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# New Ethiopian Airlines Boeing crashes after takeoff, 157 killed

Passengers from more than 30 countries were on board • Amir sends condolences

## New iqama process begins; names on passport and civil ID should match

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Residency Affairs Maj Gen Talal Maarafi yesterday announced the start of the implementation of ministerial decision 135/2019, which calls for stopping the use of the residency sticker and substituting it with the civil ID. He said the first stage of the decision is being implemented for article 20 visa holders (domestic helpers).

Maarafi said this move is based on the instructions of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to employ the latest technologies, improve the level of services and enable citizens and expats to process transactions online. The undersecretary said any expat with a regular residency permit will not be allowed to enter

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**BISHOFTU, Ethiopia:** A Nairobi-bound Boeing 737 crashed minutes after an early-morning takeoff from Addis Ababa yesterday, killing all eight crew and 149 passengers on board, including tourists, business travellers, and at least one delegate to a UN meeting. Amid a global stream of condolences, many gathered in tears at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), as the victims' identities started to emerge.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed his deepest sympathies yesterday over the crash. The Amir extended his condolences in a cable he sent to Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde, saying he was distraught over the terrible tragedy. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar messages to the Ethiopian leader.

"It is with deep sorrow that I announce that my dear wife, Blanka, son Martin and daughter Michala, died in the air disaster in Addis Ababa this morning," Slovak MP Anton Hrnko wrote on Facebook. People from 35 countries and one UN passport-holder were on board flight ET 302 when it ploughed into a field 60 km southeast of Addis Ababa on what the airline's CEO Tewelde GebreMariam labeled a "very sad and tragic day".

An eyewitness told AFP the plane came down in flames. "The plane was already on fire when it crashed to the ground. The crash caused a big explosion," Tegegn Dechasa recounted at the site, littered

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**BISHOFTU, Ethiopia:** Rescue workers carry bodies in bags at the crash site of an Ethiopian Airlines plane near this town some 60 km southeast of Addis Ababa yesterday. — AFP

## MP threatens action over ports fund

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday threatened to grill two ministers and the prime minister if he does not get proper answers over alleged violations in the ports fund, in which the government holds a majority stake. Adasani said he sent questions over the issue to the minister of commerce, who supervises the fund, and the finance minister about the

Continued on Page 24

## Dasman Diabetes Institute holds French Diabetes Days conference



**KUWAIT:** Country Chair and General Manager for Sanofi in the Gulf Jean Paul Scheuer is seen with CEO of Central Circle Co Dr Ziad Al-Alyan at the French Diabetes Days conference.

**KUWAIT:** Dasman Diabetes Institute, founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, recently organized the French Diabetes Days conference in collaboration with the French Embassy in Kuwait, Sanofi, URGO Medical and Universite Cote d'Azur. The conference was held at the Institute on March 10 and 11, 2019. The conference offered participants a platform to discuss the latest issues and findings on diabetes and its complications and opportunities for networking and forming new partnerships. Many international guest speakers from Imperial College, Weill Cornell and Nice University made presentations at the conference, in addition to chairpersons and speakers from the Institute, Kuwait University and the ministry of health.

The conference was launched with an opening ceremony speech delivered by Dr Qais Al Duwairi, Director General, Dasman Diabetes Institute. It was followed by speeches delivered by Marie Masdupuy, the Ambassador of France to Kuwait, Jean Paul Scheuer, Country Chair & General Manager for Sanofi in Gulf



**Ambassador of France to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy addresses the conference.**

Countries, Francois Regis Jan, CEEMEA Director, URGO Medical and Charles Guepratte, Chief Executive Officer, Nice University Centre, France. (See Page 3)

## News in brief

### 2,200 deportations in 2019

**KUWAIT:** Security sources said around 2,200 Arab and Asian expats were deported in January and February 2019. Expats are usually deported for violating residency or labor laws or involvement in criminal cases including traffic violations, felonies and crimes. The sources said that some sponsors cooperate with the authorities and purchase tickets for their workers from travel agencies at the deportation prison, which has helped accelerate the process to three days to a maximum of one week before the detainees are deported. — A Saleh

### Tunisia health minister quits

**TUNIS:** Tunisia's health minister has resigned after the sudden deaths of 11 newborn babies at a state maternity hospital sparked an outcry in the country, the government said. Prime Minister Youssef Chahed accepted Abderraouf Cherif's resignation, the premier's office said on Facebook late on Saturday. Leading newspaper Essafa yesterday cried foul and compared the deaths of the babies to a "state crime". A medical association said the sudden deaths could have been caused by a food product that had gone bad. — AFP

### General named Egypt transport minister

**CAIRO:** Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said yesterday he would appoint a senior military officer as transport minister after a recent train crash at Cairo's central station killed 22 people. Major General Kamel Al-Wazir's selection comes after a backlash from a Feb 27 crash at Ramses central station, which forced former transport minister Hisham Arafat to resign. "I'm handing over this (transport) portfolio to one of the best army officers," said Sisi. Wazir has been the head of the Egyptian military's engineering authority since 2015. — AFP

## India to hold mega-election from April 11

**NEW DELHI:** India will hold a general election in seven stages starting on April 11, the election commission said yesterday, in what will be the world's biggest democratic exercise with Prime Minister Narendra Modi likely to benefit from tensions with Pakistan. About 900 million citizens will be eligible to vote, 15

million of them aged between 18 and 19, in a mammoth exercise lasting more than a month. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said at a press briefing in the capital New Delhi yesterday.

Until a few weeks ago, a shortage of jobs and weak farm prices were seen denting Modi's popularity. But pollsters say his ruling Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) now has a clear advantage after India's armed forces clashed with those of archrival Pakistan last month, triggering a wave of patriotic fervor across the country of 1.3 billion.

Of the 543 parliamentary seats up

for grabs, 241 could go to Modi's ruling alliance, compared with 141 to the Congress party-led opposition alliance, according to a nationwide survey of 50,000 people by the CVoter polling agency conducted over the past four weeks. "The Hindi heartland - barring Uttar Pradesh - has charged up due to the Pakistan issue," said Yashwant Deshmukh, founder of CVoter, referring to the northern state of Uttar Pradesh that sends the largest number of lawmakers to India's lower house of parliament and is a key battleground for the election.

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**Narendra Modi**

## Netanyahu says Israel 'not a state of all its citizens'

**JERUSALEM:** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in full campaign mode ahead of April 9 polls, yesterday said Israel "was not a state of all its citizens" in a reference to the country's Arab population. The prime minister, in comments on Instagram, went on to say all citizens, including Arabs, had equal rights, but referred to a deeply controversial law passed last year declaring Israel the nation-state of the Jewish people. "Israel is not a state of all its citizens," Netanyahu wrote in response to comments

from an Israeli actress. "According to the basic nationality law we passed, Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people - and only it. As you wrote, there is no problem with the Arab citizens of Israel. They have equal rights like all of us and the Likud government has invested more in the Arab sector than any other government," he said of his rightwing party.

As the comments caused waves in Israel, Netanyahu again spoke of the issue at the start of a cabinet meeting, making similar comments. He called Israel a "Jewish, democratic state" with equal rights, but "the nation-state not of all its citizens, but only of the Jewish people". Netanyahu has been accused of demonizing Israeli Arabs, who make up some 17.5 percent of the population, ahead of April polls in a bid to boost rightwing turnout. He has continually

warned that his opponents will receive the support of Arab parties and that they will make significant concessions to the Palestinians.

Netanyahu, under threat of indictment for corruption, is facing a tough challenge from a centrist political alliance led by former military chief of staff Benny Gantz and ex-finance minister Yair Lapid. The alliance's centrist positions and its security credentials - it includes three former military chiefs of staff - have helped it beat back Netanyahu's claims that its leaders are "weak" leftists.

Arab parties would be extremely unlikely to be part of any coalition government after elections. Arab Israelis are Palestinians who remained on their land after the 1948 creation of Israel and are largely supportive of the Palestinian cause. — AFP



**Benjamin Netanyahu**

## Local



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 Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.



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



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

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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received the President of the Judicial Higher Council and President of the Court of Cassation and Constitutional Court of Justice Yousuf Al-Mutawa. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Speaker

Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, and Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad. He also received Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. — KUNA

### Defense Minister meets French envoy

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah held talks yesterday with France's Ambassador to the Gulf state Marie Masdupuy. The talks revolved around issues of mutual concern, according to a statement issued by the Kuwaiti defense ministry.

Separately, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah met with the United States' Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the latest regional and international developments of common concerns. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Assistant Foreign Minister for America's Affairs Minister Plenipotentiary Reem Al-Khaled.

In the meantime, Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf met with Ambassador of the UK Michael Davenport, discussing with him ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the economic field. According to a press statement by the Ministry of Finance, the meeting also touched on the outcomes of the 'Jordan: Growth and Opportunity London 2019' conference, which was held in February. Meanwhile, the minister met with Ambassadors of Slovakia Igor Hajdusek, Hungary Dr Istvan Gyula Soos, and Armenia Sarmen Baghdasaryan, discussing with them the resumption of joint committees meetings aimed at boosting economic cooperation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with France's Ambassador to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy. — KUNA photos



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman.

### Speaker heads to Rabat for PUIC meeting

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday left for Rabat to attend the 14th conference of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Member States (PUIC) which starts today and runs through Thursday. Speaker Ghanem is set to deliver a

speech at the conference, as well as participate in the Arab group coordination meeting on the sidelines of the conference. Al-Dostour news network said in a statement. The delegation will also take part in sub and permanent committee meetings on Palestine, political affairs, foreign relations, human and women rights, 8th meeting of the Muslim Women Parliamentarians and the second meeting of the secretaries general of member parliaments. Ghanem's accompanying delegation includes MPs Rakan Al-Nisf, Dr Awdah Al-Rowaie, Mohammad Al-Dalal, Nayef Al-Ajmi, Ali Al-Doqbasi, Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie, Nasser Al-Dosari and Safa Al-Hashem. — KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem leaves for Rabat to attend the 14th conference of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Member States. — KUNA

### Kuwait a role model in religious tolerance

KUWAIT: Since its inception, Kuwait has been a model in several aspects, especially the religious tolerance through the multiplicity of religions and sects on the Kuwaiti land. In 2019, the 'Year of Tolerance' as the UAE described. KUNA highlights the bright side of Kuwait and Kuwaitis in tolerance, which is a milestone in the history of Kuwait through justice and equality without any religious, racial or gender discrimination.

On this regard, Abdullah Al-Shoreka, Director-General of Wasatia (moderation) Centre of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, said that tolerance is a cornerstone of Islamic law, stressing that Islam emphasizes the preservation of the rights of all people without distinction. Islamic history abound with many examples in this regard, as it allowed non-Muslims to establish their religious rites according to Sharia principles, noting that Kuwait as a Muslim country took

that process, he added. Shoreka pointed out that tolerance in all its forms is evident in this benevolent country, thanks to the laws that govern it, especially in the organization of affairs of worship and religions.

**Great example in peace**  
Meanwhile, Emmanuel Gharib, the chairman of the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait, stressed that Kuwait is a great example in peace thanks to its people's tolerance with all the residents on its land. "The diversity of religions, languages and cultures should not be a cause of conflicts, but should be a treasure that enriches all mankind," he added. Bibi Ashour, Kuwait Society for Human Fraternity's Secretary, said that tolerance has an important role to play in the advancement and development of any society as it rejects all forms of intolerance and discrimination. The Society aims at developing a culture of fraternity and coexistence among the components of the community and combating all



Abdullah Al-Shoreka



Emmanuel Gharib



Bibi Ashour

forms of intolerance and racial discrimination, she added.

In last December, UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Al-Nahyan announced 2019 as the year of tolerance, to consider the value of tolerance as sustainable institutional action through a set of legislation and policies aimed at deepening the values of dialogue and accepting the other. Finally, in recent days, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in their recent meeting, they declared and praised "the initiative of the UAE President, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, to name the year 2019 as a Year of Tolerance in UAE, and decide to mark the date of 11th March of each year as a day of tolerance in all OIC member states. — KUNA

### Japan can help Kuwait in knowledge-based industries: Envoy

KUWAIT: Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki said that his country is ready to cooperate with Kuwait in the fields of industries pertinent to knowledge and innovation. The ambassador made the remark during a symposium organized by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) yesterday on Japanese automaker Toyota's success stories.

He commended Kuwaiti-Japanese relations as having been 'deep and distinguished' in various fields over six decades, adding that the event focused on how the Japanese car maker counts on non-material aspects in management like culture and human relations.

The Japanese ambassador boasted that Toyota's success gives impressive lessons that should be tapped by entrepreneurs in building successful institutions. He also spoke highly of Kuwait's eagerness to encourage and spur young people to get engaged in diverse domains and create sustainable eco-



Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki

nom activities that could contribute to putting Kuwait's 2035 development vision in place. — KUNA

Local

# Dasman Diabetes Institute holds French Diabetes Days conference

Platform to discuss the latest issues and findings on diabetes

**KUWAIT:** Dasman Diabetes Institute, founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, has recently organized the French Diabetes Days Conference in collaboration with the French Embassy in Kuwait, Sanofi, URGO Medical and Université Côte d'Azur. The conference was held at the Institute on 10th and 11th March 2019. This conference offered participants with a platform to discuss the latest issues and findings on diabetes and its complications, opportunities for networking and forming new partnerships. Many international guest speakers from Imperial College, Weill Cornell, Nice University presented at the conference, in addition to chairpersons and speakers from the Institute, Kuwait University and the Ministry of Health.

The conference was launched with the opening ceremony speech delivered by Dr Qais Al-Duwairi, Director General, Dasman Diabetes Institute. It was followed by speeches delivered by Marie Masdupuy, the Ambassador of France to Kuwait, Jean-Paul Scheuer, Country Chair and General Manager for Sanofi in Gulf Countries, Francois Régis Jan, CEEMEA Director, URGO Medical and Charles Guepratte, Chief Executive Officer, Nice University Centre, France.



**In collaboration with the French Embassy**

**Important effort**

Jean-Paul Scheuer, Country Chair and General Manager for Sanofi in Gulf Countries commented, "Together with Dasman Diabetes Institute and the Embassy of France in Kuwait, we are pleased to hold the first-ever French Diabetes Days conference in the country. Facilitated by eminent international and local speakers, this important educational effort will surely facilitate robust scientific discussions on diabetes management and ultimately benefit patients. At Sanofi, we strongly value and support partnership efforts that further our long-standing commitment to healthcare in Kuwait and globally."

Dr Qais Al-Duwairi, Director General of Dasman Diabetes Institute stated that "Dasman Diabetes

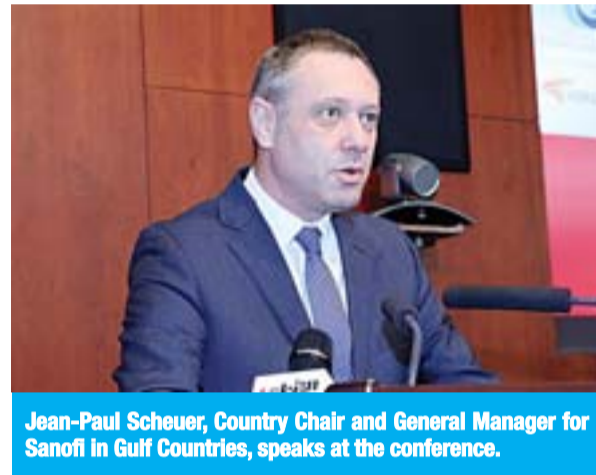
Institute and its strategic collaborations with Sanofi and the Embassy of France in Kuwait, strives to accomplish its Mission. We also aim to empower the medical and scientific communities with the latest clinical guidelines, research findings and applications. We aspire to develop educational frameworks and awareness-raising programs that make a difference in our healthcare system."

**10 presentations**

The conference consisted of more than 10 presentations: "Diabetes: Is it All in the Fat?" by Dr Sara Suliaman, Consultant Endocrinologist, Imperial College, Abu Dhabi, "Nutritional Aspect of Diabetes" by Dr Nicola Guess, Head Of Nutrition, Dasman Diabetes Institute, "Management of Obesity in the Diabetes Clinic" by Dr Ebba Al Ozairi, Chief Medical Officer, Dasman Diabetes Institute, "Managing Diabetes: Guidelines Approach" by Professor Stephen Atkin, Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar, "What Type of Diabetes is it Anyway? A Look Through Genetics" by Dr Sara Suliaman, Consultant Endocrinologist, Imperial College, Abu Dhabi, "Getting the Patient Excited About Crossing The Bridge: Motivational Counseling" by Dr Abdulla Al-Ozairi, Assistant Professor, Kuwait University, "Polycystic Ovaries - An Update" by Professor Stephen Atkin, Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar, "Diabetes and Pregnancy" by Dr Abdulmohsen Al-Shammari, Head of Education and Training, Dasman Diabetes Institute, "Exploring the Future of Diabetic Foot", by Marco Meloni, Resident in Diabetic Foot, Nuova Villa Claudia Clinic, Italy and Emilio Galea, International Medical Director, URGO Medical, UAE, "Fellowship Programs in France" Guillaume Huart, French Regional Counselor for Health, Middle East, and finally "Presentation of Fellowship Programs at Nice University Centre, France, by Professor Thierry Piche, Chief Medical Officer, Nice University Centre, France and Professor Nicolas Chevalier, Head of Endocrinology/Diabetes, Nice



**KUWAIT:** Officials attend the French Diabetes Days Conference, organized by the Dasman Diabetes Institute.



**Jean-Paul Scheuer, Country Chair and General Manager for Sanofi in Gulf Countries, speaks at the conference.**



**Dr Qais Al-Duwairi, Director General, Dasman Diabetes Institute, delivers a speech.**

University Centre, France. The conference was concluded with questions and answers. The conference was well attended by many

healthcare professionals, scientists, researchers and others from all over Kuwait. The conference was accredited by KIMS with 8 CME credits.

## Gulf Bank goes green with continued Qout Market's sponsorship

**KUWAIT:** The second Qout Market of 2019, took place on March 9, 2019, in Kuwait's Safat Square. The market saw renewed focus on the environment, as Gulf Bank went green with a unique initiative highlighting both sustainability and the environment.



**Ahmad Al-Amir**

Alongside fun featured activities, the Bank hosted a full spring experience, featuring a stunning garden and spring-themed photobooth, as well as a unique planting workshop. As visitors enjoyed the striking scenery of the garden, accompanied by live music, they were invited to take part in a planting workshop. The workshop saw visitors choose a leaf seed, before being guided on soil planting and care. In addition to the workshop, Gulf Bank set up an innovative outdoor recycling station, furthering its commitment to the environment.

Commenting on the initiative, Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications, Gulf Bank, said: "Gulf Bank has always maintained a strong commitment to the care of our environment, and through our partnership with Qout Market, we are proud to promote the importance and ease of going green. We would like to thank everyone who joined us on Saturday, and we look forward to spreading the message of our mission and working together to protect Kuwait's environment."

Founded in 2013, Qout Market has become a national fixture on the social calendar attracting over 18,000 regional and local visitors in previous seasons. Initially established to provide a versatile space bringing together artisanal farmers from different backgrounds, the market has developed into a platform of diversity. Offering a full rounded market experience suitable for every member of the community and attracting, incubating, and highlighting the incredible spectrum of Kuwait's local artisan community.



## NBK organizes annual carnival at Bayt Abdullah

**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized its annual carnival at the Children's Hospice Project Bayt Abdullah. NBK takes great pride in celebrating with children at Bayt Abdullah. NBK has always considered supporting the children as an essential part of its social and philanthropic outreach. NBK is proud of its support and cooperation with Bayt Abdullah. This project does not only look after children with terminal conditions, it goes deep in to recognizing how to manage their pain rather than sedate it. Children enjoyed many fun activities in the carnival that was titled "Safari Festival". Many fun games and challenges occurred.

Since its establishment, NBK has been at the forefront of supporting Kuwait's community through a range of education, health, sports and social initiatives. NBK's Children Hospital at Al Sabah Medical Area stands as one of many NBK initiatives for children. Also, NBK expanded



the hospital capacity by building the first of its kind in Kuwait, the independent marrow transplant center at NBK's Children Hospital, in order to treat children with cancer and blood diseases.

Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice was designed to accommodate the needs of children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families, in Kuwait. The hospice is part of a continuum of care that offers children and their families the maximum freedom of choice without compromising the quality of that care, whether at home in hospital or within the hospice itself.



## KJA holds General Assembly, board elections

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Journalist Association's (KJA) General Assembly will hold its meeting today at its temporary premise, Balagh newspaper building, opposite Khaldiya. The General Assembly will discuss the administrative and financial reports, and will hold the board of directors' elections for the years 2019-2020 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Nine candidates are competing for seven seats. They include seven candidate representing Al-Jamee list: Fatima Hussein, Adnan Al-Rashid, Jassim Kamal, Dhairan Aba Al-Khail, Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Rabiaa Al-Jumaa, and Owayed Al-Enezi; In addition to two independent candidates: Hiba Al-Taweel, Najem Al-Shimmari.

## Kuwait Consulate opens in New York

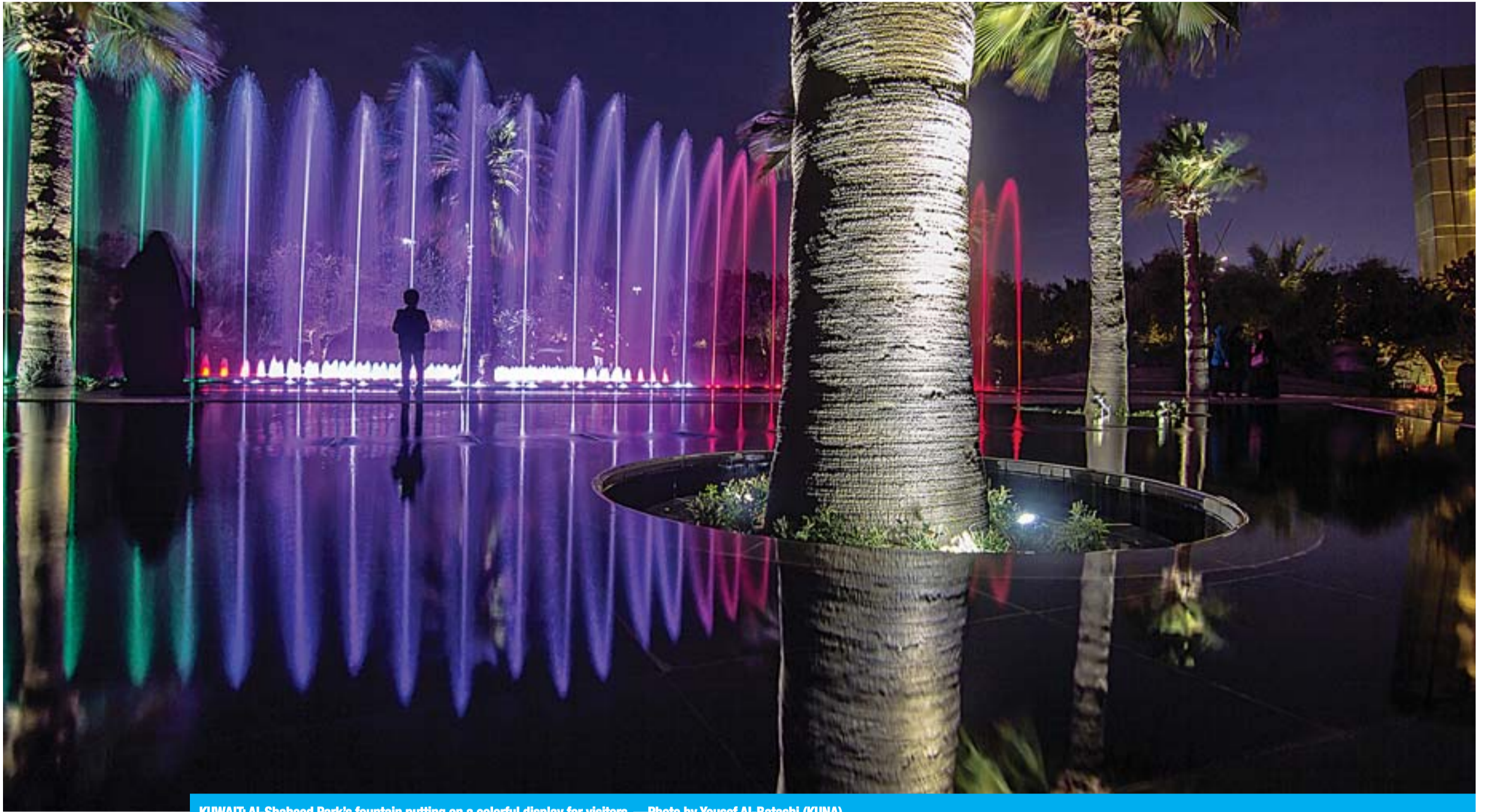
**NEW YORK:** The State of Kuwait's Consulate in New York has announced the start of consular services for citizens as of today, hoping the opening of the mission would further boost economic, trade and investment relations. Consular General Hamad Al-Hazeem expressed in a statement hopes opening of the Kuwait Consulate in New York "will promote economic, trade and investment relations between the city, which is considered the world's economic hub, and the State of Kuwait."

The consulate, he added, would contribute to new horizons in relations and cooperation between Kuwait and the US. New York City has many investment capabilities and opportunities in different sectors, he said, and the consulate would facilitate communication between Kuwait investors and their counterparts in the city.

Hazeem hoped the consulate would contribute to promotion of investment opportunities within New Kuwait Vision 2035, thus honoring His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's vision to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub. —KUNA

## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Al-Shaheed Park's fountain putting on a colorful display for visitors. —Photo by Yousef Al-Batashi (KUNA)

# Sharakah Forum underway: Creating shared value through collaboration

Featuring discussion panel about sustainability in the digital transformation era

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The sixth edition of Sharakah Forum organized by the Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO Holding) from March 10 to 13, 2019 was launched yesterday at Salwa Ballroom. Sharakah is a unique project in the region. "This forum is a yearly platform developed by KIPCO to bring together key stakeholders involved in the field of social responsibility in Kuwait with the aim to foster the creation of shared value through collaboration and capacity building," said Abeer Al-Omar, Group CSR Director at KIPCO, during the opening ceremony.

This year's forum includes a main discussion panel about sustainability in the digital transformation era with leading executives from the public, private and non-profit sectors. "We are keen to hold this forum annually and to continue our work so we all together make a difference in developing our community. We will exchange knowledge, experience, and ideas between decision makers and project directors, which will improve the sustainable development of our community," added Omar.

Sharakah Forum has two main goals. "To stay in touch for sustainable partnership for a better community, and the second is highlighting the latest development issues and bringing up innovative solutions and new ideas. In the past few years, sustainable development has become one of the most important issues due to the challenges facing humanity in all fields. Also, we believe that the private sector is the main source for development and charity work around the world," she explained.

"This event builds on the efforts already undertaken by KIPCO group - for example in last year's CSR Forum - to bring together key players involved in social responsibility in Kuwait in order to take our work in this field to the next level and increase our impact and efficiency



KUWAIT: Abeer Al-Omar, Group CSR Director at KIPCO, speaks during the ceremony. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

through greater coordination and collaboration. We are proud to be leading the way in this arena, and hope to be able to contribute effectively to HH the Amir's New Kuwait vision for 2035, which emphasizes the role of partnerships in the road to development," stressed Omar.

The forum will also include a networking opportunity titled Mix and Mingle, allowing NGOs to have the opportunity to communicate directly with representatives from the private sector. "This platform creates opportunities for NGO representatives to meet new companies and provides them with an opportunity to explain their strategy as non-governmental organizations," she pointed out. "Private sector representatives will be able to share their platform and aspirations as a company and have direct access to different NGOs, making connections for future collaborations in the CSR department," concluded Omar.

In addition to Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan, Vice-Chairman (Executive) of KIP-



Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan (center) and other officials attend a discussion panel that followed the opening speech.

CO Faisal Al-Ayyar, Deputy Director General of KFAS Salem Al-Hajraf and CEO of Qatar Foundation for Social Work Amal Al-Mannai participated in the discussion panel that followed the opening speech. The one-day forum is followed by three days of workshops offered by KIPCO and KFAS to non-profit organizations and social entrepreneurs interested in increasing their financial sustainability.

The workshops will be delivered by local, regional and international trainers, and will cover the following topics: Towards Digital Transformation: Tactical

Technology Planning; User Centered Design for Social Impact; Bridging the Gap between Strategy and Operations; Digital Responsibility and Security; The Data Informed Organization, and Speed Networking for Digitalization. The aim of these workshops is to contribute to strengthening the role of local non-profits and increasing their ability to acquire resources to promote their causes.

The Sharakah Forum and Workshops are free of charge to all participating organizations. Attendance is by invitation only.

## Official highlights media's role in combating narcotics

KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information for Media Planning and Knowledge Development Affairs said Saturday the combat against narcotics depends primarily on promotion of public awareness about the risks of this menace. The youth-oriented short movies, circulated on traditional of new media, have to focus on the health hazards posed by smoking and drug addiction, Khaled Al-Rashidi said at the award ceremony of the Second Mentor Arabia Short Movie Competition. He was speaking on behalf of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri at the Kuwait

National Library. The competition, part of Kuwait National Youth Project, was held under the theme of 'Awareness against Risky Behaviors and Drugs.'

Rashidi renewed the support of the Ministry of Information to noble message entailed in the innovative works of art that participated in the competition, saying that these movies would be screened on Kuwait TV channels. Regarding the awards, 'Sulalah' (strain) - a documentary directed by Maha Moussa, of Palestine, won the top prize. In the promotional tier, No Smoking, directed by Jordan's Heba Najjar, won the top award. In the feature film tier, 'Lait,' directed by Asil Sawb, of Jordan, won the top award. In the Kuwaiti film tier, 'Hajar Ala Al-Tariq (stone on the road), directed by Mohamad Al-Baloushi won the top award. Launched in 2017, Mentor Arabia Short Movie Competition is a regional initiative aiming to encourage the Arab filmmakers to produce substantive movies that could educate the youngsters against risky behaviors. —KUNA



KUWAIT: A general view of the audience at the award ceremony of the Second Mentor Arabia Short Movie Competition. —KUNA

Local

# Expats make up 3.9 percent of public works ministry's workforce

## Security cameras to be installed in 37 new facilities

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Jenan Bushehri said the total number of expats working for the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) since 2016 make up only 3.9 percent of the ministry's total manpower. In a memo addressing the parliament, Bushehri stressed that expats work in engineering, legal, financial, technical and legal consultancy jobs and that they have all been appointed upon the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) approval. She added that MPW only renewed the contracts of 28 percent of the expats because it needs their specialties until they can be replaced by citizens. "Expat technicians older than 55 will be replaced by citizens soon," she added. In a related development, Minister of Justice and Minister

of State for National Assembly Affairs Fahd Al-Afasi said as part of the ministry's Kuwaitization strategy, the contracts of 62 expats will be terminated soon.

### New schools

Well-informed educational sources said that the Ministry of Education (MoE) is about to receive 21 new school buildings and work on furnishing and equipping them is on to join service as soon as possible. "Some schools will be ready by the beginning of the next school year and others by the beginning of the second term," the sources explained. The sources added that the new schools include 11 in Ahmadi educational area (six in Wafra and five in Sabah Al-Ahmad), followed by seven in the Capital educational area, two in Farwaniya and one in Jahra. "Given that each school needs 70-100 teach-

ers, MoE will surely need at least 1,000 teachers to run the new schools," the sources added, noting that priority will be for Kuwaitis, followed by GCC nationals and bedoons, then expats, adding that hiring teachers from outside Kuwait will be the last resort.

### Security cameras

The Cabinet issued a resolution adding 37 facilities to be included in law number 61/2015 pertaining regulating the installation of CCTV and security cameras. The new list includes mosques, places of worship, marinas, shooting ranges, oil facilities, oilfields, refineries, fuel reservoirs, oil ports, infrastructure facilities such as power and water desalination plants, gas plants, sewage purification plants, irrigation units, telecom



Minister Jenan Bushehri

centers, marine, land and air exits, Kuwaiti islands, artificial marine structures, the seafloor, custom warehouses, diplomatic areas, radio and TV facilities, KUNA premises, satellite TV and radio stations, educational facilities, free trade zones, public transport buses and ferries, health facilities, ambulances, press and publication houses, industrial areas, public libraries, labor hostels, the scrap market, investment and commercial residential complexes, markets, marine and sports clubs, spas, gyms, recreation centers, museums, theatres and cinemas, Kuwait bourse, mobile ATM trucks, money transport trucks, parking spaces and buildings, charities, NGOs, touristic facilities, parks, conservations, cafes, wedding halls, cemeteries and stores selling military and marine, fishing and hunting equipment.

### Corruption charge

Kuwait Ports Authority urged Kuwait Municipality to clear Fintas harbor and filed a report to the Public Anticorruption Authority (Nazaha), accusing the fishermen's diwaniya of collecting money from the boats docked there.

### Verdict annulled

The court of cassation yesterday annulled a previous verdict by the court of appeal acquitting a TV announcer and the program producer from charges of accusing former MP Ahmad Al-Khateeb of corruption during his parliamentary membership. The court fined each of the defendants KD 3,000.

### Fatal crash

A Kuwaiti man was killed when his vehicle collided with a tanker truck on Abdaly Road, Al-Rai reported yesterday. Concerned authorities are investigating.

### Escape

A Saudi man put a passport official and the gate officer in trouble when he took his daughters without the knowledge of their husbands out of Salmi border exit using the civil IDs of their sisters, who live in Kuwait. The Saudi arrived in Kuwait and took back his daughters due to differences they had with their husbands. One of the husbands discovered his wife had escaped, so he called police and lodged a complaint against his father-in-law, Al-Rai reported. Investigations are ongoing.

## KFH collaborates with COFE App to add more value to coffee lovers' lives

**KUWAIT:** As a pioneer in all digital transformation initiatives, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues supporting cooperation and partnership agreements, and social and economic sponsorships to keep up with the digital development. Based on the significant growth rates that mobile applications have and the global prevalence they have achieved, KFH has signed a cooperation and partnership agreement with COFE App, Kuwait's favorite online coffee marketplace app. The agreement reinforces KFH's efforts to support local entrepreneurship initiatives and youth ideas.

The KFH Golden COFE Contest is the first initiative under the year-long partnership between the two powerhouse brands. Whenever a user orders their coffee using the COFE App, then win an entry into the weekly \$1000 cash prize draw. The more a coffee-lover uses the app, the greater their chances of winning. Over the year, KFH will be awarding over \$50,000 through this contest.

Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH's partnership with COFE App confirms the bank's interest in supporting Kuwaiti youth projects, Online Apps and innovative entrepreneurship initiatives. He also praised KFH's record of supporting initiatives that add value to the economy, enhance the business environment and develop youth skills and their innovative initiatives.



**KUWAIT:** Yousef Al-Ruwaieh and Ali Al-Ebrahim sign the agreement at the KFH headquarters in Kuwait.

Ruwaieh added that COFE App has shown tangible success in a short period of time, stressing KFH's keenness to partner for such companies and contribute to their growth and success. "KFH is always aiming to support young people and innovation. The COFE App, developed and run by young Kuwaiti team, provides users with an innovative user interface and distinctive services. Having realized COFE App's potential, KFH decided to sign the partnership agreement. We are looking forward to exploring the various opportunities this partnership will provide," he mentioned.

Ruwaieh said that the partnership will include exclusive offers and discounts for KFH customers and COFE App users as part of its strategy to improve the customers experience, service excellence and achieve their aspirations.

"KFH has supported many initiatives to promote youth activities, entrepreneurship and innovation, participating in events that support technology and digital solutions, including the KFH People's Choice Start-Up Award, the first award of its kind in Kuwait, which went to (Serrap). Also, KFH signed a partnership agreement with the special football app (Li3ib), launched by a group of young Kuwaiti initiators.

KFH was a Platinum Sponsor in the third edition of ArabNet Kuwait and signed a strategic partnership with CODED Juniors Summer Camp that aims at teaching children the basics of coding and technology using the latest tools. KFH continuously invests in technology, promote the digital transformation and startup initiatives and improve the entrepreneurial environment," he explained.

Meanwhile, Ali Al-Ebrahim, Founder and CEO, COFE App said, "Our purpose has always been to add more choice and ease to our app users' lives. We are a lifestyle app that encourages the budding coffee culture in Kuwait. The Golden COFE Contest is our way of adding an element of fun and surprise to the one thing people do every single day - Get COFE. We thank KFH for believing in us, and for helping us bring to our users, a little more than just COFE."

COFE App enables customers to order and pay for their coffee online. With the app users can get COFE at the coffee shop counter, office, car, classroom, hospital, and airport departures or have it delivered to their preferred address. The entire selection and purchasing process takes place in the app, which offers comprehensive menus and drink customization options.

## Two freed from under fallen container

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Firemen rescued two persons who were trapped under a refrigerated container that fell on them in Jahra. The container was affixed to a steel base, and was filled with excess weight on one side, so it tipped over. The rescue operation was complicated and needed skilled firemen to ensure the safety of the workers. The container was lifted carefully and the two were freed without being harmed.

### Bridge collapse

The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said yesterday that part of a bridge on King Fahad Road had collapsed, and authorities worked on cleaning it up to restore traffic flow. No injuries were reported in the incident.



**KUWAIT:** Firefighters help remove a refrigerated container that fell on two persons in Jahra.

## 2,170 dialysis patients in Kuwait

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The total number of dialysis patients in Kuwait is around 2,170 with an annual increase of 8 percent, said the head of kidney diseases and transplants at Hamed Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center, Dr Turki Al-Otaibi. Speaking on the occasion of World Kidney Day, observed on the second Thursday of March, Otaibi said the day will be marked from Wednesday for two days under the motto 'Kidney Health For Everybody Everywhere', adding that an

international health campaign will be launched to boost public awareness on kidneys and reducing kidney diseases.

Otaibi said that the ceremonies will include specialized scientific lectures to be delivered by local and foreign experts focusing on kidney diseases, prevention, diagnosis and best treatments. He added that the ceremonies will also highlight the main reasons of the increase in chronic kidney diseases and their relation with diabetes, hypertension and cardiac diseases. He noted that a special booth at The Avenues mall will be set up on Thursday to address the public directly and respond to their inquiries.

Otaibi said that there are around 830 million kidney patients around the world and that the cost of dealing with the disease in the US alone is \$114 million annually. He also noted that Hamed Al-Essa Center conducted 70 kidney transplants in 2018.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Services Directorate Acting Director General Maj Gen Khalid Al-Tarkeet launched an accidents damage estimation course that is being held from March 10 to 14, and 20 persons are participating. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

## Entrance, exit on Airport Road closed

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The traffic department in cooperation with Public Authority for Roads and Transport will close the entrance and exit across from the Civil Service Commission's building on Airport Road on Wednesday, March 13, for 45 days to complete the final work on the Jahra road project. The alternative roads are: Entrance to Jahra road before the foreign ministry authentications building; Entrance to Jamal Abdul-Nasser Road with Abdulrahman Al-Bader Road; Entrance to Second Ring Road opposite Road 61.



**KUWAIT:** A map released by the Interior Ministry showing the closed entrance, exit and road (in yellow).

### APPOINTMENT OF SPONSOR IN KUWAIT

Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) invites application from reputable and financially sound firms / companies for appointment of Sponsor in Kuwait With reference to the request for Proposal (RFP). Such firms / Companies must meet the minimum laid down requirements / documentation, as per the detail given in RFP available on PIA website [www.piac.com.pk](http://www.piac.com.pk) and [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk). PIACL reserves the right to reject or accept any or all application; however, the reason for the same will be communicated on request. Interested parties may send their application along with complete proposal (Two sets) for Sponsor appointment on the following address through registered mail or courier service within 30 days from the date of publishing advertisement in sealed envelopes clearly marked as 'Appointment of Sponsor in Kuwait'. Application will be opened on 30th day on completion of one month from the date of publishing advertisement. Application must accompany copies of documents as advised in the RFP and should be in English. Incomplete application shall not be entertained. For any query please contact the undersigned. Deputy General Manager, Agency Affairs Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited Room# 202-A, PIA Head Office Building Karachi Airport, Pakistan Tel: +92 21 9904 4969 Email: [khispak@piac.aero](mailto:khispak@piac.aero)

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# International

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019



Democracy, DPRK style:  
N Korea holds election

## 'Brexit in peril' as British PM faces heavy defeat

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ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani journalist watches a video released by Pakistan's Navy that allegedly shows an Indian submarine, on a smartphone in Islamabad. Pakistan has stopped an Indian submarine from entering its waters, the navy said on March 5, as tensions continue to run high between the nuclear-armed foes. — AFP

# India, Russia ink \$3 billion submarine deal

## India to lease nuclear-powered submarine for 10 years

**NEW DELHI:** India has signed a \$3 billion deal to lease a third Russian nuclear-powered submarine for 10 years, giving Delhi a boost in the Indian Ocean against arch-rivals Pakistan and China, media reports said. The deal - which according to the reports took months to negotiate - comes as tensions run high between India and Pakistan following their biggest standoff in years, and as Chinese influence grows in the region. A defense ministry spokesman declined to confirm the agreement to AFP but the reports said that the submarine, the third India has leased from Russia, would be delivered by 2025.

Russia, India's Cold War ally, remains a major supplier of arms to India, irking the United States which has imposed sanctions on nations buying military hardware from Moscow. Last October

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met and inked a deal for Delhi to buy Russia's S-400 surface-to-air missile defence system for \$5.2 billion. But India also shares US fears about China's growing assertiveness in the Indian Ocean, where New Delhi has traditionally held sway.

In 2017 India and China had a military standoff over a Himalayan plateau claimed by both Beijing and Bhutan, a close ally of India. China has made inroads in Sri Lanka and Maldives, countries that India considers to be in its sphere of influence, through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India has raised concerns about the initiative as a major section passes through Pakistan-administered Kashmir, a disputed territory which

was again the fuse for the latest crisis. On February 26 India said its warplanes



**Political parties asked to stop using armed forces images**

hit a militant training camp in Pakistan in response to a suicide bombing in Kashmir, which killed 40 paramilitary officers and was claimed by a militant group based in

Pakistan. Pakistan a day later carried out its own air raid, triggering a dogfight in which an Indian plane was shot down. India also says it shot down a Pakistan plane but Islamabad denied this. Tensions cooled after Pakistan last Friday returned the Indian pilot of the downed aircraft, although both nations have continued to fire shells and mortars over their de-facto Kashmir border.

Meanwhile, India's election commission issued a notice asking political parties not to use images of the country's armed forces in their campaign posters and other advertising during its upcoming general election. The notice followed pictures posted to social media recently showing the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party used images in their cam-

aign posters of a captured Indian Air Force pilot recently returned by Pakistan after a clash with India over the disputed Kashmir territory.

The Election Commission said in a notice on its website on Saturday that political parties must refrain from using photographs of defense personnel in advertisements or their election campaign propaganda as the armed forces are "apolitical and neutral stakeholders in a modern democracy." The commission cited a 2013 order that said photographs of defense personnel should not be used "in any manner in advertisement/propaganda/campaigning or in any other manner in connections with elections by political parties and candidates." It called for "strict compliance" with the order. — Agencies



VILLAVICENCIO: Photo shows members of civil defense at the site of a plane DC-3 crash in San Martin, northeast of Colombia. — AFP

## Colombian plane crashes; 12 dead

**BOGOTA:** A plane crash in Colombia killed 12 people on Saturday, including a mayor and her family, aviation and emergency services said. The Douglas DC-3 aircraft, an American-made twin-engine propeller plane that was first produced in the 1930s, crashed in the center-east of the country on a flight between the towns of San Jose del Guaviare and Villavicencio. A fire department official told AFP it then caught fire.

"Unfortunately... there were no survivors," the Aeronautica Civil aviation authority said, adding that the wreckage was found close to Villavicencio. Among the victims was the mayor of the municipality of Taraira, Doris Villegas, and her husband

and daughter, as well as the owner of the aircraft, pilot Jaime Carrillo, co-pilot Jaime Herrera and an aviation technician identified as Alex Moreno.

President Ivan Duque paid tribute to the victims on Twitter. "My solidarity with the families," he wrote. The Defensa Civil emergency services put the death toll at 12, with director Colonel Jorge Martinez suggesting an engine failure could have caused the crash. "At the moment of flying over the municipality of San Martin, an engine turns off and the pilot ... tries to land ... but it gets out of control," he theorized to RCN news channel. But Aeronautica Civil gave no details on a cause and asked the press to show restraint in using images circulating on social media "out of respect for the victims and their families." Meanwhile, the fire department confirmed the flight had not faced unfavorable weather conditions. The plane was operated by Laser Aereo, a cargo and passenger transport company. Contacted by the AFP, the company declined to comment on the accident. — AFP

## Thirty injured as turbulence hits Turkish plane

**NEW YORK:** A Turkish Airlines passenger jet traveling from Istanbul to New York hit severe turbulence Saturday as it approached its destination, with 30 people suffering injuries

before it landed safely, officials said. The injured were taken from New York's John F Kennedy International Airport to local hospitals, mainly for treatment of bumps, cuts and bruises.

One flight attendant suffered a broken leg, according to Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the area's airports, bus terminals, bridges and tunnels. The Boeing 777 - which had 326 passengers and 21 crew on board - was over the Atlantic Ocean, about 45 minutes from landing, when it struck the turbu-

lence, Coleman told AFP.

Airport operations were not disrupted as a result of the incident, he added. Turkish Airlines did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Earlier in the day, a plane operated by Canada's Air Transat made an emergency landing at another New York area airport - in Newark, New Jersey - after smoke was detected in the cargo hold, the company said. The Boeing 737-800, which had 189 passengers on board, was traveling from Montreal to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. No one was injured, a spokeswoman for Air Transat said. — AFP

## Where is the Venezuelan crisis heading?

**CARACAS:** As the crisis in Venezuela rages on, it remains uncertain whether President Nicolas Maduro will cling on or opposition leader Juan Guaido will secure a transition of power. But whatever the outcome, experts say it will be the military that tips the balance. Here are the paths analysts say the crisis could take.

### Pressure until collapse

Guaido, who enjoys strong popular support, returned to Venezuela this week after a trip across the Colombian border to help coordinate the entry of humanitarian aid — a failed effort Maduro had blasted as a precursor to US military intervention. The self-declared interim president - recognized by over 50 countries, including the United States - avoided arrest upon his return, despite the fact he had violated a travel ban.

Back on home soil, he vowed to ramp up protests and continue to make life difficult for

Maduro - namely by calling public sector strikes and asking the European Union to tighten sanctions on the socialist government. This kind of pressure could push military leaders to embrace Guaido and "collapse the regime, paving the way for a transition with elections," Michael Shifter, of Washington-based think tank Inter-American Dialogue, told AFP.

"So far there are few signs that this is happening, but it's possible." But first, sanctions implemented by US President Donald Trump - including a fuel embargo - would make life even harder for Venezuelans. That creates the potential to taint Guaido's image, said analyst Luis Vicente Leon, of Venezuela's Datanalisis. In fact, some - including political scientist Luis Salamanca - believe Maduro is betting on a strategy of "attrition" from Guaido.

### Political-military negotiation

Maduro's approval rating has dwindled to just 14 percent, according to Datanalisis - but the loyalty of the military stands strong. In a bid to rob Maduro of one remaining saving grace, Guaido has offered military members amnesty if they defect - unless they are accused of crimes against humanity.

Guaido says around 700 military members and police officials have broken from Maduro in recent weeks, although no high-ranking person-

nel. Getting commanding officials on side would require "specific guarantees" for those implicated in corruption and human rights violations - not to mention with economic interests. "A transition like this would take longer, but it would increase the likelihood of it not being violent," according to Shifter.

Leon believes soldiers fear being decimated by a new government or failing in a rebellion against Maduro, so any amnesty must be "negotiated face to face." That could lead to a solution such as a set-up in which "the military retains control of its forces as a guarantee of self-protection," he said. Guaido asked the Lima Group - the primarily Latin American bloc that recognizes his leadership - to consider all options, but it declined to intervene via force. — AFP

### Coup or invasion

A third scenario could see the military break from Maduro and organize elections - or overthrow him in a traditional coup, according to Shifter. "The scenario of military intervention, led by the United States, seems less and less likely - but it can't be ruled out, depending on how the situation develops," he said. Guaido asked the Lima Group - the primarily Latin American bloc that recognizes his leadership - to consider all options, but it declined to intervene via force. — AFP

## International

# Sudanese court sentences nine women protesters to 20 lashes

## Women accused of participating in an unauthorized demonstration

**KHARTOUM:** A Sudanese emergency court has sentenced nine women protesters to 20 lashes each for participating in an unauthorized demonstration against President Omar Al-Bashir's rule, defense lawyers said. The ruling by the Khartoum court came despite Bashir on Friday ordering the release of all female detainees held during nationwide demonstrations that have rocked the country since December.

The authorities have set up special emergency courts to investigate violations of a nationwide state of emergency imposed by Bashir on February 22 to end the demonstrations after an initial crackdown failed to suppress the protest movement. The nine women protesters were taken to court after they were arrested on Thursday for participating in a "banned demonstration" earlier that day in the capital's eastern district of Burri, a site of regular protests.

"Nine women protesters have been sentenced to one month jail and 20 lashes," defense lawyer Enaam Atieg told AFP. "They have been taken to women's prison in Omdurman," she said, referring to the twin city of the capital across the Nile. Atieg said an appeal against the court's verdict was filed yesterday. A lawyers' group that is part of the protest movement also confirmed the sentencing. "Following pressure from their lawyers the court has still not implemented the floggings," the

Democratic Lawyers Alliance said in a statement.

Activists and rights groups have regularly complained about Sudan's selective application of Islamic sharia law, with hundreds of women sentenced to flogging under a controversial public order law. Saturday's ruling was not the first against protesters since special emergency courts were established.

Eight men accused of participating in a rally were handed jail terms ranging from six months to five years on March 1 in the first such penalties by the special courts. An emergency appeals court on Thursday overturned that decision and freed the eight protesters. On Friday, Bashir ordered the release of all women detainees held during the demonstrations since they erupted last year, in a move that coincided with International Women's Day.

Protests initially broke out in Sudan on December 19 following a government decision to triple the price of bread. They quickly mushroomed into nationwide demonstrations against Bashir's three-decade rule, with crowds calling on the veteran leader to step down. Bashir himself has acknowledged that the protests were led by youths, the majority of them women. Officials say 31 people have died in protest related violence so far, while Human Rights Watch has put the death toll at least 51.—AFP



### Activists complain about selective application of sharia law



**OMDURMAN, Sudan:** Sudanese protesters chant slogans during an anti-government demonstration in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman yesterday. — AFP

## Guinea-Bissau: Coups, cocaine and cashews

**BISSAU:** The West African state of Guinea-Bissau was holding key legislative elections yesterday aimed at ending a protracted political crisis. Here is some background:

### Four coups

A former Portuguese colony and onetime important source of slaves for the Americas, the small country on Africa's western bulge achieved independence in 1974 after an 11-year armed struggle. Since then it has lived through four successful military coups—the last one in 2012 — as well as 16 attempted, plotted or alleged coups, according to a World Bank profile. Instability and conflict have battered infrastructure and hobbled development, leaving Guinea-Bissau one of the world's poorest states.

The current president, Jose Mario Vaz, was elected in 2014. Vaz vowed to bring stability but the country has been in the grip of a power struggle since August 2015, when he sacked his then prime minister Domingos Simoes Pereira. He has been followed by a string of prime ministers who were unable to muster a majority in parliament. The body did not sit for nearly two years until an accord in April 2018 that saw Aristide Gomes appointed as "consensus prime minister". Legislative elections were set for November 2018 but were postponed until March 10.

### Cocaine route

At 36,100 square kilometers, the country is slightly larger than Belgium and includes a scattering of 88 islands in the Atlantic Ocean called the Bijagos. These islands as well as a porous coastline and chaotic administration have provided fertile ground for Latin American drug lords trafficking cocaine to Europe. Senior government and military officials have been implicated in the traffic. A US diplomatic cable in 2009, revealed by WikiLeaks, said Guinea-Bissau was in danger of becoming Africa's first narco-state.

In April 2013 US agents captured the former navy



**BISSAU:** Photo shows an aerial view of buildings around the Praca Che Guevara square (center) in Bissau, the day before the country's parliament election. — AFP

chief and alleged drugs trade kingpin in a sting operation at sea. Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four years in jail, returning to Guinea-Bissau in October 2016. The United Nations has praised Guinea-Bissau's progress since the election of Vaz in fighting drugs trafficking, but expressed disappointment in a recent report that it has not bolstered the fight over the past year.

### Cashew cash-in

More than two-thirds of Guinea-Bissau's population of 1.86 million people (World Bank, 2017) live on under two dollars a day. More than a third live in extreme poverty on less than one dollar, according to UN figures. It is placed as 13th lowest on the UN's 2018

Human Development Index that assesses development on the basis of health, poverty and other measures. Largely as a result of poor healthcare services, average life expectancy is 57.8 years.

Guinea-Bissau's main export is cashew nuts, which financed nearly half of the 2017 national budget. It is Africa's third-largest cashew producer after Ivory Coast and Tanzania. Economic growth reached 5.9 percent in 2017, but slowed to around 3.8 percent in 2018 after a drop in cashew production because of bad weather and a fall in prices, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Guinea-Bissau's 44th anniversary of independence passed by without fanfare last September as the state coffers were bare.—AFP

### News in brief

#### 15 die in nightclub shooting

**MEXICO CITY:** At least 15 people were killed and another seven wounded in a shooting at a nightclub early on Saturday in Mexico's violence-racked Guanajuato state, according to the local prosecutor's office. It was not immediately clear who committed the crime. Before sunrise, a group of armed men pulled up in three vans at the La Playa Men's Club in the city of Salamanca, burst into the premises and opened fire, local media reported. Powerful oil theft gangs have stolen vast quantities of fuel from Salamanca's oil refinery. This week President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched a major offensive to capture local gang leader Jose Antonio Yopez, known as "El Marro".—Reuters

#### Hungarian scientists fearful

**BUDAPEST:** Staff members of the historic Hungarian Academy of Sciences said their academic freedom has been threatened by a new deal giving the nationalist government influence over its research institutions. Prime Minister Viktor Orban, a conservative leader who came to power in 2010, has tightened control over Hungarian public life, including the courts, the media, the economy, as well as education and now scientific research. Hungary's oldest and largest academic institution, the academy (MTA) is solely funded by the government but self-managing with a network of scientific research bodies employing about 5,000 people. On Friday, MTA President Laszlo Lovasz and Innovations and Technology Minister Laszlo Palkovics announced that they had reached an agreement to separate the science research network from the academy's teaching institutions. — Reuters

#### Trudeau denies wrongdoing

**MONTREAL:** The office of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose image has taken a hit in recent weeks over a growing corruption scandal, denied Saturday that he acted in a hostile way toward a female lawmaker in his party. Celina Caesar-Chavannes, a Liberal lawmaker from the Toronto area, said in an interview with The Globe and Mail that she was targeted by Trudeau's wrath, when she said she would not seek reelection in October. "He was yelling. He was yelling that I didn't appreciate him, that he'd given me so much," said Caesar-Chavannes. While he later apologized, she said Trudeau was hostile on other occasions. Trudeau's office denied the characterization, saying in a statement: "The prime minister has deep respect for Celina Caesar-Chavannes. Discussions they had in February were direct but not hostile." — AFP

#### Israel strikes Hamas targets

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli aircraft struck Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip yesterday after a rocket from the Palestinian enclave hit the Jewish state, the army said. "Fighter jets and aircraft struck several military targets in a Hamas compound in the northern Gaza Strip in addition to two Hamas vessels," a statement from the army said. The attacks were in response to a rocket fired from Gaza late Saturday "in addition to the continued violence emanating from the Gaza Strip," the army said. The rocket hit an open field in Israel's Eshkol region, causing no casualties or damages, a local government spokeswoman said. A security source in Gaza said a Hamas site in the northern Gaza Strip was hit as well as fishing boats west of Deir Al-Balah in the central part of the enclave. — AFP

## Malaysia departs 6 Egyptians, Tunisian despite concerns

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia has deported six Egyptians and a Tunisian suspected of being linked to Islamist militant groups abroad, despite protests from human rights groups. The suspects include five people who allegedly confessed to being part of Egypt's banned Muslim Brotherhood, Inspector-General of Police Mohamad Fuzi Harun said in a statement yesterday. Rights groups say that members of the group face possible torture and persecution in Egypt, which brands them as terrorists.

The Tunisian and one of the Egyptians deported were members of Ansar Al-Sharia Al-Tunisia, which is listed as a terrorist group by the United Nations, Mohamad Fuzi said. The two, both in their early 20s, had previously been detained for attempting to enter another country illegally in 2016. They allegedly used fake passports to enter Malaysia with the intention of traveling to and launching an attack in a third country, police said. "Members of this terror group are suspected of being involved in plans to carry out large-scale attacks in other countries," Mohamad Fuzi said.

The other five Egyptians confessed to being members of the Muslim Brotherhood, and are accused of providing shelter, transport and employment for the two linked to Ansar al-Sharia. — Reuters

## With shrouded faces, IS fighters stand guard over the final enclave

**BAGHOUZ:** Armed with assault rifles and with faces wrapped in scarves, the Islamic State fighters visible at the boundary of their last enclave in eastern Syria are among the hardened jihadists who appear ready to fight to the death. Thousands of people — many of them the wives of Islamic State fighters and their children — have been streaming out of the besieged enclave at Baghouz for weeks, forcing the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to delay an assault on the last vestige of the jihadists' territorial rule.

Reuters TV footage of the Islamic State-controlled frontline shows armed militants, most with only their eyes visible, supervising the evacuations from a scrubby patch of agricultural land scattered with vehicles and a few buildings. The SDF has said the fighters staying put through waves of evacuations are the most hardened foreign militants, wanted by governments around the world, who are likely to fight to the death. On Saturday, a Reuters witness saw dozens of mostly men cross from Islamic State territory into SDF-controlled lines. The SDF said these were wounded Islamic State fighters.

A few women in full face-covering black robes and children carrying bags could be seen among the people milling at the frontline. A man on crutches was also visible. A no-man's land of about 200m separates SDF



**BAGHOUZ:** A fighter with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) takes aim with his Kalashnikov assault rifle after seeing a man walking towards his position in the town of Baghouz. — AFP

positions from the Islamic State frontline at Baghouz, a collection of hamlets and farmland near the border with Iraq. Evacuees are screened by the SDF as they emerge and are sent north to the Al-Hol camp, already overcrowded with uprooted Syrians and Iraqis from years of war and struggling to cope with the influx.

After suddenly seizing swathes of land straddling the Iraqi-Syrian border in 2014 and declaring it their caliphate, Islamic State was beaten back by numerous local and foreign forces in both countries, suffering major defeats in 2017. However, the jihadists remain a threat. In Iraq they have gone to ground, staging waves of killings and kidnappings. In Syria, their comrades hold out in remote desert areas and have carried out bombings in areas controlled by the SDF. — Reuters

## International

# 'Brexit in peril' as UK's Prime Minister faces heavy defeat

## May staggers on amid predictions of her political demise

**LONDON:** Brexit could be reversed if lawmakers reject the government's exit deal, British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt said yesterday after two major eurosceptic factions in parliament warned that Prime Minister Theresa May was facing a heavy defeat. Just 19 days before the United Kingdom is due to leave the EU on March 29, May is scrambling - so far unsuccessfully - to secure last-minute changes to an EU exit treaty before parliament votes on Tuesday on whether to approve the deal.

If she fails, lawmakers are expected to force May to seek a delay to Brexit which some fear could see the 2016 decision to leave the bloc reversed. Others argue that without a delay Britain faces an economic shock if it leaves without a deal. "We have an opportunity now to leave on March 29 or shortly thereafter and it's important we grasp that opportunity because there is wind in the sails of people trying to stop Brexit," Hunt told the BBC. "We are in very perilous waters."

The United Kingdom's labyrinthine crisis over EU membership is approaching its finale with an extraordinary array of options including a delay, a last-minute deal, no-deal Brexit, a snap election or even another referendum. The ultimate outcome remains unclear, though most diplomats and investors say Brexit will define the United Kingdom's prosperity for generations to come. The government has previously tried to use the risk of Brexit being reversed as a way to convince eurosceptics to back May's deal despite their deep reservations about it.

"If you want to stop Brexit you only need to do three

things: kill this deal, get an extension, and then have a second referendum. Within three weeks those people could have two of those three things ... and quite possibly the third one could be on the way." Nigel Dodds, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) which props up May's minority government, and Steve Baker, a leading figure in the large eurosceptic faction of her Conservative party, warned "the political situation is grim".

"An unchanged withdrawal agreement will be defeated firmly by a sizeable proportion of Conservatives and the DUP if it is again presented to the Commons," they wrote in the Sunday Telegraph. The Sunday Times said May was battling to save her job as aides were considering persuading her to offer to resign in a bid to get the deal approved. The newspaper also said cabinet ministers have spoken about whether to insist she goes as early as this week.

### Parliament to vote on Brexit options

#### 'Total uncertainty'

Parliament rejected May's deal by 230 votes on Jan 15, prompting the British leader to return to Brussels in search of changes to address the so-called Irish backstop - an insurance policy designed to prevent the return of a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. Many British lawmakers object to the policy on the grounds that it could leave Britain subject to EU rules indefinitely and cleave Northern Ireland away from the rest of the country.

But, May's attempts to get the clause rewritten have so far failed to yield any result, with EU negotiators unwilling to meet her demands, and Britain rejecting a compromise offer.



MAIDENHEAD: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves after attending a church service, near her Maidenhead constituency, west of London yesterday. — AFP

Hunt said Tuesday's vote would definitely go ahead, and that it was too soon to say that negotiations with the EU had "run into the sands". He said realism and a lot of work was needed from both Britain and the EU to get a deal. If lawmakers reject May's deal on Tuesday, she has promised to let them vote the next day on whether to leave without a deal on

March 29. If they reject that, then on Thursday they are due to vote on a "limited" delay. "In the event of this vote on Tuesday not going through, nobody knows what would happen. In everything that followed there would be total uncertainty - that would be the only certainty," health minister Matt Hancock told Sky News. — Reuters

## US Spanish speakers decry 'second-class' treatment under Trump

**NEW YORK:** When Donald Trump took office, one of his first acts was to remove the White House's Spanish-language web page. More than two years later, as the US president battles with Congress over funding for a border wall to stem the tide of immigrants from Central America, disturbing incidents linked to the use of Spanish are on the rise. In May, a New York lawyer went off on employees in a Manhattan store who were speaking Spanish, threatening to call immigration authorities.

That same month, two American women were arrested by border patrol agents for speaking Spanish to each other. The acts of intolerance are evidence of the country's increasing political polarization, even though the language is more and more commonplace in American life. More than 41 million people living in the United States claim Spanish as their mother tongue. Hispanics are now the country's main minority group, at 17 percent of the population, according to the Pew Research Center.

Worryingly, a study from the center published in October revealed that about 40 percent of Latinos said they had been harassed over the last 12 months because of their background, including speaking Spanish in public. Since Trump was elected in November 2016, "we are seeing more employees calling saying, 'Hey, I've been told to speak English only,'" says Christopher Ho, a lawyer for Legal Aid at Work in San Francisco. The association provides legal assistance to workers and a toll-free number where Latinos can file complaints about language-based discrimination.

#### Harassment

On social media, it's not hard to find examples of people behaving badly when faced with Spanish speakers. In June, 24-year-old Julio Cesar Ovalle—who was born in Los Angeles and is American but grew up in Mexico—was walking in San Antonio when he was arrested by a border patrol agent. Ovalle did not have ID on him, and never really learned to speak good English.

He was quickly accused of being in the United States illegally, and was deported the next day, despite his efforts to explain his situation. "It was an injustice and racism, all because I don't understand or speak English well," Ovalle said in Spanish to the San Antonio Express-News. In October, a Guatemalan family was harassed in a restaurant in Lovettsville, Virginia. One woman, after asking to see their passports, used an expletive multiple times in telling them to "go back" home.

"The Trump administration and its rhetoric has clearly emboldened some of the worst impulses" at US Customs and Border Protection, said Cody Wofsy, a lawyer at the powerful American Civil Liberties Union. The organization is representing the two women who were arrested in Montana and have since filed a complaint against border patrol. "There's no official language in the US. People are within their right to speak any language they want, and hundreds and hundreds of languages are spoken in the US," Wofsy said. — AFP

## In, out or limbo: Brexit end-game scenarios

**LONDON:** The tortuous Brexit saga is culminating in a crunch week that either sends Britain sailing nervously out of Europe - or sets the stage for it staying put. The House of Commons will hold up to three votes between Tuesday and Thursday as the March 29 Brexit date races in. Their outcome will ultimately determine the future of a 46-year relationship which Britons voted to end at a 2016 referendum, surprising much of Europe.

#### May's deal

The idea of Prime Minister Theresa May's deal with Brussels making its way through parliament seemed fanciful when MPs voted against it by a historic margin last month. But Tuesday's vote on essentially the same set of proposals should be a closer affair whose outcome hinges on last-gasp talks with the EU. Two factors are suddenly playing in May's favor.

One is that Brexit backers are gradually realizing that May might be offering their best - and quite possibly last - chance to split from the bloc. And EU officials would

like to see Britain's status settled by the time the newly-elected European Parliament throws open its doors in July. This might make EU bosses offer a last-minute concession that is just good enough to convince parliamentary hold-outs to back May's plan. London bank strategists surveyed by Bloomberg put the chances of the agreement being approved by the end of March at 37 percent.

#### No deal

May last month upturned her strategy that "no deal is better than a bad deal" by offering parliament a chance to take the dreaded "no-deal" Brexit off the table. A vote on whether Britain should leave without the so-called Withdrawal Agreement will happen on Wednesday if the deal itself is voted down the day before.

May had long argued that fear of Britain simply crashing out should be used as motivation for getting everyone to rally around her plan. But the idea of trade routes clogging up and the UK pound crashing were too much for a growing faction of May's team to bear. More and more have openly spoken of rebelling if Britain is headed for that outcome. The parliamentary vote would only be advisory - but carry plenty of political weight. Bloomberg's bankers now put the odds of a "no-deal Brexit" at less than one in ten.

#### Brexit delay

The third vote on Thursday, if the first two have been rejected, would tell May to

#### Thousands protest Duterte misogyny

About 4,000 demonstrators marched through Manila chanting slogans against President Rodrigo Duterte, who has repeatedly made jokes about rape and last year admitted indecently touching the family maid when he was a teenager. Aides brushed off his comments as jokes, but activists have denounced his "misogynistic" statements as "unacceptable, pointing to statistics showing a 153 percent increase in rape from the decade before he was elected. With one woman or child raped in the Philippines every hour, activists aiming to raise awareness about gender-based violence staged an exhibition of clothes worn by victims, called 'Don't tell me how to Dress'.

#### Mourning murdered women

In Mexico, demonstrators held marches and staged a series of performances with graphic depictions of domestic abuse in Ecatepec, a town one hour outside Mexico City known as a flash-point for violence against women. Mexico State, where Ecatepec is located, led the country in femicides in 2017, with 301 women and girls murdered, according to official figures. "It makes me sad to wake up every day and see in the news that another (woman) has disappeared, another body has been found. It makes me sad to realize I'm very vulnerable as a woman and that I never know if I'm going to make it home," Fernanda Pando, 23, a recent graduate in psychology who has lived her whole life in the town, told AFP.

#### Flowers for mums and wives

In Pyongyang, Flower Shop No. 5



LONDON: A dog wears an EU flag-themed placard outside the Houses of Parliament during stunt organized by the anti-Brexit Woofendum campaign in central London yesterday where the group have labeled Brexit a 'dog's dinner' and called for it to be stopped. — AFP

ask EU leaders to approve a delay of Britain's departure date. May has spoken of a possible delay until the end of June but the Financial Times said some lawmakers are thinking much longer - nine to 21 months. The Guardian said the longer option was also backed by Brussels, although it leaves the prickly question of whether Britons would get to vote in European Parliament elections in May. EU leaders have the final say on whether there should be any delay - making their March 21-22 summit in Brussels particularly significant. The bankers put the odds

of Brexit being postponed at 54 percent.

#### Second referendum

What such a delay might be used for is one of Brexit's great unknowns. There are few reasons to think the different sides will suddenly stumble on a solution that had evaded them during two previous years of talks. But two forces are expected to spring into action: groups backing a much closer EU-UK union - and ones that simply want to call the whole thing off. Demands for a second referendum rang out the moment EU sceptics narrowly won the first. —AFP

## How the world marks Women's Day

**PARIS:** Protests, strikes and studies - people around the globe are taking action to mark International Women's Day and to push for action to obtain equality. Here are some of the events:

#### Strikes and tear gas

In Turkey authorities sought to quash Women's Day demonstrations on Friday, with police firing tear gas to disperse a sea of demonstrators at the entrance of the city's main pedestrianised shopping street Istiklal Avenue. Protesters had gathered at the central avenue despite a ban on their protest, with crowds chanting slogans including: "We are not silent, we are not scared, we are not obeying." They were blocked by police in riot gear, who then used tear gas and dogs to disperse them.

Across Spain, women downed tools in a strike for equality, a mass movement which drew in female employees from across the spectrum, from nuns to journalists and even the mayor of Madrid, Manuela Carmena. Authorities said more than half a million people took part in Women's Day protests in Madrid and Barcelona. In France, thousands of people took to the streets to mark the day, with demonstrators in Paris carrying banners with slogans including "Equal pay, equal work" and "we will never be silent again".



ISTANBUL: Turkish anti-riot police officers push back women during a rally marking the International Women's Day on Istiklal avenue. — AFP

did a brisk trade in flowers on International Women's Day, which is a public holiday in North Korea, as a steady stream of customers turned up to buy blooms for their wives, mothers and significant others. As the North's founder Kim Il Sung once said: "In our country, women are in charge of one of the wheels of the revolution."

#### Do more at home, UN tells men

Of all the factors blocking equality in employment, the biggest is the heavy burden of caregiving borne by women, a UN report has found, saying the pace of change will only change if men take on

far more unpaid tasks at home. "In the last 20 years, the amount of time women spent on unpaid care and domestic work has hardly fallen, and men's has increased by just eight minutes a day," said Manuela Tomei of the UN's International Labor Organization. Globally, women perform more than three-quarters of the total time spent on unpaid care work, averaging four hours and 25 minutes per day, while men only do one hour and 23 minutes. "The imbalanced division of work within the household between men and women is one of the most resilient features of gender inequality," the report said. —AFP



International

# Tibetan supporters mark 60 years since uprising against Chinese rule

## Huge crowds gather at the Dalai Lama's temple in India

**DHARAMSALA:** Huge crowds gathered at the Dalai Lama's temple in India yesterday to commemorate 60 years since the failed Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule that drove the spiritual leader into exile. Supporters of the 83-year-old peace icon chanted and prayed at the Buddhist shrine in mountainous Dharamsala, where the Dalai Lama established a government-in-exile after fleeing a deadly Chinese crackdown in Tibet in 1959.

Devotees in the Indian hill station the Dalai Lama has called home for six decades waved Tibet's colorful "snow lion" flag, which China has outlawed as a symbol of separatism. Some had "Free Tibet" painted on their faces along with the colors and distinct golden sun of the iconic flag. "This is a proud day," Lhakpa Tsering, a Tibetan living in exile in India, told AFP in Dharamsala. "Sixty years we've been in exile. Still, our struggle is young and fresh and strong, so we can give a message to China that until Tibetans remain, our struggle will never end."

The Dalai Lama himself was not present at the anniversary ceremony, but chief representatives of the exiled Tibetan administration and foreign dignitaries gathered for the solemn occasion. Performers dressed in traditional attire danced and recited Tibetan songs at the temple for guests, which organizers said included parliamentarians from 10

nations. A minute's silence was held at the outset to remember those killed when China brutally crushed the fledgling Tibetan revolt, a crackdown the government-in-exile claimed killed tens of thousands.

**Call for dialogue**

Buddhist Tibet, a vast Himalayan area of plateaus and mountains, declared independence from China in the early 20th century but Beijing took back control in 1951, having sent in thousands of troops. The Dalai Lama - chosen at the age of two in 1937 as the 14th incarnation of Tibetan Buddhism's supreme religious leader - was enthroned as head of state after the Chinese invasion.

His co-existence with the Beijing authorities was tense and when the Chinese authorities summoned him to an event without his bodyguards on March 10, Tibetans feared a trap that could endanger their leader.

Thousands of his supporters assembled at his summer palace to prevent him from leaving; thousands more demonstrated in Lhasa to demand the Chinese depart, the Dalai Lama would later say. Beijing sent more troops into Tibet, and in the bloodshed that followed, refugees poured over the border into Dharamsala - already then a sanctuary for Tibetan exiles fleeing Chinese repression. —AFP



**NEW DELHI:** An exiled Tibetan activist is handcuffed with chains during a protest marking the 60th anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule in the Indian capital yesterday. —AFP

“60 years we've been in exile”

## For Pakistan Kashmiris, a sense of the grave inside their bunkers

**DHANNA:** Chaudhry Hakam Deen has a bunker - a cold, damp hole dug in the ground - next to his home where he and his family have often taken refuge amid soaring tensions with India. Spending the night inside, he said, "feels like sitting in a graveyard". The shelter dates from the Kargil conflict, a skirmish between India and Pakistan in disputed Kashmir in 1999. Twenty years later, the nuclear-armed neighbors are again at loggerheads. The latest crisis was sparked by a February 14 suicide bombing in Indian-administered Kashmir that killed 40 Indian paramilitaries, and was claimed by a Pakistan-based militant group.

In its aftermath, New Delhi and Islamabad launched tit-for-tat air strikes on each other's territory, igniting fears of fresh conflict in South Asia. The nuclear-armed neighbors regularly send shells and gunfire across the de facto border in Kashmir, known as the Line of Control, or LoC. But as they stumbled to the brink of war in recent weeks, there was a surge in the

already-heavy firing, and families such as Deen's found the bunkers a miserable refuge.

Deen's shelter, a stone's throw from his house in the village of Dhanna some five kilometers from the LoC, is as tiny as it is uncomfortable: just four feet long and three feet wide. Most adults cannot stand beneath its low ceiling, forced to sit or squat on cardboard or carpets, huddled around a mud stove whose smoke makes the inhabitants cough. "When shelling starts we take our children... inside the bunker," Deen says, looking down. "They don't have strength in their legs to even walk to the bunker, they don't eat anything inside out of fear," he adds.

For his older brother Chaudhry Maqbool, being in the bunker is worse than just being in a cemetery: it feels like sitting in a grave itself. The white and blue walls of Deen's home are studded with holes, some the size of a fist. One shell landed in his kitchen, while another broke an outside door. He has piled sandbags at the entrance to his bunker. But in the event of an explosion, the packed earth walls and the roof of branches and plastic sheets may not be enough to protect those huddled inside.

**'Valley of fear'**

Several civilians and soldiers died in the recent shelling on both sides of the LoC. In Dhanna, the shelling was so intense that most of the 2,000 villagers fled. Only a handful stayed to protect their property. An AFP correspondent saw a dozen houses, a health centre and a service station that had been hit by the Indian strikes. The women and children of Deen's family were



**DHANNA:** A Pakistani Kashmiri resident prepares food outside a bunker adjacent to his house in Dhanna village, near the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. —AFP

finally evacuated to the nearby town of Kotli, which was less exposed. Tensions may have eased for now, but overall the shelling has increased dramatically since 2016, and locals fear worse is to come. "This is a valley of fear. Life is at a standstill here," said Sardar Javed, a local journalist. "When people hear a sound they become nervous. They don't know what will happen to them the next moment." —AFP

## Democracy, DPRK style: N Korea holds election

**PYONGYANG:** North Koreans went to the polls yesterday for an election in which there could be only one winner. Leader Kim Jong Un's ruling Workers' Party has an iron grip on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the isolated, nuclear-armed country is officially known. Every five years it holds an election for the rubber stamp legislature, known as the Supreme People's Assembly. The exercise has all the trappings of votes elsewhere, from electoral rolls to sealed ballot

boxes to scrutineers for the count.

But in keeping with one of Pyongyang's most enduring slogans - "Single-minded unity" - there is only one approved name on each of the red voting slips. With portraits of the leader's father Kim Jong Il and grandfather Kim Il Sung looking down on every ballot box, voters lined up to drop their slips inside. There is a pencil in the paneled voting booths for anyone who might wish to register dissent by crossing out a candidate's name. But no one does.

By 6pm, the official KCNA news agency reported, all electors in all constituencies had voted, "except for those abroad or working in oceans". Turnout in 2014 was 99.97 percent and the vote was 100 percent in

favor of the named candidates, a result unmatched anywhere else in the world. "Our society is one in which the people are gathered around the respected Supreme Leader with a single mind," election official Ko Kyong Hak told AFP outside a polling station at the 3.26 Pyongyang Cable Factory.

Participation in the election was a citizen's obligation, he said, "and there are no people who reject a candidate". An editorial in the Rodong Simun, the mouthpiece of the ruling party, reinforced the message. Voters "should cast approval ballots with their loyalty to the party and the leader, absolute support to the DPRK government and the will to share their destiny with socialism to the last", it said. —AFP

## 9 police killed in attack in Myanmar's Rakhine

**YANGON:** Nine policemen have been killed in a militant attack in Myanmar's western Rakhine state, police said yesterday, as tensions ratchet up in a state riven by ethnic and religious conflict. A bloody military crackdown over the border into Bangladesh in violence UN investigators have said warrants the prosecution of top generals for genocide and crimes against humanity.

But the armed forces are now waging a war against a militant group claiming to represent the state's ethnic Rakhine Buddhists, a population that also stands accused of aiding soldiers in their expulsion of the Rohingya. The Arakan Army (AA) has in recent months mounted several attacks on security forces and officials in its struggle for more autonomy and rights for Rakhine people.

The latest attack occurred late Saturday took place in Yoctayoke village, just an hour north of Rakhine state's capital Sittwe. "Nine police were killed, one was injured and another one is missing," a senior police officer told AFP, not wanting to be named. A leaked police report said weapons were also taken from the police station. No group has yet claimed responsibility and the AA could not immediately be reached for comment. A local administrator confirmed investigations are under way.

Northern Rakhine state is inaccessible outside of carefully government-chaperoned trips and information is difficult to verify independently. But swathes of the state's north are once again engulfed in conflict. The military has brought in thousands of reinforcements and is bombarding AA positions with heavy artillery. Several thousand people have been forced from their homes by the violence. Yet there is widespread support for the AA's cause across much of Rakhine, one of the poorest states in the country, where many feel they have suffered decades of discrimination by the state. —AFP

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## Business

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**CARACAS:** In this file photo, the headquarters of Venezuelan state-owned oil company PDVSA, in Caracas. As the US has quickly ratcheted up sanctions against Venezuela to pressure Nicolas Maduro, bankers say they are shying away from doing even legitimate business with the crisis-racked oil-producing country for fear of getting caught in the crossfire. — AFP

# Venezuela sanctions scaring off banks

## US targets a growing list of companies including PDVSA

**MIAMI:** As the United States has quickly ratcheted up sanctions against Venezuela to pressure Nicolas Maduro, bankers say they are shying away from doing even legitimate business with the crisis-racked oil-producing country for fear of getting caught in the crossfire.

The sanctions target a growing list of individuals and companies linked to the Maduro regime—including state oil company PDVSA, the lifeblood of the Caribbean nation's crumbling economy.

But because the penalties are complex and the cost of a violation is so high, some banks are beginning to avoid doing any business with Venezuela at all, said Daniel Gutierrez, head of the Florida International Bankers Association's anti-money laundering committee.

Banks must review each transaction and examine the sanctions one by one, consulting lawyers to verify exemptions and requirements, at the risk of being hit

with a fine of more than \$1 million by the US Treasury Department if they get it wrong, Gutierrez told AFP.

That not only presents a challenge for banks and businesses but for families in the United States, many in Florida, who send money to relatives left in Venezuela to help them weather the nation's widespread food shortages and hyperinflation that could reach 10 million percent this year.

As a result, "there are many major banks in the United States that have made the decision to decouple from Venezuela," said Gutierrez, who works with 60 domestic and international banks in Florida.

Washington targeted PDVSA in sanctions announced January 28 but granted a handful of exemptions, such as one that allows the banks to work with US oil industry giants Chevron and Halliburton, but forbids transactions involving diluents—chemicals used the thin the heavy

crude that dominates Venezuela's reserves. "How am I supposed to know, as your bank, if for example a wire transaction is for the purposes of exporting a diluent?" Gutierrez asked.

### Huge business in remittances

"The banks find themselves in a situation where they have to do a cost/benefit analysis on their clients." But the potential vacuum opens opportunities for some banks willing to take the risk, especially in the massive market for remittances.

Martin Litwak, lawyer based in Miami who specializes in offshore investments and anti-money laundering regulations, said the banks could begin "de-risking"—cutting off all operations—if the Venezuelan crisis is prolonged.

Otherwise, banks will "try to combat the situation and not take any drastic measures," Litwak told AFP. "This is

a business opportunity," he said. "If a lot of banks back off, then some will continue doing transaction because they will be able to charge more or have more business" including handling remittances.

Manuel Orozco of the Inter-American Dialogue told AFP there was a conservative estimate showing \$2.2 billion was sent to Venezuela from abroad last year and of that an estimated \$650 million was from the United States. Christine Savage, a partner at the law firm King & Spalding, said the US Treasury was "acting quickly" to roll out sanctions as the situation in Venezuela was changing rapidly. But now they are "working out some of the unintended consequences of the rapid move."

The Venezuelan firm Ecoanalitica estimates 80 percent of cash payments from the country's oil sales come from trade with the United States, since exports to Russia and China are primarily used to pay off debt. —AFP

## Italy wants to sign Belt and Road deal to help exports

**MILAN:** Italy wants to join China's giant "Belt and Road" infrastructure plan to boost Italian exports, not to strengthen political ties with the Asian giant, Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio said yesterday. Di Maio was responding to US concerns at the prospect of a key ally supporting the Chinese initiative. A spokesman for the White House's group of national security advisers, Garrett Marquis, on Saturday called the Chinese venture a "vanity project" that Italy should steer clear of. The "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI), championed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, aims to link China by sea and land with southeast and central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa, through an infrastructure network on the lines of the ancient Silk Road.

Aside from boosting trade and investment, Xi aims to advance exchanges in areas such as science, technology and culture. "I have heard the alarm being raised from the United States yes-

terday about this deal on the Silk Road that Italy wants to sign with China," Di Maio said at an event organized by supporters of his ruling 5-Star Movement.

"Let it be clear that, if we are looking at the Silk Road towards China for our exports, it is not to strike a political deal with China but only to help our companies," he said. He added that Italy was an ally of the United States and respected its concerns, but that the Chinese market was hungry for "made in Italy" products and know-how. On Friday, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said that he might sign a framework deal on the venture when Xi visits Italy from March 22-24.

A number of European Union states have signed memorandums on the BRI with China, including Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Greece, Malta, Poland and Portugal. If Italy signs, it would be the first members of the Group of Seven industrial powers to do so.

Washington argues that China is saddling poor nations with unsustainable debt through large-scale infrastructure projects that are not economically viable, and is using the project to further its political and strategic ambitions.

Italy fell into recession at the end of 2018 for the third time in a decade and the government is eager to find ways to boost the economy and revive the stalled construction sector. — Reuters

## China will not devalue renminbi to spur exports, says CB chief

**BEIJING:** China has gone to great lengths to support its currency and would not devalue the renminbi to spur exports or combat trade frictions, the governor of the central bank said yesterday.

Speaking on the sidelines of China's annual parliamentary session, Yi Gang said Washington and Beijing had discussed exchange rates in recent trade talks and reached a consensus on many "crucial" issues. US President Donald Trump has long accused Beijing of manipulating its currency to gain a trade advantage and Washington has been seeking assurances on the exchange rate in the ongoing trade talks between the two nations. "Let me stress here that we will never use the exchange rate for the purpose of competition, nor will we use the exchange rate to increase China's exports or as a tool in handling trade frictions," said Yi. "We have committed not to do this," Yi told reporters.

He noted the US Treasury Department had declined many times to label China a currency manipulator in its semi-annual report on international exchange rates.

Beijing and Washington have been locked in a bruising trade war since last year, imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has left

global markets reeling.

"The two sides reached consensus on many crucial and important issues," Yi said, without specifying which issues. China's banking regulator told reporters earlier this week that the two sides would reach a consensus on the exchange rate and indicated it would not be a sticking point in the way of a larger trade agreement.

"China's efforts and achievements in maintaining the basic stability of the renminbi exchange rate at a reasonable and balanced level are recognized by the whole world," Yi said.

In the past three or four years the exchange rate had been under market pressure to depreciate, Yi said, adding that Beijing had used up \$1 trillion of China's foreign currency reserves to stabilize the currency. There have been conflicting comments from Washington and Beijing on the progress of negotiations.

Beijing is hopeful about its next round of trade talks with the US, China's vice minister for commerce Wang Shouwen said Saturday, after revealing that top negotiators had tried to hammer out a deal over a lunch of burgers and eggplant chicken in a recent round of talks.

Donald Trump on Friday said he remains optimistic but will not sign a pact unless it is a "very good deal", and a top economic advisor said the US president could walk away from a bad deal.

The two sides were thought to be readying for a Trump-Xi meeting at the end of March, but the US ambassador to China said Friday that the two countries were not yet ready to bring together the two leaders for a summit and deal signing. —AFP





## Business



# Nissan Al-Babtain unveils all-new 2019 Nissan Altima in Kuwait

## Sixth generation of Altima sets new standards for Nissan sedan design

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait recently unveiled the latest edition of the all-new Altima at the Avenues mall. The sixth generation of Nissan's best-selling sedan was on display for Nissan fans to witness first-hand a new benchmark in design, driving enjoyment and technology built within the new Nissan Altima.

The event included entertainment with global artists alongside special prizes and giveaways during the MC contest. The car features expressive styling, an uplifting interior, two new powertrains, and advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility features. It is longer and wider than the previous generation with a highly balanced, aggressive stance and the option of 19-inch wheels and tires. Inside, the all-new premium interior features a wide 'gliding wing' instrument panel - which accentuates the exterior's low cowl and hood, helping create an open, airy environment.

Laurent Pernet, General Manager - Automotive Division at Al-Babtain Group said, "For 70 years, Al-Babtain has represented and developed the Nissan brand in Kuwait: 70 years is an exceptional sign of loyalty and dedication by our customers who believe in the brand and its offerings. Despite our long tenure, we still remain more than ever excited when a new product is about to be launched. So, what better way to celebrate our seven decade anniversary than with The All-NEW 2019 Nissan Altima:

- The all-new, sixth-generation Altima



features:

- Advanced Nissan Intelligent Mobility safety
- Two new engines, including the company's world's first production-ready Variable Compression Turbo
- Expressive design with wider and more athletic proportions
- New open, airy premium uplifting interior design

The All-New Altima benefits from a rich heritage of 25 years of presence in the market, now in its 6th generation with more than 5.5 million vehicles sold. I can assure you that the New Altima sets new levels of standards in the Kuwaiti market be it for its design, technology, safety or

mere pleasure of driving. As far as Quality of Service is concerned, we ensure this is a top priority and that all of our employees deliver the expected level of professionalism and expertise for guaranteed customer satisfaction."

Key interior comfort and convenience features include upgraded seats with added bolstering for improved holding and support. The car also features Apple CarPlay(tm) and Android Auto(tm) and an 8-inch multi-touch color display for complete in-car entertainment and ease of driver control.

Cutting-edge Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies have been integrated into the 2019 Altima as standard. These include Nissan's Rear Cross Traffic Alert, which

helps drivers to detect stationary objects when reversing. When an object is detected, the system warns the driver with visual and audible warnings. The all new Altima also provides front, side and rear safety monitoring and intervention technologies - including Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Lane Departure Warning (LDW), radar-based Blind Spot Warning (BSW), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) and High Beam Assist (HBA).

Two new engines have been introduced on the 2019 Altima. Standard on all 2019 Altima grade levels is a new 2.5-liter DOHC inline 4-cylinder direct injection engine. More than just the gains in horsepower and torque, the new engine offers improvements

in smoothness and cabin quietness, along with enhanced fuel economy and cleaner emissions.

Replacing the previous-generation Altima's 3.5-liter V6 engine is the world's first production-ready variable compression turbo inline 4-cylinder. A significant technological breakthrough, the VC-Turbo seamlessly changes its compression ratio, delivering the performance of a much larger power plant with fuel efficiency and improved emissions.

The 2019 Altima offered in a range of trim levels - S, SV and SL & Sport in the 2.5L and SV and SL grades in 2.0L Turbo. The vehicle is available in Nissan Al-Babtain showrooms located in Al-Rai and Ahmadi.

## KIB sponsors Light Expo

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its sponsorship of 'Light Expo', the exhibition dedicated to showcasing Ramadan products, clothing and accessories created by talented female entrepreneurs and designers from Kuwait and the GCC region. This marks the fifth consecutive year that KIB has sponsored the annual exhibition, which is set to take place at the International Fairgrounds in Mishref during the period between 4 to 9 March.

Light Expo is an annual event that aims to support young female entrepreneurs and small business owners, by providing them with a commercial platform that allows for collaboration, networking and sharing of experiences. The exhibition features the participation of a large number of Kuwaiti designers and entrepreneurs, as well as a

number of prominent social media personalities and influencers.

On this occasion, Senior Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "KIB is proud to once again be part of this initiative which seeks to support female entrepreneurs and talented young Kuwaiti women. We know that women play an integral role in the country's economic growth and development. That is why we continue to include female empowerment as a permanent fixture in our social responsibility program, as we actively seek to support impactful initiatives that support, encourage and develop Kuwait's female talents."

It is worth noting that KIB continues to support and sponsor various local initiatives,



Nawaf Najia



such as "Light Expo", which seek to promote development across all sectors and segments within Kuwait's society. The Bank is especially keen on being a part of initiatives and programs that focus on empowering young entrepreneurs and their innovative ideas. Within this context, KIB has always considered youth initiatives and entrepreneurial programs to be integral components towards empowering and nurturing future generations: by providing employment opportunities in the private sector for young men and women, nurturing the creative ideas of ambitious young minds, and helping build a brighter future for the country.

## VIVA launches new Samsung Galaxy S10

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the all-new Samsung Galaxy S10, with VIVA Postpaid commitments starting KD 30, at all VIVA's stores and VIVA's E-store, and special experience corners at Avenues Mall Phase 4 and Marina Mall stores.

Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA commented: "At VIVA, our state-of-the-art infrastructure supports a range of telecom services that enable smartphone makers like Samsung to unleash the full potential of their world-class devices, to enrich our customers' experience." The latest additions to Samsung's Galaxy smartphone lineup pushes it further into the future. Galaxy S10+ has a cutting-edge dual in-display selfie camera module. It also features a super secure on-screen fingerprint scan, 5 pro-grade cameras, a large 6.4-inch display, 4,100mAh battery and come with three different storage options.



The Galaxy S10 boasts extraordinary features, including a large 6.1-inch display, a super secure on-screen fingerprint scan, multi pro-grade cameras, a cinematic infinity display, wireless powershare and 3,400mAh battery and will be available with 128GB storage and 8GB of RAM. The Galaxy S10e features a 5.8-inch infinity display, dual rear-facing cameras, an in-display selfie camera, a side-mounted fingerprint scanner, a 3,100mAh battery and will be available with 128GB of internal storage and 6GB of RAM.

## 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. Jasem Mohammad Abdulaziz Al-Mutawaa
2. Ghadeer Jaafar Abdullah Seraj
3. Talal Eissa Sulaiman Al Sultan
4. Mahmoud Mostafa Kamel Sharaf
5. Fatemah Ali Akbar Makhseed

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.

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

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

The results of the draw were as follows:

- 1- Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 and was for the share Najlaa Omar Ali Al-Saber
- 2- "Salary & Cash on Top" Campaign the prize KD 1,000 and was for the share Ali Hussain Al-Qallaf

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 five times the salary up to KD 10,000, add to this they will automatically enter the weekly draw on KD 1,000. As for the expatriate customers categorized under Premier Banking Account with a salary KD of 1,700 and above, they will get instant cash gift.

## Warba Bank announces 5 winners of Al-Sunbula draw

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, held its weekly Sunbula draw number 10. The draw announced the 5 lucky winners in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and bank officials.

The bank proudly announced the lucky 5 winners of the 1000 Kuwait Dinar prize: Mohammad Salem Kraidi Al-Dousari, Jassim Mohamed Al-Ibrahim, Abdulrazzaq Waleed Abdulrazzaq Al-Dosari, Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad Abdullah and Ahmad Muhareb Ghareeb Al-Jassar.

Al-Sunbula both account and fixed deposits are the perfect choices for customers who wish to save money and

achieve steady returns while at the same time have the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year.

In line with the bank's mission to develop and differentiate its offerings, Warba Bank has enhanced its Sunbula campaign for 2019 with more cash and prizes reaching more than KD 1 million.

Warba Bank will continue its weekly draws for 5 winners of KD 1,000 each. What's new in 2019 are the "Mega Draws" which will be held every quarter to reveal five winners, the 1st winner will get KD 100,000! The four winners thereafter will each get the latest Land Cruiser VXR. Furthermore, the final Mega draw held in January 2020 will feature 2 more Land Cruiser VXRs!

As for the chances for winning, each customer is eligible to enter the draw against each KD 10 in the Sunbula Account. Nevertheless, Sunbula Fixed Deposit investors also get chances in the Sunbula draws along with high expected returns that reach up to 3.5 percent distributed either monthly or at maturity upon the customer's preference.

What's On

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## ABK participates in the 21st Career Fair at GUST

Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced its successful participation in the 21st Career Fair of Gulf University of Science & Technology (GUST), which was held on the 6th & 7th March 2019, at the University's campus. ABK's participation reinforces its commit-

ment in playing an active role in supporting Kuwait's youth and encouraging those that wish to have a career in banking.

Commenting on the Bank's involvement, Ali Akbar, Executive Manager - Human Resources at ABK said, "ABK regularly participates in Career Fairs as this is the best platform to meet graduates who want to go into banking. It is also a good opportunity for ABK employees to meet graduates and discuss the various departments within banking. Through our ABK Academy, the Bank trains new employees and works with them to enhance their skill sets in order to manage their day to day deliverables within the bank."

## GUST holds 21st annual career fair

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) held its 21st Annual Career Fair yesterday on its campus. The event, which hosted over 45 different entities from various sectors, aims at connecting GUST students and alumni with potential career opportunities. The event was opened by Mohammad Al-Bahar, GUST Chairman of the Board of Trustees, attended by the university's top management, and held under the patronage of the Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Kandari, Director General of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development.

The Career Fair is one of the most prominent events the university organizes each year as it helps ensure a smooth transition for students into the work force after graduation. GUST continuously works on improving the fair by providing a wide variety of different employers to cater to graduates' interests and talents. The diversity keeps growing to include more institutions from the education, technology, public relations, media, and the industrial sector.

This year's participation also included, for the first time, international banks and financial institutions. Corporations were present for GUST graduates, students and alumni to network with and apply to for internships, full-time, and volunteer positions on location. Potential employers offered their services, market insights, advice, collected CVs, helped students apply online for possible job opportunities, and conducted on-site interviews with candidates.

GUST Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mohammad Al Bahar, said, "At GUST, we put a lot of emphasis on preparing our students for their future not only on the academic side which they receive in the classroom, but also in venturing outside the classroom in activities that shape their personality, and strengthen their character. The Career Fair is a prime opportunity for students and employers to connect, and potentially start a successful journey together."

Before officially inaugurating the fair, Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Kandari, Director General of the National Fund's Services and Programs for Fresh Graduates". GUST also organized sessions and discussions during the second day of the fair that focused on providing useful insight to its students. The first presentation was led by Wael Ghaddar, SME Relationship Manager at Bayt.com, and was about "Job Search Strategies". This was followed by a session from Investment Manager at Gulf Bank, Ahmad Al-Fuwaires which was titled "Invest Wisely". These sessions added a distinctive factor to the event, and proved beneficial to students and alumni.

Sponsoring this year's event are Alghanim Industries, National Bank of Kuwait, Boubayan Bank, Kuwait Finance House, Gulf Bank, Ooredoo, Zain, VIVA, Al Hasawi Group, Kuwait National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises, Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Boursa Kuwait, Manpower and Government Restructuring Program, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Huawei Technologies, and Nestle. The Career Fair is a yearly event open to all students and alumni for free. It will be held for a total of two days, and opening times are from 8:30am - 3:00pm.



## Music concert at the Sirbb circuit

By Nawara Fattahova

Over 2400 people attended the musical concert held at the Sirbb Circuit on Thursday night. After the success of his concert earlier this month, young popular Kuwaiti singer Eissa Al-Marzouq held this concert along with another popular Kuwait singer Nabeel Sheil. Outdoor concerts have become more popular. The concert organized by Filkra Production was quite a success as it amassed a large audience with people still vying for tickets well into the show, the pleasant weather also lend itself to the atmosphere.

The concert started with a performance of a Kuwaiti traditional dance performed by a troupe of young Kuwaiti girls. This was followed by the performance of the Kuwaiti popular star Nabeel Sheil, who presented songs from his new album in addition to some old songs, some which are over 30 years old. The concert concluded with the per-



formance of Eissa Al-Marzouq, an upcoming singer who has become very popular in the last two years. He entertained the audience for over 90 minutes, and he also took photos with disabled children who were seated in the front.



As part of its 8th "Ya Zain Turathna" campaign, Commercial Bank organized a visit to Asar Al-Qabandi Bi-Lingual School, in order to educate students about various aspects of Kuwait heritage as well as old Kuwaiti traditions.



It was a solemn moment at the Kuwait African International Church (KAIC) on Thursday as family, friends and well-wishers gathered for a funeral service in honor of Late Mrs Beatrice Oriata Edumijeke. May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace Amen.

Health

# Madagascar battles killer measles outbreak with infection spreading

**ANTSIRANANA:** Frangeline is aged two but weighs no more than a four-month-old — the terrible result of her battle with measles, which is cutting a deadly swathe through Madagascar. Widespread malnutrition and low rates of immunization on the Indian Ocean island have ramped up the killing power of the highly infectious virus.

In the last six months, nearly 1,000 children have been killed by a resurgent disease that vaccination once appeared to have tamed. Now on a drip, the scrawny infant was only saved because her mother Soa Robertine, 32, made the 25-kilometre trek from her home to the Anivorano-nord health centre, in the island's far north. Without her timely action, respiratory or neurological complications arising from the virus would have proved fatal, doctors said.

"Frangeline is suffering severe malnutrition and she wasn't vaccinated" against measles," said the clinic's head of medicine, Hollande Robisoa. "She contracted a complicated form of measles and she would have died if she hadn't been brought here." Many other children have not been so lucky. Between last September and February, there were more than 79,000 cases of measles in Madagascar, 926 of which were fatal, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Anivorano-nord clinic has had 510 patients suffering from "kitrotro" and "kisaosy" — the local names for measles. Roughly 100 patients were hospitalized but only four lost their lives, according to official statistics. But many local people dispute the numbers in a community where rumors are common. "I heard that hundreds of children have already died," said Sylvain Randriamaro, 46, sitting in the hospital waiting room. "I was alarmed, so I decided to vaccinate my two children," aged five and six, he said.

Measles has hit Madagascar barely a year after it was gripped by an outbreak of plague that claimed 200 lives. "It's a major epi-

demic," said doctor Vincent Sodjinou, a WHO representative. "It's down to the fact that for almost a decade the rate of vaccine coverage was not high enough and, over generations, the numbers of unvaccinated people have increased."

**'Malnutrition a bed for measles'**

Measles can be relatively benign if symptoms like fever and cough are handled promptly. If not, there is a risk of "opportunistic" illness such as pneumonia or diarrhea — diseases that can fatally attack patients with weak immune systems. In Madagascar, where 47 percent of children under five are malnourished, the disease has proved particularly dangerous.

"It's often said that malnutrition makes a bed for measles," said Sodjinou. "The most serious cases are often reported in malnourished children." The paediatric ward at Antsiranana's military hospital, north of Anivorano, has been overwhelmed. "Normally we only treat one measles case here every two months," said head of medicine Ravohavy Setriny Mahatsangy. "We've had 444 just since December." Mahatsangy blamed physical contact between patients, their "reluctance to go to hospital and opposition to vaccinations". The combination of factors has wrought a tragic toll on his patients. One example is Marie Lydia Zafisoa, aged eight, whose "mother took her to a witchdoctor... and then a traditional healer who prescribed six baths," according to her aunt Bana Tombo. When that failed, Zafisoa's father carried her to the clinic. "It was too late — she died on the way, on her father's shoulders," said Tombo. Seven-month-old Adriano Luc Rakototsoharana was more fortunate. Her grandmother Catherine had also turned to traditional medicine before taking her to hospital. She barely survived the ordeal — but even so, Catherine remains adamant that traditional medicine holds the key. "For measles, you need a cow dung infusion or a tea with bark from the lazalaza tree," she said.

Doctors say that such beliefs are frustrating their efforts to



**ANTSIRANANA:** In this photograph taken on February 27, 2019, a mother holds her child while she takes an intravenous (IV) drip at a military hospital. —AFP

roll back the disease. "It's the culture," Ravohavy said, with a resigned smile. "Changing people's mentality is far more difficult than treating measles." The profession also complains that the situation is worsening despite the state paying for most measles treatment. "But the people prefer traditional healers who often

advise them to refuse any hospitalization," said a health ministry official, doctor Said Borohany. "And most villages are hours away from basic medical centers." The other viable solution, vaccinations, has been complicated by the lack of funds available for such a program. —AFP

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# Lifestyle

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019



Costumed revelers perform in a carnival procession on the streets of Strumica, Macedonia, during the great evening carnival on March 9, 2019. The renowned carnival, which marks the beginning of the Christian Orthodox Lent, attracted hundreds of participants and tens of thousands of visitors in Strumica. — AFP

## GLOBAL CELEBRITIES GATHER FOR THE WEDDING OF INDIA'S RICHEST MAN'S SON

Global celebrities including film stars, company executives, politicians and sports personalities descended on Mumbai on Saturday for the wedding celebrations of the son of India's wealthiest man and Reliance Industries boss, Mukesh Ambani. Sundar Pichai, the chief executive of Google, former British prime minister Tony Blair, film stars Rajinikanth and Priyanka Chopra and cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and Hardik Pandya were among the guests. Indian stars Shah Rukh Khan and Ranbir Kapoor

were seen dancing with the bridegroom Akash Ambani and plenty of Indians shared photos on social media with #AkashAmbani and #AkashShlokaWedding among the top trending hashtags in India.

The bride, Shloka Mehta, is the daughter of Russell Mehta, a wealthy diamond merchant and managing director of family-owned company Rosy Blue. Celebrations began in Mumbai with feasts, singing and dancing, and other pre-wedding rituals, for the wedding between the two 28-year-olds.

Photos on Twitter showed elaborate floral decorations and celebrities posing on a lawn before the wedding. Mukesh Ambani, his wife Nita and the bridegroom wore various shades of pink. Ambani, whose business empire spans oil and gas, telecoms and retail, is Asia's richest man and the world's 13th most wealthiest according to Forbes magazine, with his wealth estimated at \$50 billion. — Reuters



Indian businessman Anil Ambani (second right) poses for photographs along with his wife and former Bollywood actress Tina Ambani (second left) and their sons, Anshul Ambani (right) and Anmol Ambani (left), as they arrive to attend the wedding ceremony of Akash Ambani, son of Indian Businessman Mukesh Ambani in Mumbai. — AFP photos



Akash Ambani (center), son of Indian businessman Mukesh Ambani (right) and businesswoman Nita Ambani (third left), their daughter Isha Ambani (third right) and her husband Anand Piralal (second right), son of Indian billionaire industrialist Ajay Piralal (not pictured), pose during the wedding ceremony of Akash Ambani.



Former British prime minister Tony Blair (right) and his wife Cherie Blair (left) pose for photographs as they arrive to attend the wedding ceremony of Akash Ambani.



Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan (left) poses for photographs along with his wife and actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (right), and their daughter, as they arrive to attend the wedding ceremony of Akash Ambani.



Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan (left) poses for photographs along with his wife and film producer Gauri Khan.



Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra poses for photographs as she arrives to attend the wedding ceremony.



In this file photo US singer Jennifer Lopez (left) and former US baseball player Alex Rodriguez attend the 2018 MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. — AFP

### It's official! Jennifer Lopez, A-Rod are engaged

Singing superstar Jennifer Lopez and retired baseball great Alex Rodriguez have been one of the most glam celebrity couples in recent years. Fans, get ready: a J-Rod wedding is on the cards. Lopez and Rodriguez confirmed on Instagram late Saturday that they are engaged. Both posted a picture of their hands at sunset, with Lopez's enormous diamond ring. While the multi-hyphenate singer-actress-dancer-producer only captioned the pic with heart emojis, Rodriguez went a bit farther, writing in lower-case letters: "she said yes." Lopez, 49, and Rodriguez, 43, have been a couple for about two years.

Lopez, currently the executive producer and judge on NBC reality dance competition show "World of Dance," is set to go on tour later this year across North America. She wrapped up a Vegas residency in 2018. She has been married three times: to Ojani Noa, back-up dancer Cris Judd, and singer Marc Anthony, with whom she has 11-year-old twins. She also had a high-profile relationship with actor Ben Affleck.

Rodriguez retired from Major League Baseball in 2016, after a lengthy career, mostly with the New York Yankees. He won one World Series title with the Yankees and was an All-Star 14 times. His achievements were tarnished by his admission that he used performance-enhancing drugs. He was suspended for the entire 2014 season. Rodriguez currently works as an on-air baseball analyst. He has been married once. He and ex-wife Cynthia Scurtis have two daughters. — AFP

# Pakistan - the other great home of the bagpipes

Umer Farooq's grandfather and father made bagpipes. Now he is the third generation to take up the tradition in Pakistan, which is thousands of kilometers from Scotland yet sells thousands of bagpipes each year. The fresh smell of wood floats through the Mid East factory in Sialkot, on the eastern side of Punjab province, where Farooq is one of the managers. Workers are busy standing or sitting on the ground. Covered in sawdust, they carve the wood and polish it. Rosewood or ebony serve as the blowstick, into which players exhale. The drones—long pipes with a lower tone—follow a similar process. They are then attached to a bag, and often covered with tartan, a coloured plaid fabric typical of Scotland. "In my family, all the boys know how to make a bagpipe, step by step," said Farooq.



Visiting international musicians watch the process to make bagpipes at the Mid East bagpipe factory in the eastern city of Sialkot.



A Pakistani musical band perform with bagpipes made at the Mid East bagpipe factory in the eastern city of Sialkot. — AFP photos

"When we were seven or eight, we would go to the factory. It was like a school, but the teachers were our dads and uncles." Honing such a craft is not easy. South Asia has had for centuries its pungi, a wind instrument used for snake charming, and shehnai, a traditional oboe. But the bagpipe had to wait until the mid-19th century for British colonialists to bring it to subcontinental India, of which Pakistan was a part before independence and partition in 1947.

#### Military tradition

"Anywhere the British army went, they took pipers with them," says Decker Forrest, a Gaelic music teacher at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland. Locals seized on the tradition, which remains popular till this day,

with dozens of bagpipe bands available for weddings and religious festivals. "People love the bagpipe," smiles Yaser Sain, the leader of a Sialkot trio who play at least two performances each day, he says. Proudly he shows pictures on his mobile phone of the band in colourful costumes. Forrest says Pakistani bands put the emphasis on how they look, rather than musical technique, "which is less important to them".

At the world bagpipe championship, which is held every year in Glasgow, they are "the most beautifully dressed," he says. The kilt, however, is not de rigueur among the Pakistanis. The Pakistani military, born out of the colonial British Indian Army, also still has a soft spot for the instrument. In 2014 it established a camel-mounted bagpipe band attached to a unit of Desert Rangers. The camels, draped in scarlet and gold as their musicians sway above them, are particularly appreciated during parades.

But Pakistan's main affiliation with bagpipes is its mass production of them, though the quality of the instruments it makes can vary. Some 2,600 are exported from the Mid East factory each year, mainly to the United States.

#### Bagpipe ambassadors

The M.H. Geoffrey & Co workshop, also in Sialkot, claims to manufacture a further 500 annually—but its owner, Zafar Iqbal Geoffrey, estimates that when contributions from dozens of small and medium-sized businesses in the city are counted, Sialkot can produce a total of 10,000 bagpipes a year. That is more than any country other than the United Kingdom, according to people in Sialkot. "Bagpipes are our roaming ambassadors. This is good not only for the economy, but for the image-building of Pakistan," says Waqas Akram Awan, vice president of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce.

The city's exports for 2017 — a 15-year record of \$4 million for thousands of instruments—underscores his comment. "Our instruments are the same as the European

ones, but they are much cheaper. We make music more accessible," says Umar Farooq's uncle Muhammad Aftab. Cheap labor means Pakistani bagpipes are priced less expensively than ones made in Scotland, with Mid East's going for around 300 pounds (\$390) in Britain, compared to 900 pounds (\$1,170) for instruments made in Scotland.

But Pakistani bagpipes have a reputation. "The quality of sound is not the same," says Paul Gardner, manager of a London music store. "They are for beginners who are working on a really low budget," he explained. "It might get somebody started, but that person will quickly look to upgrade." — AFP



A Pakistani worker polishes a component to be used to make a set of bagpipes at the Mid East bagpipe factory in the eastern city of Sialkot.



A Pakistani worker fixes a component to make a set of bagpipes.



A Pakistani worker plays and tests a set of bagpipes at the Mid East bagpipe factory in the eastern city of Sialkot.



A Pakistani artisan works on a machine to make components used in bagpipes.



A Pakistani worker plays and tests a set of bagpipes at the Mid East bagpipe factory in the eastern city of Sialkot.



A member of a Pakistani musical band performs with bagpipes made at the Mid East bagpipe factory in the eastern city of Sialkot.



## New York's iconic Chrysler Building to sell for \$150 million

The owners of the Chrysler Building have reached a deal to sell the iconic New York City building for "a little more than \$150 million," The Wall Street Journal reported Saturday. The sale price of the tower in midtown Manhattan, considered an Art Deco masterpiece, marks a significant loss for Emirati investment firm Mubadala, which paid \$800 million for a 90 percent stake in 2008. Real estate group Tishman Speyer, which had bought the building outright for a reported \$210-250 million in 1997, retained a 10 percent stake.

The Journal reported that the building's owners do not own the ground beneath it and pay annual rent that went up from \$7.75 million to \$32 million in 2018 and was set to increase again to \$41 million in 2028. Citing brokers, the newspaper said those fees "have eaten away at much if not all of the building's revenue." The building also has some 400,000 square feet (37,160 square meters) of space that is either vacant or will become so in the coming years, the Journal said.

The Chrysler Building, which opened in 1930, stands 1,046 feet (319 meters) tall. It was the world's tallest building, but only for 11 months, after which it was dethroned by the Empire State Building, also in Manhattan. The building was a personal project for Walter Chrysler, the founder of the car manufacturer that bears his name, but remained separate from the auto business. — AFP



A tourist stands by the swimming pool on the rooftop of the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana. — AFP photos



A worker cleans the Spa Albear at the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.



Tourists sit next to the swimming pool on the rooftop of the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.



A tourist walks past the counter of the Spa Albear at the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.



Tourists sit at the lobby of the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.



A waiter serves a cocktail at the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.

## Cuba taps into high-end luxury tourist market

In Havana, there's a shop selling a camera for more than \$25,000 — roughly 850 times the average monthly wage in Cuba. The eye-popping sum earned predictable scorn on social media, but it begins to make sense when seen through the lens of the island's fledgling bid to tap into the luxury tourism market. The exclusive camera store and other boutiques featuring A-list brands like Versace and Armani are located in a shopping gallery on the ground floor of the swanky Gran Hotel Manzana.

The mere existence of the shops certainly seems incongruous in a country that has been governed as a one-party communist state since 1959, and where the average wage is \$30 a month. But the hotel isn't exactly looking for locals to buy in-it attracts "a clientele of private airplanes... princes and celebrities," according to general manager Xavier Destribats.

The Gran Hotel Manzana, the first ever five-star establishment in Havana, opened in 2017 in a sumptuous historic building that was, at the beginning of the 20th century, the island's first shopping mall. The property run by Swiss group Kempinski is "the first genuine luxury hotel in Havana," said Destribats.

"It's the first hotel with a 1,000-square-meter spa," he said. All the rooms are at least 40 square meters (430 square feet), with prices ranging from \$370 for a basic room in low season to \$5,000 for the presidential suite. "There was a certain type of clientele that didn't travel to Havana, or Cuba, because there wasn't the standard of luxury five-star hotel like in cities such as Paris or London," Destribats added.

### 'Feels like Miami'

The hotel terrace offers stunning views over Havana's colorful historic neighborhood, where many Cubans live in dilapidated buildings that have fallen into disrepair or have vegetation sprouting from them. "It really doesn't feel like Cuba, clearly not-it feels like being in the United States, Miami or Puerto Rico," said Celia Liegeois, a 26-year-old tourist from Paris. Having traveled around the island nation for three weeks, she and a friend had decided to spend their last few days relaxing by the hotel's rooftop pool.

Nearby, Suki Lu, a recently arrived 28-year-old Chinese television presenter, is impressed at what she sees. "It's beautiful. Look at the sunset! It's truly addictive," she said. "I live in Dubai so when you talk about luxury hotels, the level there is really high, but I think I'll like this hotel," she said, while her friend used a drone to get an aerial view of the building.

The largest single group of visitors to the Gran Hotel Manzana—one-fifth of the total—are tourists from the United States, although there are plenty of visitors from Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The Kempinski group, which hopes to open two or three more hotels in Cuba, is of course not the only chain to show an interest in the ultra-luxury market.

In September 2018, Spain's Iberostar opened its sec-



Tourists sit by the swimming pool on the rooftop of the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.

ond five-star hotel, the Grand Packard. French hotel giant Accor is planning on opening its own luxury establishment on the Malecon, Havana's famous seaside boulevard, in September. It will include a chocolate shop on its ground floor and a restaurant and concert space on its roof. The employees' outfits will be designed by Spanish fashion designer Agatha Ruiz de la Prada.

### US blacklist

However, there is a slight catch: in every case, the hotels are owned by Gaviota, the Cuban army's branch dedicated to tourism. The foreign hotel groups are only allowed to run the establishments, all built by French group Bouygues, which has a long-standing local presence. Authorities don't publish the army's revenues, but this alliance between hoteliers and the military landed the luxury hotels on Washington's blacklist. US tourists are technically banned from staying in the hotels-but the restriction can be easily circumvented by either paying in cash or booking through travel agents.

Beyond hotels, developers have more ideas to entice those with deep pockets. "There's a plan to build golf courses in partnership with real estate groups," said industry expert Jose Luis Perello. The opening of a luxury hotel means Cuba has turned a corner, he said. "Since it opened up to international tourism more than 20 years ago, Cuba has focused all its plans and strategies" on "sun and beach tourism" for the masses, Perello said.

That category currently accounts for 73 percent of the 70,000 hotel rooms on offer in Cuba. And those who rent them usually don't spend much money. The same goes for

cruise ship tourists—while the number of cruises docking in Cuba has exploded, passengers only spend an average of \$15 a day on land. That isn't great news for Cuba, which welcomed 4.7 million tourists in 2018 — it needs the cash. The government, which has been subjected to US sanctions since 1962, used to depend on aid from its oil-rich ally Venezuela. But with Venezuela in turmoil, Cuba is scrambling for other sources of hard currency and its economic growth has stagnated at around one percent—not enough to cover the population's basic needs. Opening luxury hotels is "a new stage," but also "a necessity," Tourism Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz says. — AFP



Tourists stand next to an old American car in front of the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.



Tourists sit by the swimming pool on the rooftop of the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.



Tourists visit a camera shop at the Gran Manzana Hotel in Havana.

## Tourism in Russia: Opportunities after FIFA World Cup

After a big event like FIFA the world has seen many changes in Russia with building new roads, airports, hotels and restaurants. For GCC tourists, many improvements like implementing Halal friendly concept in hotels and restaurants have been introduced in the country.

The fact that during the FIFA World Cup guests were accepted on the basis of their FAN ID proves that the

country is ready to implement easier visa process as the country has already opened its doors to UAE citizens who do not need a visa to travel to Russia anymore.

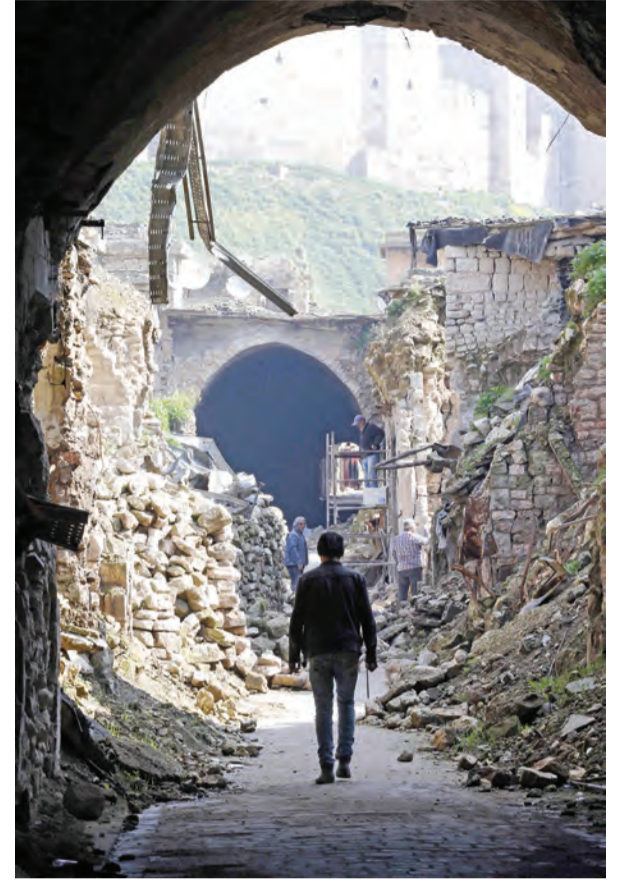
### New trends

Russia is keen to explore the possibilities of space tourism and tourists can now try space simulators that are used by real cosmonauts to fly to space or the real

Zero gravity at cosmonaut training centre at Star city. Event tourism has also shown its growth and this year Moscow will become the first platform in Russia where Arab designers will introduce their creations to the Russian audience.

It the biggest project in fashion industry where greatest designers who dress world-famous Hollywood stars (such as Nicki Minaj, Beyonce, Heidi Klum and many oth-

ers), as well as members of the Royal families of Arab countries will present their unique and bold design, recognized throughout the world. "We are building a bridge between Russia and the Middle East in terms of tourism and culture and we see constant growth of interest towards Russia" said Basel Al Aswad, Head of the Russian tourism board.



A general view shows the damage inflicted on the Old Aleppo markets in the old quarter of Syria's second city of Aleppo.

## Syria's ancient Aleppo souk poised to regain its bustle

On the domed roof of a historical market in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, architect Bassel Al-Daher moves between workers painstakingly working to erase the scars of war. Men wearing vests and helmets repair parts of the roof still bearing visible traces of the four-year-long battle for the former rebel stronghold. They cover its charred surface with a fresh coat of white paint as part of a wider effort to rehabilitate the Saqatiya market, or souk in Arabic. Located in the old quarters of Syria's second city, the market dates back to the Ottoman period. "I feel like I'm redrawing history by restoring this souk," says Daher, 42, one of six architects overseeing its revival as the country's conflict marks its eighth year next week. "For me, it's the project of a lifetime."

The Saqatiya souk covers an area of more than 1,500 square meters (16,000 square feet) and used to house more than 50 shops before Syria's conflict landed in Aleppo in 2012. It is located near other landmarks of Aleppo's Old City, a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site that served as a frontline during clashes that ended in 2016. Russia-backed regime forces that year took control of the eastern side of the city, much of which remains in ruins. The celebrated citadel, a jewel of medieval architecture whose surrounding wall was damaged by a blast in July 2015, is visible from the market's roof. The Umayyad mosque, an ancient site that dates back to the 11th century, is within walking distance. Clashes in April 2013 reduced the mosque's minaret to an unrecognizable pile of blocks.

### 'Bring merchants back'

UNESCO estimates that as much as 60 percent of the Old City was severely damaged. Saqatiya market fared better than most, with 30

percent battered during the fighting, says Daher. It shows signs of major damage but no sign of collapse. Syria's antiquities authority said in a report last month. Restoration works began on November 1 after Syrian authorities signed a partnership agreement with the Aga Khan Foundation in Syria. Renovations are expected to be completed in July, according to Daher. Workers are focusing on erasing all "signs of war" from the market and correct old construction violations. "The broader aim is to bring merchants back to their shops," he says. Saqatiya market is one of around 37 souks surrounding the Aleppo citadel, the oldest of their kind in the world.

They stretch from the western part of the Old City to the gates of the citadel in the east, covering an area of around 160,000 square meters. For centuries, they were the commercial heart of the ancient city and served as a key trading hub between the East and the West, says Alaa Al-Sayyed, a historian and specialist on the Old City. The expert, who is also overseeing the restoration, says "they are more than 2,000 years old." "They are the longest and oldest covered markets in the world," he says. They consist of dozens of shops, schools, mosques and bathhouses.

### 'Charred and damaged'

In their long history, this is not the first time the markets have had to be restored. Over two millennia, they have weathered numerous earthquakes and conquests, but "every time they were rebuilt," he says. Diyaa Al-Issa, 38, wears a white helmet and uniform as he works on renovating a massive gate in the market. He is one of around 60 men involved in restoration works. Before the conflict, Issa used to work in renovation and maintenance of the city's ancient heritage. "Restorations today are nothing like those we used to carry out in the



past," he says. "We used to restore stones affected by moisture, wind and time," he says.

"But today we are treating stones that have been charred and damaged by shrapnel, and we are rebuilding some domes that have been completely destroyed." Issa hopes the souk can be restored in a way that does not alter its historical character or dispense with too many of the original materials. His colleague, Mohammed Baqiya, 47, is looking forward to the market coming back to life. "The stone will be restored," he says. But "what is most important is the return of shop owners and people who used to bring life to the souk," he says. "It does not matter how beautiful the souk will be," he says. It will mean nothing "if it is empty of people". — AFP

Laborers take part in restoration work at the Saqatiya market in the old quarter of Syria's second city of Aleppo.



Laborers take part in restoration work at the Saqatiya market in the old quarter of Syria's second city of Aleppo.

## British cellist gives voice to composers' muses

Music is riddled with stories of tempestuous affairs and unrequited love. In a concert series, virtuoso British cellist Steven Isserlis is exploring the influence of love on music by contrasting three familiar pieces by male composers with lesser known ones by their traditionally underrepresented female muses. "Women were not encouraged to compose. It was difficult," the influential soloist said in an interview ahead of a performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington. "They had to battle against the odds," added Isserlis, pointing to the contributions of Amy Beach and Lili and Nadia Boulanger. "There are so many women composers now. Things have definitely improved."

Isserlis's program—whose next stop is Thursday in Kempen, Germany after five performances in the US accompanied by Canadian pianist Connie Shi—opens with his own arrangement of Clara Schumann's "Three Romances." It's wistful music composed as her husband Robert Schumann grew increasingly ill, eventually committing himself to an insane asylum in 1854. Schumann's "Three Fantasiestücke" become profoundly meditative in the warm tone and rich bass of the 1726 Stradivarius that Isserlis plays on gut strings.

Perhaps no love story is as tragic as that of Vitezslava

Kapralova and Bohuslav Martinu, who vowed to elope to America, only for Kapralova to marry someone else and die two months later of tuberculosis, in June 1940. She was just 25, but already a promising composer and conductor. Her only surviving "Ritournelle," passionate and energetic despite being her last known composition, mirrors her teacher Martinu's modernist innovations.

The piano and cello are almost locked in a duel in Martinu's first Cello Sonata, composed as Kapralova was nearing death, after the Nazis occupied their homeland of Czechoslovakia and shortly before the Paris occupation. French femme fatale Augusta Holmes captured the imagination of many of her contemporaries, chief among them Cesar Franck, 25 years her senior. Isserlis played an evocative arrangement of parts of her cantata "La vision de la reine"—published in 1895, the same year she became the first woman to premiere an opera in Paris. Its religious overtones echo those of Franck's beloved sonata.

### 'Not rocket science'

Despite featuring seldom-heard works by women, Isserlis insisted "it's not a feminist recital." "I wouldn't play a piece just because it was by a woman or because it was by somebody from a certain racial background... It's con-

descending if one does that," he said. "You have to love the music. It's got to be good music." Jenny Bilfield, president and CEO of concert organizer Washington Performing Arts, advocates a straight-forward approach to inclusion. "Let's not overthink this... Study history, discover music that's been overlooked and bring it forward to the present day," she said. "It's not rocket science."

### 'Rewrite history?'

Although male-composed works predominate in the classical music canon, it's not for lack of quantity or quality of pieces by women. "A lot of these women in their own times were famous and were well-known and were played," said violinist Laura Colgate. "We actually have to go back and rewrite history." She co-founded the Boulanger Initiative to promote these works. Composer Missy Mazzoli, 38, and violinist Jennifer Koh, 42, headlined its inaugural Washington festival Friday. From 2014 to 2018, just 1.7 percent of pieces performed by leading American orchestras were composed by women, according to data compiled by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

For the upcoming 2019-2020 season, the Institute for Composer Diversity's survey of 50 orchestras found an

increase to 7.4 percent. Some groups have introduced corrective measures, though true progress may come when having women in these roles becomes unremarkable. More than 150 music festivals have pledged to reach a 50/50 gender balance by 2022 under the international Keychange campaign, with women, transgender and non-binary people falling under the same category. Only nine of the festivals are American.

Women conductors have slowly gained traction, including Marin Alsop, Alondra de la Parra and Elina Chan. Colgate started her project a year ago with organist Joy-Leilani Garbutt to bridge that gap, with commissions, concert series and educational programs in the offing. She says there's a real thirst for this music, which could make the symphony more appealing to the general public. While orchestras focus on the need to get new people in the audience, "that's not actually the problem—it's getting them to come back a second time," said Colgate. "There's all of these expectations in the classical music world that make most people feel like outsiders. We're trying to get rid of all of those labels and make anybody feel welcome." — AFP



Violinist Laura Colgate, co-founder and co-artistic director of the Boulanger Initiative promoting women composers, poses at her home in Takoma Park, Maryland.



British cellist Steven Isserlis rehearses at the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.



Violinist Jennifer Koh and composer Missy Mazzoli perform works by Mazzoli at the Boulanger Initiative's inaugural women composers festival at Blind Whino in Washington, DC.







## Sports

# Djokovic dispatches Fratangelo to book Kohlschreiber clash

## Kyrgios falls at first hurdle at Indian Wells

**INDIAN WELLS:** World number one Novak Djokovic shook off a nervy start to dispatch US qualifier Bjorn Fratangelo in straight sets Saturday to reach the third round of the ATP Indian Wells Masters. Djokovic, playing his first match since winning a record seventh Australian Open title in January, was less than sharp in conceding an early break to his 128th-ranked rival.

He broke back as Fratangelo served for the set to knot it at 5-5, and then raced to a 4-1 lead in the tiebreaker. Djokovic had to dig deep, however, when Fratangelo battled back to lead the tiebreaker 5-4. After a double fault and a forehand error from the 25-year-old American, Djokovic suddenly had a set point, and once he'd pocketed the set, the second went all his way. "To be honest, I was a bit nervous in the beginning," admitted Djokovic, who is going for a record sixth Indian Wells title. Djokovic, currently tied with Roger Federer on five wins in the California desert, can also tie world number two Rafael Nadal's record of 33 Masters 1000 titles.

"I haven't competed for over five weeks. I was a bit rusty in the first set. I was kind of waiting for him to do something with the ball rather than doing it myself. "I was lucky to get the first set. After that, things went better for me," added Djokovic, who loped over to share a word with US great Pete Sampras in the stands after wrapping up the victory in one hour and 29 minutes. Djokovic next faces German Philipp Kohlschreiber, a 6-4, 6-4 winner over Australian Nick Kyrgios. Kyrgios, seeded 31st, was coming off a scintillating run to the Mexico Open title in Acapulco, where he defeated Nadal, ninth-ranked John Isner and, in the final, third-ranked German Alexander Zverev.

Kyrgios said it wasn't a matter of an emotional let-down in the wake of his first title in over a year. "I didn't really have a problem getting up. I just didn't play well today," he said. "He's an incredible competitor," Kyrgios said. "He knows how to win tennis matches."

As men's seeds swung into action after first-round byes, third-seeded Zverev advanced when Slovakian foe Martin Klizan retired with an ankle injury with the German leading 6-3, 2-0.

Action opened on stadium court with 18-year-old Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime powering past Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, 6-4, 6-2, for his first win over a top-10 player. In a battle of two ATP young guns, 58th-ranked Auger-Aliassime came out firing, and his aggression paid off with a victory over 20-year-old Tsitsipas, who shot to prominence with a victory over Federer at the Australian Open.

He moved into the top 10 for the first time with his runner-up finish to Federer in Dubai, where the Swiss great claimed a remarkable 100th career title. But Tsitsipas could find no answer to Auger-Aliassime, who broke early in the first to gain the upper hand and seized a 2-1 lead with the first of two breaks in the second. Auger-Aliassime saved all seven break points he faced-six of them in the first set. "It's unbelievable," Auger-Aliassime said. "I never expected to play that well today, to get my first top-10 win is special, against Stefanos who has been playing so well."

Auger-Aliassime, who next faces Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka, is one of four teens in the draw, along with countryman Denis Shapovalov, Alexei Popyrin and lucky loser Miomir Kecmanovic. Kecmanovic gained entry into the second round in place of injured fifth-



**INDIAN WELLS:** Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a backhand against Bjorn Fratangelo of the United States during their men's singles second round match on day six of the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on March 09, 2019 in Indian Wells, California. — AFP

seed Kevin Anderson.

He made the most of his chance, beating Germany's Maximilian Marterer, 6-3, 6-2, to reach the third round.

At the other end of the age spectrum, 40-year-old Ivo Karlovic advanced with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) victory over 11th-seeded Croatian Borna Coric. — AFP



Waleed Al Khashti awarding a group of winners.



From the GulfRun race at Kuwait Motor Town Circuit.

## Zain awards winners of GulfRun Karting Endurance Race

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, awarded the winning teams of GulfRun's Karting Endurance Race as part of its strategic partnership of the 14th edition of GulfRun, the GCC's most popular motorsport event. The event, held at Kuwait Motor Town Race Circuit in Arifjan, in March.

Zain strongly believes in the important role the private sector plays in developing the youth and sports sectors in Kuwait. The company makes this concept a reality by sponsoring and supporting various major sporting events in Kuwait, including this regional event, as well as sponsoring and encouraging many Kuwaiti athletes who represent Kuwait in local, regional, and international arenas. Many of these athletes, who achieve great titles that Zain takes pride in, are motorsport champions.

GulfRun involved a Karting Endurance race, which was held at Kuwait's Motor Town Race Circuit over a continuous period of 24 hours. The activity witnessed tremendous success, gathering many enthusiasts of

this sport alongside the public. Zain awarded "Zain Karting Team" for winning the first place title, as well as awarding the winners of the second and third place titles.

GulfRun already kick-started with the sports cars show that took place at Murooj, where participants showcased their exquisite high-speed sports cars and thrilled visitors. In addition, the main GulfRun race, held at Bahrain International Circuit in the Kingdom of Bahrain, was a true test of the participants' motorsport skills, where they had the chance to take part in several training procedures in preparation for the final race that was extremely popular with professional and amateur racers alike.

Next March, GulfRun will feature the Karting Endurance race that will be held at the recently-opened Kuwait Motor Town Race Circuit in Arifjan, where it will continue over a period of 24-hours, offering racers, both professionals and amateurs, with an exciting and safe atmosphere to compete and win the

race title. The Karting Endurance race will also feature the participation of Zain's team.

Zain's support to GulfRun comes in line with its keenness on encouraging the various efforts that contribute to developing the Kuwaiti youth and sports sectors. The company puts the support of Kuwaiti sports at the forefront of its priorities under the umbrella of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy, and Zain's support of Kuwaiti champions results in many achievements that the company is proud of one year after another.

GulfRun is considered an ideal and safe alternative to street racing, which threatens the lives of many people, many of them young drivers. Motorsport enthusiasts are able to showcase their talents within professional and certified grounds at the Kuwait Motor Town Race Circuit and Bahrain International Circuit, in addition to having taken advantage of the opportunity to gain valuable insights with the help of qualified trainers and experienced professional instructors.

## Osaka turns tables on Mladenovic, Venus rallies at Indian Wells

**INDIAN WELLS:** World number one Naomi Osaka launched her Indian Wells WTA title defense with a 6-3, 6-4 victory in a grudge match against Kristina Mladenovic on Saturday. Osaka, whose second straight Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January propelled her to the top of the rankings, was beaten by 65th-ranked Mladenovic in Dubai last month in her first match since she lifted the trophy in Melbourne.

Keen to avoid a repeat, Osaka marched through the opening set in 38 minutes, but she hit a speed bump as she was broken when serving for the match at 5-2 in the second. After Mladenovic held serve to narrow the deficit to 5-4, the Japanese player faced another break point before wrapping up the match after one hour and 21 minutes. "The last time I played her I lost, so anything's a bonus," Osaka said, adding that she felt a few butterflies before opening the first title defense of her career. Her surprise triumph at Indian Wells last year launched a 2018 campaign that would eventually include her first Grand Slam crown at the US Open.

"I've never been a defending champion before, that's new and I was really nervous," said Osaka, who booked a third-round meeting with American Danielle Collins, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Kirsten Flipkens.

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams pulled off the upset of the day, rallying from a set and two breaks down to topple third-seeded Petra Kvitova 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. "I just fought and tried my hardest," said Williams, currently ranked 36th in the world. "A double break is not ideal against a great server, especially a left-handed server," Williams said, adding that the secret to coming back was "just being in the moment". "I think I created some opportunities. I had some good points. I think she had a few tight points, and here we are."

She booked a third-round clash with fellow American Christina McHale, a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 winner over 30th-seeded Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova, who was runner-up to Osaka in Melbourne, appeared to have taken control of the stadium court slugfest when she broke Williams for a 4-3 lead in the third. But Williams immediately broke back and Kvitova soon found herself serving to save the match. She took a 40-15 lead in the final game, but two double faults, followed by a lucky netcord bounce for Williams gave the American a match point and Kvitova sailed a ball long to end matters after two hours and 27 minutes.

Williams pulled off the unlikely comeback despite failing to produce a single ace although she said her varying serve speeds were "what I needed to do". She was broken four times, but proved more consistent in the bruising baseline rallies. Kvitova fired 10 aces, but also had 10 double faults and while the Czech fired 38 winners to Williams's 15, her 56 unforced errors were more than double the American's 25.

"It was such a weird match," Kvitova said, calling it her worst of the year. "I took the first set. Suddenly I was leading in the second, but somehow I just gave her a chance again to be back in the match, and she took it. "I was so frustrated with myself from the half of the second set to the end, which shouldn't happen to me," she said.

There was disappointment, too, for 2011 winner Caroline Wozniacki, who fell 7-5, 2-6, 7-5 to 59th-ranked Russian Ekaterina Alexandrova. — AFP



## KAC sponsors 15th Special Olympics World Games tourney

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) announced sponsoring Kuwait Special Olympics national Team as an official carrier of the team that left on Friday from T4 aboard a KAC flight heading to Abu Dhabi to take part in the 15th Special Olympics World Games tourney held in UAE in the period of March 14-21. The team comprising of 86 players received swift service through 10 check-in counters.

In this regard, KAC's PR and media manager, Fayeze Al-Enezi said that this sponsorship is part of KAC's social responsibility activities and represents its keenness on supporting people with spe-

cial needs to represent Kuwait in international arenas. He added that KAC is also keen on encouraging young people with special needs to integrate with their peers in various sports, cultural and social fields. On her part, head of the Kuwaiti delegation and the chairperson of Al-Tomoooh Sport Club for Intellectual Disabilities and the manager of Kuwait Special Olympic Games, Rehab Boreesly expressed her joy with the new experience of taking part in the games along with 7,500 players from 192 countries. "This will be a unique experience for both the players and their parents", she underlined.



## Sports

# Handscomb hundred and Turner blitz help Australia to level series

## Dhawan roars back into form with a career-best 143

**MOHALI:** Peter Handscomb struck his maiden ODI hundred and Ashton Turner smashed a blistering 84 not out to secure Australia's series-levelling four-wicket victory against India in the high-scoring fourth one-day international in Mohali yesterday.

Chasing a steep 359 to stay alive in the series, Australia were 12-2 in the fourth over before Handscomb (117) and Usman Khawaja raised 192 runs to put their chase back on track. Turner then exploded down the order, clobbering six sixes and five fours in his charmed 43-ball blitz as Australia romped home with 13 balls to spare.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma (95) narrowly missed his century but Shikhar Dhawan roared back into form with a career-best 143 to help India post a commanding 358-9 after electing to bat first.

Dhawan went into the match having totalled 41 runs from his last five outings in limited-overs cricket, a run drought he ended with his 16th ODI hundred, raising 193 runs with fellow opener Rohit in the process.

Rohit clubbed a couple of sixes and seven boundaries to inch close to his century before his front-foot pull off Jhye Richardson found Handscomb at midwick-et. Dhawan hit three sixes and 18 boundaries, stepping out even to the fast bowlers in a dominant display of batting. Pat Cummins ended the boundary carnage by bowling him out. Rishabh Pant, replacing the rested

Mahendra Singh Dhoni in one of the four changes to the India squad, made 36 before falling to Cummins (5-70) who claimed his maiden five-wicket haul in ODIs.

Australia, missing all-rounder Marcus Stoinis through a thumb injury, were jolted early in their chase. Bhuvneshwar Kumar breached Aaron Finch's defence to dismiss the Australia captain for a duck in the first over and Jasprit Bumrah yorked Shaun Marsh in the fourth. Khawaja and Handscomb defied India for nearly 30 overs and did not panic even as the required run rate climbed above nine. Kuldeep Yadav denied Khawaja his second century of the series, dismissing the opener for 91. Handscomb brought up his hundred off 92 balls to keep Australia on course, with the tourists needing 98 from the last 10 overs with six wickets in hand.

Yuzvendra Chahal eventually ended Handscomb's 105-ball knock, which included three sixes and eight fours. Glenn Maxwell (23) could not provide the late assault but Turner tore into the Indian attack with some breathtaking power-hitting.

He needed 33 balls to bring up his maiden ODI fifty though was lucky to be dropped twice in three balls in the 47th over sent down by Kumar having also survived a stumping chance earlier in his knock. The teams now move to New Delhi for the decisive fifth and final match of the series on Wednesday. — Reuters



**MOHALI:** India cricketer Kuldeep Yadav (2R) celebrates the wicket of Australia cricketer Glenn Maxwell (R) during the fourth one-day international (ODI) cricket match between India and Australia at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali yesterday. —AFP

## Result 'definitely possible' as NZ reach 38 for two

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand short-ball maestro Neil Wagner believed a result in the rain-affected second Test against Bangladesh was still "definitely possible" after New Zealand trailed by 173 at stumps on day three in Wellington yesterday.

New Zealand reached 38 for two in reply to Bangladesh's first innings 211 after the first two days were washed out. Thirteen wickets fell in the 72 overs possible, leading New Zealand's chief wicket-taker Wagner to think there was still time to force a result in the remaining two days.

"It's definitely possible," Wagner said having removed the cream of the Bangladesh side with four for 28. "If we keep taking it session by session and get ourselves into the lead and pile on whatever we can, anything is possible."

New Zealand will resume today with Ross Taylor on 19 and Kane Williamson on 10. Tamim Iqbal gave the tourists a sound start with 74 as Bangladesh reached 119 for one before the next nine wickets fell for just 92 runs. New Zealand, in reply, were reduced to eight for two as Abu Jayed claimed both openers cheaply, but Williamson and Taylor steadied the innings before the rain returned to force an early close.

Williamson, who won the toss, had no hesitation in bowling first on a green wicket but it did not hold the

SCOREBOARD	
Scoreboard at the end of the Bangladesh first innings on day three of the rain-shortened second Test against New Zealand in Wellington.	
<b>Bangladesh first innings</b>	
Tamim Iqbal c Southee b N Wagner	74
Shadman Islam c Taylor b de Grandhomme	27
Mominul Haque c Watling b Wagner	15
M. Mithun c Watling b Wagner	3
Soumya Sarkar c Watling b Henry	20
Mahmudullah c de Grandhomme b Wagner	13
Liton Das c Williamson b Southee	33
Tajjul Islam lbw Boulton	8
Mustafizur Rahman b Boulton	0
Abu Jayed b Boulton	4
Ebadat Hossain not out	0
Extras: (b4, lb7, wd2, nb1)	14
Total: (all out, 61 overs)	211
Fall of wickets: 1-75 (Shadman), 2-119 (Mominul), 3-127 (Mithun), 4-134 (Tamim), 5-152 (Soumya), 6-168 (Mahmudullah), 7-206 (Tajjul), 8-206 (Rahman), 9-207 (Das), 10-211 (Jayed)	
Bowling: Boulton 11-3-38-3, Southee 15-2-52-1 (2w, 1nb), de Grandhomme 7-0-15-1, Henry 15-0-67-1, Wagner 13-4-28-4.	
<b>New Zealand:</b> Jeet Raval, Tom Latham, Kane Williamson (capt), Ross Taylor, Henry Nicholls, BJ Watling, Colin de Grandhomme, Matt Henry, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Trent Boulton.	
Series: New Zealand lead 1-0	

demons that conditions suggested. Tamim and Shadman Islam put on 75 for the first wicket-their third consecutive fifty-plus stand as new-ball pair Boulton and Tim Southee were unable to generate much swing or effective seam movement.

Once they were out of the attack the wickets began to fall with Colin de Grandhomme accounting for Shadman for 27 before Wagner weaved his magic. "I tried to pitch my first over up and went for 10 runs so there wasn't a lot of swing or a lot of movement at that point of time," Wagner said explaining why he reverted to his favoured short deliveries.

"Obviously, I wanted to try and make the most out of the bounce ... and try and get nicks, try and get a glove and see if it goes through to BJ (Watling) and luckily it worked on the day." Unlike the first Test when the

Bangladesh batsmen were troubled by the menacing height he extracted from the pitch, this time they were the architects of their own downfall with the wickets coming from injudicious pull shots or unnecessary leg side flicks. "Batsmen have to think before playing their shots," said Liton Das, the second highest scorer with 33. "We know (Wagner) will bowl short from where you have very little to do. Sometimes the only way to tackle him is by leaving the deliveries. If we can focus more against him and leave him more, it might help us."

In a telling 13-ball spell either side of lunch, Wagner first removed Mominul Haque (15) and Mohammad Mithun (three) before the break and soon after the resumption took the key wicket of Tamim, who top-edged an attempted pull shot. Boulton mopped up the tail with three wickets for four runs in nine balls. — AFP

## Hirscher seals eighth straight overall WCup title

**KRANJSKA GORA:** Marcel Hirscher made certain of his eighth consecutive overall World Cup crown when he completed his second run in the slalom in Kranjska Gora in Slovenia yesterday. The Austrian began the day with a huge lead in the overall standings over Alexis Pinturault of France with five races to go. Hirscher was sixth after the first run. He stayed on his feet and recorded a time that ensured he would collect enough points to win his 20th crystal globe.

After all the competitors had finished, Hirscher was third behind winner Ramon Zenhausern of Switzerland and Norwegian Henrik Kristoffersen. Pinturault was seventh. The result means Hirscher is 509 points ahead of Pinturault with four races left, one of them a downhill—a discipline in which neither skier has ever finished on a World Cup podium, and a maximum of 400 points to ski for.

The huge Zenhausern, who stands 2 metres (6'7") tall, was only seventh after the first run but was fastest in the second to beat Kristoffersen by 1.15sec, for a first career slalom victory, although the Swiss skier has won two World Cup city knockout races.

Kristoffersen, who had won his last three races, seemed set to add to his streak when he led by almost half a second after the first run but was only 24th second time down. In third, Hirscher took his 138th career podium despite a much less convincing performance than usual.

But, in his competition with the legends of skiing history, the Austrian further increased his lead. He already held the record for most overall titles. He now has two more than the second most successful skier in history, another Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell, who won six large globes. The most successful man had been Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, with five. American Lindsey Vonn and Austrian Hermann Maier both won four.

With 68 race victories in the World Cup, Hirscher, who turned 30 a week ago, can aim for the record of 86 set by Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark, if he is prepared to keep going long enough. The Austrian suggested at the time that the World Championships in Are in Sweden in February, where he won a fifth individual title, would be his last, and is mulling retirement after this season. He has talked of the pressure from Austrian fans and the loneliness of the circuit.

### World Cup standings after Sunday's slalom in Kranjska Gora:

**Overall (after 34 of 38 races):** 1. Marcel Hirscher (AUT) 1,508 pts, 2. Alexis Pinturault (FRA) 999, 3. Henrik Kristoffersen (NOR) 988, 4. Dominik Paris (ITA) 750, 5. Beat Feuz (SUI) 653, 6. Vincent Kriechmayr (AUT) 634, 7. Aleksander Aamodt Kilde (NOR) 587, 8. Mauro Caviezel (SUI) 566, 9. Marco Schwarz (AUT) 560, 10. Daniel Yule (SUI) 491

### Slalom after (12 of 13 races):

1. Marcel Hirscher (AUT) 768 pts, 2. Daniel Yule (SUI) 491, 3. Ramon Zenhausern (SUI) 471, 3. Henrik Kristoffersen (NOR) 471, 5. Clement Noel (FRA) 451. — AFP



## Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah Cup concludes

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The tournament of Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah Al-Sabah Cup concluded at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex in the presence of patron representative Sheikh Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi, Secretary General Obeid Munahi Al-Osaimi, Assistant Secretary Eng Mohammad Misfer Al-Ghurba and board members. Competitions continued for three days in the 10 meter pistol and rifle as well as Olympic archery.

Results of the tournament were as follow:

In the 10m air rifle men: Abdullah Al-Harbi, Khalid Ibrahim, Mohammad Adel.

In the 10m air pistol men: Ali Al-Mutairi, Hassan Abdulmajed, Saad Nughegan.

In the 10m air rifle women: Maryam Arzouqi, Yara Al-Khalaf, Fatemah Abdulmalek.

In the 10m air pistol women: Amara Awad, Sundos Al-Hamad, Maryam Al-Kandari.

Olympic Archery men - compound: Abdallah Malallah, Salem Al-Saeed, Amer Al-Hajiri.

Archery - open category: Hatem Al-Osaimi, Suad Al-Bahar, Mohammad Munahi.

## Warner smacks ton on return from surgery

**SYDNEY:** David Warner smashed a rapid-fire century for his Sydney club side on his return from elbow surgery, reinforcing his destructive abilities ahead of the World Cup in England. The opener plundered seven sixes and four fours in his 77-ball onslaught for Randwick-Petersham, better known as the Randy Petes, in a one-day game against Penrith that they lost.

He was finally caught during Saturday's match, in front of a few dozen fans, off the bowling of 18-year-old left-armed Henry Railz, the Cricket Australia website reported. Year-long ball-tam-

pering bans from state and international for Warner and former Australian skipper Steve Smith run out on March 28.

They were both left out of Australia's squad on Friday for the upcoming one-day series against Pakistan despite being eligible for the final two games. Selector Trevor Hohns said they would be better served easing their way back at the Indian Premier League, which gets under way this month. Both men were forced to pull out of the Bangladesh Premier League Twenty20 tournament in January with elbow injuries and they underwent surgery. Smith's injury was worse than Warner's and he is yet to return, although he picked up a bat again and had a session at the Sydney Cricket Ground last week.

"We all know they're two of the better players in world cricket," Hohns told reporters on Friday. "So it's only natural we will take them seriously into consideration when we pick our World Cup squad. The main thing for them and us is to have them playing competitive cricket." —AFP

Sports

# Bucks crush Hornets, become first team to notch 50 wins

## Celtics dominate Lakers behind Irving's 30 points

**MILWAUKEE:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 points and 13 rebounds, Brook Lopez scored 25 points, and the host Milwaukee Bucks beat the Charlotte Hornets 131-114 on Saturday night. The Bucks trailed by as many as 14 in the second quarter but exploded for 39 third-quarter points to take the lead before increasing their advantage to as many as 18 in the fourth quarter. The Bucks became the first team in the league to reach the 50-win plateau. They are now 27-5 at home. They have won two straight and nine of their past 11. Kemba Walker scored 25 points to lead the Hornets, who remain in 10th place in the Eastern Conference playoff race. Frank Kaminsky scored 16, Miles Bridges had 15, Nic Batum and Jeremy Lamb finished with 14 apiece, and Cody Zeller scored 10.

**TIMBERWOLVES 135, WIZARDS 130 (OT)**  
Karl-Anthony Towns collected 40 points and 16 rebounds before exiting with a right knee injury, and host Minnesota outlasted Washington. Towns, who left in the final minute of regulation and did not play in overtime, reached the 40-point plateau for the third time in five games. The two-time All-Star fell just shy of his season high of 42 points. He will undergo further testing on his knee, but coach Ryan Saunders said he has not heard reason for serious concern. Derrick Rose scored 16 of his 29 points after the third quarter for the Timberwolves, who have won two of three. Taj Gibson had 15 points and 13 rebounds.

**CELTICS 120, LAKERS 107**  
Kyrie Irving scored 30 points, Marcus Smart and Marcus Morris added 16 each, and visiting Boston extending its winning streak to three with a win over Los Angeles. Gordon Hayward added 15 points as the Celtics avenged a defeat to the Lakers at home in

February when former Boston point guard Rajon Rondo hit a game-winning shot at the buzzer. LeBron James finished with a triple-double (30 points, 12 assists, 10 rebounds) for the Lakers, who were playing without a number of key contributors because of injuries. Los Angeles lost its fifth consecutive game and fell for the seventh time in its last eight games.

**NETS 114, HAWKS 112**  
D'Angelo Russell hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:39 remaining, and Brooklyn held off host Atlanta to complete a season-series sweep despite a triple-double performance by rookie Trae Young. Spencer Dinwiddie had 23 points and Jarrett Allen finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who had beaten the Hawks twice in Brooklyn earlier in the three-game season series. Young's triple-double consisted of 23 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists. John Collins had 33 points and 20 rebounds for Atlanta, which dropped its second straight.

**KINGS 102, KNICKS 94**  
De'Aaron Fox scored a game-high 30 points and hit the go-ahead basket with 5:03 to play as visiting Sacramento beat New York. The Kings overcame a 15-point first quarter deficit and survived squandering an 11-point lead in the fourth quarter to win the opener of a pivotal four-game Eastern Conference road trip. Sacramento, which hasn't made the playoffs since 2006, entered Saturday four games behind the San Antonio Spurs in the race for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Buddy Hield scored 19 points, and Nemanja Bjelica had a double-double (13 points, 10 rebounds) for the Kings.

**BLAZERS 127, SUNS 120**  
CJ McCollum scored 26 points on 11-for-14 shoot-



**MILWAUKEE:** Cody Zeller #40 of the Charlotte Hornets shoots the ball against the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday at the Fiserv Forum Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

ing as Portland pulled out a victory over visiting Phoenix. Seth Curry came off the bench to match his season high with 22 points for the Trail Blazers, who ended their two-game losing streak. Damian Lillard added 18 points and nine assists, and Jusuf Nurkic

contributed 14 points and nine rebounds for Portland. Devin Booker scored 23 points and DeAndre Ayton collected 21 points and eight boards for the Suns, who had won three in a row. Kelly Oubre had 17 points and seven rebounds for Phoenix. — Reuters



## Kuwait int'l sailing event honor winners

**KUWAIT:** The 12th Kuwait international sailing championship concluded at Kuwait Sea Sport Club (KSSC) on Saturday with an award giving ceremony. The championship, organized by KSSC sailing, rowing and kayaking committee, saw Malika Bellomi, of Italy, leading the Optimist (dinghy) category, followed by his compatriot Mose' Bellomi in the second place and

Yahya Al-Fakharani, of Egypt, in the third. In the Laser 4.7 category, Al-Baraa Al-Nawfali, of Oman, came first, while Kuwait's Ya'qoub Shah came second and Ali Al-Failakawi, of Kuwait too, came third. Speaking to KUNA, KSSC Secretary-General Khaled Al-Fawdery said the championship lived to our expectations and was a complete success. "The event provided

a good opportunity for seaports people from Kuwait and other GCC states to compete with their peers from around the globe," he said, voicing hope that the Kuwaiti sailors will continue training and do better in the coming events. The championship, which kicked off on Thursday, gathered 74 participants from 18 countries. —KUNA

## Sterling urges City to clinch quadruple

**LONDON:** Raheem Sterling urged Manchester City to maintain their "amazing mentality" as the Premier League leaders chase an unprecedented quadruple. Pep Guardiola's side won the English title in record-breaking fashion last season, but their defence of the crown has been much tougher, with Liverpool posing a serious threat.

City have climbed back above the Reds in recent weeks and also lifted the League Cup trophy following their final win over Chelsea. With a 3-2 lead over Schalke heading into Tuesday's Champions League last 16 second leg and an FA Cup quarter-final at Swansea next weekend, City are still in with a chance of sweeping up all the available silverware.

Sterling's 13-minute treble secured a 3-1 win against Watford in the league on Saturday and the England winger believes City's confidence and steely focus can carry them to an historic season.

"It's going alright for me and the team," Sterling said. "We've got one trophy already and the most important thing is not how many goals I am scoring, it's how many trophies we lift. "You know, hopefully we can continue with this amazing mentality and see how far it gets us."

"We don't get excited about anything. We know how difficult teams can be, we know how difficult these competitions are, we're playing against top teams, top players and anything can happen."

"We've got to keep humble, keep fighting game by game." Guardiola kept Sterling's feet on the ground by saying "he can do better" after a match that was level until a controversial opener just after half-time.—AFP

## Piatek 'kung fu' goal rescues Milan at Chievo

**MILAN:** Krzysztof Piatek struck again to rescue a 2-1 win for AC Milan at bottom club Chievo on Saturday, keeping their Champions League push firmly on track, but the Polish striker was accused of scoring with a 'kung fu' kick. Piatek joined Milan from Genoa in January and has now scored eight goals in nine matches, as the club notched up a fifth straight league win to remain unbeaten since before Christmas. Returning from injury, Lucas Biglia opened with a curling free kick after 31 minutes in Verona. It was just his second goal for Milan and first since February last year.

Finnish midfielder Perparim Hetemaj got his head to the end of Leris cross to pull the hosts level four minutes before the break. But once again Piatek proved crucial, scoring the winner after 57 minutes in controversial circumstances.

Chievo goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino parried a shot from the Polish striker who then dived to send the ball back into the net after an overhead kick which struck Mattia Bani. A VAR review confirmed the goal to the fury of Chievo coach Domenico Di Carlo.

"It was a kung fu kick, it's impossible not to spot that," complained Di Carlo whose side have just one win from 27 games. "You can write the headline: 'Chievo beaten by a kung fu shot.'" The 23-year-old Piatek joins Juventus

star Cristiano Ronaldo and Sampdoria's Fabio Quagliarella on top of the Serie A scorers' chart with 19 goals this season.

Milan consolidate third position to move five points behind second-placed Napoli who travel to Sassuolo later. Champions Juventus pulled 19 points clear at the top on Friday with Moise Kean scoring a brace in a 4-1 win over lowly Udinese. Inter Milan, are fourth, four points behind Milan, before hosting SPAL. The Milan teams will go head-to-head next weekend. "We started off well, controlled the game but we then conceded a goal and then lost the compass for a moment," said Milan assistant coach Luigi Riccio.

"Fortunately Krzysztof Piatek got the winner and sorted things out. "We know the difficulties involved in a derby and wanted to get to that game with this kind of standing. We're on the right road and want to continue like this."

However, coach Gennaro Gattuso was sent to the stands for arguing on the sidelines with Chievo midfielder Riccardo Meggiorini in the first-half and now risks a suspension for the derby. "We hope Gattuso will be there for the derby, it would be an added bonus for us," said Riccio. "These things happen, Gattuso spoke to the referee afterwards and it's all sorted out. All clarified." Roma, in fifth, three points off the Champions League places begin life under new coach Claudio Ranieri at home against Empoli today. Czech midfielder Juraj Kucka scored the only goal as Parma ended mid-table rival's Genoa's six-game unbeaten run. Kucka broke through after 78 minutes against his former club on a rebound after Brazilian goalkeeper parried his header. Parma overtake Genoa to move two places up to 11th position. — AFP

**Live**

**Matches on TV**  
(Local Timings)

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**ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE**

AS Roma v Empoli 22:30  
beIN SPORTS

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**GERMAN BUNDESLIGA**

Fortuna D,sseldorf v Eintracht Frankfurt 22:30  
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## Villa's Grealish punched by Birmingham fan

**LONDON:** Aston Villa's Jack Grealish was punched by a pitch-invading Birmingham fan in a shocking incident during yesterday's Championship clash, but the midfielder had the last laugh as he scored the decisive goal in a 1-0 win over their bitter rivals.

Grealish was in the Birmingham penalty area in the 10th minute when a man ran on to the field and threw a punch from behind at the Villa captain. The blow caught Grealish on the side of the head and sent him sprawling to the turf. The intruder was quickly restrained by a steward as Villa players including Tammy Abraham and Glenn Whelan rushed to Grealish's defence.

After the fan had been shoved over, he was eventually led away by police, defiantly blowing kisses to the crowd. A visibly furious Grealish was helped to his feet and was able to continue playing once order was restored at Birmingham's St Andrew's stadium.

Grealish produced the correct response to the assault in the 70th minute. Taking possession 20 yards from goal, he advanced into the Birmingham penalty area before drilling a low shot into the far corner to seal Villa's league double over their hated neighbours.

In a fittingly dramatic gesture, Grealish jumped into the stand to celebrate with the Villa fans behind the goal and was booked as a result. West Midlands Police confirmed the Birmingham supporter had been arrested, while the Blues condemned the attack as "deplorable and disgusting" and will apologise to Grealish personally.

It was reported Birmingham will ban the man for life from St Andrew's. "The EFL condemns the mindless actions of the individual who encroached on to the pitch at St Andrews yesterday afternoon," a Football League statement read. "It's a situation no player should ever be faced with."

Former Manchester United defender Gary Neville said: "The club are going have to take a huge punishment for this to act as a deterrent in the future. A Points deduction or Empty stadium for 10 games!"

Former Villa midfielder Lee Hendrie, working as a TV pundit at the match, added: "A fan running on to the pitch and taking someone like Jack out, there's knife crime... anything could have happened out there."

There is a long history of animosity between Birmingham and Villa supporters, with outbreaks of serious violence in the streets marring many of the 'second city' derby encounters. There was fighting between rival gangs before Sunday's match, with police having to hold back fans while at least one man was seen being treated by paramedics after suffering a head wound.

Fanning the flames further, Grealish is a boyhood Villa fan and once turned down a chance to join Birmingham on loan when he was a youngster, reportedly saying: "I'm not going there". In 2002, a Birmingham fan was jailed for four months after running onto the pitch at St Andrew's to taunt then Villa goalkeeper Peter Enckelman, who had just conceded a bizarre own goal when he let a backpass roll under his foot into the net.—AFP

**25** Djokovic dispatches Fratangelo to book Kohlschreiber clash

**26** Hirscher seals eighth straight overall World Cup title

**27** Bucks crush Hornets, become first team to notch 50 wins



## Firmino keep Liverpool in touch with City

Roberto takes his league tally for the season to 11



LIVERPOOL: Burnley's English defender Charlie Taylor (R) blocks a shot from Liverpool's English midfielder Jordan Henderson (L) during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Burnley at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday.—AFP

LIVERPOOL: Roberto Firmino returned to goalscoring form at the perfect moment for Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool, hitting the net twice in a 4-2 victory over Burnley that hauled them back to within a point of Premier League leaders Manchester City.

Sadio Mane was also on the scoresheet twice in a game in which Liverpool were required to respond to falling a goal behind against Sean Dyche's struggling side. And with City having opened a four-point gap over Liverpool, with a victory over Watford on Saturday, the pressure was clearly on Klopp and his players to respond, which they did impressively despite the controversial manner of Burnley's opening goal.

Firmino had a large role to play in steadying Liverpool nerves, taking his league tally for the season to 11 and ending a six-game goal drought as his side reacted impressively to going a goal down in the sixth

minute. Defender Joel Matip needlessly conceded a corner which Ashley Westwood took from the left wing and curled directly into the Liverpool goal, with home goalkeeper Alisson protesting furiously that he had been impeded in his attempts to deal with it.

Replays suggested Alisson had a strong point, with defender James Tarkowski leaning on the Brazilian from behind and Jack Cork making contact in front of him. The goalkeeper's furious reaction, sprinting 40 yards to remonstrate with referee Andre Marriner, earned him a booking.

This was a real test of Liverpool's mental fortitude after a run that has seen them draw five of their previous seven games in the league and Champions League.

They trailed for just 13 minutes, equalising with a flowing move started when Mohamed Salah and Georginio Wijnaldum exchanged passes and the

Egyptian drilled over a pacy near-post cross.

Burnley's England goalkeeper Tom Heaton and Tarkowski both had chances to clear but somehow allowed the ball to pass through them for Firmino to tap into an open net.

Liverpool were now firmly in control, clicking through the gears and placing the Burnley defence under increasing pressure before Mane shot them into the first lead of the afternoon shortly before the half hour. The goal owed much to the persistence of midfielder Adam Lallana, who charged down an attempted clearance by Phil Bardsley, with the ball breaking for Salah, who was well tackled by Charlie Taylor.

The rebound fell for Mane, who curled a magnificent finish past the diving Heaton from 15 yards, scoring in a sixth consecutive home league game in the process.

It was hard to see a way back for struggling Burnley,

who started the day just two points outside the relegation places as the second half quickly threatened to turn into a one-way procession towards the visitors' goal before Liverpool struck again midway through the second half.

Salah broke clear and was poised to shoot when Taylor made a superb tackle which, unfortunately for the visitors, left the loose ball sitting up neatly for Firmino to drive it into an open goal from 12 yards.

There was late anxiety after Johann Berg Gudmundsson made it 3-2 with an injury-time consolation after a knock-down in the area from Burnley substitute Peter Crouch.

But with virtually the last kick of the game in the 93rd minute, Mane chased a long through ball, rounded Heaton and completed the victory by kicking into the open goal. —AFP

## Hazard rescues Chelsea in Wolves draw

LONDON: Eden Hazard came to Maurizio Sarri's rescue as the Chelsea star's superb late strike earned a 1-1 draw against Wolves yesterday. Sarri's side were seconds away from another damaging defeat after Raul Jimenez put Wolves ahead at Stamford Bridge.

Hazard spared the under-fire Sarri's blushes with his thunderous stoppage-time equaliser, but it was still a frustrating day for the Blues boss.

Sarri's side had won three times in 10 days to temporarily silence reports that the Italian was facing the sack. But Chelsea's latest misfiring effort raised the possibility that Sarri is back on borrowed time in west London. With fourth-placed Manchester United playing fifth-placed Arsenal later on Sunday, Chelsea, languishing in sixth, will be further adrift of the top four after another tense afternoon for Sarri.

It has been a nightmare debut season for former Napoli boss Sarri, who had to

endure a League Cup final defeat against Manchester City in which Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga refused to be substituted. Under Sarri's watch, Chelsea have also suffered humiliating thrashings at City and Bournemouth, while supporters chanted for his sacking after the FA Cup exit against Manchester United.

Beating Tottenham and Fulham in the league and then easing past Dynamo Kiev in the Europa League last 16 first leg on Thursday had given Sarri some breathing space.

But Wolves have proved a thorn in his side this season and, after beating the Blues 2-1 at Molineux in December, they left the Italian looking over his shoulder anxiously again.

Chelsea are in action at Kiev on Thursday before a league trip to Everton next Sunday. The international break looms after that and Sarri could do with victories in those games to ensure Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich doesn't wield the axe.

With Chelsea's legendary striker Didier Drogba watching from the stands, it didn't take long for Gonzalo Higuain-Sarri's hand-picked targetman-to demonstrate the flaws in the current crop.

After a rapid exchange of passes with Pedro, Higuain could only muster a shot that was blocked by Romain Saiss. Higuain, on

loan from AC Milan, had another sight of goal from N'Golo Kante's pass, but this time his low strike was pushed away by Rui Patricio.

Despite all their possession, Chelsea lacked a cutting edge in a creatively uninspired display that was a return to the problems they have endured for much of the season. A monotonous procession of slow, sideways passes brought no reward against Wolves' massed defence, triggering jeers from frustrated Chelsea fans at half-time. After an anonymous first half, Hazard finally showed signs of life with a surge that ended with the Belgian being hauled down by Matt Doherty on the edge of the area. But David Luiz's effort from the resulting free-kick bounced tamely off the Wolves wall.

Having soaked up Chelsea's futile attempts to break them down, Wolves sprang out to snatch the lead with a perfectly executed counter in the 56th minute.

Breaking from their own area, Wolves exploited the out of position Chelsea defence as Jimenez flicked a pass to Diogo Jota. Jota ran wide before guiding the ball back into Jimenez, who prodded home via a deflection off Cesar Azpilicueta for his 14th goal this season.

Higuain tried to lead the Chelsea response with a shot on the turn, but



LONDON: Wolverhampton Wanderers' English midfielder Conor Coady (R) pressures Chelsea's Argentinian striker Gonzalo Higuain (L) during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Wolverhampton Wanderers at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday.—AFP

Patricio saved before Pedro's long-range effort was pushed over by the keeper. Higuain couldn't stretch far enough to score when Hazard's corner was deflected into his path. Willian's low strike was repelled by

Patricio as Chelsea pushed for the equaliser. With just moments left, Hazard at last ended Wolves' stubborn resistance with a fierce long-range drive that flashed past Patricio for his first goal in seven games. —AFP