal is in crisis. As more electrical utilities switch to

cheaper wind, solar and natural gas, coal consumption has plummeted to its lowest level in 40 years, according to the Energy Department, and bankruptcies have abounded, closing dozens of mines, shrinking capacity and idling hundreds of workers. One company this month shuttered operations with no warning to workers.

And while US production of primary aluminum has risen, benefitting from the worldwide 10 percent tariffs Trump imposed last year, the number of workers at American aluminum smelters has actually fallen one percent since Trump took office, according to the Labor Department. On Wall Street, share prices for Century Aluminum and Alcoa Corp, the top US producers, have fallen by more than 50 percent in the last year.

Prices have plunged since last year, largely due to oversupply from China, said Tom Leary, vice president at Harbor Aluminum in Texas, adding that domestic market premiums rose with the tariffs - meaning US-made product is frequently no cheaper than imports. "A 10 percent tariff, it's not enough," Leary added.

Elsewhere, as automakers pour billions into developing new technologies for autonomous and electric vehicles, they are abandoning factories that made the sedans and compact Americans no longer want to buy. And as a result, the industry has been laying off workers at the fastest pace since the Great Recession, according to the employment firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas. Charles Chesbrough, senior economist at Cox Automotive, said Trump's twitter bombast has forced automakers to think twice about offshoring production. — AFP

## 15th July: The night Turkey changed forever



By Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak  
Ambassador of the Republic  
of Turkey in Kuwait

Three important years have passed since the 15th of July coup attempt carried out by the FETO terrorist organization. The 15th of July coup attempt was planned by the FETO leadership and carried out by members of the organization, whom infiltrated into our army by disobeying the chain of command of the armed forces. This heinous act constitutes the deadliest terrorist attack that Turkey has ever experienced.

We have never before witnessed such savagery and treachery in our history as the one exhibited by the perpetrators of this coup attempt: our parliament building, the presidential complex, the building of the National Intelligence Organization (MIT), buildings of the Turkish national police, the headquarters of the police special operations department located in Ankara were bombed by rogue pilots.

Tanks were driven to the streets to mow down innocent civilians, while helicopters and jets dropped bombs from the air and shot everyone in sight. The Fetullahist traitors disguised as soldiers did not shy away from bombing their brothers-in-arms. It has not been possible to reach the bodies of 51 police officers who were martyred as a result of intense bombing that targeted the police special operations department headquarters in our capital city, Ankara.

That night, 251 citizens were killed and more than 2,000 people were injured.

The 15th of July coup attempt revealed the grave threat posed by the FETO terrorist organization against our state. In order to fully understand all aspects of the 15th of July coup attempt, it is imperative to consider this dark network, beginning from schools and prep schools established over the last few decades by FETO. By brainwashing young minds at schools founded under the disguise of so-called training activities, they indoctrinated a large group of radical followers, who carried out the instructions of the organization's leadership unquestioningly and violated all legal and moral norms.

Graduates of these schools were able to infiltrate the most critical institutions of the state by stealing exam questions; furthermore, those considered as an obstacle to the organization were treacherously eliminated as FETO conspired against them. FETO strengthened its economic and political influence by abusing the state's resources and authority for the vile interests of the

organization. On the 15th of July, we were able to grasp the sheer size of the secret structure established by FETO within our most critical institution, the Turkish armed forces.

The Turkish people who have stood against this horrific threat have fervently and courageously demonstrated to the world that they did not recognize any power over their will and stood ready to sacrifice their lives to protect their state and the democratic system. In the past three years, the fight against FETO both inside and outside Turkey has constituted one of the main priorities of our state. Within Turkey, our efforts are being conducted under three pillars:

Firstly, on the basis of the rule of law, the perpetrators of the 15th of July coup attempt have been brought to justice. Secondly, FETO's organizational structure within governmental institutions has been unveiled; administrative and judicial procedures have been initiated against its members and hence the "parallel state structure" has been brought down. Thirdly, apart from those within the governmental institutions, FETO's attempts to spread across all areas of the economy via its shell entities, particularly in the education, media and banking sectors, have been thwarted.

Despite facing extraordinary security challenges, we have been able to successfully conduct our fight at home in compliance with the principles of the rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms. We have also expended efforts to avoid grievances and established new mechanisms to examine and settle alleged grievances.

As these developments took place, FETO has undergone a significant transformation. The organization, which lost its backbone in Turkey, is now trying to survive by making use of its structure abroad. Thus, fighting against the structures of FETO abroad has gained significance. The fight against FETO structures abroad has been among the top priorities of the Turkish ministry of foreign affairs. The main objective of our efforts is to demonstrate and prove the fact that FETO also poses a threat to the security of other countries where it remains active. In this regard, the concrete examples gathered indicate that FETO does not hesitate to violate laws by acting almost like an secretive intelligence service and points out to the fact that it aims to establish political and economic zones of influence that permits the creation of structures similar to those in Turkey in other countries that it has spread to since the 1990s.

Moreover, we have taken administrative measures and initiated legal proceedings to limit the maneuvering space of the FETO terrorist organization abroad and to prevent its members from transferring money and escaping justice. Within the scope of investigations conducted in Turkey, we have requested the extradition of the main ringleaders of the structures of FETO abroad from the countries where these persons are located.

The Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMF) maintains its

activities all around the world to prevent any shortfalls resulting from the steps taken against FETO, especially in the field of education. With the contribution of our missions abroad that implement intensive efforts within the framework summarized above, we are gaining traction and getting concrete results.

Most importantly, the international community is gradually understanding that FETO is not a social movement that engages with education and charity, contrary to the way it tries to portray itself, but rather a dark and insidious organization with political and economic ambitions. A clear awareness regarding the characteristics of the organization has developed among public opinions abroad. Various countries and international organizations have declared FETO as a terrorist organization. In this context, FETO was declared as a terrorist organization in the 43rd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC held on 19 October 2016; a similar resolution was written at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly on 1 December 2016 and ratified at the 12th Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC on 27 January 2017. In addition to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the supreme court of Pakistan declared FETO a terrorist organization with the verdict rendered on 28 December 2018.

The awareness raised regarding FETO in third countries has also stimulated closer monitoring and investigation of the activities related to these elements by the officials of the aforementioned countries. Unlawful acts carried out by FETO-affiliated organizations have thus been revealed in various countries. The members of the organization have been deported accordingly. In addition to those deported to third countries, more than one hundred and ten FETO members from over twenty countries have been extradited to Turkey.

TMF has taken over FETO affiliated schools in eighteen countries. The activities of FETO affiliated schools and language courses have been terminated in 36 countries. Our efforts have increased the pressure on the members of the organization living abroad and there has been a serious constriction within the structuring of the organization abroad along with its capabilities. The number of FETO members attempting to escape the countries in which they are active has been on the rise, particularly in Africa, as well as Turkey.

While experiencing a visible disruption in its global network, the organization still strives to make up victimization stories by resorting to unfounded news through the use of their existing media outlets. It also attempts to strengthen cooperation with circles hostile to Turkey by using PR and lobbying methods. Our efforts for fully eliminating the structures of FETO abroad constitute a long-term fight. The Turkish government will resolutely maintain its efforts in that regard. We appreciate the solidarity and cooperation that Kuwait demonstrated from the first moment of the failed coup.

# Business

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019

**12** Ooredoo Team hosts in 88.8 and 90.4 with Ali Najim and Khalid Al-Ansari



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**14** KFH launches Your KFH Visa card, the key to your house in Europe campaign



**Bader Al-Kharafi: Market capitalization of Zain KSA has more than doubled over the last 12 months**

## Zain Saudi Arabia's net income growth soars to record-high

**Net income to SAR 260 million for first six months of 2019; revenue up 17% to SAR 4.2 billion**

- EBITDA for six months ended June 2019 up 60% to reach SAR 1.9 billion (46% margin)
- Company records net income for the fourth consecutive quarter as Q2 2019 net income reaches SAR 130 million and revenue for the period up 11% to reach SAR 2.1 billion
- Al-Kharafi: "This is an incredible six-month period, highlighted by growth in all key financial indicators, placing the company in a strong fiscal position"

**RIYADH:** Zain Saudi Arabia (Zain KSA), announces record-high financial results for all key indicators for the first six-months and second quarter ended 30 June 2019, with the operator serving 8.3 million customers.

### Key Operational and Financial notes for three months ended 30 June, 2019:

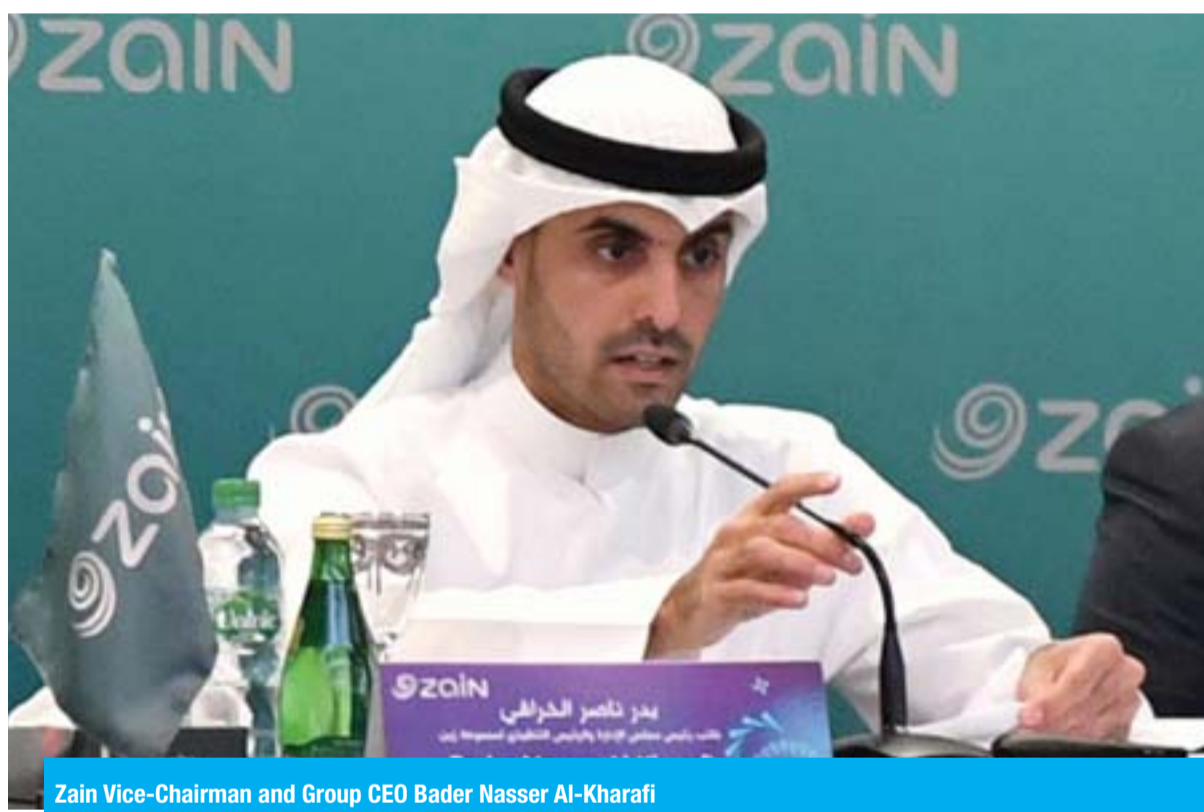
1. In June 2019, Zain KSA signed a new Islamic two-year (renewable) Murabaha Junior Credit facility agreement amounting to SAR 2.25 billion with a syndicate of five core Saudi Arabian and regional banks to refinance a US \$600 million facility

2. During Q2 2019, the company made an early voluntary payment towards the Senior Murabaha financing agreement amounting to SAR 300 million, reflecting the company's solid cashflow generation; bringing the total repayment amount to SAR 1.425 billion in the past nine months

3. Zain KSA made the first 5G call in the Kingdom on its network, successfully exceeding speeds of 1000 Mbps

4. Zain KSA's 5G technology became available at Neom Bay Airport, making it the first airport in the region to offer a 5G network

5. The launch of appealing B2B and individual data monetization initiatives and packages have resulted in an impressive uptake leading to healthy growth in cus-



Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi

tomers, ARPU and revenue.

Commenting on H1 2019 results, Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, and Zain KSA Vice-Chairman said, "Zain KSA has experienced an

incredible six-months, highlighted by growth in all key financial indicators, which has resulted in the company recording its fourth consecutive quarter of net income. Furthermore, the company's share price and market

capitalization has more than doubled over the last 12 months, all testament to investor confidence in the successful implementation of the turnaround growth strategy and future roadmap."

Al-Kharafi added, "The exceptional performance is a direct result of focused customer service; investment in network upgrades and fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) expansion; innovative B2B acquisition and cloud strategies; and driving operating efficiencies. The company has also been successful with respect to its data monetization initiatives that are all gaining significant momentum and resulting in healthy ARPU and revenue growth."

Al-Kharafi continued, "The Saudi ICT sector is witnessing a major renaissance on multiple levels and we are well prepared to take advantage of the enormous digital growth opportunities in creating shareholder value."

Al-Kharafi concluded by expressing his sincere gratitude to the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for creating an environment in which companies such as Zain KSA can thrive, stating, "The Board and executive management teams of Zain Group and Zain KSA are committed to playing a key role in the Kingdom's ICT sector and offering customers quality and life empowering telecommunication services in line with Vision 2030. It is gratifying to have authorities at all levels of government support and commit to our presence in the Kingdom in such a positive manner. Such support further increases the attractiveness of the Kingdom's economy, contributing to its ongoing prosperity."

### Zain KSA Key Performance Indicators (SAR) for the first six months of 2019

Total Active Customers	8.3 million	
Revenues	SAR 4.2 billion	USD 1.1 billion
EBITDA	SAR 1.9 billion	USD 506 million
EBITDA Margin	46%	
Net Income	SAR 260 million	USD 69 million

### Zain KSA Key Performance Indicators (SAR) for second quarter of 2019

Revenues	SAR 2.1 billion	(USD 548 million)
EBITDA	SAR 944 million	USD 252 million)
EBITDA Margin	46%	
Net Income	SAR 130 million	(USD 35 million)

## Tax-weary Greek traders welcome change of govt

**ATEHNS:** "Once my taxes are paid, at the end of the day I have 20 or 25 euros left in my pocket," lamented Greek hairdresser Babis Tombanos.

Like him, there are many entrepreneurs in the country who want the new conservative government that emerged from the July 7 general election to relieve the heavy tax burden of recent years.

Incoming Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis inherits an economy saddled with taxes applied in the last decade-including a previous government which he was part of-to refloat the country's public finances in the middle of the debt crisis. Mitsotakis has promised a "rebirth of the middle class", which was squeezed by increases in VAT and income taxes, as well as the imposition during the crisis of a new heavy tax on real estate.

The conservative leader announced that at the end of July his government will present a bill to lower these taxes, as well as the corporate tax rate from the current 28 percent to 20 percent.

Tax relief has been a mantra for Greek

small and medium-sized businesses for years. "For all Greek companies, during these years, the problem has been taxes," said Elena Kouretsi, sales manager at Vitamin Bar, a company that patents juicers in a dozen countries.

"Even if you have work, production and sales, in the end eighty percent of your income is gone," said the 35-year-old businesswoman, adding that she is hopeful that the new government will show "understanding" to entrepreneurship.

### 'The problems are immense'

Vasilis Maselos, president of the Greek ready-to-wear association (SEPEE), said he believes that Mitsotakis "has promised reasonable things".

However, he warned that "the problems are immense", starting with a technologically backward government administration. This businessman, who sells swimsuits and nightgowns in Japan, said the volume of business in textiles is 50 percent below the level in 2008, before the global and Greece's own economic crisis struck.

"People only buy what is essential, and sometimes not even that," he said. State statistics put Greece's purchasing power at one-third lower than the EU average. But "if we grow three or four percent per year-compared to 2.1 percent projected this year by the European Commission-in five or six years can recover much of the lost ground," he added.

It is a hope shared by civil engineer Kostas Kyriazis, still active at 68 years old. During the crisis, his small office lost up to 60 percent of its revenue. But since the end of 2018, they have observed "a small growth", mostly from renovations and apartment refurbishments linked to Airbnb rentals.

"There are many opportunities in Greece," particularly in tourism, he said.

### Slow recovery in incomes

Panayotis Petrakis, professor of finance at the University of Athens, calculates Greece will not return to pre-crisis prosperity levels until 2025. Available income "has been rising very slowly for two years, at a rate of about 150 euros per head. It will continue to rise, the question is at what speed," Petrakis told AFP. Public dissatisfaction at the slow recovery in incomes means there is widespread support for reducing taxes, but such a move also poses risks for new PM Mitsotakis.

While cutting taxes, he also needs to lower Greece's public debt, currently the highest in the EU at 180 percent of gross domestic product. He must also satisfy the demands of the country's watchful European creditors to maintain sound finances: running a primary fiscal surplus (that is, excluding debt interest repayments) of 3.5 percent of GDP until 2022.

Greece also has a major problem with its



**ATEHNS:** Elena Kouretsi, 35, responsible for marketing at 'Vitamin Bar', talks during an interview with AFP in Athens. Mitsotakis inherits an economy riddled with taxes, applied in the last decade to refloat the country's public finances in the middle of the debt crisis. —AFP

banks, whose bad loans are at record European levels. This "continues to weigh on the performance of Greek banks, and limits

their ability to lend to non-financial companies and households," the Canadian rating agency DBRS warned this week. —AFP



## Business



# Huawei launches the first 5G smartphone in Kuwait

## The Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) officially arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) was honored to introduce the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) to the consumers in the State of Kuwait in a lively event that took place at Huawei Experience Store (HES) at the Avenues Mall on 11 July, 2019. Tech-enthusiasts were beyond excited to pre-order the device during the event and gain valuable prizes with every pre-order.

For consumers, who were not able to attend the launching event, the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) will be in all stores in Kuwait on the 18th of July 2019. Huawei (CBG) takes pride to be the first in Kuwait to launch its Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) that supports the vigorous 5G connectivity.

For those, who seek an upgraded smartphone experience, the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) guarantees a powerful performance that entails faster internet speed, long lasting battery and an unparalleled entertainment that will most definitely elevate your 5G experience. What truly differentiates Huawei amongst rivals and gives them a leading position in providing innovative connectivity solutions is its reputation and history of innovation. If you're wondering how the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) is different, the answer lies in its customer-centric innovation and its quality features. "It is our honor and pleasure to consistently bring a higher level of innovative technology to Kuwait and the world. Our



aim is not only building a connected world, but to have the world cherish the quality of every captured memory." Enthused Mr. Jason Jiang, General Manager of Huawei Consumer Business Group addressing the attendees in the Pre-Booking event.

Huawei's launching event gave attendees an evening to remember through giving them the chance to pre-book the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G), enjoying the live entertainment of star bands and valuable offers. For further information on the device, don't hesitate to visit Huawei Experience Store (HES).



## Lufthansa CEO sees no 'Greta Effect' on passenger numbers

ZURICH: German airline Lufthansa expects passenger numbers to rise about 4 percent this year, its chief executive told a newspaper, playing down talk that public support for teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg might be curbing air travel.

"At this time we don't see restraint - in fact, the opposite," Carsten Spohr told the NZZ am Sonntag newspaper in the interview published yesterday. "In comparison to last year, already a record year, we're expecting passenger growth of about 4 percent, (Lufthansa unit) Swiss International Air Lines is also showing growth. The discussion of climate change is not leading to restraint with bookings. People want to fly."

Media reports have suggested a "Greta effect" might curb demand for air travel, referring to the 16-year-old who has gained global attention for her efforts to convince people to reduce carbon-emitting activities. On Saturday, a group of about 80 protesters staged a "Flight Strike" at Zurich Airport near the facilities of Swiss International Air Lines, singing songs, handing out leaflets, and encouraging people

to pledge not to fly in 2020.

There were no arrests, and the demonstration dispersed without police intervention.

Spohr cited figures from the International Energy Agency showing air travel produces 2.8 percent of human-caused carbon dioxide. He is frustrated that airlines are on the defensive over their contribution to climate-changing emissions. "We haven't succeeded in explaining that air travel influences the world positively: We connect countries, economies and societies together," Spohr, a trained pilot, told the newspaper. "Moreover, for years we've been able to reduce our per-passenger CO2 emissions." Spohr said flights offered by discount or budget airlines for just a few dollars were hurting the sector's image.

"They're making our industry the target of criticism and clogging up the airspace, because an artificial demand is being stimulated that wouldn't exist if there were realistic prices," he said.

"There should not be flights under 10 euros." He defended Lufthansa unit Eurowings offering flights for under 35 euros,



Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr

citing the need to defend its home market.

Friends of the Earth estimates aviation emissions more than doubled between 1990 and 2016, while overall emissions fell by 43 percent. In Europe, low aviation taxes, a proliferation of budget airlines like easyJet and Ryanair and the rise of AirbnB have spurred an air-travel boom. Nations including the Netherlands and France are seeking to convince fellow European countries to end tax exemptions on jet fuel and plane tickets. — Reuters

## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

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

### The lucky winners are:

1. Hamed Mohammad Rostom Mahmoud
2. Zahid Zoebbhaj Kalolwala
3. Saad Aamir Muhammad Afzal
4. Dalal Yousef Salem Alhashash
5. Sulaiman Khaled Mohammad ben Hasan

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

quarterly and daily draws.

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

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks which include Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Bank of Baghdad - BOB (Iraq & Lebanon), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and fully owned Burgan Bank - Turkey, (collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group"). Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a present in the UAE through its corporate office ("Burgan Financial Services Limited) which had helped the bank to participate in multiple financing opportunities in the UAE.

### Wall Street Week Ahead

## Union Pacific, other freight firms' earnings eyed for tariff effects

NEW YORK: Results from two major US railroads next week are likely to attract more scrutiny than usual as investors look for signs of how deeply US President Donald Trump's multi-front trade war is affecting freight companies and the wider economy. Among those reporting as the second quarter earnings season kicks off next week are Union Pacific Corp on Thursday and Kansas City Southern on Friday, amid worries that new US import tariffs threatened by the Trump administration could also herald weakening demand for goods movers, including truckers, container companies and package carriers.

There is even talk of a "freight recession" and investors look to the transportation sector as a barometer of US economic health. The S&P 500, which crossed the 3,000 mark for the first time this week, has seasawed between record highs and selloffs in recent months on increasing U.S.-China trade acrimony and concerns about a US economic slowdown. "If these companies come out with reports that confirm people's concerns about tariffs and inventory build-up, that won't be good for the market," said Chuck Carlson, chief executive officer at Horizon Investment Services in Hammond, Indiana.

Omaha, Nebraska-based Union Pacific operates a 32,000-route-mile rail network that includes the Los Angeles/Long Beach complex, a port responsible for most of the US-China cargo flow. Tariffs have already affected the company's bottom line. In the first quarter, overall freight volume fell, hurt by a 7% reduction in grain carloads driven by reduced exports to China. In June, CEO Lance Fritz told Reuters the trade war is "a significant threat" to Union Pacific's outlook. Kansas

City Southern is expected to report year-on-year earnings and revenue growth in the mid-single-digits, according to Refinitiv data.

The company's US-Mexico cross-border traffic contributes a large share of its revenue, and investors will be listening closely to the company's guidance for any mention of the tariffs on Mexican imports threatened by President Trump in late May. Road and rail stocks have handily outperformed the broader market since Trump fired the trade war's opening salvo in January 2018.

But that could be attributable in part to companies beefing up their inventories, which have been steadily on the rise as companies "front load" imports to stay ahead of potential tariff-related price hikes.

Shipping container volumes jumped in late 2018 ahead of threatened tariffs, with container imports spiking 13 percent in both October and December, followed by a weak first quarter, according to data provided by ACT Research. This was followed by a weak first quarter, when container volume plummeted as businesses drew down their bloated inventories and freight demand softened. "US freight volumes were down on both trucks and rails in the first half of 2019 - a freight recession," said Tim Donoyer, vice president of ACT Research in Columbus, Indiana. The trend is well-illustrated by the Cass Shipments Index, which shows year-on-year US freight volume has been on the decline since December. Falling freight demand has been particularly hard on truckers, who account for approximately 70 percent of US shipment tonnage.

The Dow Jones US Trucking Index has significantly underperformed the broader market this year, gaining 4.9 percent compared with the S&P 500's 19.4 percent advance. ACT Research's index of truck carrier volumes has been in contraction territory since February, and the latest data shows May volumes hitting the lowest level in nearly three years. JB Hunt Transport Services Inc, a trucking company due to report on Monday, is now seen posting second quarter earnings growth of 1.7 percent, down from the 15.2 percent jump analysts expected just six months ago when the inventory build-up was in full-swing. — Reuters

## Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma weekly account

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank conducted the weekly draws on Al-Najma Account and the draw on the "Salary and Cash on Top" campaign. The draws were conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jean.

### The results of the draw were as follows:

- 1- Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 and was for the share of Abeer Khaled Al-Sarraf.
- 2- The "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign prize of KD 1,000 and was for the share of Nayef Mohammad Al-Bannaqi.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000, monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the largest prize - linked bank account payout of KD 1,500,000. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum

amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

As regarding "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees as well as the retirees and which is valid until 31 December 2019 and the mechanism of joining this campaign for availing its benefits, the Bank explained that Kuwaiti employees with a salary of KD 500 and above whether newly recruited or in service can transfer their salary to the Bank and avail the benefits of this campaign by getting instant cash gift of KD 250 or an interest free loan 5 times the salary up to KD 10,000, add to this they will automatically enter the weekly draw on KD 1,000.

## Business

# KFH launches Your KFH Visa card, the key to your house in Europe campaign

## Yasin: 3 winners to get funds to purchase a property in any European country

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched "Your 'KFH' Visa card, the key to your house in Europe" Campaign. This unprecedented campaign aims at differentiating KFH customers by offering them unique experience, where spending IKD using "KFH" Visa cards could make their dreams of owning a property of their choice in any European countries come true.

Group Deputy General Manager Cards at KFH, Nimer Yasin said that the new campaign is valid till 16th September 2019, indicating 3 KFH customers will be the winners in the campaign. There will be three draw events that will be held on every month. The winner is eligible to get financial funds to purchase a property of their choice only in any European country. He added in a press release: "In addition, business class tickets to Europe with a companion and stay in a 5-star hotel for 5 nights will be provided to finalize the deal, with KD 1,000 pocket money to be used."

Yasin mentioned that customers earn one chance

for every KD 1 spent locally, and 2 chances for every KD 1 spent internationally to enter the draw.

He explained that customers eligible for the draw are "KFH" Visa cardholders, indicating that the campaign that came in tandem with holiday season, contributes in adding value to customers' experience upon using KFH Visa cards. Yasin said "Getting chances to enter draw of winning a property in any of European countries encourages the usage of cards, revitalizes the market and boosts merchants' sales".

He emphasized the continuing efforts to enhance collaboration with Visa to launch and carry out several exciting campaigns as this increases customers' satisfaction and expands the market share of the bank in the field of banking cards. He reiterated that this campaign is part of KFH's innovation strategy and plays a role in maintaining the leadership position of the bank in the field of banking cards in Kuwait. The campaign is an episode of the success series especially after the successful launch of the first-of-its-kind in Kuwait

"Metal Card" for the private banking customers, and the winning of Visa Global award of the Fastest Growing Debit Portfolio in Kuwait.

Ankush Devadason, Visa's Country Manager for Kuwait, said: "We are happy to partner with Kuwait Finance House on this unique campaign. Not only can they enjoy the security, convenience and reliability of their Visa cards, but our cardholders will also now have the opportunity to be rewarded for using their Visa cards at home and abroad. We are delighted to be able to enhance our cardholders' payment experience through this exciting promotion."



Nimer Yasin



Your KFH Card.. the key to your house in Europe

VISA

## Nissan Patrol V8 for only KD 15,999 continues this summer!

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait, is delighted to continue its valuable offer one of the most powerful in its class, the Nissan Patrol V8 can be purchased for only KD 15,999.

The Nissan Patrol V8 is backed by a power of 400 HP, and torque of 560 NM comes with the direct fuel injection system and the variable valve shift control technology. Patrol will give you maximum power with the lowest percentage of emissions. Poised to create a strong presence anywhere it goes, a fresh and modern design approach inspired the creation of the impressive exterior. The bold window graphic of the blackened A-pillar, 20" alloy-wheels, as well as the dynamic chrome grille all contribute to Patrol's undeniable on road presence.

Conquering the off-roads means roughing through a diverse range of challenging landscapes. Fortunately, Nissan Patrol is well equipped to tackle any terrain thanks to its advanced technologies, thoughtful design, and incredible forethought. The heavy-duty frame at Patrol's core is designed for improved structural rigidity without any compromise in ride quality.

Discover the technologies packed inside Nissan Patrol are practical, useful and, often times, indulgent. They are designed to make travel easier, safer and a lot more entertaining. The Nissan Intelligent Key allows one to press a button on the door handle or hatch to unlock the doors, while keeping the keys within the pocket or purse. And with Remote Start, one can start your Nissan Patrol from nearly 60 meters away, allowing the cabin to heat or cool.

When it comes to blind spot warning, if another vehicle is detected in the blind spot area, Blind Spot Warning flashes the indicator to put the signal on, and the indicator flashes with a warning chime to alert the driver. Intelligent Forward Collision Warning is on the lookout when one can't see what's going on ahead. It watches two cars ahead, monitoring your speed and distance, and when it detects sudden deceleration, it gives the driver a heads-up to slow down. The Rear Cross Traffic Alert helps one to back out of a space with more confidence as it watches around the rear of the Patrol.

The intelligent braking system can help save the passengers from a potential frontal collision. It monitors the speed and distance between the driver and the car ahead and can alert the driver to slow down. It can even automatically engage the brakes to help avoid a collision or lessen the severity of an impact. Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to visit its showrooms located in Al Rai and Ahmadi to seize this exclusive opportunity and discover the dynamic features the popular Nissan model has to offer.

## Forbes unveils 2019 top Indian leaders in the Middle East

DUBAI: Forbes Middle East unveiled the 7th top Indian Leaders in the Middle East recognizing the achievements of the Arab world's most successful Indian business leaders.

Yusuffali MA, Chairman of Lulu Group tops the list followed by BR Shetty, Sunil Vaswani, Ravi Pillai, PNC Menon and Dr Azad Moopen among others.

At a gala ceremony held at the Palazzo Versace Dubai on Wednesday Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Maktoum Bin Juma Al-Maktoum



released the highly anticipated and prestigious annual issue.

Other prominent businessmen in the TOP 15 include Dr Shamsheer Vayalil, Adeeb Ahamed and Shamlal Ahamed, which is a great recognition for the young generation Malayalee business leaders who are making an impact in the Middle East.

In his address Navdeep Singh Suri said "these visionary and dynamic personalities successfully established business organizations contributing immensely to the economic and socio-cultural fabric of this region, are very much part of this great country. Forbes' annual list is a great recognition for these visionary leaders who have set

benchmarks in various businesses of course ably supported by the wonderful business environment created by the rulers of this great country".

The 2019 edition of the list included business leaders from various sectors like retail, industrials, healthcare, banking and finance, both in owners and executive management categories.

## Gulf Bank launches exclusive discounts for credit cardholders with Radisson Blu Hotel

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is announcing new offers for Gulf Bank credit cardholders, in partnership with Radisson Blu Hotel restaurants in Kuwait. Starting this summer, Gulf Bank credit cardholders can now receive 15 percent discounts at Al-Boom Steak and Seafood Restaurant, Al-Bustan Restaurant & Terrace, Peacock Chinese Restaurant, and Sky Lounge.

The offer comes as part of Gulf Bank's ongoing Dining Program, wherein all Gulf Bank credit cardholders can enjoy discounts of up to 20 percent at over 300 renowned

restaurants and cafes across Kuwait. "We are always looking to partner with new restaurants that our clients love to dine at. That is why we are particularly excited to announce the addition of the range of luxury Radisson Blu Hotel Kuwait restaurants to our offering," said Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager at Gulf Bank. "As part of our ongoing Dining Program for Gulf Bank credit cardholders, our clients can enjoy offers at more than 300 restaurants and cafes that have shaped Kuwait as a food destination. We are delighted to continue expanding our Dining Program and introduce even more offerings,



Ahmad Al-Amir



exclusively for our customers."

Gulf Bank is one of the leading conventional banks in Kuwait with total assets of KD 6 billion for year ending 31 December 2018. The Bank provides a broad offering of consumer banking, wholesale banking, treasury, and financial services through its large network of 58 branches and more than 200 ATMs in Kuwait.

## Gulf Air appoints youngest Bahraini country manager in Asia-Pacific region

MANAMA: Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, announces that it has appointed Mohamed Al-Hamer as a country manager for its Colombo and Male stations and with this appointment, he will become the youngest ever country manager for Gulf Air in the Asia-Pacific region. Al-Hamer will represent Gulf Air in Sri Lanka and the Maldives as well as manage the airline's office in Colombo after gaining extensive knowledge within sales, network and revenue management departments at the headquarters in Bahrain and being trained to pursue this new role. The Sri Lankan capital is served by Gulf Air since 1981, and is one of Gulf Air's key Indian

Subcontinent routes alongside eight destinations in India, seven destinations in Pakistan and one destination in Bangladesh.

The airline operates five weekly flights to and from Colombo in Sri Lanka and beginning October 26, Colombo will be served via Male in the Maldives. The new country manager will take on the challenge of further strengthening Gulf Air's growth in the Indian Subcontinent by utilizing the experience gained whilst spending two years in the airline's Network and Revenue department.

"The most exciting thing about this appointment is that I will get to represent Gulf Air outside its hub," Al-Hamer added at the announcement of his promotion, "Colombo is one of Gulf Air's main stations in the Indian subcontinent and it's popular to leisure travellers from many origins in our network. I am happy to start this challenge and not only promote Colombo but also promote my country to the Sri Lankan audience and encourage inbound travel to Bahrain."

Gulf Air is committed to invest in its Bahraini workforce and their career development and as such, it continues to provide opportunities for Bahraini nationals to take over senior positions in the company

with 90 percent of

employees that are based at the headquarters in Muharraq being Bahraini along with nearly 70 percent of its pilots. Earlier this year, Gulf Air welcomed back Rashid Abdulrahman Al-Gaoud to its headquarters to take on the role of Senior Manager Sales to in charge of the entire Europe and Asia Pacific regions, after serving as the country manager of the United Kingdom for almost six years. Also recently, the airline appointed Shams Al-Dosari as the first female Bahraini country manager and is currently representing the national carrier in Ethiopia. Gulf Air is proud that it remains a leader in the Bahrainization program in the Kingdom as it provides the opportunity for local talents and experienced personnel to work in its various areas of the airline's business.



Mohamed Al-Hamer

## How to talk so the board will listen

KUWAIT: As technology moves to the center of most organizational processes across the GCC, CIOs are communicating with the board more often, whether to discuss budget requirements or strategic cybersecurity defenses. Although more people are becoming familiar with IT terms, geek speak can leave many feeling dazed and confused. Talking about Remote Code Execution (RCEs), Internet Protocol Security (IPSEC), Cross-site Scripting (XSS), and Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF), for example, can leave listeners baffled and waste valuable board face-time. Other terms often mean one thing in daily parlance but something else entirely to IT specialists. For instance, a 'watering hole' is neither a gathering place for oryx nor a venue to unwind after work; 'whaling' doesn't include a net; a firewall involves neither fire nor a wall; and the sort of 'container' most frequently referred to doesn't specifically concern maritime trade.

Security is a serious topic that Kuwait's senior executives are particularly alert to, so it's important that there are no misunderstandings. IT and security teams must replace the jargon with language their listeners will understand, if they want to win support for their projects.

*As technology assumes a greater role at most companies, CIOs are often required to present directly to senior management. Maher Jadallah, Regional Director of Tenable shares some key pointers that will showcase the security/IT team while securing buy-in*

### How measurable is it?

In general, upper management finds comfort in metrics. When talking to sales, for example, they seek to understand conversion and close rates. With marketing, it's all about cost per lead. Security must, likewise, focus on quantitative assessments to compare and track performance. The most effective IT/Security pros will be those that can translate the technology and correlate security controls to a metrics-driven conversation. Metrics are the Rosetta Stone of cross-functional conversation.

Here are four key pointers to keep in mind when deciding which metrics to use and how to present them in a way that wins and retains the board's attention:

Quantifiable data: Information that can be monitored and analyzed over business cycles serves to inform and educate non-IT audiences. For example, when a big vulnerability like BlueKeep hits - a security vulnerability that was discovered in Microsoft's Remote Desktop Protocol that has the potential to spread in a worm-like fashion and replicate without requiring user-interaction. A demonstrable metric would be the estimated time required to patch against it. This will highlight how long the company is exposed and at risk. Is it 15 days, 30 days or longer? How can downtime be reduced and, if invest-

ment is needed, what will the return be?

Lucid graphics: When presenting to management, it's important to reduce complex graphs and analytical tables into simple indicators. List the things you want to talk about to keep the conversation focused on your goals. A good question to ask yourself is, "What is the intended outcome of showing this piece of data? What do I want the board to do?" If you can't answer that, or have included the slide to fill time, delete it. The best board-level presentations only show a handful of metrics, each selected to steer the conversation towards new investment or perceptible improvements.

Riveting presentation: The best route to winning buy-in for your proposals is a professional presentation with simple and precise information. Think about how you're sharing this data. Spreadsheets, though easy to create for many, may not be the right format as endless columns of numbers can be hard to navigate. And no one likes 'death by PowerPoint'. To avoid these traps, consider a format that clearly underscores the point you're conveying, and makes it compelling and eye catching - such as an infographic. Rehearse your presentation and put yourself in the audience's shoes: What terms are unclear? What graphics are hard to read? Modify or get rid of them and tweak your

work so it attracts the attention of everyone.

Comprehensive ideas: Not everyone around the table will be a security expert, so avoid terms only the security or IT teams will understand - you're not trying to teach them to speak geek. Instead of playing IT teacher, consider how to make your point simply and effectively, while presenting new ideas in bite-sized morsels that will give your listeners something to chew on. As we said earlier, you don't want to risk someone in the room thinking you're talking about port storage solutions when you're actually discussing a development platform.

Instead, focus on making sure everyone can understand what is being discussed and all are in alignment of next steps. With understanding comes the opportunity for actual communication between the board and security experts - and with that comes buy-in.

To sum up, talk to the board in simple, easy-to-understand metrics presented in an attention-grabbing manner. Focus on measurable data and don't overdo the geek speak. The board doesn't need to be security experts - that's your role. But you do need to make sure they understand what you require and why, as well as what it will deliver for the organization.



Maher Jadallah

What's On



Mohammed Abdul Redha Khorshed

# Aqua Park introduces different summer season with cleaner slides

Director and board member of the Aqua Park City, Mohammed Abdul Redha Khorshed stressed that this summer season would be a lot different at the Aqua Park. Khorshed explained that the entire park had been repaired and maintained to ensure cleanliness and safety for all visitors. Khorshed added that special trainers and lifeguards would be available throughout the park's working hours.

"We have arranged for various recreational programs and surprises on daily bases to bring joy to everyone during the hot summer," Khorshed added noting that favorite cartoon figures would be available in addition to endless educational and recreational act for the children, a number of musical bands, famous presenters, valuable prizes and free tickets for the winner.



The ruling family biography researcher, Abdullah Abbas Bowair recently organized a special party to celebrate the birthday of veteran Kuwaiti astronomer Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi.

The birthday party, held at Ojairi's house in Mansouriya, was attended by Bowair's father, Mansouriya mayor, Abdul Wahab Al-Naqi, Faisal Bodai and a number of the Kuwaiti martyrs' families.



The members of Diplomatic Women's Committee and in the presence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan invited Kuwait Times photographer Joseph Shagra to bid him farewell, and honor him in recognition of his efforts throughout his long stay in Kuwait. The committee's consultant, Nargis Al-Shatti, presented him with a certificate of appreciation and thanked him for his continuous efforts to cover their activities, wishing him good luck for a bright and prosperous future.



The raffle draw winners of 'Sparkling Summer' Campaign received prizes from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds in the presence of other officials from Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

# As ransomware rages, debate heats up on response

WASHINGTON: City services in Baltimore, Maryland, were paralyzed earlier this year when a ransomware attack locked up computer networks and made it impossible for residents to make property transactions or pay their municipal bills. Officials refused to meet hacker demands for a ransom of \$76,000 to unlock the systems, but have been saddled with an estimated \$18 million in costs of restoring and rebuilding the city's computer networks.

The dilemma in Baltimore and in a similar case in Atlanta a year earlier highlight tough choices faced by cities, hospitals and corporations hit by ransomware, which can shut down critical services for organizations with dated or vulnerable computer networks. Two Florida cities reportedly paid a total of \$1 million in ransom this year, after which a new attack by the same group hit the state court system in Georgia. Globally, losses from ransomware rose by 60 percent last year to \$8 billion, according to data compiled by the Internet Society's Online Trust Alliance.

At least 170 county, city or state government systems have been hit since 2013, with 22 incidents this year, according to the US Conference of Mayors, which adopted a resolution opposing ransomware payments. "We're seeing more attacks

against cities because it's clear cities are ill-prepared, and even if they know what's going on they don't have the funds to fix it," said Gregory Falco, a researcher at Stanford University specializing in municipal network security.

### Epidemic proportions

Frank Cilluffo, head of Auburn University's Center for Cyber and Homeland Security, said the attacks have reached epidemic levels. "The scale and scope of the problem is striking, affecting everywhere from relatively robust states to major metropolitan areas to smaller cities and counties," Cilluffo told a congressional hearing last month. "Targets include police and sheriff departments, schools and libraries, health agencies, transit systems, and courts... no jurisdiction is too small or too large to go unaffected."

Ransomware has been a thorny cybersecurity issue for several years in the US and globally, marked by global ransomware attacks known as "WannaCry" and "NotPetya." Health care institutions have been frequent victims, and Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center revealed in 2016 it paid \$17,000 to hackers to decrypt important data. The French Interior Ministry said in a recent report authorities

responded to some 560 ransomware incidents in 2018 but also noted that most incidents are unreported. The same ministry report said hackers have shifted their strategy from attacking many systems with demands for small ransoms to more targeted attacks with higher potential payout.

### Pay or resist?

While the FBI and others warn against paying ransoms, some analysts say there is no clear answer for victims when critical data is locked. "You have to do what's right for your organization," Falco said. "It's not the FBI's call. You might have criminal justice information, you could have decades of evidence. You have to weigh this for yourself." Josh Zelonis at Forrester Research offered a similar view, saying in a blog post that victims need to consider paying the ransom as a valid option, alongside other recovery efforts.

But Randy Marchany, chief information security officer for Virginia Tech University, said the best answer is to take a hardline "don't pay" attitude. "I don't agree with any organization or city paying the ransom," Marchany said. "The victims will have to rebuild their infrastructure from scratch anyway." —AFP

## Elephant, rhino populations rebound in Tanzania

DARES SALAAM: Elephant and rhino populations in Tanzania have begun to rebound after a government crackdown dismantled organized criminal networks involved in industrial-scale poaching, the country's presidency said. A prominent Chinese businesswoman dubbed the "Ivory Queen" was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a Tanzanian court in February for smuggling the tusks of more than 350 elephants to Asia, marking a major victory for the government.

"As a result of the work of a special task force launched in 2016 to fight wildlife poaching, elephant populations have increased from 43,330 in 2014 to over 60,000 presently," the presidency

said in a statement late on Tuesday. The number of rhinos, an endangered species, had increased from just 15 to 167 over the past four years, it said.

Although the presidency put the rhino population at 15 four years ago, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) estimated in a document on its website in 2015. It was not immediately possible to explain the discrepancy between the previous population estimates given by the government and CITES, which groups governments working to ensure trade in animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The presidency did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment. The elephant population in Tanzania, famed for its wildlife reserves, shrank from 110,000 in 2009 to little more than 43,000 in 2014, according to a 2015 census, with conservation groups blaming rampant poaching. Demand for ivory from Asian countries such as China and Vietnam, where it is turned into jewels and ornaments, has led to a surge in poaching across Africa. —Reuters

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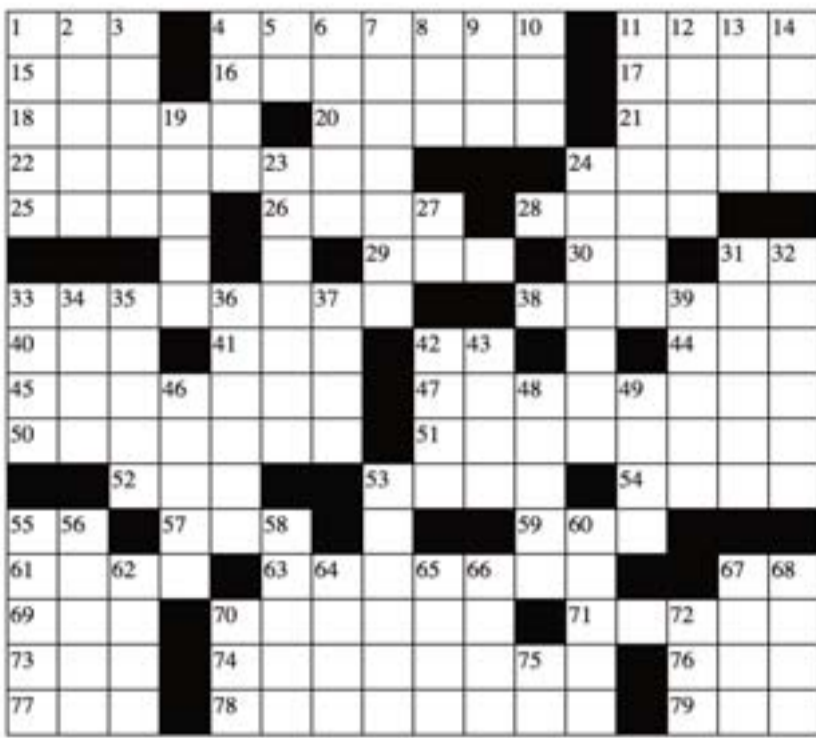
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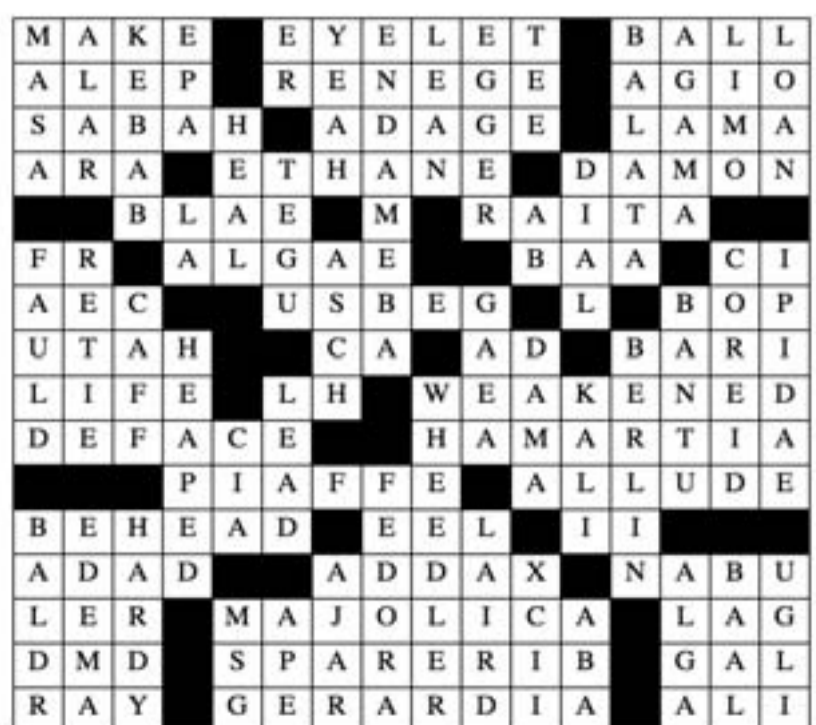
ACROSS

1. Call upon in supplication.
4. Primitive reptile having no opening in the temporal region of the skull.
11. The front of the head from the forehead to the chin and ear to ear.
15. The month following March and preceding May.
16. Become putrid.
17. On, to, or at the top.
18. Of or relating to Iraq or its people or culture.
20. (used to introduce a logical conclusion) From that fact or reason or as a result.
21. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
22. Relating to or included in the zodiac.
25. A primeval personification of air and breath.
26. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
28. A program under which employees regularly accumulate shares and may ultimately assume control of the company.
29. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
30. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur.
33. Ability to perform or produce.
38. The capital of Guinea-Bissau.
40. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
41. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
44. The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
45. Being or having an unknown or unnamed source.
47. Having or showing an exaggerated opinion of your importance, ability, etc.
50. Genus of American of east Asian perennial herbs with yellow to orange or red flower rays.
51. Someone who humbles himself as a sign of respect.
52. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
54. On or toward the lee.
55. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
57. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
59. 30 to 300 gigahertz.
61. A small cake leavened with yeast.
63. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
69. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
71. Botswana statesman who was the first president of Botswana (1921-1980).
73. The seventh and last day of the week.
74. Get on the back of
76. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
77. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
78. A great raja.
79. A bachelor's degree in theology.

DOWN

- 1, 1,000 baiza equal 1 riyal-omani.
2. (computer science) A read-only memory chip that can be erased by ultraviolet light and programmed again with new data.
3. At surface level.
4. The capital of Western Samoa.
5. The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet.
6. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
7. Prelates collectively.
8. A fractional monetary unit of Japan and Indonesia and Cambodia.
9. A United Nations agency that invest directly in companies and guarantees loans to private investors.
10. A usually soluble substance for staining or coloring e.g. fabrics or hair.
11. A self-governing colony of Denmark on the Faroe Islands.
12. (nautical) Of an anchor.
13. A metal piece (usually a disc) used as money v 1.
14. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
19. To some (great or small) extent.
23. A degree or grade of excellence or worth.
24. British actor and playwright (born in 1921).
27. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
31. A member of a monotheistic sect of Zoroastrian origin.
32. Edible body of any of numerous oysters.
34. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
35. A member of the Siouan people of the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
36. Photographic equipment consisting of a lightproof box with a lens at one end and light-sensitive film at the other.
37. A member of a pastoral people living in the Nilgiri hills of southern India.
39. The sensation that results when olfactory receptors in the nose are stimulated by particular chemicals in gaseous form.
42. Port city that is the capital and largest city of Latvia.
43. A form of magnetic resonance imaging of the brain that registers blood flow to functioning areas of the brain.
46. Jordan's port.
48. (from a combination of MODulate and DEModulate) Electronic equipment consisting of a device used to connect computers by a telephone line.
49. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
53. An ancient Greek city famous for military prowess.
56. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
58. Indigo bush.
60. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
62. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
64. Any of the short curved hairs that grow from the edges of the eyelids.
65. Seed vessel having hooks or prickles.
66. Type genus of the Amidae.
67. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
68. A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
70. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
72. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
75. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Confirmation of professional success could come your way, Aries, and you're probably feeling excited and motivated to keep pushing. But you may find that increased responsibilities interfere with your social life. You wonder if friends have forgotten you. They haven't, but it will make you feel better if you squeeze in a few hours for your friends each week. Remember what they say about all work and no play.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Success on all levels is filling your life and making you feel absolutely wonderful, Taurus. The downside of this is that you might be a little too conscientious. Are you putting in a lot of extra hours? Be discriminating about this and don't work harder than necessary. You could get stressed to the point of taxing your strength too much, and that won't help you. Pace yourself.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication are now paying off financially, Gemini. New opportunities are opening up to profitably make use of your artistic side. The downside is that you might be working so hard that you're too drained to be creative even though the inspiration is there. Take a moment to rework your schedule to accomplish the most in the least amount of time. You can do it.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

People close to you might be a bit worried about you, Cancer. Too much work and socializing might have you feeling less than your usual self, and perhaps even a little feverish and headachy. If so, this is a good day to take time out, stay home, and rest. Don't worry about sabotaging your success. It will continue. Take a break and your body will reward you with greater clarity and concentration.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

All continues to go well professionally, Leo. You're feeling physically strong and vigorous. Mentally, however, you might be a bit vague. You may be easily distracted and not as sharp as usual. This isn't a good day to start a new project. Try to concentrate on finishing old tasks and tying up loose ends. You should be ready to go again in a couple of days.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The high from your recent successes could make you want to purchase luxury items that you used to think were impractical, Virgo. This is fine as long as you're discriminating and don't give in to impulse buying. This also isn't a good time to overindulge in food or drink. You should let yourself enjoy your success while still using common sense.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You could be on a real emotional high today because of your success and that of other household members, Libra. Your mind may be buzzing with ideas for future expansion, some of which may not be all that workable. However, you should allow yourself a few flights of fancy. Tomorrow your feet will be back on the ground and you will see things in a more practical light.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Today may prove to be one of your busiest in a long time, Scorpio. The promise of continuing success in your personal and professional goals could find you spending a lot of time on the phone, writing emails, or making a few short trips around the community. You might not be able to reach everyone you need to see. Don't worry. Be persistent and you will reach them eventually.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Business and financial success makes you happy and satisfied, Sagittarius. You also look forward to moving on. The downside of this flush period is that people who aren't particularly trustworthy might decide to latch onto your coattails for their own purposes. Some might even ask for loans. Be careful about the ones you assist. They might not be honest with you. Don't fall for any sob stories.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

As your professional dreams unfold, Capricorn, you may worry about the downside. First, there are new responsibilities that you might doubt your ability to fulfill. Second, you might be catapulted into an uncomfortable new realm of office politics. Don't let these matters put a damper on your enthusiasm. You have what it takes to fulfill the first concern and the wisdom to avoid the second. Onward and upward.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Many of your personal goals have either been met or are in progress, Pisces, and you're feeling exhilarated. However, people around you might have their hands out. You may be asked to contribute to charities or make personal loans to people you don't know well. You want to help whenever you can, but be discriminating about whom you help now. Some may be less than trustworthy.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Lay low today, Pisces. Don't try to force any answers from people. Eat a healthy breakfast and stay away from caffeine. Relate to people on an intellectual or philosophical level and discuss the meaning of life. If you're looking for sympathy, you may need to wait a couple days. People aren't in the mood. They just want to be left alone.

Wordsearch Puzzle

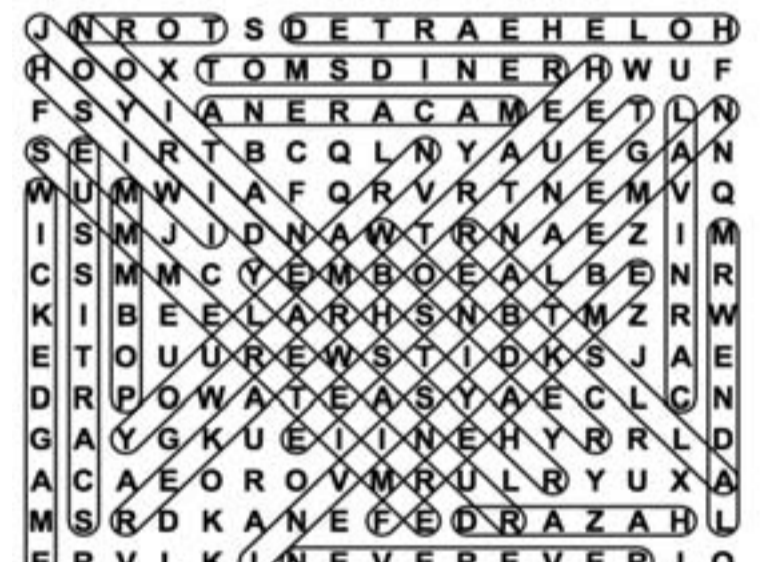
90's Songs 2 - Word Search



- |              |           |             |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| ALWAYS       | LITHIUM   | ROOSTER     |
| BLACK VELVET | LOSER     | RUSH RUSH   |
| COME UNDONE  | MOVE THIS | SENSITIVITY |
| DO ANYTHING  | MY ALL    | SHOOP       |
| GLYCERINE    | ONLY YOU  | SOMEDAY     |
| HEY LOVER    | PUSH      | THE ONE     |
| IESHA        | ROAM      | VOGUE       |
| JUMP         | ROMANTIC  |             |

Yesterday's Solution

90's Songs 1 - Solution



- |               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| ALL STAR      | JOYRIDE       | SUMMERTIME  |
| CARNIVAL      | MACARENA      | TENNESSEE   |
| FREAK ME      | MMMBOP        | TOM'S DINER |
| HAZARD        | MR. WENDAL    | TORN        |
| HEARTBREAKER  | NEVER EVER    | WICKED GAME |
| HOLE HEARTED  | RHYTHM NATION | WONDER      |
| I WISH        | RUN AWAY      | YOU LEARN   |
| INVISIBLE MAN | SCAR TISSUE   |             |

Daily SuDoku



very hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium

# Lifestyle

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019



Hot air balloon "Colorado High" takes flight over Bald Eagle Lake during the 38th annual Steamboat Springs Hot Air Balloon Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado on July 13, 2019. 24 pilots from nine US states will take to the sky in their balloons during the two day festival. — AFP

## Guardian angels hit Montreal's clubs to tackle harassment

On a Friday night, amid the flashing lights and heavy heat of Montreal's Datcha night club, a drunken young man weaves his way through the crowd, grabbing women at the hips as he goes. Calmly, 24-year-old Eliane Thivierge goes up to the party animal and explains to him that his behavior could make women uncomfortable. "It's okay to try to pick someone up, but you should know that there are acceptable ways of doing that, and unacceptable ways," she says. After a brief talk about consent, the man seems to have understood the problem, and the evening proceeds without further incident.

Thivierge, who recounted the story to AFP, is one of the co-founders of PLURI, a Montreal group formed two years ago with the goal of reshaping the culture of the city's nightlife, where harassment of all kinds is rife. Night clubs and rave organizers have turned to the group to tackle gropers, men rubbing themselves up against women on the dance floor, the use of date-rape drugs and other problems. Similar schemes have emerged at the same time in other Canadian cities such as Vancouver and Toronto, as well as in Europe, including in Britain, France and Belgium. The combination of night-time crowds, low lighting and alcohol can lead to undesirable behavior in environments that are not conducive to confrontation. "In a party atmosphere, if someone fixes on you and is following you, it's rare you'll say anything to them," Thivierge said.

### Stay with friends

Caroline Moreau, an 18-year-old student taking a break in front of Datcha, says she gets harassed all the time. "Every time I go out, there are guys who come up and grab my hips," she said. Even though that kind of intrusion bothers her, she considers herself lucky: she recently had to call an ambulance for a friend who had been slipped a drug by a man at a party.

Stories like that are common among the city's party-goers and clubbers. "In this environment, you have to stay with your friends and not go out on your own because something can always happen to you," said Frederique Ledoux,



Partygoers get fresh air outside the Datcha nightclub in Montreal's Mile-End neighborhood. — AFP

another student.

For the members of PLURI trying to ward off these problems, there is no question of them playing the police officer. "We don't want to shame anybody—we want to have a conversation. We want there to be education happening," said Sara Martin, who works at PLURI. "At the same time, we're trying to shift behavior so that people feel safe in this space." The basis of the group's work is what they call "bystander intervention," which means a third party getting involved when they witness harassment. Sometimes it is enough for Martin to

simply get some distance between the victim and the person who is putting them in an uncomfortable position, maybe by inviting them outside for a smoke or pretending to be an old friend.

Often, the people that the activists approach understand the problem and change their behavior. "We almost end up giving lessons on how to pick someone up," joked Thivierge. But it is mostly about explaining the concepts of consent and respect for other people's personal space. The task can be complicated when the person they are trying to reason with is very drunk, and some are quick to rebuff the activists' approach—often spewing expletives. "That's a teaching experience I don't want to take on," said Thivierge.

### Changing awareness

If talking does not work and "someone gets agitated, we have traditional bouncers for that," said Adam Wilcox, a longtime DJ and co-owner of Datcha who has frequently witnessed "sexual harassment, physical intimidation and violence." "These are just things that people expect somewhat from nightlife culture and it's what gives it a bad name," he added. By paying for PLURI's services, he hopes to change that dynamic. More and more people are turning to PLURI, whether for their members to attend events or for training, said Thivierge, who has noted a change in attitude in recent years.

"Socially, with MeToo among others, it is a conversation that is being held more and more, and people are looking for a resource that is focused on the party environment," said Thivierge. While it is difficult to quantify harassment levels in the city's night life, a 2017 report by the Conseil des Montrealais, a municipal organization focusing on the status of women, showed that more than half the people who responded to a questionnaire said they had experienced harassment or aggression while attending the numerous outdoor events hosted by the city. — AFP



In this file photo head of the Hohenzollern family, Georg Friedrich Ferdinand Prince of Prussia (left) and his wife Princess Sophie of Prussia arrive for the church wedding of Prince Ernst August of Hanover and Ekaterina of Hanover in Hanover, central Germany. —AFP photos

## Last German Kaiser's heir seeking return of properties

The heirs of the former Prussian monarchy are seeking the return of thousands of artworks, memorabilia and other historical artefacts from the German state, the culture ministry said Friday, confirming a report in Der Spiegel magazine. Negotiations have been going on "for several years" between the Hohenzollern family, the federal government as well as the states of Berlin and Brandenburg over the aristocrats' demand for restitution, the ministry told AFP. "The talks... are aimed at finding a lasting solution for different art and collection objects, which are valued differently by the public institutions on the one hand and the Hohenzollern House on the other hand," said the culture ministry in a statement.

According to Der Spiegel, the Hohenzollerns are seeking the restitution of tens of thousands of paintings, sculptures, coins, books and furniture. Further, they want a right to reside at one of several properties, including Cecilienhof Palace, where Allied powers met after World War II to decide on Germany's future. The restitution negotiations were being spearheaded by Georg Friedrich Ferdinand, the great-great grandchild of Wilhelm II, the last emperor and king of Prussia, who was deposed and went into exile after Germany's defeat in World War I.

The Prussian royals were initially stripped of their properties without compensation after the monarchy was overthrown, but a deal on the monarchy's assets was later worked out between the state and the Hohenzollern under a October 29, 1926 law.



This file photo shows Cecilienhof Palace in Potsdam, northeastern Germany.

However, Soviet occupation following World War II and subsequent communist rule in half of Berlin and in Brandenburg state led to additional expropriations, further complicating things. — AFP



Fans of English singer Kate Bush perform a dance during a flash mob event to mark "The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever" in Goerlitzer Park in Berlin. — AFP photos

# Wuthering Heights flash mobs pay homage to Kate Bush classic

Hundreds of red-clad fans of British singer Kate Bush on Saturday staged flash mobs in Sydney and Berlin as they reenacted her classic hit "Wuthering Heights". Bush wrote the song aged 18, inspired after seeing an adaptation of the 1847 novel Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte. The lyrics are attributed to the novel's character Catherine Earnshaw, pleading at the window of Heathcliff, the man she loves, to be let in. Bush had recorded it in 1978 dressed in red and it was her most successful single.

Hundreds of fans gathered in Berlin's central Goerlitzer Park under light rain, recreating Bush's moves for a performance lasting about four minutes, an AFP photographer said. Earlier, about 100 men, women and children in Sydney also staged a similar dance in a city park. Other flash mobs are scheduled in Dublin and the Netherlands. The "Wuthering Heights Day" was launched in Berlin a few years ago and has spread to other cities. — AFP



## Brazilian director of refugee odyssey laments far-right attack on artists



Brazilian stage director Christiane Jatahy poses during the 73rd International Theatre Festival in Avignon, southeastern France. — AFP

The reality of her homeland's lurch to the far right has seen artists branded as leftists and criminals, laments Brazilian director Christiane Jatahy, who only wishes her theatre piece on migration were actually a fiction. The documentary-style work by the 51-year-old Rio-born Jatahy is loosely based on Homer's Odyssey, taking as its theme the travails of exiled refugee protagonists for whom the past is as harrowing as their future is uncertain. In "The Lingering Now", Jatahy carefully examines the painful complexities of a refugee's existence that earned her a standing ovation at the Avignon Festival in southern France.

There, she denounced what she termed a "campaign of criminalization" of artists in her own country since the arrival in Brazil's presidential palace in January of former army captain Jair Bolsonaro. "It's a very difficult time to do theatre and cinema," explains Jatahy. "They have cut subsidies, it's a means of gagging us," she tells AFP, having at times during the production appearing to be on the verge of tears. "There is a campaign of criminalization of artists, labeling them as being leftist. It's such an old trope," she adds.

### 'State of shock'

Bolsonaro's arrival in power has dealt the equivalent of an electric shock to the Brazilian cultural scene. A politician who has spoken with nostalgia of the 1964-85 military dictatorship, he had barely received the seals of office when he vowed to rid the country of "cultural marxism." He also reduced the status of the culture ministry to a mere section of a newly-created ministry of citizenship. For Jatahy, the world of theatre has oscillated between "anaesthesia, as we are still in a state of shock, and the production of numerous plays which do talk about the situation.

"It is impossible not to think of theatre as political today," she says, given the current context. "The Lingering Now" (O Agora que demora) is not a piece of theatre in the classic sense, but rather an epic documentary blended with fiction which flits from film to stage and back again. The audience follows protagonists filmed variously in Lebanon, the Palestinian Territories, South Africa, Greece and Amazonia. — AFP

## Choir, Broadway casts perform in the street during blackout

When a massive blackout plunged much of Manhattan into darkness on Saturday evening, a choir and the casts of Broadway musicals entertained tourists with impromptu performances in the street. The outages struck at around 7 pm (2300 GMT), just as many shows were starting at theaters in Midtown and at the Lincoln Center plaza on New York City's Upper West Side. With subway stations and traffic lights suddenly dark, thousands of people spilled outside on a hot summer's night. Some were surprised by what they found, including writer Briallen Hopper, who had been trapped on a subway train for an hour.

"I guess this is what they call a New York moment," she wrote on Twitter with a video of a choir singing at sunset. "I emerged to see dark restaurants & traffic lights, civilians directing traffic, & an evacuated Carnegie Hall concert happening in the street." Another Twitter user, Caryn Ross, agreed, posting video of the street concert by the Millennial Choirs and Orchestras with the hashtag #BeautifulSoundsDuringBlackout: "Now this is what turning lemons into lemonade is about!" she wrote. Also unexpected were scenes of multiple civilians who stepped into always-busy intersections to help direct traffic snarled by the lack of traffic lights.

One middle-aged man in shorts and a red tank-top managed the flow of vehicles at one junction for at least 45 minutes, drawing plaudits on social media. In a photo on Twitter taken after darkness fell, one civilian was seen directing traffic in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood with a toy light saber. At Madison Square Garden, the



This combination of pictures created yesterday shows the billboard at Radio City Music Hall on January 23, 2006 in New York (left) and the Radio City Music Hall facade pictured (right) after the lights came back on after a major power outage affected parts of New York City. — AFP

blackout put a sudden stop to a Jennifer Lopez concert, plunging the arena into darkness. "I am obviously heartbroken and devastated," Bronx native Lopez said in a video clip she sent in a Twitter post for her fans. "I love you. I am so sorry this happened in the middle of our moment, at our show". — Reuters



A couple guard the ATM selling a "Zero Euro" souvenir banknote depicting Czech pop singer Karel Gott in honor of his 80th birthday yesterday at the shop of a local record company, in Prague. —AFP photos



People queue to buy "Zero Euro" souvenir banknotes depicting Czech pop singer Karel Gott, that are sold in honour of his 80th birthday.

## Czechs go crazy as pop singer Gott turns 80

Hundreds of people from home and abroad queued in steady rain in central Prague yesterday to buy a "Zero Euro" souvenir banknote depicting Czech pop singer Karel Gott in honor of his 80th birthday. The first fans and collectors arrived on Thursday to buy the zero-denomination banknote for the equivalent of two euros (dollars) from special ATMs in the shop of a local record company. "We arrived at 6:00 am on Saturday. We slept in a sleeping bag on the pavement," said Lukas Gandzala, who came from the northern Slovak city of Poprad, some 450 kilometers (280 miles) from Prague.

"We collect the banknotes, the Zero Euro is a big phenomenon in our country, and so is Karel Gott," he told AFP, folding his umbrella to finally get inside the shop after his rain-drenched 26-hour wait. Unlike Slovakia, with which it formed a single state until 1993, the Czech Republic has not yet introduced the euro and its government has no plans to replace its koruna currency in the near future. Created by Frenchman Richard Failla in 2015 and authorized by the European Central Bank, the Zero Euro notes

used solely as souvenirs have so far depicted well-known sites and people like the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben and Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn.

Dubbed "Divine Karel," Gott has been voted the most popular singer 42 times in the annual Golden Nightingale poll of Czech music fans. Very popular also in neighboring Germany, Gott has released almost 300 LPs and CDs, selling dozens of millions of them. Relishing the singer's hits as well as the title song for the 'Maya the Bee' children's TV series, German fans have dubbed Gott "the Golden Voice from Prague". Born on July 14, 1939, Gott rose to stardom in the 1960s when he sang in Germany and the US and represented Austria in the Eurovision song contest.

At the weekend, Czech Television filled its prime time with Gott-related shows, while the top-selling broadsheet DNES published recipes for Gott's favorite meals on its website. At the front of the winding, bulky queue, Jana Vankova from Ricany near Prague, who spent the night in a folding chair, said she would buy the banknote as a birthday tribute to Gott. "We're all fans, not banknote dealers. We really love Gott," she told AFP. —AFP



A man shows "Zero Euro" souvenir banknotes depicting Czech pop singer Karel Gott, that are sold in honor of his 80th birthday.

## Shaken-up version of classic Chinese play 'Teahouse' causes stir



Chinese actors perform during the rehearsal of "Maison de The" written by Lao She and directed by Chinese director Meng Jinghui, as part of the 73rd International Theatre Festival in Avignon, southeastern France. — AFP photos

Dozens of people have walked out of a challenging new version of a classic Chinese play staged in France since Tuesday under a huge four-ton wheel symbolizing history crushing the Chinese people. Lao She's epic "Teahouse", which recounts the tumultuous first five decades of the 20th century through three generations of a Chinese family, was one of the most hotly anticipated shows at the Avignon festival.

But the new version of the saga about social injustice, hunger and corruption took a critical bashing with French daily Le Monde comparing its "over-the-top special effects" and live Chinese rap and techno music to something that one might see in a "naïf stadium rock opera". Pioneering Chinese director Meng Jinghui—who described himself "a bit of a rebel"—is one of the first to dare to overhaul the text since it was first staged in 1958. Lao, one of the first victims of the Cultural Revolution, is a mythic figure in Chinese theatre.

### 'You have to change'

Meng told AFP before Tuesday's premiere that "you have to change, take a new look... The version created by (director) Jiao Juyin in 1958 was excellent but it is a bit outdated. No one dares to touch it and when it is performed in Beijing it still pretty much plays to full houses." Lao is seen as something of an artistic martyr, and a symbol of the talent lost during the Cultural Revolution. His death in 1966 remains shrouded in mystery, with many contesting the official account that he killed himself after being humiliated and paraded through the streets by Red Guards.

"Lao She has a soft spot for each individual. There are many little people in the play, each with their own dreams, imagination and fantasies," the 54-year-old director said. Meng said he wanted to explore the relationship between collectivism and individualism. Lao's characters were "strong individualists", said the director, who sees a "deep link" with Chinese society today. The daring new version of "Teahouse"—which will tour China later this year—comes at a time when government scrutiny



Chinese actors perform during the rehearsal of "Maison de The" written by Lao She and directed by Chinese director Meng Jinghui.

and censorship of the arts and the entertainment industry is tightening under President Xi Jinping.

### 'Artists are like children'

A push for more Communist Party-friendly content has seen regulations introduced that require filmmakers to be handed a "dragon seal" of approval before films may be screened at festivals abroad. One of the country's most famous directors, Zhang Yimou, the maker of "Raise the Red Lantern", was forced to withdraw "One Second" from the Berlin film festival in February.

Another Chinese movie, "Better Days", that had also been scheduled to show in the German capital, failed to get the go-ahead in time for Beijing. At the Cannes film festival in May, the premiere of "Summer of Changsha" went ahead despite the unexplained absence of its production team. "Artists are like children—they need to express themselves," Meng told AFP. —AFP

## How Attenborough nature docs inspired new 'Lion King'



Disney's new 3D "Lion King" was inspired by the majestic scope of David Attenborough's natural world documentaries—although the talking animals did cause some problem, its creators have revealed. The film tells the classic tale of young lion cub Simba seeking to avenge his father Mufasa's death and save his kingdom, rendered in photo-realistic visuals using cutting-edge effects. From the very opening scene, the remake—which emulates the 1994 original's "Circle of Life" theme—treats viewers to breathtaking "shots" of antelopes, zebras and wildebeest galloping across the African savannah.

Its producers took safari tours of real-life locations from Kenya's huge Masai Mara reserve to the desert sand dunes of Namibia for inspiration, before artists and technicians sketched and modeled details for the final film. The movie also featured the musical talents of celebrated German composer Hans Zimmer, who provided the soundtrack for the Attenborough series "Planet Earth II" produced by the BBC. Attenborough, a veteran British environmentalist, has narrated dozens of wildlife documentaries over six decades, opening the eyes of millions of television viewers around the globe to the wonders of

the natural world.

It was important the film have "the illusion of it being a naturalistic documentary," director Jon Favreau told journalists in Beverly Hills this week. "We looked at a lot of the work that Hans had done like Planet Earth II, all of those Attenborough BBC documentaries, and how much emotion can be expressed without human performance, just through music and editorial and storytelling," said Favreau. Unlike the original cartoon version, the animals' faces in the new "Lion King" are largely realistic and not human-looking. This meant the animators had to rely on using actual facial expressions and movements observed in the real-life species, and find creative ways to match these to the dialogue recorded by voice actors.

"We would shoot video on long lenses (of the voice actors) just to have reference of what they were doing on their faces and we would give that to the animators," explained Favreau. "And the animators would take the choices that they made and interpolate it into what a lion would do, or a hyena would do." He added: "So it really fell on the animators' hands to try to figure out how to express their performances through the language of an animal's emotive language." —AFP



Fans wait outside the Dolby theatre as guests arrive for the world premiere of Disney's "The Lion King" in Hollywood. — AFP



A sarcophagus, part of a new discovery carried out almost 300 meters south of King Amenemhat II's pyramid at Dahshur necropolis.



A man brushes off dust from a sarcophagus, part of a new discovery carried out almost 300 meters south of King Amenemhat II's pyramid at Dahshur necropolis, exposed near the Bent Pyramid, about 40km (25 miles) south of the Egyptian capital Cairo, during an inaugural ceremony of the pyramid and its satellites.



A man walks next to the Red Pyramid in Dahshur. — AFP photos

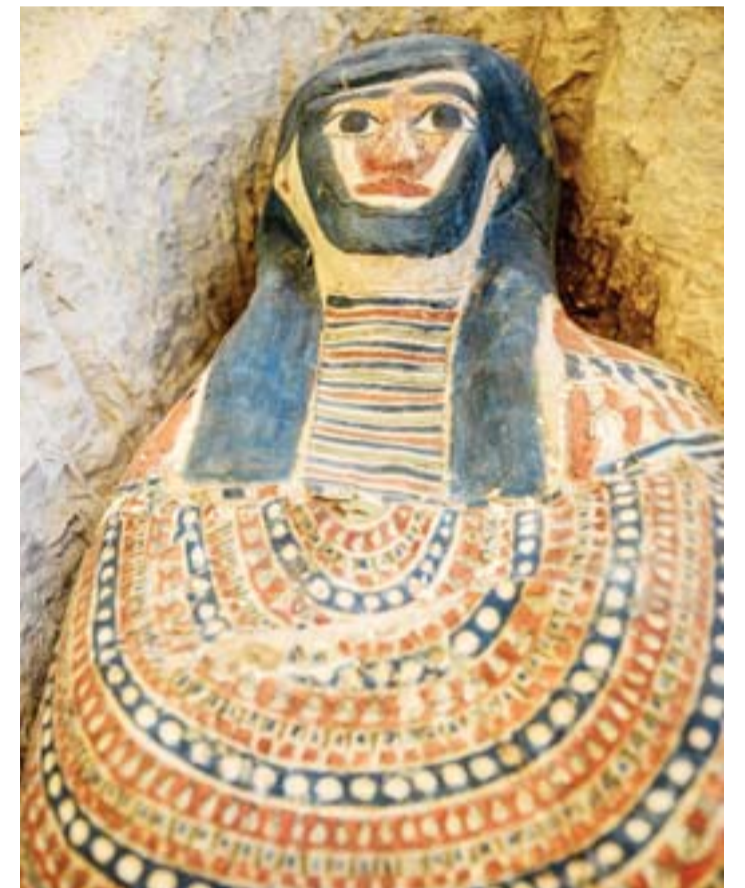
# Egypt opens two ancient pyramids, unveils new finds



Egypt's Antiquities Minister Khaled El-Enany speaks in front of the Bent Pyramid of Sneferu during an inaugural ceremony of the pyramid and its satellites.

Egypt on Saturday opened two ancient pyramids south of the capital Cairo and unveiled a collection of newly found sarcophagi, some containing well-preserved mummies. Antiquities Minister Khaled Al-Anani told reporters the Bent Pyramid of King Sneferu, the first pharaoh of Egypt's 4th dynasty, and a nearby pyramid would be reopened to visitors for the first time since 1965. He also said a team of archaeologists had uncovered sarcophagi and the remains of an ancient wall dating back to the Middle Kingdom some 4,000 years ago. The finds were made during excavation work in the royal necropolis of Dahshur on the west bank of the Nile River, in an area home to some of Egypt's oldest pyramids.

"Several stone, clay and wooden sarcophagi were found and some contain mummies in good condition," the antiquities ministry said in a statement. The ancient wall stretches some 60 meters and is situated south of the pyramid of 12th dynasty pharaoh King Amenemhat II, also in the Dahshur necropolis. The finds also included funerary masks as well as tools dating back to the Late Period—which spanned almost 300 years up to Alexander the Great's conquest of Egypt in 332 BC—used for cutting stones, the ministry said. Egypt has in recent years sought to promote archaeological discoveries across the country in a bid to revive tourism, which took a hit from the turmoil that followed its 2011 uprising. — AFP



A sarcophagus, part of a new discovery carried out almost 300 meters south of King Amenemhat II's pyramid at Dahshur necropolis.



People gather during an inaugural ceremony in front of the Bent pyramid of King Sneferu.



A detail of a sarcophagus, part of a new discovery carried out almost 300 meters south of King Amenemhat II's pyramid at Dahshur necropolis.



A man walks through a passage in the well-known bent pyramid of King Sneferu, which had been closed to visitors since 1965, in Dahshur.



A picture shows the Bent pyramid of King Sneferu, the first pharaoh of Egypt's 4th dynasty, in the ancient royal necropolis of Dahshur on the west bank of the Nile River.



A sarcophagus, part of a new discovery carried out almost 300 meters south of King Amenemhat II's pyramid at Dahshur necropolis.

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### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

**BY NIGHT:** Hot to relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 14/07/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	33 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	29 °C			
ABDALY	47 °C	28 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	47 °C	31 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	45 °C	28 °C			
SALMIYAH	43 °C	34 °C			
AHMADI	44 °C	34 °C			
NUWAISIB	47 °C	31 °C			
WAFRA	47 °C	29 °C			
SALMY	46 °C	26 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	07/15	Hot	46 °C	30 °C	NW	12 - 40 km/h
Tuesday	07/16	Very hot with a chance for rising dust	48 °C	32 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Wednesday	07/17	Very hot with a chance for rising dust	48 °C	33 °C	NW	25 - 50 km/h
Thursday	07/18	Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	47 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:25
Sunrise	04:58
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:28
Sunset	18:50
Isha	20:20

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	46 °C
MIN. Temp.	35 °C
MAX. RH	20 %
MIN. RH	07 %
MAX. Wind	N 60 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dilip Kumar S/o Jalim Prasad, holder of Indian Passport No. K7041953 issued in India has changed the given name in Passport from Dilip Kumar to Dileep Kumar resident of Newal Village, Bangarmau Post, Unnao Dist. (U.P) India. (C 5557)

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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

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Arrival Flights on Monday 15/7/2019					Departure Flights on Monday 15/7/2019				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	KAC 742	Dammam	12:55			
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	IRA 667	Esfahan	13:10			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	RJA 644	Amman	13:20			
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	KAC 774	Riyadh	13:35			
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FDB 8191	Dubai	13:50			
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC 672	Dubai	14:00			
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	KNE 231	Riyadh	14:10			
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:15			
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	FDB 059	Dubai	14:20			
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	QTR 1078	Doha	14:25			
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC 286	Dhaka	14:35			
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC 364	Colombo	14:35			
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	KAC 194	Trabzon	14:40			
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC 304	Mumbai	14:45			
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	JZR 222	Riyadh	14:45			
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:45			
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC 618	Doha	14:50			
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC 562	Amman	14:50			
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	KAC 788	Jeddah	14:55			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KAC 118	New York	15:00			
JZR	502	Lahore	02:55	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:05			
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	KAC 412	Bangkok	15:10			
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:15			
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA 645	Muscat	15:20			
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:35			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45			
RBG	1551	Alexandria	03:15	FEG 341	Sohag	16:00			
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC 546	Cairo	16:05			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JZR 732	Cairo	16:10			
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	FDB 051	Dubai	16:10			
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	QTR 1072	Doha	16:15			
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SAW 705	Dammam	16:15			
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	JZR 116	Doha	17:00			
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:10			
KAC	382	Delhi	04:55	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30			
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR 214	Jeddah	17:35			
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	KAC 158	Istanbul	17:40			
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	JZR 124	Dubai	17:40			
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	JZR 104	Bahrain	18:00			
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	QTR 1080	Doha	18:10			
JZR	112	Doha	05:45	JZR 302	Istanbul	18:20			
BAW	157	London	05:50	MSR 620	Cairo	18:30			
KAC	702	Asyut	06:10	KAC 196	BJV	18:50			
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	SAW 703	Damascus	18:55			
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	FDB 063	Dubai	19:05			
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:05			
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	RJA 640	Amman	19:05			
MSR	601	Cairo	07:00	UAE 875	Dubai	19:05			
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:20			
IGO	1755	CNN	07:10	KAC 744	Dammam	19:25			
JZR	714	Sohag	07:20	KAC 506	Beirut/LCA	19:25			
RBG	211	Luxor	07:25	KAC 616	Bahrain	19:40			
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:45			
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KAC 674	Dubai	19:45			
MSC	401	Alexandria	08:00	JZR 310	BJV	19:50			
IRA	601	Tehran	08:10	FDB 057	Dubai	19:50			
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC 174	Munich	19:55			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KNE 381	Taif	20:00			
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	OMA 647	Muscat	20:05			
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:10			
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	MEA 402	Beirut	20:15			
KAC	334	Trivandrum	09:00	KAC 620	Doha	20:30			
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	QTR 1088	Doha	20:40			
KAC	384	Delhi	09:10	JAV 621	Amman	20:45			
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	RBG 219	Amsterdam	21:00			
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KLM 445	Abu Dhabi	21:10			
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD 307	Dubai	21:15			
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	UAE 859	Dubai	21:15			
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ALK 229	Colombo	21:15			
AXB	395	Kozhikode	10:40	THY 764	Istanbul	21:30			
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC 164	MXP	21:40			
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC 622	Doha	21:50			
MSR	3132	Cairo	11:00	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:50			
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	KAC 564	Amman	21:55			
THY	1282	Trabzon	11:05	QTR 1082	Doha	22:05			
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	ETD 309	Abu Dhabi	22:15			
AXB	789	CNN/Bahrain	12:10	KAC 786	Jeddah	22:20			
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	SVA 514	Riyadh	22:25			
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	AIC 975	Chennai/Goa	22:25			
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	SVA 502	Jeddah	22:45			
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR 128	Dubai	22:50			
MSR	610	Cairo	12:45	MSC 411	Asyut	23:15			
				MSR 614	Cairo	23:30			
				FDB 071	Dubai	23:35			
				KAC 548	Alexandria	23:50			



PARIS: Zapata CEO Franky Zapata flies a jet-powered hoverboard or "flyboard" as French elite acrobatic flying team "Patrouille de France" (PAF) flies over the Arc de Triomphe during the Bastille Day military parade down the Champs-Élysées yesterday. — AFP

## Facebook's Libra currency under fire

LONDON: Facebook's planned virtual unit Libra, already under heavy attack from US President Donald Trump and global regulators, faces skepticism among the wider cryptocurrency community as well. One theme - besides Brexit - dominated discussion among the movers and shakers from London's financial technology or FinTech industry as gathered for their annual get-together: The future of virtual currencies. "Can I just ask you to raise your hand if you would not be willing to use Libra?" asked the moderator at an event at London's recent 'FinTech Week'.

In the room, filled with about 100 experts and media who closely track the sector, about two-thirds of participants raised their hand to express distrust at the upstart currency. Helen Disney, founder and boss of Unblocked Events, which promotes the blockchain technology that powers many cryptocurrencies, acknowledged growing doubts over who exactly would oversee and regulate Libra's operation.

People are "concerned about how the governance... would work", Disney told AFP. "The cryptocurrency community is very libertarian in thinking," its "about giving power to the people, democratization of finance, keeping away from big banks and companies who con-

trol (the) economy," she said Last week's gathering came one month after Facebook announced to the world its plans for the virtual currency.

Libra, which is widely regarded as a challenger to dominant global player Bitcoin, is expected to launch in the first half of 2020. Whereas Bitcoin is decentralized, Libra will be co-managed by 100 partner firms, including Facebook's newly-minted financial services division Calibra. The companies behind Libra - which will be backed with a basket of real-world currencies - include payment giants Visa, MasterCard and PayPal, as well as taxi-hailing services Lyft and Uber. To access Libra on smartphones, users will go through a virtual wallet that will also be named Calibra.

While Facebook boasts an enormous customer base dotted across the globe that should facilitate Libra's uptake, it firm also been plagued by privacy concerns that could make users hesitate. "Can't wait for a cryptocurrency with the ethics of Uber, the censorship resistance of Paypal, and the centralisation of Visa, all tied together under the proven privacy of Facebook," said Sarah Jamie Lewis, head of non-profit research organization Open Privacy.

Libra has meanwhile raised eyebrows among the world's financial regulators, including the Bank of England, the European Central Bank and the US Federal Reserve. But Disney believes that Libra will finally force regulators to present clear regulation guidelines, as demanded by the cryptocurrency community itself. — AFP

## Congresswomen told by Trump to 'go back' where they're from

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday told unnamed Democratic Congresswomen to "go back" where they came from, prompting senior members of the party to brand him a "racist" and a xenophobe. It is the latest controversial comment by Trump, who last year reportedly referred to countries in Africa as "s\*\*\*hole" nations, and who has spoken of "an invasion" of undocumented migrants.

In a tweet, Trump referred to "Progressive Democrat Congresswomen", which appeared to be a reference to a group of outspoken relatively young, liberal women, all first-time members of the House of Representatives. These include Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

Trump did not say whom he was referring to but said they "originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world". He accused the women of "viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run. "Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken



WASHINGTON: In this file photo taken on Feb 7, 2019 US Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar attend a press conference outside the US Capitol. — AFP

and crime infested places from which they came"?

Ocasio-Cortez, who was born in New York, has ancestry from Puerto Rico, a US territory. Tlaib, who was born in Detroit, is the first American of Palestinian descent elected to Congress. Omar, who as a child came to the United States from war-torn Somalia, is the first black Muslim woman in Congress.

"That's a racist tweet," Assistant House Speaker Ben Ray Lujan, the highest-ranking Latino member of Congress, said on "Fox News Sunday". — AFP

## Qatar opens biggest coast...

Continued from Page 1

of the world's oil is transported - have spiked in recent weeks, with the US blaming Iran for multiple attacks on

tanker ships in the region and Tehran shooting down an American drone.

The 600,000-plus-sq-m site aims to "facilitate the securing of all territorial waters of the state and border posts", the interior ministry wrote on Twitter. It includes a "sophisticated seaport," training and medical facilities, civil defense offices and operating rooms, the ministry added. Asked whether the base could enhance US-Qatari coordination on Iran, Malloy said the move was "all about maritime security, that's what our focus is". — AFP

signed on such levels.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled commended the participation of the EU during the past few years in donors' conferences for Syria and the Iraq, which were hosted and co-chaired by Kuwait. Kuwait is counting on EU's efforts in the region to bring peace, he said, adding that Kuwait shared such responsibility with the EU. The previous Arab summit was the main step for the Arab-European cooperation, he explained, as the Gulf-European cooperation has made important and great strides during the last period.

Mogherini said that the EU was working with Kuwait on several issues in the region. She mentioned EU's involvement in the presidency of the International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq and the union's contribution in helping the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) during its financial crisis. The EU and Kuwait have been among the strongest supporters of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon as well as children in Yemen, she said. Now, by launching a full diplomatic presence in Kuwait, EU opens a new chapter in its partnership, she added.

The goal is to continue to strengthen political dialogue and economic cooperation, especially supporting the New Kuwait 2035 vision, Mogherini indicated. The EU delegation also seeks to build bridges between Kuwaiti society and European citizens, she said. "You have taken the role of mediator which requires courage; you demonstrated this attitude and leadership in the UN Security Council, especially your mediating effort and role in the Gulf," she said, adding the EU and Kuwait are finding themselves on the same side of history at a time of peace and mediation.

## MPs blast Al-Arabiya for...

Continued from Page 1

to malicious media campaigns that are detrimental to ties within the Gulf bloc. Kuwait has contacted Al-Arabiya television officials and will respond appropriately in order to sort out the issue, added the statement.

## Muslims in Assam fear...

Continued from Page 1

(NRC) last July. They could not prove that they or their parents or grandparents were in Assam before 1971, when millions fled Bangladesh's war of independence into India. Those excluded have been able to appeal, but up to two million people could be left off a final list due at the end of this month, reports say.

Understanding the process and producing the necessary documents in a state where many are illiterate and lack even basic papers is a nightmare for many. One case that for critics encapsulated the absurdity was Sona Ullah, a retired Indian army captain and a veteran of the 1999 Kargil conflict with Pakistan. He was sent to a detention camp in May due to a mismatch in his papers. Police even seized his old uniform and he was only granted interim bail after an outcry.

Those who fail to make the cut have to go to one of around 100 "Foreigners Tribunals" currently in place. Another 200 are being set up. These are a lottery however, campaigners say, and the staff often unqualified. According to online magazine Scroll, Assam's coalition government, which is led by Modi's party, has removed tribunal members if their "performance" falls short. "The atmosphere has become such that there is a competition to be, what members joke among themselves,

MP Riyadh Al-Adasani said yesterday he had cancelled a scheduled interview with Al-Arabiya in protest against the action, insisting that Kuwait had always tried to resolve the Gulf crisis. MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said the news channel's action is a flagrant attempt to involve Kuwait in the Gulf dispute, although Kuwait's position is very clear in this issue. MP Khaled Al-Otaibi said Al-Arabiya action is a moral violation and an attempt to sow division between Kuwait and other Gulf states. MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain said Kuwait will not be deterred by such cheap attempts and will continue to mediate to resolve the Gulf crisis.

the highest wicket-taker - the one who can declare the maximum number of people foreigners," one former tribunal member told Scroll, using a cricketing analogy.

Most of those left off the draft NRC are Muslims, and critics of Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) say this reflects its aim to serve only its coreligionists. In January the lower house of parliament passed legislation that will grant citizenship to people who moved to India from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan at least six years ago - but not if they are Muslim. Home Minister Amit Shah has called for the ejection of "termites" and said before the BJP's election victory in May that it would "run a countrywide campaign to send back the infiltrators".

What will happen to those who don't make the cut in Assam remains unclear, with some hardliners calling for mass deportations, although Bangladesh has already said it will not take any in. There are currently 938 people in six detention camps. Another with a capacity of 3,000 is set to be built, and the Assam government wants another nine, each for 1,000 people.

But even if people are not moved en masse to camps or ejected, becoming effectively stateless could make normal life - including access to healthcare or education - tough, raising anxiety levels. According to the opposition, 44 people have killed themselves since the NRC process began. There are no official figures. It is a fear that Ali knows well, even as he acknowledges his good fortune in securing a release from the camps. "I have lost three long years of my life away from my family," he said. — AFP

## EU opens new mission in Kuwait...

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait has strong relations with Brussels and Washington and, unlike Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, it maintains good ties with Tehran.

Mogherini also hailed HHI the Amir's leadership and wisdom. "I would like to thank you for your leadership, wisdom and I know it is not easy times," Mogherini said in a press statement following a meeting with the Amir. She also appreciated the attitude and efforts of Kuwait to defuse tensions and promote cooperation in the region. "We admire and support the attitude and the efforts that Kuwait is deploying to invite everybody to calm rationality to deescalate a tense situation and to provide space for cooperation in the region that is also the European Union's position and we support this effort in all possible ways," she said.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said the opening of the EU mission in the country is a culmination of the successful cooperation between the two sides. The EU is a key partner in trade, investment, energy, education, health, and many other sectors, he said in a statement. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stressed Kuwait's keenness on this partnership, noting that EU's presence in Kuwait will offer wide avenues of cooperation. Kuwait and EU had made great strides in dialogue on issues such as security, energy and human resource development, he said, pointing to memoranda of understanding and deals



## Sports

# Historic outburst sees Reds past Rockies with 24 hits

**DENVER:** Phillip Ervin went 6-for-6 and the Cincinnati Reds rolled to a 17-9 win against the Colorado Rockies in the second game of the three-game series in Denver on Saturday night. Ervin had four singles, a double, triple and three RBIs for the Reds, becoming the first player for Cincinnati with six hits in a game since Walker Cooper in 1949. Cincinnati's 24 hits were its most since May 19, 1999.

The Reds also had five triples in a game for the first time since 1929, and became the first team in modern history to have five triples and three home runs in the same game, per Elias Sports. Yasiel Puig had four hits and four RBIs. Jose Peraza had four hits and three RBIs, and Nick Senzel also had four hits, including a double and two triples. Curt Casali and Derek Dietrich added three RBIs apiece for Cincinnati.

## Brewers 5, Giants 4

Pinch hitter Ben Gamel one-hopped the right field fence with a walk-off double with two outs in the ninth inning, giving host Milwaukee a victory over San Francisco. After the Giants had rallied to tie the score with two runs in the top of the inning, Ryan Braun reached base on an error by San Francisco shortstop Brandon Crawford to lead off the bottom of the ninth against the Giants' sixth pitcher, Reyes Moronta (3-5). Moronta then got two outs before walking Keston Hiura, then serving up Gamel's game-winning hit on a 2-2 pitch, the Brewers' third walk-off win of the season. Jeremy Jeffress (3-2), who allowed the game-tying runs in the top of the ninth and was charged with his second blown save of the season, was credited with the win. Neither starting pitcher allowed an earned run and each exited with the score tied at 1-1.

## Angels 9, Mariners 2

Mike Trout homered for the eighth time in the past seven games and Albert Pujols hit his 647th career blast while driving in four runs as Los Angeles registered a victory over visiting Seattle. Kole Calhoun also went deep and Luis Rengifo went 3-for-4 for the Angels. Trout increased his American League-leading total to 30 with the two-run shot as the Angels beat the Mariners for the second straight night. Los Angeles has scored 22 runs in the first two contests of the three-game slate.

Right-hander Matt Harvey (3-4) gave up one run and four hits over 5 2/3 innings after missing the previous seven-plus weeks due to a back injury. Seattle left-hander Wade LeBlanc (5-3) was pummeled for six runs and 10 hits in four innings.

## Astros 7, Rangers 6 (11 innings)

Jose Altuve capped his 30th career four-hit game with an RBI double in the 11th inning in visiting Houston's victory over Texas. The Astros fashioned a two-out rally against Rangers left-hander Brett Martin (1-1), starting with a George Springer walk. Altuve (4-for-6, three runs) followed with a double to left field to score Springer from first base, with Altuve taking third on the throw to the plate. Myles Straw added a run-scoring single that plated Altuve with a critical insurance run. Osuna surrendered a run but recorded his 20th save, stranding two runners as Houston set the table to split the series with a victory in the finale Sunday. Josh James (4-0) earned the win.

## Rays 12, Orioles 4 (Game 2)

Nate Lowe and Michael Broussard each homered twice, and visiting Tampa Bay finished with six home runs while earning a split of its doubleheader with a victory over Baltimore. The Rays showed their power in the nightcap, touching up Baltimore starter John Means (7-5) for three of the six homers. Lowe finished with four RBIs while Broussard drove in three more as the Rays had 15 hits. Tampa Bay starter Charlie Morton (11-2) gave up two runs

in his six innings and struck out six. The right-hander, who was an American League All-Star, has won three straight games, two of which have come vs. Baltimore.

## Orioles 2, Rays 1 (Game 1)

Stevie Wilkerson hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning to give Baltimore a victory over visiting Tampa Bay in the first game of a day-night doubleheader. Wilkerson, a switch-hitter who plays a number of positions, had been just 4-for-47 with no extra-base hits against left-handed pitchers this season before coming up against Colin Poche (2-2) in the seventh. Wilkerson belted a one-out homer to center that also brought in Anthony Santander, who had singled to lead off the inning. The two-run homer gave Baltimore a 2-1 lead.

## Dodgers 11, Red Sox 2

Justin Turner and Max Muncy each homered and had three hits, while Cody Bellinger added a solo shot and two RBIs on his 24th birthday, as Los Angeles pummeled host Boston. AJ Pollock also went deep as the Dodgers ended their losing streak at four games. Ross Stripling (4-3) got the win, giving up one run on four hits and striking out seven in five innings. Red Sox starter Chris Sale allowed five runs on seven hits and one walk while fanning seven in 4 2/3 innings — his shortest start since April 9. The left-hander has now given up five runs in three consecutive starts for the first time in his career.

## Athletics 13, White Sox 2

Franklin Barreto capped a seven-run first inning with a three-run home run as Oakland cruised to a victory over visiting Chicago. Robbie Grossman drove in three runs while Matt Chapman collected two doubles and a single, propelling the A's to their ninth win in their past 11 games. The A's wasted no time teeing off on White Sox righty Dylan Covey (1-5), with back-to-back, inning-opening doubles by Marcus Semien and Chapman for the game's first run. A pair of walks set the stage for a two-run single by Grossman and an RBI hit by Chris Herrmann, giving Oakland a 4-0 lead and ending Covey's day just two outs into the first inning.

## Twins 6, Indians 2

Max Kepler homered twice to continue his recent mastery of Trevor Bauer as visiting Minnesota recorded a victory over Cleveland. Kepler, who went deep three times off Bauer in Minnesota's 5-4 win on June 6, homered to lead off Saturday's game before belting a solo shot in the second inning. Rookie Jake Cave homered and drove in three runs and Jake Odorizzi (11-4) tossed 5 1/3 strong innings for the Twins, who have won five of eight contests in the season series to move 7 1/2 games ahead of second-place Cleveland in the American League Central.

## Cardinals 4, Diamondbacks 2

Tyler O'Neill drove in four runs with a double and a home run as St. Louis combined on a four-hitter to defeat visiting Arizona. St. Louis snapped a three-game skid to get back to .500 while ending Arizona's four-game winning streak. Dakota Hudson (8-4) pitched six innings to get the win, allowing two runs and three hits, while striking out five and walking four.

## Braves 7, Padres 5 (10 innings)

Catcher Tyler Flowers lined an opposite-field double off the right field wall at Petco Park in the top of the 10th inning to cap a three-run inning as Atlanta Braves defeated host San Diego. Ozzie Albies singled home Josh Donaldson with one out in the top of the 10th to snap a 4-4 tie. Donaldson, who earlier hit his third homer in two games,



**DENVER:** Yasiel Puig #66 of the Cincinnati Reds watches the flight of a sixth inning two-run homer against the Colorado Rockies at Coors Field. — AFP

drew a walk from Padres reliever Luis Perdomo to lead off the 10th and advanced to second on Nick Markakis' groundout to second. Albies then pulled a single to right past Padres first baseman Eric Hosmer. Manny Machado hit his second homer of the game off Braves closer Luke Jackson in the bottom of the 10th for the Padres' final run. Sean Newcomb (3-1) worked out of a two-on, two-out jam in the bottom of ninth to earn the win. Luke Jackson picked up his second save in as many nights and his 16th on the season. Perdomo (1-2) took the loss.

## Nationals 4, Phillies 3

Juan Soto hit the go-ahead two-run home run with two outs in the ninth inning for visiting Washington, who remained red hot with a come-from-behind win over Philadelphia. The Nationals have won the first two games of the three-game series and 12 of 14 overall since June 25. The Phillies have lost five of their last seven games. Phillies closer Hector Neris (1-4), who got out of a bases-loaded jam to end the eighth and preserve a 3-2 lead, was one out away from earning his 18th save when he gave up a single to Anthony Rendon. Soto hit Neris' next pitch over the fence in left-center field to complete the comeback for the Nationals, who trailed 3-0 after four innings.

## Royals 4, Tigers 1

Brad Keller pitched eight strong innings while equaling his longest start of the season. Cheslor Cuthbert had a two-run single and host Kansas City downed struggling Detroit. Keller (5-9) gave up just one run on four hits, walked none and struck out seven. The Royals posted back-to-back wins at home for the first time since May 1. Ian Kennedy notched a ninth-inning save for the second straight night, his 13th overall this season. The Tigers have lost five straight. Matthew Boyd (6-7) struck out 10, the fifth time he's reached double digits this season. But Boyd took the loss, allowing four runs on six hits and four walks in seven innings.

## Mets 4, Marlins 2

Robinson Cano hit a tie-breaking two-run homer with one out in the eighth inning and visiting New York earned a victory over Miami. Cano snapped a 2-2 deadlock with an impressive drive off Nick Anderson (2-4) that scored Dom Smith. The drive, on a 1-1 down and in slider, went into the second deck beyond the right field fence. It was the veteran second baseman's fifth homer but first with a runner on base and first homer in 72 at-bats since connecting off Atlanta's Mike Soroka on June 17. It also marked the third time Cano drove in more than one run and first instance since April 15 at Philadelphia.

## Blue Jays 2, Yankees 1

Daniel Hudson struck out Luke Voit with two on in the ninth inning and Toronto held on for a victory over host New York. Hudson converted his second save despite staggering to the finish. He allowed a walk to Aaron Hicks and a single to DJ LeMahieu before Aaron Judge singled in the first run, putting runners at first and third. He reached a full count on Voit and then fanned New York's first baseman on a close pitch that Voit thought was ball four. The Blue Jays carried a 2-0 lead into the ninth thanks to Randal Grichuk's glove and bat. Grichuk made a highlight-reel catch on Gary Sanchez to end the fifth and then delivered a two-run single in the sixth.

## Cubs 10, Pirates 4

Jon Lester shined with his arm and his bat as Chicago cruised to a victory over visiting Pittsburgh. Lester (9-6) posted a quality start by limiting the Pirates to three runs over 6 2/3 innings while striking out six and walking none. He also went 2-for-3 with his third career home run and three RBIs — one more than he had all season before Saturday. Starling Marte homered twice to lead the Pirates. Willson Contreras also homered for the Cubs, who scored the game's first 10 runs. Jason Heyward went 3-for-5 with a pair of doubles. — Reuters

## Salah shines in new Mobil Engine Oil ad with fan support

**KUWAIT:** Mohamed Salah is the star of yet another advertisement in Egypt, with the Liverpool talisman featuring in Mobil 1's latest campaign. Mohamed Salah is perhaps one of the world's most attractive people when it comes to adverts. His influence and football talent have earned him millions of supporters around the globe. Mobil's advert stats that with one move, Salah is 'Moving Millions', as well as Mobil, which had move millions for over a decade. The 26-year-old now features in a new advertisement by Mobil 1, who are promoting their Mobil engine oil. The advertisement is aired in parallel with the Salah's participation in CAF (Africa Cup of Nations), where Salah is playing as part of his national Egyptian team.

The video starts with a game of table football between Salah and a fan. After Mo wins, he celebrates in yoga fashion making people around the world copy it. The clip shows Salah reading a book called "Protect What You Love" with the Mobil symbol on the cover, as drivers should protect their engine cars by using Mobil. Salah was joking about his hair in an interview with US journalist Taylor Rooks. "The general message of the advert is that when Salah does anything, he inspires millions to follow his lead."

The advert features Liverpool supporters' iconic song for the winger, with Mobil 1 clearly keen to explore Liverpool's new-found popularity in the Middle East. When Mobil chose Salah, it chose him because Mobil is a leader in its field with an experience and research worth of around 140 years. According to the Forbes magazine, Salah makes the top 100 highest paid athletes of the year ranked at #98. Forbes estimates his earnings as \$25.1million a year with \$16.1m of that being his salary and winnings, and \$9m coming from endorsements. He topped the Premier League goal-scoring charts alongside Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and fellow Liverpool teammate Sadio Mane, who tied with the Egyptian on 22 league goals.

KAICO Kuwait Automotive Imports Co (Al Shaya & Al Sagar), the exclusive distributor of MOBIL Lubricants in Kuwait since 1950, and celebrating its 70 years of valued service to Kuwait market and now offering a 'SCRATCH and WIN' promotion with Mobil Oil. Any customer who buys KD 5/-worth of Mobil Petrol Engine Oil gets a chance to win a trip to Formula 1 Abu Dhabi, gold coins and a free Mobil 1 & Mobil Super Oil change' which every customer will be a winner of. The promotion is valid until 4th of August 2019 and available at all KAICO outlets and major dealers in across Kuwait.

## Davis confident Lakers will hit ground running

**LOS ANGELES:** Anthony Davis said the Los Angeles Lakers will be capable of challenging for the NBA championship immediately next season as the six-time All-Star was formally unveiled by the organization on Saturday. The 26-year-old superstar is set to form a potent strikeforce alongside LeBron James after joining the Lakers following a blockbuster trade deal with the New Orleans Pelicans last month.

The Lakers, who missed the playoffs last season for a sixth straight year despite the arrival of LeBron James in 2018, will field a new-look line-up for the 2019 campaign which also includes new signings Danny Green and DeMarcus Cousins. With the Lakers also starting the campaign with a new head coach in Frank Vogel, there is a possibility the roster may take time to gel.

But a bullish Davis, however, is adamant the Lakers can make an instant impression as they attempt to re-establish the team as a force in the NBA. "I'll put our roster up against anybody," Davis told a press conference. "In a seven-game series, I think we'll come out victorious." Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka told reporters that the acquisition of Davis could be a "history-shifting" chapter for the franchise, lavishing praise on the new signing's versatility.

"There is no more complete basketball player in the game," Pelinka said. "There is nothing he can't do. He can shoot. He can make plays. He can defend 1-5. He can protect the rim. He can handle the ball. His dedication to his craft is unparalleled." Davis meanwhile said he couldn't wait to form a partnership with James, after

## Vargas defeats Kameda to retain WBC crown

**LOS ANGELES:** Mexico's Rey Vargas successfully defended his WBC super bantamweight crown on Saturday, defeating Japan's Tomoki Kameda by unanimous decision. The unbeaten Vargas, 28, used his superior reach and height to control an attritional open-air battle at the Dignity Health Park in Carson, suburban



**EL SEGUNDO:** Los Angeles Lakers NBA basketball team general manager Rob Pelinka (L) talks to the media with forward Anthony Davis (C) and Head Coach Frank Vogel (R) as he is introduced by his new team, the Los Angeles Lakers at his press event. — AFP

Los Angeles. All three judges scored it 117-110 in favor of Vargas. It was a fifth successful defense of the title by Vargas, who has held the belt since defeating Gavin McDonnell in February 2017.

Vargas improved to 34-0 with 22 knockouts following the victory. Kameda, fighting out of Osaka, fell to 36-3 with the defeat. "The idea was to throw a lot of punches and fight an intelligent fight," said Vargas. "I believe we fought a smart fight. He's a very experienced fighter, we always knew he was going to push us."

It was a disappointing loss for Kameda, who started aggressively before tiring in the later rounds. The Japanese challenger landed the cleaner shots early on, rocking Vargas with a crisp overhand right in the

brief previous experiences alongside him during All-Star games and at the Olympics. "To get a full season and to see the things he's able to do - pass, shoot, talks well defensively, great leader, so I'm excited to get a lot of that this season, and just go from there," said Davis, who revealed he learned about his trade last month after seeing it posted on Instagram.

Davis added he expects to play a full part in the Lakers season next year, brushing off a question about

"load management." "I'm playing," Davis said. "I'm 26 years old. I love the game of basketball. I'm ready to play." Davis will wear the No3 jersey next season after an offer from James to allow him to keep his preferred No23 hit a snag. The jersey number offer from James was scuppered after opposition from sponsors Nike, who had potentially been faced with the prospect of being stuck with millions of dollars worth of "James 23" jerseys if the deal had gone ahead. — AFP

first round. Kameda again connected with the right in the second and third rounds but Vargas did just enough to score consistently through his hand speed and combinations. Kameda rallied in the closing rounds, landing a straight right on Vargas in the 10th round. But Vargas displayed deft footwork to keep Kameda at bay, darting in and out of range and using an accurate jab to control the tempo in the closing stages. Yet Vargas was given a scare in the 12th round when Kameda rocked him with a stiff right as the two fighters separated from a clinch. Vargas looked unsteady on his legs as the fight resumed after Kameda was deducted a point but regained his composure to close out the win. — AFP

## Sports

# Impey wins Tour stage nine as Alaphilippe stays in yellow

## Part of a mass breakaway that quickly opened a 10-minute gap

**BRIOUDE:** South African Daryl Impey won stage nine of the Tour de France yesterday, leaving local fans to settle for Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe keeping hold of the yellow jersey on Bastille Day. Mitchelton-Scott rider Impey, wearing his national champion jersey, was part of a mass breakaway that quickly opened a 10-minute gap and extended it throughout the race with the pack eventually trailing in 16 minutes adrift.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas and the other overall title contenders finished together in a low-key ending after allowing the 14-man break to open up an uncatchable lead on the 170km run. "That was a really tough race. I'm so happy to win on July 14," said Impey. The 2019 Tour Down Under winner and all-rounder won a Tour de France team time-trial back in 2013, and a few days later took the overall lead to become his nation's first yellow jersey holder.

"This is my greatest ever victory, just as good as wearing the yellow jersey, nothing can top this," he said. "It was a tough, solid day." Impey is a teammate of the British Yates twins, with Adam angling for the overall title this year. "There's no way I was getting involved in a breakaway today, but I expected a select bunch sprint," team leader Adam said.

### Bardet and Porte attack

After a frantic day over seven mountains on Saturday, the stage embarked from the Saint-Etienne football stadium

in a festive Bastille Day atmosphere with many fans shouting for local man Romain Bardet as well as Alaphilippe. Bardet, who is over three minutes adrift, and Australian contender Richie Porte, tried a cheeky breakaway on the approach to Brioude, but after a long hesitation Ineos and FDJ reeled them in and that was the end of the hostilities.

"This is a day I'll never forget," said the overall leader. "All those people shouting my name, it really is something and my grandfather was there at the finish line, so it was really special," added former soldier Alaphilippe, who came into the Tour with no title aspirations. "The toughest is still to come, even if it's been hard so far. I'm not dreaming of a Tour win, I'm dreaming of keeping the yellow jersey as long as I can. I think I can limit the damage on the (stage-13) time trial. Not win, but hold my own." "But if it turns into a mass brawl between the big guys on the Tourmalet I think I might really suffer," he said of the fearsome Pyrenean stage-14 mountain with its lunar landscape.

The race finished in Bardet's hometown of Brioude, where the title of the local newspaper 'La Montagne' aptly describes the surrounding terrain. The 7,000 locals and the great number of visitors were getting ready to celebrate Sunday night with a Boney M tribute band, while Michelin Guide three-star tourist attraction, the Basilique Saint-Julien, was plastered with a massive image of Bardet on its walls for the occasion. — AFP



South Africa's Daryl Impey (L) and Belgium's Tiesj Benoot ride in a breakaway during the ninth stage of the 106th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Saint-Etienne and Brioude. — AFP

## Equality is my cause: Serena puts legend King in her place

**LONDON:** Serena Williams delivered a stinging rebuke to fellow tennis legend Billie Jean King who said she should focus on tennis and stop behaving like a celebrity and fighting for equality. King — who was no stranger to fighting for equality for women players when she was starting out — may feel justified after Williams was played off the court in the Wimbledon final on Saturday.

She was beaten 6-2, 6-2 in less than an hour by Simona Halep, who had lost on nine of the 10 previous occasions she had played the American. King had said that running a business, looking after a child and battling for equality for women and ethnic minorities, could largely all be dealt with by her staff while she focussed on tennis for a couple of years.

The 75-year-old told the BBC earlier in the tournament that Williams should give up being a celebrity for a year: "Just stop all this insanity." Williams, though, hit back on Saturday. "The day I stop fighting for equality and for people that look like you and me will be the day I'm in my grave," said the 37-year-old in response to the question. King later replied, telling Serena via Twitter: "I would never ask anyone to stop fighting for equality. In everything she does, Serena shines a light on what all of us must



LONDON: US player Serena Williams serves against Romania's Simona Halep during their women's singles final on day twelve of the 2019 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club. — AFP

fight for in order to achieve equality for all." On court, Saturday's blowout was the third time in the past year that Williams has failed to take the chance to equal Australian Margaret Court's Grand Slam titles record of 24 — her stated goal on returning from giving birth to her daughter Olympia. Losses to Angelique Kerber in last year's Wimbledon final and then a meltdown in the US Open final against Naomi Osaka, after which she says she went to see a therapist, were painful enough. Nevertheless, Williams refused to accept that the record may elude her.

"I don't know," she said. "I mean, I don't really think

about it. I just go out there and play, see what happens. "That's kind of how I've been in my whole career. You know, I never thought about time in general. I feel like I'm just really on this journey of just doing the best that I can, playing the best that I can when I can."

### 'Wake up!'

Her leaden-footed and lethargic performance — she only really got fired up in the first game of the second set yelling at the ground when she won a point — provoked one spectator to cry out: "Wake up Serena!" "Actually I did hear it," she said. "I definitely wasn't asleep. But I did hear it. "Actually sometimes the comments help me, whether they're good or bad. It didn't bother me at all."

Williams, who had her close friend Meghan, Duchess of Sussex cheering her on from the Royal Box, said she did not know if as age advances she is getting more tense about winning another Grand Slam. "Now, you know, in my 20s — I'm always expected to win, but it's a different circumstance for me," she said. "Seems like every Grand Slam final I'm in recently has been an unbelievable effort to get there. "It would be interesting to see how it would be under different circumstances."

"The only thing I can say is today I think my opponent played unbelievable." However, if anyone thought that such a humbling defeat might prompt thoughts of retirement Williams had a message for them. "I feel like I'm still incredibly competitive or else I wouldn't really be out here." "For the most part, I feel like I'm on the right track. I'm just going in the right direction in terms of getting back to where I need to be." — AFP

## 'No one cares I am in a wheelchair': Alcott targets calendar Grand Slam

**LONDON:** "In Australia, people used to stare at me because I was in a wheelchair. Now they stare at you because you're Dylan Alcott and know who you are." That was the proud assertion on Saturday of Dylan Alcott, who is three-quarters of the way to a calendar Grand Slam, 50 years after fellow Australian Rod Laver completed the sweep.

"That's like the coolest thing because they could not care that I'm in a wheelchair." Today, everyone there did not care I was in a wheelchair. They're like, How good is this match? How good is he playing? He's a good bloke. Whatever it is," Alcott, 28, had just defeated his doubles partner Andy Lapthorne in the final of the Wimbledon quad wheelchair singles final 6-0, 6-2. Having won the Australian and French Open, the Melbourne-born Alcott now just needs the US Open to seal the deal.

The omens are good for the world number one who is the defending champion in New York. "I'm going to be working my butt off to win the US Open. Then we can put on another show. I don't think ESPN has put on wheelchair tennis yet. ESPN, you're up next," he said. A paraplegic since birth, Alcott is a celebrity on and off the court in Australia. He has won a 'Logie' award for his television appearances and has his own TV and radio show. He is also original and amusing in his opinions.

On Saturday, he compared the Wimbledon grass to the famed arena of the Melbourne Cricket Ground and nearby Lord's. Alcott also joked about becoming a life member of the All England Club, an honor reserved for all champions at the tournament. "I just want to know who I need to sleep with or hang out with to get a membership, the All England Club, so I'm very excited. "That was a joke," he added. "My dad said, Congratulations on your eighth Grand Slam. I said, That's nine, champion!"

Just moments after his win on Saturday, his achievement was already trending on social media as the 'Dylan Slam'. Alcott admits that his career trophies — which include gold medals from the 2016 Paralympics — are evenly spread around his home and his parents. "You get a Tiffany crystal vase at the US Open. Why not put delicious, beautiful flowers in it, like we do?," he said. "We actually use them. And it's cool. Then they're around the house. You don't look like as much of a wanker as well." The Wimbledon trophy, however, will get pride of place in the home he shares with partner Chantelle. "This is the Holy Grail of tennis, isn't it? We'll be ditching the Logie. Sorry TV Week, if you're listening." — AFP



LONDON: Australia's Dylan Alcott celebrates with the trophy after winning the quad wheelchair singles final against Britain's Andy Lapthorne on day twelve of the 2019 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club. — AFP

## Mochizuki makes Grand Slam history for Japan

**LONDON:** Shintaro Mochizuki made history yesterday becoming the first Japanese player to win a boy's Grand Slam title, beating Carlos Gimeno Valero of Spain 6-3, 6-2 in the Wimbledon final. The 16-year-old, who was playing just his third grass court tournament, follows 1969 girls singles title winner Kazuko Sawamatsu in triumphing at the grass court Grand Slam.

Mochizuki said he had learned a lot from his compatriot, 2014 US Open finalist Kei Nishikori. "He's really nice," said Mochizuki. "He gives me a lot of advice. Like sometimes I practice with him. I learn from him a lot. Yeah, he's smart." Nishikori, nine times a Grand Slam quarter-finalist, took to Twitter almost immediately to fete his compatriot. "Huge congrats to @ShintaroMOCHIZU! Such an amazing tournament," tweeted the Japanese star, adding a

thumbs up icon, a flexed bicep icon and several Japanese flags. However, it is not 29-year-old Nishikori who is his idol.

"Roger Federer. I love watching him on TV, yeah," he said. "I don't want to copy him, but I love watching him." Mochizuki said he had been mindful of his implosion at the French Open when he led 5-2 in his semi-final only to lose. He said the pivotal moment had been when he was a set up but break points down early in the second set and managed to hold. "In the first set, I got broken twice," he said.

"I wanted to hold my service game a lot. It was good. I played really tough. He had some break points, but I just tried my best to hold my service game. "Yes, it was really important game for me." Mochizuki admitted not being used to playing in front of so many people on Court One had made him reluctant to perform in front of them. "I'm shy, so I was like, Why do I have to do that?" he said. "But it was fun. It's so many people were there. I was a little bit nervous." However, once out there he rather enjoyed playing to his audience, with one jump smash being a special crowd pleaser. "It was a big chance to do that, so I just did it for fun," he said. "It was easy ball. I just wanted to make people have fun watching me." — AFP

## Tringale, Landry lead Deere as Vegas fades

**LOS ANGELES:** Andrew Landry and Cameron Tringale opened up a one-shot lead at the PGA Tour's John Deere Classic on Saturday after Jhonattan Vegas's challenge imploded. Landry followed up his back-to-back 65s over the first two rounds with a four-under-par 67 at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois. That was good enough to send him to the top of the leaderboard alongside Tringale, who carded seven birdies against one bogey on his way to a six-under-par 65.

Tringale is yet to win a solo title on the PGA Tour while Landry is chasing only his second career win following victory in the Valero Texas Open last year. Tringale's low-scoring round came despite a bogey on the first hole. He recovered from that setback with birdies on the 2nd and 3rd, before making three more before the turn. Two birdies and seven pars down the stretch brought him home at six under, for a 16 under aggregate.

Landry and Tringale have little breathing space at the top of the leaderboard, with two players, 2011 FedEx Cup champion Bill Haas and Adam Schenk lurking just one shot back on 15 under. Haas put himself in contention with a bogey-free seven-under-par 64 as he chases a first tournament win since 2015. Haas launched his low-scoring round with a monster 43-foot birdie putt on the par-three third and never looked back. Two more birdies on the 7th and 8th holes were followed by four more on the back nine to leave the American within sight of ending a miserable run of form that has included 16 missed cuts in 40 events since 2018.

Just one adrift of Haas and Schenk are four players clustered at 14 under: Nick Watney, who also had a 64, Ryan Moore who carded a 65, Vaughn Taylor (66) and South Africa's Dylan Frattelli, who posted a 65. But while the leaders were left dreaming of mounting a charge for victory on Sunday, it was a day to forget for Venezuela's three-time PGA Tour winner Vegas.

The overnight leader after a sensational 62 on Friday, which he described as his best round of the year, Vegas's hopes of a first win since victory at the 2017 Canadian Open went up in smoke with a disastrous five-over-par 76. Vegas started smoothly, pocketing two birdies over the first two holes. But a bogey on the 5th hole was followed by a double-bogey on the 6th. Two more bogeys on the 8th and 9th and three more on back nine completed a miserable outing, which left him eight off the lead.

### Kim leads at Marathon Classic

South Korea's Kim Sei-young fired a five-under-par 66 to preserve a one-shot lead after the third round of the LPGA Tour's Marathon Classic on Saturday. Kim, who started the day one clear of the field after a dazzling seven-under-par 64 on Friday, produced a flawless charge on the back nine to stay on top of the leaderboard heading into the final round.

The 26-year-old from Seoul carded seven birdies and two bogeys to finish the day with a 16 under total after 54 holes at the Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, Ohio. After reaching the turn at one under, Kim's charge came down the stretch with back-to-back birdies on the 12th and 13th before another pair of birdies on 16 and 17. A par five on the last left her one clear of Lexi Thompson of the United States as she chases a ninth career victory on the LPGA Tour and her second win of 2019.

Thompson vaulted herself into contention with a six-under-under par 65 which included a stunning eagle three on the par-five 18th to take her to 15 under for the tournament. After a shaky start with a bogey on the first, Thompson motored up the leaderboard with five birdies from the remaining eight holes on the front nine to reach the turn at 13 under for the day. It looked however as if the birdies had dried up coming down the stretch, with Thompson forced to settle for eight consecutive pars through the 17th. — AFP

Sports

# Hamilton wins record sixth British GP, extends F1 lead

## Hamilton took advantage and pitted for hards

**SILVERSTONE:** Lewis Hamilton made the most of a favorable safety car intervention yesterday to claim a record sixth British Grand Prix victory at a packed Silverstone. The defending five-time world champion clocking fastest lap on his final lap to finish 25 seconds clear of Mercedes team-mate and nearest title rival Valtteri Bottas after an action-packed contest. The Briton moved 39 points clear of the Finn behind in the title race, but Bottas was unlucky with the timing of the safety car which effectively gave Hamilton a free pit stop. Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third.

Pierre Gasly finished fourth ahead of his Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen, whose race was compromised by a late collision when Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari drove into him, and Carlos Sainz of McLaren. It was Hamilton's seventh win in 10 races this year and the 80th win of his career. He had shared the British Grand Prix record of wins, on five, with fellow-Briton Jim Clark and Frenchman Alain Prost.

Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo, Daniil Kvyat in a Toro Rosso and Nico Hulkenberg in a Renault. "What a day," said Hamilton. "To all the crowd, thank-you so much for coming out." Hamilton, who stopped on his slow-down lap to collect a British 'Union Jack' flag, added: "I love you Silverstone. I appreciate everything and the opportunity to be a part of this. 'I couldn't have done this without these guys or without my team.'" A glum Bottas said: "Congrats to Lewis...It wasn't my day." A much happier Leclerc said: "It's probably the race I've enjoyed the most in my career."

The safety car was deployed when Antonio Giovinazzi spun into a gravel trap in his Alfa Romeo - gifting Hamilton a 'free' first, and only, pit stop. The luckless Bottas, on a two stop strategy, had already

pitted before the incident. On an overcast and cool afternoon, Justin Whiting, the 12-year-old son of the late Charlie Whiting, the official Race Director who died suddenly in Melbourne in March, started the race, before a crowd of 141,000 at Silverstone. As the lights went out, the Mercedes pair pulled clear, Hamilton chasing Bottas throughout the first lap ahead of Leclerc and Verstappen with Vettel fifth.

### Oozing confidence

By lap 10, the lead was three-tenths, Hamilton oozing confidence could not pass Bottas slithering to protect his lead. Behind them, Leclerc blocked attacks from Verstappen. But on lap 17, Bottas came in for a new set of mediums and Hamilton inherited the lead ahead of Vettel, the pair delaying their stops as long as possible. Then Giovinazzi beached his Alfa Romeo at Club.

Hamilton took advantage and pitted for hards, followed by Vettel and Verstappen, making a second stop. Ferrari, reacting slowly, called in Leclerc, who emerged sixth behind Gasly and Verstappen. All this left Hamilton leading Bottas with Vettel third. Racing resumed on lap 23, the field, backed up by Hamilton, swarming like bees at the re-start.

Bottas, on mediums, traded fastest laps with Hamilton, knowing he had to make a second stop. Verstappen, helped by quick thinking from Red Bull, rose to fourth when Gasly moved over on Hangar Straight and began his pursuit of Vettel. The Dutchman caught and passed him at Stowe only for the German to ram into the rear end of the 007-branded Red Bull, who had Bond actor Daniel Craig in their garage, both spinning into the gravel but surviving to re-join the fray.



**SILVERSTONE:** Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton throws the trophy into the air on the podium as he celebrates victory in the British Formula One Grand Prix at the Silverstone motor racing circuit. —AFP

A stewards' investigation followed, but both races were compromised. Leclerc rose to third and Gasly to fourth. Verstappen regained fifth while Vettel pitted for a new nose, fell to 17th and was then given a 10-

seconds time penalty. With eight laps remaining, Hamilton was told to pit, but ignored the call, persuading Mercedes to bring in Bottas for softs, a tilt at fastest lap and a secure run to the flag. —AFP

## Mihajlovic to stay and 'fight' at Bologna after leukemia diagnosis

**ROME:** Bologna coach Sinisa Mihajlovic revealed on Saturday that he is battling leukemia after being diagnosed with the disease a day before pre-season training with the Serie A club was set to begin. Club president Joey Saputo confirmed that "Mihajlovic is and will remain Bologna's coach" while he battles the blood disease, with his treatment set to begin tomorrow.

"When I got the news, it was a real blow. I sat there for days crying, your life passes before your eyes," Mihajlovic told reporters at a press conference which ended in a standing ovation for the Serb. "I will face it, with chest puffed out, looking it in the eyes, the way I always have done. 'I cannot wait to go to hospital and start the fight. It is aggressive, but it is beatable. 'Unfortunately, nothing was given to me in life. I had to fight for everything. I'll fight this too.'"

Club doctor Gianni Nanni said that Mihajlovic had "acute leukemia" but insisted that the 50-year-old had a good chance of recovery and could continue working as Bologna coach. "Twenty years ago we might not even have talked about challenging this ill-

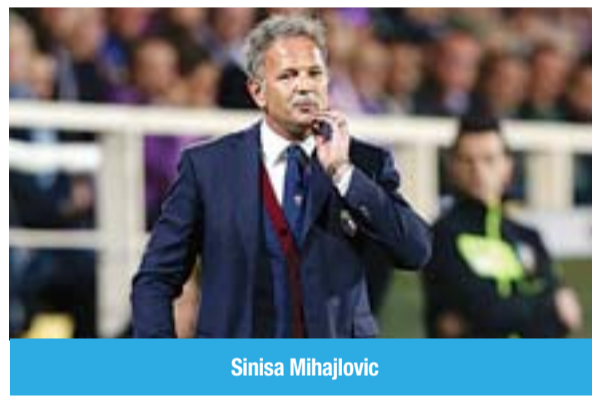
ness, but today with the knowledge that we have we can even talk about a rosy future for a coach that can carry on with his career," said Nanni. "This is an disease that can be beaten... He needs to carry on his work and tell those players when they've done something wrong."

### Serie A support

The shock news comes ahead of a first full season at Bologna for the 50-year-old, who arrived as coach following the sacking of Filippo Inzaghi. He guided them to 10th in Serie A after a blistering run of form that saw them win eight of their last 12 games and finish well clear of the relegation zone. Mihajlovic has been in Italy since he moved to Roma in 1992 from Red Star Belgrade, where he had won the European Cup, but is best known for his time at Lazio.

He won the Serie A title, two Coppa Italias and the Cup Winners Cup in his six-year spell with Roma's fierce cross-town rivals, and remains a hero figure among Lazio supporters. Mihajlovic is also considered one of the best set-piece takers of all time. He jointly holds with Andrea Pirlo the record for free-kick goals scored in Serie A, striking 28 times from dead ball situations.

Lazio were among the clubs and players to show their support for Mihajlovic on Saturday, tweeting: "We won lots together, and we're with you in this battle too." Since retiring as a player in 2006 he has coached



Sinisa Mihajlovic

a succession of clubs, mostly in Italy, and the Serbian national team. "Wishing you strength, Sinisa. Everyone at Inter is by your side for the battle ahead," wrote Inter Milan, where Mihajlovic ended his career on the field and started life on the bench.

However he had ties to notorious Serbian nationalist paramilitary warlord Arkan — who was assassinated at the start of the century — and after becoming coach of his country in 2012 he ordered players to sing the national anthem before matches, kicking attacking midfielder Adem Ljajic off the team when he refused to do so for "personal reasons". In 2000 Mihajlovic admitted racially abusing Patrick Vieira during a Champions League match between Arsenal and Lazio. —AFP

## Neymar renews war of words with PSG, hailing Barcelona 'remontada'

**PARIS:** Neymar fired another shot in his battle with Paris Saint-Germain after saying his favourite football memory is Barcelona's incredible 2017 comeback win over PSG, which Neymar helped inflict on his current club. Asked by online sports channel Oh My Goal about his best changing room memory, the world's most expensive player chose the aftermath of that win. "We all went crazy afterwards. I think it was the best possible feeling for all of us," the Brazilian star said in the interview, which was posted on Saturday.

Neymar was speaking in Sao Paulo ahead of his belated return to the club on Monday, after insisting last week that he had prior agreement from PSG to stay in Brazil to help his foundation, the Neymar Institute. His comments are set to further strain his relationship with the club. He wants out of the Parc des Princes and would prefer a return to Barca, but is struggling to find suitors due to the 222 million euros (\$252 million) the capital splashed out to take him away from Barcelona two years ago.

The chances of him rejoining the Catalan giants are further complicated by Antoine Griezmann's arrival from Atletico Madrid for 120 million euros. When Neymar missed last Monday's first training session PSG issued a statement declaring they would take "appropriate action" against the star. Sporting director Leonardo has nevertheless said that "Neymar can leave PSG if there is an offer that suits everybody".

Later Saturday, Neymar added fuel to the fire over a possible return to the Camp Nou, with an Instagram



**SAO PAULO:** Brazilian football star Neymar runs during a five-a-side football tournament for his charity Neymar Junior Project Institute. —AFP

post. It was a 10-second video of himself in a Barcelona shirt, his father, and a quote from the Bible: "No weapon turned against you will prosper." (Isaiah Chapter 54, Verse 17). Barcelona's famous rout of Paris Saint-Germain took place in the final 16 stage of the 2017 Champions League.

PSG had won the first leg of that Champions League last 16 tie 4-0 and were seconds away from the quar-

ter-finals. Neymar scored in the 88th and 91st minutes of the famous match before setting up Sergi Roberto for a winner five minutes into stoppage time. That sealed their 6-1 win over PSG, who then shelled out the world-record fee to bag the Brazilian the following summer. "What we felt when we scored the sixth goal I've never felt anything like that, it was incredible," Neymar told Oh My Goal on Saturday. —AFP

few days and will take no part in our summer tour of Asia."

Inter Milan endured a topsy-turvy campaign last season, only securing fourth place and Champions League qualification on the Serie A final day. Luciano Spalletti left his role as head coach in May, with former Juventus, Italy and Chelsea boss Antonio Conte taking over. They have already been busy in the transfer market, bringing in experienced centre-back Diego Godin from Atletico Madrid on a free transfer and signing Italy midfielder Nicolo Barella from Cagliari. —AFP

## Icardi leaves training amid transfer rumors

**ROME:** Inter Milan striker Mauro Icardi has left the club's pre-season training camp in Switzerland, the Serie A giants announced on Saturday, as speculation surrounding his future intensified. The Argentinian, who was stripped of the captaincy last season amid a

## Sun's career hangs on September doping hearing

**GWANGJU:** China's swim king Sun Yang faces a September hearing over explosive doping allegations that could potentially end his career, a senior FINA official said yesterday. A leaked FINA doping panel report claimed the triple Olympic champion had destroyed his own blood sample with a hammer, but Sun has nevertheless been cleared to compete at next week's world championships in Gwangju, South Korea.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) after FINA let Sun off on a legal technicality, although four months later the date of the hearing had yet to be set. FINA executive director Cornel Marculescu has defended the stance taken by swimming's ruling body, despite the bombshell contents of the doping panel report obtained by Australia's Sunday Telegraph.

"It's very damaging," Marculescu said. "I don't know how it's possible for something this confidential to go out to the world." But the situation is very simple — we have a decision from the FINA doping panel, which is totally independent," he added. "According to the rules WADA can appeal — and they did so — and CAS is going to hold a hearing sometime in September so we wait to see what will happen."

Sun and a security guard are said to have smashed vials of blood collected after independent testers visited the athlete's villa in Zhejiang Province last September. If WADA win their case and he is found guilty of a doping violation, Sun could face a lifetime ban after serving a three-month suspension in 2014 for taking banned stimulant he claimed was for a heart problem.

### Turbulent career

Sun clashed with rival swimmers at the 2016 Rio Olympics, notably Australian Mack Horton, who branded him a "drug cheat" over that prior ban before pipping Sun to gold in the 400 meters freestyle. French swimmer Camille Lacourt also savaged the Chinese giant, sniffing that "Sun Yang pees purple!"

But Marculescu insisted the decision to clear the nine-time world champion this time was the correct one. "The lawyers who made that decision started their meeting at 10 in the morning and finished at midnight," he said, adding that the 27-year-old Sun was innocent until proven otherwise. "They hear testimony and they make these decisions. Now let's see what the next step is when it goes to CAS. It's very difficult to make somebody guilty without having any decision by the respective bodies." —AFP



**JAKARTA:** In this file photo taken on August 24, 2018, Gold medalist China's Sun Yang celebrates during the victory ceremony for the men's 1500m freestyle swimming event during the 2018 Asian Games. —AFP

## 25 Historic outburst sees Reds past Rockies with 24 hits



## 26 Equality is my cause: Serena puts legend King in her place



## 27 Hamilton wins record sixth British GP, extends F1 lead



LONDON: England's captain Eoin Morgan lifts the World Cup trophy as England's players celebrate their win after the 2019 Cricket World Cup final between England and New Zealand at Lord's Cricket Ground yesterday. —AFP

# England wins the Cricket World Cup

## One of the greatest ODIs in cricket history

LONDON: England won the World Cup for the first time as they beat New Zealand in a dramatic Super Over after a nerve-shredding final ended in a tie at Lord's yesterday. After Eoin Morgan's side finished on 241 all out in pursuit of New Zealand's 241-8, the final came down to a six-ball shootout for each team.

England's Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler took 15 off Trent Boult's over. Jofra Archer bowled England's over against Martin Guptill and Jimmy Neesham, who smashed a six off the second ball. With two runs required off the final ball, wicketkeeper Jos Buttler and Jason Roy combined to run out Guptill as he came back for the second. Both sides finished on 15 so England won due to a tie-break rule because they hit more boundaries. After defeats in previous finals against Pakistan in 1992, Australia in 1987 and the West Indies in 1979, it was a cathartic moment for English cricket. "My heart is still racing. It's the biggest thing I've ever won, a great bunch of fellas, a really good family to me," Archer said. Stokes was in tears as England's players danced joyously around the pitch.

"I'm pretty lost for words. All the hard work over four years, to get here and be champions of the world. It's an amazing feeling. I'm pretty done," Stokes said with an expression that mixed elation with bewilderment. "Playing against New Zealand is always a great event. They are a seriously good team and really good lads. I said to Kane Williamson I'll be apologising for that for the rest of my life."

Morgan and his teammates were cheered to the rafters by the ecstatic capacity crowd at Lord's as they joined Bobby Moore's 1966 footballers and Martin Johnson's rugby union team of 2003 as England's World Cup winners. "Wow! It's hard to sum it up, what a day, what a tourna-

ment," England batsman Joe Root said. "Everyone has done everything asked of them. We have performed under pressure, it was almost written in the stars for Ben Stokes." England's triumph was the culmination of a remarkable rise over the past four years.

### Champagne super over

Following their dismal first round exit at the 2015 World Cup, England's then director of cricket Andrew Strauss embarked on a root-and-branch reform of their one-day international set-up. Adopting an aggressive game-plan under Morgan and Australian coach Trevor Bayliss, England's rebuilding plan paid off spectacularly.

They had already climbed to the top of the ODI rankings heading into the tournament and, after plenty of highs and lows over the past six weeks, they eventually justified their tag as the bookmakers' pre-tournament favorites to win the World Cup. It was not an easy ride for England, whose defeats against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia in the group stage put them on the brink of elimination. But Morgan's men kept their cool to defeat India and New Zealand and book a last-four spot before crushing Australia in the semi-finals and surviving one final test of their nerve against New Zealand in what will be remembered as a champagne super over. While England celebrated, it was another heart-breaking loss for New Zealand, who also finished as runners-up in the previous World Cup in 2015 after losing to Australia in the final. "We knew we would have to fire a few shots. Credit to England for the way they stuck at it," New Zealand's Neesham said. "On another day the coin may have fallen our way. We'll look back in a couple of years and say this was a pretty good experience." —AFP

### SCOREBOARD

LONDON: Final scoreboard from the World Cup final between England and New Zealand at Lord's yesterday:

New Zealand		England	
M. Guptill lbw b Woakes	19	C. Woakes c Latham b Ferguson	2
H. Nicholls b Plunkett	55	L. Plunkett c Boult b Neesham	10
K. Williamson c Buttler b Plunkett	30	J. Archer b Neesham	0
R. Taylor lbw b Wood	15	A. Rashid run out (Santner/Boult)	0
T. Latham c sub (Vince) b Woakes	47	M. Wood run out (Neesham/Boult)	0
J. Neesham c Root b Plunkett	19	Extras (b2, lb3, w12)	17
C. De Grandhomme c sub (Vince) b Woakes	16	Total (all out, 50 overs)	241
M. Santner not out	5	Fall of wickets: 1-28 (Roy), 2-59 (Root), 3-71 (Bairdow), 4-86 (Morgan), 5-196 (Buttler), 6-203 (Woakes), 7-220 (Plunkett), 8-227 (Archer), 9-240 (Rashid), 10-241 (Wood)	
M. Henry b Archer	4	Bowling: Boult 10-0-67-0 (w2), Henry 10-2-40-1, Grandhomme 10-2-25-1 (w1), Ferguson 10-0-50-3 (w3), Neesham 7-0-43-3 (w1), Santner 3-0-11-0 (w1)	
T. Boult not out	1	<b>Super Over</b>	
Extras (lb12, nb1, w17)	30	<b>England</b>	
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	241	Ben Stokes not out	8
Did not bat: L. Ferguson		Jos Buttler not out	7
Fall of wickets: 1-29 (Guptill), 2-103 (Williamson), 3-118 (Nicholls), 4-141 (Taylor), 5-173 (Neesham), 6-219 (Grandhomme), 7-232 (Latham), 8-240 (Henry)		Total: (1.0 overs)	15-0
Bowling: Woakes 9-0-37-3 (w4, nb1), Archer 10-0-42-1 (w5), Plunkett 10-0-42-3, Woods 10-1-49-1 (w2), Rashid 8-0-39-0, Stokes 3-0-20-0 (w2)		Bowling: Boult 1-0-15-0	
<b>England (target 242)</b>		<b>New Zealand</b>	
J. Roy c Latham b Henry	17	J. Neesham not out	13
J. Bairstow b Ferguson	36	M. Guptill run out (Roy/Buttler)	1
J. Root c Latham b de Grandhomme	7	Extras (w1)	1
E. Morgan c Ferguson b Neesham	9	Total: (1.0 overs)	15-1
B. Stokes not out	84	<b>Bowling:</b> Archer 1-0-15-0 (w1)	
J. Buttler c sub (Southee) b Ferguson	59	<b>Result:</b> England win in Super Over	
		<b>Man of the match:</b> Ben Stokes	

## Djokovic claims fifth Wimbledon title in record-breaking final

LONDON: Novak Djokovic saved two match points to clinch a fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major yesterday, shattering Roger Federer's bid to become the oldest Grand Slam champion in the longest final ever played at the tournament. Despite being outplayed by the 37-year-old Swiss for large parts of the knife-edge encounter, the world number one triumphed 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 13-12 (7/3).

At 4 hours and 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final ever played and settled by a final set tiebreak for the first time. Djokovic is the first man in 71 years to win the title from match points down. He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner. "I think that if this is not the most exciting final then definitely it's in the top two or three of my career against one of the greatest players of all time, Roger, who I respect," said Djokovic. "Unfortunately in this type of match someone has to lose. It is quite unreal to be two match points down to come back and strange to play a tie-break at 12-

12." Djokovic is just four Grand Slam titles shy of the all-time record held by Federer who is more than five years older. It was incredibly tough on Federer, chasing a ninth Wimbledon crown, who didn't face a break point until the eighth game of the fourth set. He even had two match points in the 16th game of the deciding set which lasted over two hours.

"It was long and it had everything. I had answers, so did he and we played some great tennis," said Federer. "I hope I give some other people at 37 the feeling it is not over yet." Djokovic's win meant that the 'Big Three' of men's tennis — himself, Federer and Rafael Nadal — have won the last 11 Slams. He has now won nine of his last 11 clashes against Federer and three of their four Wimbledon meetings. With William and Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge looking on from the Royal Box, Federer carved out the only break point of the opening set. But Djokovic saved it and with serve dominating, the set was decided by the tiebreak.

### Two match points saved

The top seed was 3-1 up, then Federer inched to 5-3 before Djokovic swept the next four points. At 58 minutes, it was two minutes longer than the women's final on Saturday. Djokovic, however, then went completely off the boil, losing his footing as he

was broken in the first game of the second set. Federer broke twice again and after just 25 minutes the final was all-square with Djokovic managing just two winners in the set.

Federer was comfortably on top in the third set, flashing winners from all parts of the court but was unable to convert a set point in the 10th game. Djokovic made him pay. Despite not managing a single break point in the match, he pounced again in the tiebreak to reclaim the lead. Federer wasn't finished. Back came the veteran with a double break for 5-2. Djokovic then carved out his first break points of the match in the eighth game.

The first was saved after a breathtaking 35-shot rally before the Serb finally broke for the first time. It was too little, too late, however, as Federer deservedly leveled the final. Into a tense finale, Federer saved three break points in the fourth game but a drilled, backhand passing shot gave Djokovic the break in the sixth game for a 4-2 lead. The world number one couldn't back it up and Federer had Centre Court on their feet when he restored parity in the next game. Despite twice being just two points from defeat, Federer broke for 8-7 but was unable to serve out for the match. As the clock ticked past the previous longest final of 4 hours and 48 minutes it took Nadal to beat Federer in the



LONDON: Serbia's Novak Djokovic (L) poses with the winner's trophy and Switzerland's Roger Federer (R) holds the runners up plate during the presentation after the men's singles final on day thirteen of the 2019 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club. —AFP

2008 final, the match was decided by the first 12-12 tiebreak in a singles match at the tournament. Djokovic prevailed, moving to three championship

points and claiming victory when Federer shanked a return wide. Federer finished with 25 aces and 94 winners to Djokovic 10 aces and 54 winners. —AFP