

3 Assembly set to debate  
grilling against premier



24 New Delhi hit by rare  
'air pollution' alert



27 Liverpool seeking perfection  
in bid to dethrone Man City



Ramadan  
KAREEM

IMSAK	03:18
Fajr	03:28
Dhur	11:44
Asr	15:20
Magrib	18:32
Isha	19:59

# Saudi tankers hit by ‘sabotage attacks’ as Gulf tensions soar

Kuwait condemns the ‘criminal attack’ • UAE launches probe • Iran calls incident ‘worrisome’



FUJAIRAH: Photos taken off the coast of the Gulf emirate of Fujairah show Saudi oil tanker Al-Marzoqah and (right) A Michel tanker under the flag of the United Arab Emirates - two of the four tankers damaged in alleged ‘sabotage attacks’ in the Gulf. — AFP photos

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia said yesterday that two of its oil tankers were among those attacked off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and said it was an attempt to undermine the security of crude supplies amid tensions between the United States and Iran. The UAE said on Sunday that four commercial vessels were sabotaged near Fujairah emirate, one of the world's largest bunkering hubs lying just outside the Strait of Hormuz. It did not describe the nature of the attack or say who was behind it.

The UAE had not given the nationalities or other details about the ownership of the four vessels. Riyadh has identified two of them as Saudi and a Norwegian company said it owned another. Details of the fourth ship were not immediately clear. Thome Ship Management said its Norwegian-registered oil products tanker MT Andrew Victory was “struck by an unknown object”. Footage seen by Reuters showed a hole in the hull at the waterline with the metal torn open inwards.

Iran, which is embroiled in an escalating war of words with the United States over sanctions and the US military's presence in the region, moved to distance itself yesterday. Iran's Foreign Ministry called the incidents “worrisome and dreadful” and asked for an investigation into the matter.

Continued on Page 24

Ramadan Kareem

## Healthy Diet in Ramadan

By Angela Smith

Ramadan is a time of worship, a time to return our focus to Allah and His blessings. To remember all that we have been blessed with. To remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves. During this time, Muslims fast from before sunrise until sunset. During the fasting period, Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, smoking, and anything else that may bring them pleasure. Instead, they focus on acts of worship and in earning good deeds.

And because Ramadan involves fasting, there seems to be a big focus on food. Too many Muslims tend to break their fast with huge feasts, rather than simple, small meals that will give them the required energy and satisfy their hunger. Iftar meals tend to be more like Thanksgiving Day feasts in America that are filled with foods high in fat, refined carbs and sugars.

So, how can we then earn good deeds and get the most out of our fasting? You should make sure to do extra acts of charity, worship, reading Quran, and making duaa. In doing so, InshaaAllah (God willing) you will earn extra good deeds. During the month of Ramadan make sure that you avoid drinking sugary drinks and juices, as these will make you feel even more thirsty and hungry; instead drink plenty of water during the evening hours, in order to be well hydrated during the day.

If you do not want to feel like you have gone into a food induced coma then do not overeat when breaking your fast. Make sure that your meals are clean whole foods rather than processed foods or packaged foods that are chock full of chemicals, preservatives, dyes, and other ingredients that are body doesn't know how to properly digest. Also avoid foods that are high in bad fats, sugar, refined carbs and low in fiber. When possible adding fermented foods to your diet will help in the digestive process and reduce bloating.

In order to avoid any bloating after meals, be mindful of what you are ingesting and the amazing processes that are happening within your body. Thoroughly chew your food. Digestion starts in our mouth and yet few of us chew our food properly. So, while you are enjoying your iftaar, slow down while chewing your food and enjoy the tastes and flavors on your palate.

Whenever we eat too quickly, air can get trapped up in our stomach causing gas and bloating which in turn may prevent you from performing your prayers. You may also want to avoid chewing gum, drinking through a straw, eating fruit after your iftaar meal, as all of these can lead to gas and bloating. When eating fruit, eat it on an empty stomach as it digests much quicker than animal proteins, dairy and grains.

Courtesy of the TIES Center: the TIES Center aims at empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, you can contact TIES at Tel: 25231015/6; Hotline: 94079777; e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

## Gulf stocks down on rising tension

DUBAI: Stock markets in the energy-rich Gulf states dived yesterday as regional tensions soared after ships and oil tankers were targeted by acts of “sabotage” off the UAE coast. The Saudi bourse, the largest in the region, was down 2.7 percent after the kingdom's energy

minister said two Saudi oil tankers were damaged in a “sabotage attack” off the coast of Fujairah on the Arabian Sea.

The United Arab Emirates said on Sunday that four commercial vessels from various nationalities had been targeted by acts of sabotage just outside its territorial waters near Fujairah. The attacks did not result in any casualties but they caused damage to the vessels. The UAE bourses of Dubai and Abu Dhabi dropped by 3.7 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively yesterday.

Qatar shares were down 2.1 percent and Kuwait

Bourse was 1.2 percent lower while the small bourses of Oman and Bahrain were down 0.16 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively. The incidents came amid rising tensions in a region already shaken by a standoff between the United States and Iran. Tehran called for an investigation into the “alarming” attacks and warned of “adventurism” by foreign players to disrupt maritime security. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meanwhile scrapped a planned visit to Moscow to head Brussels to discuss Iran with European officials. — AFP

## Qatar distributes Gaza funds after deadly flareup

GAZA: Qatar began distributing millions of dollars in aid in the Gaza Strip yesterday in a fresh bid to restore calm after a flareup with Israel, a Qatari official said. Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas, along with an allied militant group, fired hundreds of rockets at Israel on May 4 and 5, saying they were frustrated by the slow implementation of a previous ceasefire deal.

A new agreement was brokered which reportedly includes tens of millions of Qatari aid to Gaza as part of a package to ease Israel's crippling blockade of the strip. The Gulf state, a rare Hamas ally in the region, has been providing millions in aid to the strip monthly since November. Qatari envoy Mohammed Al-Emadi entered Gaza yesterday, the Qatari source

told AFP on condition of anonymity.

“This morning, the distribution of a cash aid of 100 dollars per poor family began,” he said, adding it was destined for 108,000 families. Hundreds of Palestinians waited at post offices in Gaza City to receive the \$100 cash payments, an AFP photographer said. Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since 2008 and analysts fear another round remains likely. UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov warned yesterday of the risk of fresh conflict.

“The risk of war remains imminent and today we have perhaps the last chance to consolidate the agreements that have been reached,” he told a press conference in Gaza. — AFP



GAZA: A Palestinian man displays a 100 dollar bill, part of \$480 million in aid allocated by Qatar, in Gaza City yesterday. — AFP

## 15,558 Filipinos vote in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: 15,558 Filipinos in Kuwait cast their votes in the Philippines midterm election through overseas absentee voting which culminated yesterday in line with the Election Day in the Philippines. There are 96,423 Filipino registered voters in Kuwait. Voters are allowed to elect 12 senators and one party list representative.

Philippine Embassy's Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Noordin Podosina Lomondot lauded the enthusiasm of Filipinos as they participated in the voting exercise. “This is about 16 percent of the total number of registered voters in Kuwait. The turnout is very good. It was a solid proof - how Filipino community is willing to be part in the democratic process. We can discern through cooperation demonstrated by many of us in order to have a better Philippines,” Lomondot said.

The last vote was casted yesterday around 1:10pm by Bodie Tagayon, an auto-mechanic from Shuwaikh Industrial area who hails from Mandaluyong City

Philippines. “I was a bit late because I came from Shuwaikh. I just asked permission from my boss to leave early so that I can participate in the last day of voting,” he said. “I really wanted to cast my vote. I am thankful that I was able to catch up,” he said.

When asked about the character of the candidates, Tagayon said, he voted for a candidate that will pursue changes in the Overseas Filipino Workers. “We want a senator who can help us - the Filipino Overseas Workers. We need jobs in the Philippines, not outside the Philippines. If there are better options we will stay in the Philippines,” he added.

Overseas Voting Spokesperson at the Philippine Embassy Luiz Carlos Osorio said this year's election is historic and ‘record breaking’. “As compared to previous elections, there was a historic turnout - 15,558 is a good number. Probably we are the second, next to UAE as regards to high turnout,” he said.

The vote counting is expected to be completed by 12 midnight. There are election observers who are on standby to witness the entire voting process. “We will not sleep or rest until we're done. Expect our messages by midnight to announce the winners in Kuwait,” Osorio added.



KUWAIT: Filipinos cast their votes at the Philippines Embassy in Kuwait yesterday. — Photos by Ben Garcia



## Local

# Amir, Crown Prince praise Zakat House's leading role in philanthropy



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Social Affairs Saad Al-Kharraz, along with members of Kuwait Association of Accountants and Auditors. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of Municipal Affairs Fahad Al-Shula and Chairman of Zakat House Mohammad Al-Otaibi, on the occasion of the Kuwait Zakat House's honoring during the second Organization of Islamic Cooperation Festival in Dubai in 2019. His Highness the Amir praised the Zakat House for this achievement, lauded its leading role in philanthropy and wished them further success.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received Minister Shula and the Chairman of Zakat House. His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated them on this honor and praised the organization's effort in defending the Islamic issues and consolidating the values of peace. His Highness also praised the role of Zakat House as one of the leading institutions in the fields of philanthropy and development thanks to its humanitarian contributions to many countries of the world. Later yesterday, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber

Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met with Minister Shula and the Chairman of Zakat House.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received Minister of Social Affairs Saad Al-Kharraz, accompanied by members of Kuwait Association of Accountants and Auditors, who gave His Highness a demonstration about the association's goals, role and latest achievements in supporting the economic and financial fields. Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince separately received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-

Ghanem.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a condolence cable to Burkina Faso President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré over the victims of a church attack in Dabla. In the cable, His Highness the Amir reaffirmed Kuwait's strong condemnation of such a criminal act that targeted innocent lives and goes against all human values. His Highness prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy upon the victims and speedy recovery to all the injured. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar

cables to Burkina Faso president.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir sent a condolence cable to Pakistan's President Arif Alvi over the victims of a hotel attack in Gwadar city. In the cable, His Highness the Amir reiterated Kuwait's strong condemnation of such a criminal act that targeted innocent lives and goes against all human values. His Highness prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy upon the victims and speedy recovery to all the injured. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to Pakistan's



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Shula and Chairman of Zakat House Mohammad Al-Otaibi.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Shula and Chairman of Zakat House Mohammad Al-Otaibi.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Shula and Chairman of Zakat House Mohammad Al-Otaibi.

## Kuwait first Arab state to stand by Iraq's quest for liberation: Hakim

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The President of the Iraqi National Wisdom Coalition Ammar Al-Hakim is visiting Kuwait to meet His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other officials to discuss the challenges in the region and bilateral relations between Kuwait and Iraq. He has been making this visit annually for the past 16 years. On this occasion, Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) held a press conference at Crowne Plaza Hotel on Sunday for local and Arab media.

"I am glad to be in Kuwait again this year during the holy month of Ramadan, which has become a habit. Kuwait was the first Arab country to stand by Iraq in its quest for liberation and change. We will always appreciate the role of Kuwait in supporting the Iraqi people in all fields, including political, social and humanitarian ones," Hakim said during the meeting.

He stressed both countries share the desire to strengthen relations. "There will be an important development in bilateral relations. I hope the Kuwaiti public and private investors will tap into the highly promising investment opportunities in Iraq. The improvement of the security situation in Iraq is encouraging a growing number of investors to resume doing business in the country," Hakim said.

According to him, Iraq is recovering from years of instability after winning the battle against the so-called Islamic State. "We have moved from instability in all fields - political, social, economic and others - to the phase of stability," stressed Hakim. He noted that Iraqi military and security personnel offered great sacrifices in the struggle to liberate Iraq from IS terrorists, reaffirming that Iraq is emerging stronger from the war against IS.

Iraq is not perfect but there are many positives, and we hope to improve it, he



KUWAIT: The President of the Iraqi National Wisdom Coalition Ammar Al-Hakim speaks during a press conference at Crowne Plaza Hotel on Sunday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

said. "As Iraq is a country of many tribes, it's common that people have weapons, as they think they can protect themselves against terrorists. All Kuwaiti officials that I met during this visit agreed that the security situation in Iraq is improving. The security of Iraq is important for all neighboring countries and the region," he explained.

On the escalating tension between the US and Iran, Hakim said Iraq enjoys strategic relations with both countries, which could help deescalate tensions. "Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi recently visited Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, France and Germany, where he signed dozens of deals with leaders of these countries on cooperation in the political, economic and development areas," Hakim pointed out.

The Iraqi government has awarded a German company a \$14 billion contract to build a power generating station with a capacity of 11,000 megawatts in the coming five years. A US oil company was also awarded a contract worth \$53 billion to exploit oil resources in Iraq, he noted, adding that investors from the US, Russia and the Arab and European countries are vying for the promising investment opportunities in his country.

## Kuwait, Iraq ink several cooperation agreements

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti-Iraqi joint committee held its seventh session in Kuwait on Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Mohammad Ali Al-Hakim. The session resulted in the signing of a number of agreements, memorandums of understanding and executive programs that would contribute to enhancing the cooperation between the two countries.

A statement by the committee stressed that the meeting between the two brotherly countries is a continuation of the positive results achieved by the previous sessions. The seventh session witnessed a review of all fields of cooperation between the two sides, especially the economic and developmental ones, and discussed means of enhancing them for close cooperation and integration between the two brotherly countries, reflecting the common desire to develop and strengthen bilateral relations at all levels, said the statement. It noted that the Kuwaiti-Iraqi joint committee is an example of strong bilateral relations that contribute to achieving the progress and prosperity of both countries and peoples. The last two days witnessed the convening of meetings of committees, government task forces and the private sector representatives from both countries to discuss ways to promote and develop cooperation between all public and private sectors in various vital areas and work on prepare draft agreements and memorandums of understanding to be signed between the governments of the two countries.

### Taxation avoidance

The Kuwaiti and Iraqi ministries of finance signed yesterday an agreement for avoiding double taxation and preventing financial evasion for income and capital taxes. The deal encompasses various advantages involving tax exemptions and reduction for investments and business in Kuwait and Iraq, the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry said in a statement. The deal was signed by Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry Saleh Al-Sarawi and his



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Mohammad Ali Al-Hakim sign an agreement between the two countries. — KUNA

Iraqi counterpart Maher Johan, it said. It aimed at wiping out financial barriers that could restrict capital movement and trade exchange between both countries through the prevention of double taxation on money and individuals, according to the statement.

### Steady development

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled has praised the steadily improvement in Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations. The recent high-level reciprocal visits of the two countries' officials showed the steady growth of the already strong bilateral relations, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said in his speech at the seventh session of the high Kuwaiti-Iraqi committee. He noted that both Kuwait and Iraq shared the same visions and stances of various regional and international issues. The strengthening bilateral relations also reflected His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Iraqi President Barham Saleh's directives, he said. Kuwait's top diplomat said that the wide participation representatives of public and private sectors in the committee meeting has resulted in the signing of five cooperation documents (agreements, memorandums of understanding and executive programs). The documents cover fields of economy, transport, sports, science and technology, he pointing, adding that they take the number of cooperation agreements and memos between the two countries up to 60. He underlined that this large participation in the session was a positive indicator of constructive

cooperation between the two countries.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed hope that the Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations would maintain growth to serve the interests of the two Arab nations. He pointed out that bilateral relations between Kuwait and Iraq have witnessed increasing growth in various fields over the past few years. He highlighted the remarkable contribution of the public and private sectors to various investment, trade, development, energy and telecommunications projects in the two countries.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stressed Kuwait's firm support to Iraq in its fight against terrorist organizations. He also reiterated Kuwait's backing to all measures taken by Iraq to preserve its security, stability and territorial integrity. He urged the international community to support Iraq in its efforts to eliminate terrorism in all its forms, recalling with pride that less than two years ago, Iraq defeated the so-called Islamic State group and liberated its territory. He recalled His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's call for an international conference for the reconstruction of the liberated areas in Iraq, which was hosted by Kuwait in February 2018. The Kuwait-hosted conference raised up to \$30 billion of aid pledges by donor countries and the development institutions. This reflected the confidence of the international community in the great potential and opportunities available in the economic and investment aspects in Iraq, he said. — KUNA



## Local

# Companies must hire Kuwaiti auditors; move to create nearly 16,000 jobs

## Education ministry lays off third batch of expats effective July

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) issued a decision mandating all insurance companies, insurance brokers, companies practicing real estate brokerage, real estate offices dealing with gold and precious metals and money exchange companies to appoint Kuwait auditors effective Jan 1, 2020 to fight money laundering. Al-Qabas daily had reported yesterday that the move is expected to generate nearly 16,000 job opportunities for Kuwaiti job-seekers in the private sector.

And in another decision that goes in line with the 'Kuwaitization' policy, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has decided to lay off a third batch of expats effective July, said informed educational sources, noting that the majority of those to be terminated work for Hawally and Farwaniya educational governorates, and that lists of the suggested names had been submitted to minister Al-Azmi for approval to proceed with the policy of replacing expats with citizens.

In the meantime, state departments seem to be continuing the replacement policy in various fields, hiring more Kuwaiti advisors

specialized in IT systems to replace expats. Informed sources said the finance ministry approved a request by a government body to adjust the value of a tender to provide IT advisors to become KD 1.5 million, provided the body coordinates with the Civil Service Commission and Kuwaitize these positions.

In a separate education concern, the Central Agency for Public Tenders agreed to extend a contract on fixing, operating and maintaining various air conditioners, cooling, heating and ventilation devices in schools in Jahra educational zone from March 31 till June 30, 2019 at a total cost of KD 58,444,748.

### Data statements

The Public Authority for Manpower invited employers and authorized signatories to submit their endorsed data statements within 90 days ending Aug 14, 2019 to avoid suspending transactions of their companies. The manpower authority's public relations manager and official spokesperson Aseel Al-Mazyad said the authority had previously announced openings to receive employers' data through its website <http://www.manpower.gov.kw>.

### Excellent performance bonuses

The Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development finished preparing lists with 300 names of its employees to be paid excellent performance bonuses, said assistant secretary general for administrative and financial affairs Eman Al-Mutairi, noting that a nearly KD 240,000 in bonuses will be paid within a few days.

### Drug prices

Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah announced reducing the prices of 291 drugs by up to 50 percent, explaining that the new prices were set upon recommendations made by the GCC drug pricing committee. He noted that the new prices will go into effect at private pharmacies 30 days after publishing the resolution in the official gazette. Health Ministry's assistant under-secretary for medicine and food control Dr Abdullah Monjed Al-Bader said reductions will continue side by side with periodic inspection of medicines, namely those for chronic diseases.

### Delayed payment

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and

### Different IDs

The Ministry of Social Affairs's charities department withdrew the IDs of 32 repre-

sentatives working in the 16th Ramadan donation collection program after finding the same representatives hold different IDs from different charities, which is against regulations.

### Car fire

A vehicle caught fire yesterday along King Fahd Expressway, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said in a statement, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and managed to control the fire without any casualties.

## Assembly set to debate grilling against premier

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The national assembly is set to discuss today whether to go ahead with debating a grilling against Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah over alleged government failure to implement development programs and other charges.

The grilling was filed by opposition MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari who charged the prime minister of failing to perform his job as the head of the council of ministers which is responsible for drawing and implementing public policies and development plans.

A grilling against the premier several weeks ago by MPs Mohammad Al-Mutair and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri was sent to the assembly legal and legislative committee which ruled that the grilling breached the constitution. Based on the committee decision, the national assembly scrapped the grilling and rejected its debate. It was unclear if the assembly

will follow the same procedure especially with the government having enough support to take whatever decision it deems suitable.

But Kandari's grilling was backed by strong constitutional arguments that the prime minister is responsible for the issues and allegations he is making in the grilling. In the grilling, the lawmaker also insisted that the prime minister is responsible for the failure of the government to implement key policies on correcting the demographic structure which resulted in expatriates reaching 3.36 million against just 1.4 million citizens. He insisted that the prime minister is responsible for the council of ministers' conceding parts of its responsibilities like allowing the Amiri Diwan to carry out key projects that are essentially the work of the government.

Kandari charged that the council of ministers under Sheikh Jaber had failed to implement the necessary policies to cut spending and also failed to safeguard



national unity and identity with regards to the controversial issue of using illegal methods to get Kuwaiti citizenship. The assembly is also expected to decide whether to discuss a draft law calling to impose a five-percent tax on the remittances of expatriates living and working in the country. MP Khalil Al-Saleh collected signatures of several MPs to accord this bill priority in discussion especially that this week's assembly ses-

sions will be the last during the month of Ramadan and most of sessions after the holy month will be allocated to debating budgets.

MP Bader Al-Mulla in the meantime said yesterday that he will file to grill Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf after Eid Al-Fitr on issues like public debt, the sovereign wealth fund, customs and the social security institution. He said that another MP may take part in the grilling.

## Soldier escaped kidnap attempt

KUWAIT: A soldier escaped an attempt to kidnap him by an unidentified person, and was injured while resisting. The soldier was exercising in Jahra when a man attacked him in an attempt to kidnap him, but his resistance thwarted the suspect, who fled. The victim was taken to Jahra Hospital, where he was treated, then went to the police station, where he lodged a complaint.

### Policeman attacked

An Egyptian man was detained for attacking a policeman who prevented him from filming a Salmiya mosque. The policeman was guarding the mosque and noticed the man filming during taraweeh prayers, so the policeman asked him to stop. But the man exchanged words with him, then attacked him.

### Forged passports

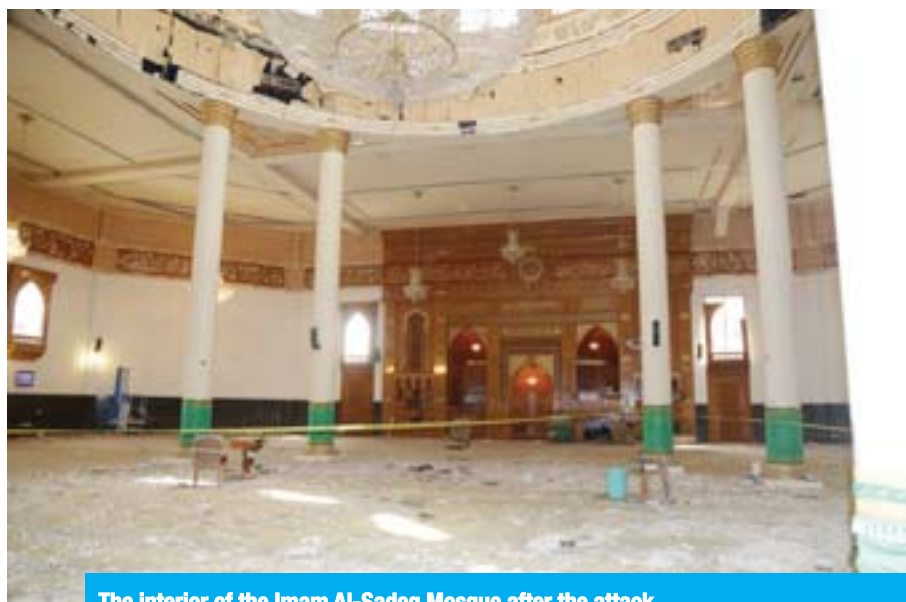
Police authorities arrested six Sri Lankans including three women who arrived in the country. Each of them had three passports, 12 of which were forged, and were about to leave for Britain. Police received tips from sources and arrested them in the transit hall. They were searched, and it was found that each of them held genuine Sri Lankan passports, forged Indian passports and forged Malaysian passports with forged British visas. The six persons were arrested and face legal action.

### Eating in public

A Kuwaiti and a Syrian did not respect the sanctity of Ramadan, ate in public and behaved recklessly. When a police officer attempted to stop them, he was run over and sustained bruises. The two were showing off near the Catholic Church in Salmiya and endangered the lives of those around them. The driver was arrested along with the other person. Both were in an abnormal condition and in possession of two tablets. —Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai



KUWAIT: The Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque seen after the suicide attack. — KUNA photos



The interior of the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque after the attack.

## Kuwaitis remember how mosque bombing boosted unity

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis remember with grief the terrorist suicidal attack against Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque in Kuwait City, but also remember how national unity prevailed. A suicide bomber identified as Fahad Al-Qabba, on the 9th day of Ramadan, corresponding June 26, 2015, detonated explosives he was wearing among Muslim worshippers performing Friday prayers at Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque. The deadly attack, which killed 26 people and injured 227 others, brought Kuwaitis together against this terrorist bombing and showed that people of Kuwait were united against any attempt targeting their unity.

Kuwaitis will also remember how His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah rushed to the scene of the attack despite security concerns, and stating that those who passed away were his sons. In yet another sign of solidarity, thousands of Kuwaitis and expatriates bid farewell for the deceased while being laid at their final place. A mourning was held at the state Grand Mosque and attended by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials. His Highness



Police secure the place following the attack.

the Amir honored families of the deceased, considering them martyrs. His Highness the Amir also ordered the

Amiri Diwan to renovate Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque, attending the official reopening. — KUNA

## Kuwait Food Bank signs deal with UAE counterpart

KUWAIT: Kuwait Food and Relief Bank signed a strategic partnership agreement with the UAE Food Bank in an effort to promote community responsibility and hunger eradication principles around the world. Kuwait Food and Relief Bank said in a statement on Sunday that the agreement stipulated cooperation in the preservation of food from waste and to deliver food to those in need both inside and outside Kuwait. The statement noted that the deal was made, on the sidelines of a delegation visit by Kuwait Food Bank to UAE, which was also to participate in the launch of Ras Al-Khaimah Food Bank and Ajman Food Bank in the presence of officials and leaders from both sides as part of the frameworks to strengthen cooperation with food banks in the Gulf and the Islamic world.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Food Bank Deputy Chairman Mishal Al-Ansari praised the role played by UAE Food Bank in supporting the operation of food banks to reduce food waste and provide excess for human consumption to needy families in accordance with the international mechanisms and operations in charity field, especially in relation to food preservation and packaging in accordance with the requirements and standards of food hygiene and safety. Ansari pointed out that the Kuwaiti Food Bank is considered one of the first charitable bodies that applies international standards in the preservation of surplus of foods and storing them for those in need, including training volunteers to store foods according to health and safety standards. Ansari expressed pleasure to visit UAE and sign such partnership that are in line with Kuwait's vision and the humanitarian field. Kuwait Food and Relief Bank is working with food banks across the Islamic world to create a consortium of international banks to complement its vision and influence a world without hunger. — KUNA





## History of Kuwait



**KUWAIT:** The American Hospital, considered one of the most important cultural sites of Kuwait, as seen in 1939. The water level can be seen much closer to the site in the picture, compared to the present time after land reclamation processes that began in the 1970s. (Source: The KOC archive. Researched by Mahmoud Zakaria, Researcher in Heritage, the Ministry of Information)



## Al-Sayer supports Ramadan Aman campaign for safer Kuwaiti roads

**KUWAIT:** For the second consecutive year, Al-Sayer Holding is providing diamond sponsorship to the 'Ramadan Aman' campaign with 'Nahtam' Volunteer team (Kuwait Voluntary Work Center) and the Ministry of Interior. Our continuous CSR efforts is to bring a 'Safe Ramadan,' aimed to reduce the speeding and careless driving on the road; a potential cause of traffic accidents by the motorists during the hours of breaking the fast.

The opening ceremony was attended by Engineer Ibrahim Alfouzan and Engineer Nehad Alhaj Ali to

show the attention and responsibility towards 'Safe Ramadan.' The campaign encourages individuals, corporates, NGOs, schools, and university volunteers to participate to develop the culture of social engagement and the values of Ramadan, a month of compassion and caring.

The initiative will have multiple meal distribution points set up at various inter-junctions and traffic signals around Kuwait to serve road users with iftar boxes containing dates, small water bottles, and quick refreshments as light iftar meals, with the aim

of slowing down motorists who would be racing to reach home before maghrib prayers.

The 'Ramadan Aman' volunteers work in collaboration with the police department and other official delegates to ensure the safety of volunteering participants during the program, and to deliver a clear message to motorists to drop the speed and be careful to slash the number of accidents that occur during the traditional iftar rush, when motorists pack the roads on their way back to their desired locations.

Al-Sayer Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility has an integrated strategy in place to keep accelerating the positive impact of our business on society, limit the adverse impacts, and perform all our activities in a responsible manner. We aim for long-term community investment that ensures tangible values to all stakeholders by performing social initiatives that enrich human values and Kuwait community, promote collective volunteering which is a sustainable development platform by Al-Sayer Holding for long term benefits.

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**ACGKuwait@gmail.com**

## NBK sponsors 'Iftar Cannon' program at Naif Palace

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) serves daily iftar meals at Naif Palace throughout the holy month of Ramadan, where fasting guests attend the firing of the iftar cannon, in line with NBK's sponsorship of the 'Iftar Cannon' program hosted on Kuwait TV for the fourth consecutive year. This initiative is part of NBK's annual Ramadan program 'Do Good Deeds in Ramadan.'

Sponsoring the 'Iftar Cannon' program includes the distribution of valuable cash prizes to Naif Palace guests who visit to attend the daily 'Iftar Cannon' program aired live on TV. "NBK maintains its commitment towards this initiative for the fourth consecutive year. The Bank employ-



Talal Al-Turki

ees volunteer every day at Naif Place to distribute meals to fasting people. We also present rewards and cash prizes for participants engaging in the daily competition program offered by Kuwait TV," NBK Public Relations Team Leader Talal Al-Turki said.

Turki pointed out that "Do Good Deeds in Ramadan" initiative is an integral part of the sustainability program aimed at pro-



viding the necessary support to foster better living, education and health as the main pillars of social development and prosperity. He also added that NBK provides iftar meals every year through NBK Ramadan Tent, field visits to mosques and meal distribution in densely populated areas, in order to stay closer to the community and closely fulfill the needs of various groups as part of the Bank's commitment to its

CSR mandate.

NBK Ramadan program is a key part of the bank's commitment to serve the community. This campaign translates the NBK's social and humanitarian message and emphasizes its commitment to the community. NBK has affirmed its leadership position in corporate social responsibility as it always embraces and fosters a consistent approach in that domain.



 @jumeirahM8





Fresh curfews, social media block in Lanka

## N Zealand PM targets online hate after mosque attacks



SRINAGAR: Indian police fire tear gas towards Kashmiri protesters in Mirgund Pattan yesterday as protesters call for justice in the case of the alleged rape of a three-year-old girl. — AFP

# Kashmir protests over rape of 3-yr-old

## Schools across valley shut along with shops and businesses

**SRINAGAR, India:** Large parts of Indian-administered Kashmir erupted in protest yesterday over the rape of a three-year-old child, leaving at least a dozen people injured in clashes with government forces, police said. Last Wednesday, a car mechanic – a neighbor of the victim’s family – allegedly lured the child into the toilet of a nearby school and sexually assaulted her. The accused, from the Sumbal area north of the main city of Srinagar and thought to be 20 years old, has already been arrested.

Yesterday, allegations emerged that the principal of another school issued a certificate for the accused that he was a minor, sparking anger and triggering protests across the Kashmir valley. At least a dozen people, including government forces personnel, were injured when tear gas and pellet shotguns were fired to quell the protests in many towns, top police officer Swayam Prakash Pani told AFP. “One of the injured

protestors is critically wounded,” Pani said. “We have registered a separate case against the school principal and detained him for questioning.”

Thousands also protested in Srinagar and clashed with government forces. Across the Kashmir Valley, thousands of security forces wearing riot gear were deployed to contain the spreading protests, officials said. A police statement later yesterday said that protests had spread to northern Baramulla district where 47 security personnel and seven protestors were injured in the clashes. The security personnel used tear gas on the angry stone pelting protestors in the region.

Schools across the valley shut spontaneously as did shops and businesses. Hundreds of students at three university campuses also protested, demanding capital punishment for the alleged perpetrator and action against the school principal. Lawyers abstained from work in the courts yesterday

to express solidarity with the victim. Condemnations of the crime poured in from leaders from across the political spectrum appealing for calm, with a top separatist leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq saying yesterday the incident was “a crime against humanity”.

Another separatist leader with a wide following in Kashmir, Syed Ali Geelani, said the alleged crime was “a black stain on the social fabric” of Kashmir. Baseer Ahmad Khan – the region’s top administrator – also appealed for calm and said in a statement that the “enquiry of Sumbal incident is being conducted on a fast-track basis”. In Jan 2018, an eight-year-old girl was abducted, starved for a week and murdered after she was raped by several people in the southern Kathua area of Jammu & Kashmir. That incident caused widespread outrage and protests in Kashmir and many Indian cities and towns. — AFP



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri protestors shout slogans during a protest yesterday as they call for justice in the case of the alleged rape. — AFP

## Sweden reopens rape investigation against Assange

**STOCKHOLM:** Swedish prosecutors said yesterday they were reopening a 2010 rape investigation against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, hoping to bring him to justice before the statute of limitations expires in August 2020. The 47-year-old has claimed the Swedish allegations were a pretext to transfer him to the United States, where he fears prosecution over the release by WikiLeaks of millions of classified documents.

“I have today decided to reopen the investigation... There is still probable cause to suspect that Mr Assange committed rape,” the deputy director of public prosecutions, Eva-Marie Persson, told reporters. “The previous decision (in May 2017) to close the investigation was not based on difficulties related to evidence, but on difficulties that blocked the investigation.”

The Australian whistleblower, who holed himself up in the Ecuadoran embassy in London for seven years to avoid a British extradition order to Sweden, was arrested on April 11 after Ecuador gave him up. A London court sentenced him on May 1 to 50 weeks in jail for breaching the British order. Now that Assange has left Ecuador’s embassy, “I am of the opinion that the conditions are in place once again to pursue the case,” the prosecutor said.

Persson said she hoped Assange could be questioned again, adding that she would ask a Swedish court to remand him in custody in absentia, and that a European arrest warrant would be issued. Assange’s Swedish lawyer, Per E Samuelson, said Sweden was “embarrassing itself” by reopening a decade-old case. “I’m not in the least concerned about the question of guilt,” he told Swedish television.

Assange’s spectacular arrest revived his Swedish



STOCKHOLM: Deputy Director of Public Prosecution Eva-Marie Persson speaks during a press conference yesterday to announce the prosecutor's decision on Julian Assange's rape investigation. — AFP

accuser’s hopes of seeing him brought to justice, and her lawyer had asked prosecutors to reopen the rape investigation. The alleged victim, who says she met Assange at a WikiLeaks conference in Stockholm, filed a complaint in Aug 2010. She accused him of having sex with her – as she slept – without using a condom despite repeatedly having denied him unprotected sex. Assange has always denied the allegations. WikiLeaks’s editor, Kristinn Hrafnsson, said yesterday the reopening of the investigation would give him “a chance to clear his name”.

Meanwhile, the lawyer for the plaintiff, Elisabeth Massi Fritz, told reporters yesterday’s decision sent “a very important signal: That everyone is equal before the law. No one is above the law, even if your name is Julian Assange.” With the Australian in the Ecuadoran embassy, the Swedish case dragged on for years over procedural difficulties and prosecutors were never granted permission to question him directly.

In testimony released in December 2016 – after an Ecuadoran prosecutor grilled him over questions supplied by Swedish prosecutors – Assange insisted the sex was consensual. —AFP

## Modi mocked for tech gaffes

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been roundly mocked for suggesting that radars are affected by clouds and boasting that he sent an email attachment years before the technology to do so was invented. Modi, who is currently fighting to retain his premiership in a marathon election, claimed in a week-end television interview that he ordered air strikes on Pakistan in February because cloud cover would stop radar detection of Indian fighter jets.

“I said there is so much cloud and rain. There is a benefit,” Modi told News Nation in the interview, recounting the bombardment of what India claims was a militant training camp across the Pakistani border. “(I thought) the clouds can benefit us too. We can escape the radar... Ultimately I said there are clouds, let’s go,” he added.

Modi has been using the air strikes during the country’s election campaign to bolster his strongman image. His Bharatiya Janata Party posted the comments on Twitter but soon deleted them as newspapers quoted experts rebuffing Modi’s claims, with the Kolkata-based Telegraph ridiculing the prime minister for his “shock and awe” disclosure. Opposition politicians also piled in to taunt the 68-year-old. “It seems no one clarified (to) the PM how radars work,” tweeted Salman Soz, a senior member of the opposition Congress party. “If that is the case, it is a very serious national security issue. No laughing matter!”

Social media jibes came thick and fast. One widely-shared Internet meme featured a still from the blockbuster “Avengers” film franchise with Modi superimposed among the superheroes. Twitter users also had a



Narendra Modi

field day over Modi’s claim that he sent digital pictures as an email attachment in the late 1980s. “I am likely the first person to use digital camera in India in 1987 or 88. Only a few people had emails then,” Modi had said in the same interview. In reality, the first email attachment wasn’t sent until 1992 by researcher Nathaniel Borenstein. “The joke is not on Modi,” tweeted academic and columnist Nissim Mannathukkaren. “The joke is on the “educated” elite/middle class supporters of Modi who have made idiocy and ignorance fashionable.” — AFP



International

# Sudan army rulers, protesters resume key talks on civil rule

## Angry demonstrators block major avenue along Nile

**KHARTOUM:** Sudan's army rulers and protest leaders resumed crucial talks yesterday over handing power to a civilian administration after a deadlock in negotiations, as angry demonstrators blocked a major avenue along the Nile river. The much-awaited discussions came with crowds of protesters still camped round-the-clock outside the army headquarters in central Khartoum, vowing to force the ruling military council to cede power - just as they drove longtime leader Omar al-Bashir from office on April 11.

Protest leaders Omar Al-Digeir and Satea Al-Haj were among those attending the talks yesterday on behalf of the Alliance for Freedom and Change, a spokeswoman for the umbrella group, Mashar Darraj, told AFP. The meeting was being held behind closed doors at a convention center in central Khartoum. Prior to the meeting dozens of protesters blocked Nile Street, a major avenue in the city, for the second consecutive day, an AFP correspondent reported.

### 'Optimistic atmosphere'

Protesters also blocked a road leading to the capital's northern district of Bahari, the correspondent reported. Burnt tyres were strewn across the road as soldiers and members of the paramilitary Rapid Support Force deployed. On Sunday protesters blocked Nile Street after police stopped them from going from that road to the sit-in outside the army complex that has been held since April 6. The military council slammed the blocking of the avenue. "It is totally unacceptable what is happening on the Nile street as it creates chaos and makes life difficult for citizens," the council said in a statement late on Sunday.

The council also dismissed unconfirmed reports that security forces were trying to disperse the sit-in outside the military headquarters. The protest alliance said Saturday the generals had invited the movement for a new round of talks. The army generals and protesters are at loggerheads over who will sit on a new ruling body that would replace the existing military council. The generals have proposed that the new council be military led, while the protest leaders want a majority civilian body.

Late last month, the alliance - which brings together protest organizers, opposition parties and rebel groups - handed the generals its proposals for a civilian-led transitional government. But the generals have pointed to what they call "many reservations" over the alliance's roadmap. They have singled out its silence on the constitutional position of Islamic sharia law, which was the guiding principle of all legislation under Bashir's rule but is anathema to secular groups like the Sudanese Communist Party and some rebel factions in the alliance.

The alliance has said it wants to "sort out all these points in 72 hours" once the talks resume. Late on Sunday the spokesman for the ruling military council, Lieutenant General Shamseddine Kabbashi, said the talks are being held in an "optimistic atmosphere". He said the negotiations aimed "to reach an agreement over the arrangements of the transitional period". Thousands of protesters first reached the army complex on April 6 seeking the army's help in ousting Bashir.

Days later the army ousted the veteran leader, but a 10-member military council has since taken power, and demonstrators are now continuing their sit-in against



**KHARTOUM:** Sudanese protesters wearing yellow and orange vests and waving a national flag stand on a closed railway track leading to the protest site on Sunday. —AFP

the generals. Crowds have dwindled during the day due to the scorching heat, but protesters still gather in their

thousands after breaking the fast in the evening for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. —AFP

## Rights groups urge action on Syria missing

**BEIRUT:** Rights groups yesterday urged the international community to pressure all sides in Syria's war to reveal the fate of "tens of thousands" of people gone missing over years of conflict. "Tens of thousands have been forcibly disappeared by the Syrian government; and many have gone missing after being abducted by armed anti-government groups or the Islamic State" group, eight Syrian and international rights groups said in a statement. "Hundreds have died in detention of torture or ill-treatment,"

said the statement, whose signatories included Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimates that around 200,000 people have gone missing since the start of the conflict in 2011, with nearly half believed to be held in government prisons. Many have been subject to "staggering levels of serious violations" committed by regime and anti-regime forces, including extrajudicial executions, torture and arbitrary detention, the report said. They include activists, lawyers, journalists and humanitarian aid workers, some of whom were perceived to oppose the government of President Bashar Al-Assad, it added.

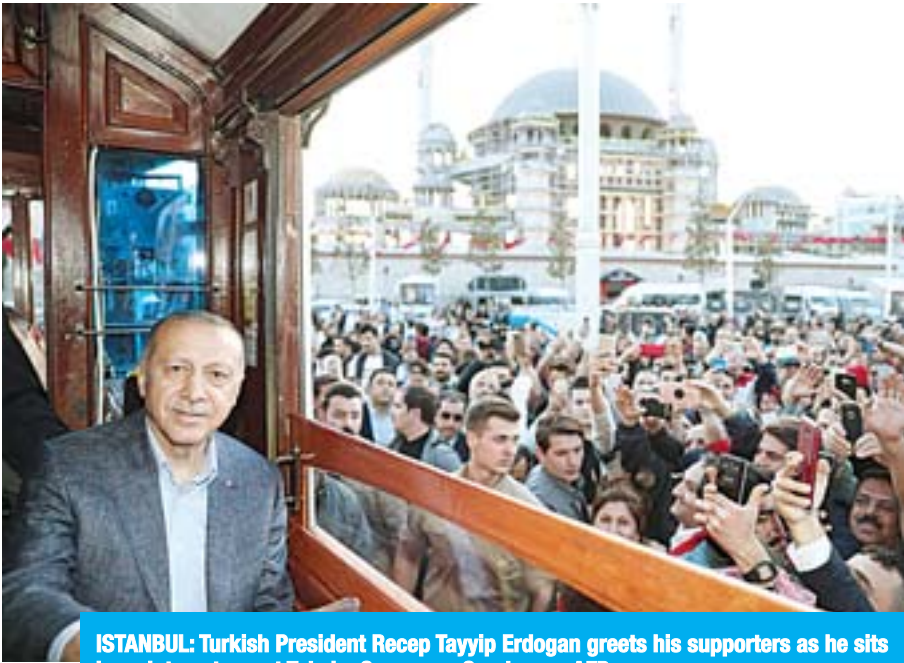
The report called on member states of the UN security council to "end the

suffering of the families of the disappeared and of the arbitrarily detained" by putting "pressure" on the culprits and their international backers to reveal the names, fate and whereabouts of the thousands concerned. It also called on the international community to "support the creation of a unified system for logging all cases of missing persons in Syria".

Rarely told where their loved ones are held or whether they are still alive, the relatives of the missing often have to shuffle between different security agencies in a desperate bid to collect information. "Families are living in hell every day, they do not know where their children are, whether they are alive or dead, and if they will see them again," said Leen Hashem, Amnesty's Syria campaigner.

encroach on Cyprus's exclusive economic zone, while the United States described the move as "highly provocative". The international community does not recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, proclaimed after troops occupied the top third of the island in 1974 in response to a coup sponsored by the Greek military junta. The discovery of huge gas reserves in the Mediterranean has fuelled a race to tap the underwater resources.

Turkey considers the area to be part of its continental shelf and granted exploration licenses to Turkish Petroleum in 2009 and 2012. The internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus, which rules the rest of the island, has signed its own exploration deals with energy giants Eni, Total and ExxonMobil. Speaking on Sunday, Defence Minister Hulusi Akar insisted Turkey would take all necessary measures to "protect its rights in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas, and in Cyprus". —AFP



**ISTANBUL:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan greets his supporters as he sits in a vintage tram at Taksim Square on Sunday. —AFP

## Turkey starts naval exercise amid Cyprus gas dispute

**ANKARA:** Turkey's military launched a major naval exercise yesterday at a time of rising tensions over its plans to explore for gas off the coast of Cyprus. The exercises, featuring 131 vessels, 57 planes and 33 helicopters, began early yesterday, a Turkish defense ministry official confirmed to AFP. They are due to last until May 25 and take place across the Mediterranean, Aegean and Black seas. It follows Turkey's announcement in May that it would carry out exploratory drilling off Cyprus up to September.

The European Union has said that will

## Egypt's new desert capital faces delays as it battles for funds

**CAIRO:** Egypt's government wants to start running the nation from a new capital in the desert from mid-2020, but the \$58 billion project is struggling to raise funds and needs to overcome other challenges after investors pulled out. Workers are rushing to build core areas of the new city to replace Cairo, the existing capital on the Nile that has become a traffic-clogged, urban sprawl of more than 20 million people. The project, launched in 2015 by Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi a year after he was first elected president, aims to offer a clean and efficient base for the government and finance industry, as well as homes for at least 6.5 million people.

But the project, which also seeks to lift an economy dented by political turmoil after 2011, lost a lead investor from the United Arab Emirates and is now being run by the Housing Ministry and the army's Engineering Authority. "There is very strong interest from the political leadership in the project," said Ahmed Zaki Abdeen, a retired general who heads the company building the new city, told Reuters. But he said "the large scale of the work leads to large scale problems", such as finding enough skilled labor to wire up the "smart city" and raising about 1 trillion Egyptian pounds (\$58 billion) in financing over coming years from land sales and other investment.

"We need very extensive financing and the state doesn't have money to give me," said Abdeen, adding that about 20 percent of investment so far had come from abroad, including up to \$4.5 billion from China. A promotional video depicts a green city, running on cashless systems for transport and oth-

er services, that contrasts with Cairo, much of whose elegant 19th and early 20th century architectural heart has fallen into disrepair.

The new city, known for now as the New Administrative Capital, is eventually expected to cover about 700 square km. The first phase, covering about 168 square km, will have ministries, residential neighbourhoods, a diplomatic quarter and a financial district. A large mosque and cathedral, as well a hotel and conference center, have already been built. With parks and tree-lined avenues, the city will consume an estimated 650,000 cu m a day of water from the North African nation's scarce resources.

### Laying foundations

At the construction site, about 45 km east of Cairo, diggers and cranes clutter the landscape and wide roads run between empty plots and part-finished buildings. Workers for China State Construction Engineering Corp (CSCEC) lay foundations for the business district, where 21 skyscrapers including Africa's tallest at 85 stories are planned. Abdeen said he hoped a \$1.2 billion electrified train link from Cairo to the city, also being built by a Chinese firm, would be ready in 18 months. Before then the city would be served by electric buses, he said.

However, a \$20 billion deal for the second project phase agreed in 2016 with China Fortune Land Development Co. Ltd fell through over financial terms. The second and third phases had been "postponed", he added. Despite setbacks, Egypt's general-turned-president has been keen to show off the project, taking visiting French President Emmanuel Macron on a helicopter tour of the site in January. —AFP

David Sims, author of Egypt's Desert Dreams, a book on development projects, said the backing of Egypt's presidency and military made the project "too big to fail", although he said that did not guarantee people would want to live there. "It's one thing to have an army of laborers and lots of machinery out there pushing dirt around but it will be another thing to see if it all comes together," he said. —AFP

## HTS chief Jolani calls for arming to defend Idlib

**BEIRUT:** The head of Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate in a video released Sunday urged supporters to "take up weapons" to defend his group's bastion of Idlib against increased bombardment. The Damascus regime and its Russian ally have in recent weeks upped shelling and air strikes on the northwestern region held by Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, despite a Russian-Turkish buffer zone deal intended to protect it. "We call for anybody able to take up weapons... to head to the battlefield," HTS chief Abu Mohammad al-Jolani said.

The spike in violence against the Idlib region since late April signalled "the death of all previous agreements and conferences", he said during an interview with a local media activist in a countryside setting. It shows that "only jihadists and military might can be relied on", said Jolani, wearing a camouflage uniform and sitting cross-legged in the grass. The activist said the interview was recorded in the northern Hama countryside, although it was not immediately possible to verify this. It appeared to have been made in recent days after a regime advance.

Idlib, a region of some three million people, is supposed to be protected from a massive regime assault by a September buffer zone

deal signed by Russia and rebel backer Turkey. But that agreement was never fully implemented after militants refused to withdraw from the planned buffer area. Damascus and its allies have increased their deadly bombardment of the southern part of the bastion in recent weeks, killing dozens of civilians and causing tens of thousands more to flee.

They have taken control of several towns from the militants in recent days. The uptick in air strikes and shelling has displaced 180,000 people between April 29 and May 9, the United Nations says. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, says around 120 civilians have been killed in the bombardment. Damascus has not announced a wide offensive, but instead regularly announces targeting "terrorist" - meaning jihadist or rebel - positions.

Analysts believe the offensive will be limited. The regime and Russia have accused the militants of targeting the main Russian airbase of Hmeimim to the west of Idlib. "It's the right of the revolutionaries to bombard this base which causes the death of... women and children," Jolani said. "If the Russian leadership wants the bombardment on Hmeimim to stop, it simply needs to stop supporting the regime and killing the Syrian people and civilians," he added.

Russia intervened in the war in 2015, and has since helped the government to regain large parts of the country. The civil war in Syria has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions since it started with the brutal repression of anti-government protests in 2011. —AFP

## In Somalia first, DNA used to convict rapists

**MOGADISHU:** Somalia has for the first time used DNA evidence to obtain a criminal conviction, sentencing three men to death Sunday for the gang-rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl, the Bureau of Forensic Science said. The country got its first-ever forensic laboratory in 2017 in the semiautonomous state of Puntland, seeking to tackle widespread sexual violence in a country where two decades of conflict and turmoil have put justice out of reach for most. The bureau said in a statement that Somalia had "joined, for the first time, the rest of the world in utilising science to solve a heinous criminal case".

In February, the kidnapping of 12-year-old Aisha Ilyas Adan - who was gang-raped and tortured to death, her body dumped outside her parents' home - sparked outrage and protests in the region. Human Rights Watch has described rape as "normal" in Somalia, with police often failing to take cases seriously. The Puntland state government enacted a Sexual Offences Act in 2016, which criminalized sexual offences and imposed tough penalties.

The central government in Mogadishu is still working on adopting Somalia's first-ever national rape laws, with a new Sexual Offences Act adopted by ministers in May 2018. It still needs approval by parliament. About 10 suspects were arrested in connection with Adan's rape and murder. State prosecutors said 37 DNA samples were taken from the suspects and stored in the lab, which cannot at present analyze such material.

The samples were sent to neighboring Kenya for processing, which linked three of the suspects to the crime. High court judge Abdinur Jama Hussein on Sunday sentenced the three "to the death penalty for kidnapping, raping, and murdering Aisha Ilyas". In Somalia, the death penalty is carried out by firing squad. —AFP



## International

# New Zealand PM targets online hate after mosque attacks

## Judicial probe opens into Christchurch mosque shootings

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand's leader Jacinda Arden will demand action to curb online extremism, citing the worst mass killing in her country's recent history at a summit of world leaders and tech firms in Paris yesterday. A self-described white supremacist killed 51 Muslims in the Christchurch mosque attacks on 15 March. During the assault the man wore a head-mounted camera, broadcasting his actions online. Arden has been the driving force behind the Paris summit, co-hosted with French President Emmanuel Macron, following the tragedy.

Participants will be asked to commit to a "Christchurch Call" pledge - named after the city - designed to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. Arden said the Christchurch massacre underlined "a horrifying new trend" in extremist atrocities. "It was designed to be broadcast on the internet. The entire event was livestreamed... the scale of this horrific video's reach was staggering," she said in an opinion piece for the New York Times.

Arden said Facebook removed 1.5 million copies of the video within 24 hours of the attack, but she still found herself among those who inadvertently saw the footage when it auto-played on their social media feeds. Since the attack,

Arden has strongly criticized tech giants for not doing enough to combat online extremism. Attendees at the Paris summit reportedly include heads of state or government from Britain, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Jordan, Senegal, Indonesia. Top executives from Twitter, Microsoft, Google and Amazon will also attend.

But New Zealand media reported that Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg will not be there - instead sending the company's vice president of global affairs and communications, former British deputy prime minister Nick Clegg. Running alongside the G7's "Tech for Humanity" meeting in the French capital, Arden said the Christchurch Call was a voluntary code aimed to stop terrorist content being uploaded to social media platforms.

"(We're) asking both nations and private corporations to make changes to prevent the posting of terrorist content online, to ensure its efficient and fast removal and to prevent the use of live-streaming as a tool for broadcasting terrorist attacks," she said. She added: "This is not about undermining or limiting freedom of speech. It is about these companies and how they operate."

While some - such as Zuckerberg - have called for bet-

ter regulation to address the issue, Arden said governments could not succeed without help from the tech sector. "Practical outcomes are what we're seeking from this work," she told New Zealand's Newshub. "Not just governments regulating, but actually tech companies taking ownership and responsibility over their platforms and the technological solutions that they hold the key to." Arden said New Zealand had been "left reeling" by the Christchurch massacre, and it wanted to prevent similar atrocities happening elsewhere. "We have a reluctant duty of care, a responsibility that we now find ourselves holding," she said. "That is what we will be taking forward this week in Paris."

Meanwhile, a judicial inquiry into whether New Zealand's police and intelligence services could have prevented the Christchurch mosque attacks began taking evidence yesterday. The royal commission - the most powerful judicial probe available under New Zealand law - will examine events leading up to the attack. "This is a critical part of our ongoing response to the attack - the commission's findings will help to ensure such an attack never happens here again," Arden said. New Zealand's spy agencies

have faced criticism in the wake of the attack for concentrating on the threat from Islamic militants while underestimating the danger posed by rightwing extremism. The Christchurch victims were all Muslims and the massacre was allegedly carried out by a white supremacist fixated on the belief that there was an Islamist plot to "invade" Western countries. The commission is jointly headed by Supreme Court judge William Young and former diplomat Jacqui Caine. It is due to report its findings by Dec 10, although it may release interim recommendations before then if it regards them as crucial to public safety.

Australian Brenton Tarrant, 28, a self-avowed white supremacist, has been charged over the attacks and is currently undergoing psychiatric testing to determine if he is mentally fit to stand trial. The royal commission will examine Tarrant's activities before the attack, including how he obtained a gun license, weapons and ammunition, and his use of social media. Since the attacks, the government has tightened the country's gun laws and is reviewing legislation dealing with hate speech, as well as pressuring social media giants to do more to combat online extremism. — AFP

## News in brief

### Argentine lawmaker dies of wounds

**BUENOS AIRES:** An Argentine lawmaker died yesterday of gunshot wounds he suffered last week in a daylight attack outside the Congress building in Buenos Aires. The death of Hector Olivares, 61, was announced by his ruling party coalition, called Cambiemos. Six people have been detained, including two men arrested Friday for the shooting which happened a day earlier and left Marcelo Yadon, a civil servant, dead at the scene. He had been walking with Olivares. Yadon, 58, was hit five times at close range as he walked in a square in front of the National Congress with Olivares, a childhood friend. Press reports in Argentina have said the motive may have been linked to a relationship that Yadon was having with a much younger daughter of one of the assailants. — AFP

### Peru police clash with lynch mob

**LIMA:** Fourteen Peruvian police officers were injured Sunday in clashes with stick-wielding and rock-throwing villagers trying to lynch a man suspected of raping and killing two young girls, the Interior Ministry said. The violence unfolded outside a police station in the town of Andahuaylas in the southeast of the country. The hundreds-strong mob was trying to get at a 23-year-old man identified as Maicol Oscco, who was arrested overnight in connection with the rape and murder of two girls, aged 10 and 11, who were reported missing last week. Police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd on Sunday. The Interior Ministry issued a statement urging people not to try to take justice into their own hands. Colonel Alejandro Castillo, a regional police chief, told reporters that Oscco confessed to killing the girls. — AFP

### Quakes in Panama leave 5 injured

**PANAMA CITY:** A 6.1-magnitude earthquake hit Panama on Sunday, injuring at least five people and causing damage to businesses and homes, officials said. The strong quake struck at a depth of 37 km in the far west of the country near the Costa Rican border, according to the US Geological Survey. It was followed by a smaller 5.4-magnitude quake in Colon province, on central Panama's Caribbean coast, according to the country's National Civil Protection System (Sinaproc). Five people were injured in the first quake, which hit 22 km from the town of Puerto Armuelles, said Sinaproc. Four homes were damaged, including two that collapsed, it said. The second quake occurred late Sunday and was not related to the afternoon quake near Puerto Armuelles, Sinaproc said. — AFP

## Europe warns US against escalation as tensions mount

**BRUSSELS:** Europe yesterday urged the US not to further escalate tensions over the Iran nuclear deal, with Britain issuing a stark warning of the risk of conflict erupting "by accident" in the Gulf. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a last-minute visit to Brussels where he met his counterparts from Britain, France and Germany - the three European signatories to the 2015 accord that curbed Iran's nuclear ambitions in return for sanctions relief - on the sidelines of a regular EU foreign ministers' gathering.

Iran last week announced it was suspending some of its commitments under the agreement, a year after US President Donald Trump withdrew from the accord and imposed swingeing sanctions on the Islamic republic - putting the deal in peril. Adding a military dimension to the diplomatic tensions, Washington is sending an amphibious assault ship and a Patriot missile battery to the Gulf, having already deployed an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers.

Pompeo's visit to Brussels was announced at the last minute and if he came hoping for a show of transatlantic unity against Iran, he was disappointed, with Britain, France and Germany all publicly criticising the headline US approach. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Berlin "still regards this nuclear agreement as the basis for Iran not having any nuclear weapons in the future and we regard this as existential for our security".

Maas said he used his one-on-one meeting with Pompeo to stress that "we are concerned about the development and the tensions in the region, that we do not want

there to be a military escalation". As he arrived for the talks, British foreign minister Hunt called for "a period of calm" and bluntly warned of the danger of pushing Iran back towards developing nuclear weapons. "We are very worried about the risk of a conflict happening by accident with an escalation that is unintended on either side but ends with some kind of conflict," Hunt said.

"Most of all we must make sure we don't end up putting Iran back on the path to re-nuclearization, because if Iran becomes a nuclear power its neighbors are likely to want to become nuclear powers. This is already the most unstable region in the world and it would be a massive step in the wrong direction."

The European Union's diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini stressed the need for dialogue as "the only and the best way to address differences and avoid escalation" in the region. "We continue to fully support the nuclear deal with Iran, its full implementation," Mogherini said. "It has been and continues to be for us a key element of the non-proliferation architecture both globally and in the region." French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian joined the criticism of the US saying Washington's move to step up sanctions against Iran "does not suit us".

### 'Nuclear bomb'

Mogherini chaired a meeting of the so-called E3 - Britain, France and Germany - to discuss efforts to keep the deal going, including the special trade mechanism called INSTEX the trio set up to try to enable legitimate trade with Iran to continue without falling foul of US sanctions. INSTEX was launched in January but is still not operational and has been dismissed scornfully by the Iranian senior leadership. Mogherini gave a chilly response to news of Pompeo's visit, which she said was only communicated to Brussels at the last minute. "We'll be here all day with a busy agenda so we'll see during

## Putin extols 'hockey diplomacy', falls on ice

**MOSCOW:** Kremlin chief Vladimir Putin praised "hockey diplomacy" as he scored nine goals in a game with his allies and Russian stars but fell on his face after the match. "It brings people closer," Putin told reporters during the hockey match, in footage broadcast on television Sunday evening. "This always helps." Wearing his traditional No. 11 jersey, the Russian president on Friday took to the ice for an exhibition game at the Bolshoi Ice Arena in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The sports-mad 66-year-old leader, who has done a lot to promote a healthy lifestyle in Russia, said hockey was outside of politics and helped foster ties between statesmen. In the past, the Kremlin chief took to the ice with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and often plays with Belarusian hockey-crazed strongman Alexander Lukashenko. Putin said he could not even stand on ice several years ago and learned to skate by clutching a chair.

Skating alongside Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Russian hockey stars such as Pavel Bure and Slava Fetisov, Putin scored nine goals, leading his team to a 14-7 win in the gala match of the Night Hockey League, the Kremlin said. The opposing side was made up of prominent amateurs including Gennady Timchenko, a billionaire Putin associate who is under US sanctions. After the match

## Ex-Armenia prez on trial, rejects 'coup' charges

**YEREVAN:** Armenia's jailed former president went on trial yesterday over what prosecutors describe as a coup that led to bloody protests but he insists is a politically motivated case.

Robert Kocharyan led the ex-Soviet nation for a decade up to 2008 when his hand-picked ally Serzh Sargsyan was elected. He stands accused of tipping those presidential polls in Sargsyan's favor and faces charges of "overthrowing the constitutional order".

Dozens of Kocharyan's supporters rallied yesterday outside the Yerevan city court, holding placards that read "Kocharyan is a political prisoner" and "Political vendetta." Hearings started at 1000 GMT in a tiny courtroom packed with journalists. Dressed

in a grey business suit, Kocharyan looked unperturbed and smiled at supporters in the audience who shouted "Freedom".

The 64-year-old told AFP the case was brought against him because of new leadership that pushed out his successor in a popular uprising last year. "What is happening to me is nothing less than lawlessness," he told AFP from prison in written comments sent via representatives. "The current Armenian political authorities have declared me guilty, and the judicial system now serves this political master." The former head of state faces up to 15 years behind bars if convicted.

After the 2008 election, tensions erupted into violent clashes between riot police and supporters of the defeated opposition candidate, who denounced the vote as fraudulent. Eight protesters and two officers were killed. Sargsyan led the South Caucasus nation until April last year when he was forced to resign because of mass protests against his rule, spearheaded by current Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

In 2009, Pashinyan was arrested



**SOCHI, Russia:** Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) greets spectators during the Night Hockey League gala ice hockey match at the Bolshoi Ice Dome on May 10, 2019. — AFP

Putin took a victory lap to greet the cheering crowd but fell on his face after apparently tripping over a red carpet on the ice rink. Two of his teammates rushed to help the president but Putin quickly stood up without assistance.

The Kremlin made no mention of Putin's fall but video footage showing the mishap went viral on social media



**YEREVAN:** Armenia's ex-president Robert Kocharyan attends a hearing at a court yesterday. — AFP

for organizing the 2008 post-electoral protests and sentenced to seven years in prison, but was released on a 2011 amnesty. Kocharyan was arrested in July last year, then briefly released but re-arrested again in December and has since then remained in pre-trial detention. "I was a non-partisan president who acted without favor or prejudice," Kocharyan told AFP. Defense lawyer Hayk Alamyany told AFP that "the immediate goal... is to obtain his release from pre-trial detention". "The entire process may take several years," he added. — AFP



**BRUSSELS:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (left) meets Britain's Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt at the European Council yesterday. — AFP

the day how and if we manage to arrange a meeting," she told reporters.

President Hassan Rouhani issued an ultimatum to the Europeans last week threatening that Iran would go further if they fail to deliver sanctions relief to counterbalance Trump's renewed assault on the Iranian economy within 60 days. The European powers rejected that ultimatum. The US has continued to build pressure on Iran, with Pompeo accusing Tehran of planning "imminent" attacks and bolstering the military presence in the Gulf. Pompeo's visit to Brussels means he is scrapping a stop expected yesterday in Moscow. But he will still head to the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi today to meet President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, a State Department official added just before Pompeo left Washington. — AFP

## Secretive British billionaire sues over French play

**CAEN, France:** A court in northern France yesterday was to begin hearing a case brought by one of the secretive Barclay brothers, who own the Daily Telegraph and the Ritz Hotel, claiming he was defamed in a play by a French writer. David Barclay, who shares along with his twin brother Frederick an estimated fortune of £8 billion (\$10.4 billion), is suing playwright Hedi Tillet de Clermont-Tonnerre for violation of privacy and defamation.

The court in the city of Caen was due to hear the case, which was filed in June 2018, from 1200 GMT in a case expected to last several months. If the court rules in favor of David Barclay, the play could be banned from performance and the theatres that performed it forced to pay damages of tens of thousands of euros. The play, "Les Deux Freres et les lions" ("The Two Brothers and the Lions"), was performed at the 150-seat Theatre de Poche in Paris up to March 31 this year and was critically acclaimed.

The play does not mention the Barclay brothers directly. But it does not take much effort to see parallels with the pair who built a vast property and media empire after being born into a modest Scottish family. "The irresistible rise of two Scottish immigrants. This tale tells the rise two twins who came from a poor background to have at the end of the 20th century one of the biggest fortunes of Great Britain," the theatre says of the play. According to the latest rich list published by The Sunday Times this month, the twins are the 17th richest people in Britain, with a fortune of £8 billion.

### 'Freedom of expression'

The defense argues the play's aim was to shed light on the continued use of feudal law from the mediaeval Norman era in the Channel Islands off the northern coast of France, which are self-governing dependencies of Britain. The brothers live part of the time in a vast mock Gothic castle on the Channel Island of Brecqhou, neighboring the island of Sark, and are known to fiercely defend their privacy, often through legal action.

Ahead of the hearing, Clermont-Tonnerre, 44, told AFP that "in France there is complete freedom to talk about public figures. "We are in the country of Voltaire, it is a case of freedom of expression," he added, referring to the great 18th-century French writer. He described the case as "extraordinary", pitting one of the richest individuals in Britain against a "play which played in a small Paris theatre".

According to defense documents, the playwright only drew inspiration from well-known aspects of David Barclay's life and almost all the elements in the play "are all fictional and imagined by the author". Tillet de Clermont-Tonnerre "respected a distance between the text and the reality", it said, emphasising that this was theatre which made clear it belonged to the realm of the story. — AFP



## International

# Fresh curfews, social media block in Sri Lanka after riots

## Anti-Muslim riots hit several towns

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's police imposed fresh curfews and banned Facebook, WhatsApp and other social media platforms yesterday after anti-Muslim riots gripped several towns in the latest fallout from the Easter bombings. Christian groups attacked Muslim-owned shops in a sign of the ongoing religious tension in Sri Lanka since the April 21 attacks by suicide bombers on three hotels and three churches which left 258 dead.

A night curfew in several towns north of Colombo was lifted at dawn, but reimposed 10 hours later as tensions were fuelled by persistent rumors of mob violence. Police said a Catholic priest had sent out a message to parishioners about possible attacks, causing panic among some people in violence-prone areas. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe urged the public not to believe rumors and warned that civil unrest will only stretch the already thinly deployed security forces. "I appeal to all citizens to remain calm and not be swayed by false information," Wickremesinghe said on Twitter, which was not targeted in the social media blockade. "Security forces are working tirelessly to apprehend terrorists and ensure the security of the country, but each time there is civil unrest, we increase their burden and hamper ongoing investigations."

A state of emergency has been in place

since the bombings - which the Islamic State group claims to have helped - and security forces have been given sweeping powers to arrest and detain suspects for long periods. Police said a mob targeted shops in the north-western town of Chilaw on Sunday in anger at a Facebook post by a shopkeeper. Security forces fired into the air to disperse the crowd, but the violence spread to nearby towns where Muslim businesses were also attacked.

A motorcycle gang attacked shops in nearby Kuliyaipitiya and four members were arrested, officials said. However, dozens of people laid siege to the police station and forced their release. Despite a night curfew, a mosque was vandalized, local residents said.

### Mosque attack

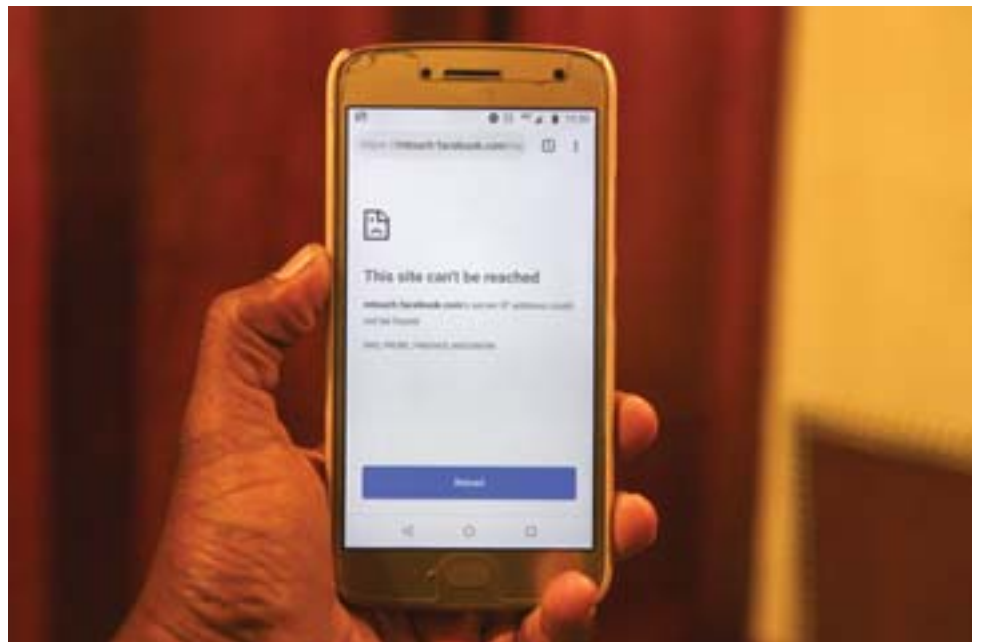
"Don't laugh more, 1 day u will cry," was posted on Facebook by a Muslim shopkeeper, and local Christians took it to be a warning of an impending attack. Mobs smashed the man's shop and vandalized a nearby mosque prompting security forces to fire in the air to disperse the crowd. A curfew was imposed from Sunday afternoon until dawn yesterday. There have already been clashes between Christians and Muslims in Negombo, the town north of Colombo that was targeted by the suicide attackers. The main body of Islamic

clerics, the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU), said there was increased suspicion of Muslims after the Easter Sunday attacks. "We call upon the members of the Muslim communities to be more patient and guard your actions and avoid unnecessary postings or hosting on social media," the ACJU said.

Internet service providers said they have been instructed by the telecommunications regulator to block access to Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Instagram. The latest unrest came as Catholic churches resumed public Sunday masses for the first time since the bombings. Worshippers were searched before being allowed into churches that were guarded by armed police and troops. There were no reports of disruption to services, however.

### Schools reopen

Dozens of people have been detained since the Easter Sunday attacks, and amid the heightened security, police have banned parking near schools and students are allowed in after checking for explosives. Public schools completed their reopening from extended Easter holidays after the attacks, but attendance was extremely low, according to education authorities. Private Catholic schools were to open today, but many were planning to postpone the reopening until next week,



**COLOMBO:** This photo illustration shows a mobile browser unable to connect to Facebook, following the Sri Lankan government's island-wide social network shutdown yesterday. — AFP

parent groups said. Muslims make up around 10 percent of Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka's 21 million population and Christians about 7.6 percent. — AFP

## 'I'm the original': Modi lookalike hits campaign trail

**LUCKNOW, India:** His white beard neatly trimmed and a sleeveless jacket thrown over his traditional Indian shirt, Abhinandan Pathak turns heads thanks to an uncanny resemblance to the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But Pathak - almost the same height and build as the PM, and who even walks in a similar way - is no ordinary doppelganger. Bitter at Modi's "failed promises", Pathak is running as an independent against Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in India's marathon election - and is getting a lot of support.

The largest election on Earth wraps up on Sunday May 19, after seven weeks of intense campaigning and the votes of 900 million Indians. "The anger (towards Modi) is real. I can feel it wherever I go," Pathak, 58, told AFP from his one-room shanty home in the northern city of Lucknow, in India's most populous state Uttar Pradesh. When Modi was first elected in 2014, Pathak was a supporter. Because of his resemblance to the premier, people "adored me, they asked for selfies and hugged me".

"I was showered with love. People thought that if they can't meet the real Modi, they might as well meet me," he said. "But now they get angry when they see me. They ask me 'where are the good days'," he said, after Modi's 2014 election slogan "achhe din ayenge" ("good days will come"). Pathak's brightest moment came in May 2014, when he says Modi hugged him during a victory parade in the city of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. But it was all downhill after that. He was ignored by the party and his many letters to Modi went unanswered, Pathak said.

### Doppelganger draw

Lookalike candidates are nothing new in the colorful world



**LUCKNOW:** In this photograph taken on April 17, 2019, Abhinandan Pathak, a lookalike of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaks with youths as he campaigns as an independent candidate. — AFP

of Indian politics. Their presence invariably invokes curiosity, with crowds thronging to catch a glimpse of the duplicates. In Mumbai, another Modi lookalike - Vikas Mahante - has been out and about on the campaign trail in a district of the city, and on a BJP ticket. The 57-year-old businessman, who even played Modi in a little-known 2017 biopic, has been the star attraction at rallies. But it can get hairy. Once people threw stones at him and he had to be rushed to safety. Now the lookalike has his own bodyguard. "Once I was chased by a gang of men around midnight while I was returning from a rally," he told the Hindustan Times daily in 2017. "(I) stepped on the accelerator, jumped all signals and didn't stop anywhere."

### Chickening out

In 2014, Prashant Sethi lapped up being a dead ringer for Rahul Gandhi, the scion of the country's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty and Modi's main challenger in both the

2014 and 2019 elections. Sethi, who sells fried chicken in Surat in the western state of Gujarat, was reportedly offered a film role too. But now the Modi supporter has had enough. He has transformed his look: putting on weight, growing a beard and changing his hairstyle - all to look different from Gandhi. "Me and my family have been supporters of the BJP since the beginning. But because of my look I was always teased," Sethi told AFP. "People had started calling me pappu," he said, referring to a common nickname - used by Gandhi's detractors - for slightly stupid individuals. "So I had to change my look," he said.

But back in Lucknow feisty father-of-six Pathak has no wish to change. "Why should I? I have been in politics since the 90s and I have always sported the beard and kurta," he said, referring to a traditional Indian long-sleeved shirt, and showing a picture from his younger days. "I am the original one, Modi is my lookalike." — AFP

## Pak Hazaras fear for their lives in besieged 'ghettos'

**QUETTA, Pakistan:** Crowded into "ghettos" surrounded by armed checkpoints, Pakistan's Shiite Hazara minority say they are being slaughtered by sectarian militants in the southwestern city of Quetta, with authorities seemingly unable to halt the killings. For years, hundreds of thousands of the Shiite community's members have been hemmed into two separate enclaves cordoned off by numerous checkpoints and hundreds of armed guards designed to protect the minority from violent militants. "It's like a prison here," said Bostan Ali, a Hazara activist, about conditions inside the enclaves.

"The Hazaras are experiencing mental torture," he added, complaining the community has been effectively "cut off from the rest of the city" and "confined" to such areas. The Shiite community's presence is particularly strong in Quetta - the uneasy capital of impoverished Balochistan province where sectarian violence, suicide bombings, and banditry are common. Hazaras are technically free to roam around Quetta at their will, but few do, fearing attacks.

To further protect the group, day traders and market vendors are also given armed escorts when they leave their neighborhoods, while ongoing military operations are said to be targeting militants in the restive province. But even these measures have proven inept at stopping major attacks on Hazaras. Just last month a bombing at a vegetable market left 21 dead and 47 more wounded - with the majority of the victims identified as Hazara.

The incident is all the more disturbing considering the group was under the protection of Pakistani paramilitary forces, who failed to stop the suicide bomber from detonating in the crowd. The attack - claimed by the Islamic State and its local anti-Shiite affiliate Lashkar-e-Jhangvi - is just the latest in a long series of assaults targeting the group, including back-to-back bombings in early 2013 that killed nearly 200 of its members. The situation across the border in Afghanistan is equally if not more dangerous, with Hazara mosques, schools, and community events regularly attacked by insurgents.

### 'Prison'

Pakistan has long been a cauldron of unrest and sectarian violence, with the officially Islamic Republic home to myriad sects of Islam and religious minorities that have been targeted by violent extremists for decades. The Hazara have proven to be particularly vulnerable with their



**QUETTA:** In this picture taken on May 3, 2019, Pakistani Shiite Hazara minority Muslims walk along a road in Hazara town. — AFP

distinct Central Asian features making the members of the community easy targets for Sunni militants who consider them heretics. At the entrance to Hazara town - one of the two enclaves in Quetta - a grim scene plays out every day as Hazara men squeeze into the backs of a long line of trucks headed in the city to buy food from the markets.

Once there, they are flanked by soldiers as they buy supplies before heading back to their homes in a heavily armed convoy. Authorities insist the measures are a necessity. In the last five years, 500 Hazaras have been killed and another 627 wounded in Quetta alone, according to a Pakistani security source familiar with the situation who asked not to be named. "We know that we are passing through a killing field" explained Nauroz Ali, about life outside the enclaves. He added: "But we have to earn a living for our families."

Criticized for their inability to stop the attacks, officials point to their own casualties in the fight against sectarian extremists as proof that they are trying their best. Over the past six years, in their efforts to protect them "more police officers have died than Hazaras" says local police officer Abdur Razzak Cheema, adding that many terrorists have been arrested and others eliminated due to their efforts. He explained: "New groups emerge. We're trying to track them down and eradicate the threat." — AFP

## Malaysia foils IS-linked plot, seizes explosives

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysian police said yesterday they have arrested four militants linked to the Islamic State (IS) group who were in possession of explosives and planned to attack non-Muslim places of worship. The suspects - a Malaysian who led the group, two Rohingya from Myanmar and one Indonesian - were detained last week in raids around Kuala Lumpur and in eastern Terengganu state.

Malaysia's national police chief Abdul Hamid Bador described them as an "Islamic State cell" and said they planned to "assassinate high-profile individuals and attack Hindu, Christian and Buddhist places of worship in Malaysia". He did not give any details about who the high-profile individuals were. Police also seized six improvised explosive devices, a pistol and 15 bullets, he said. The planned attacks were to avenge the high-profile death of a Muslim fireman during riots at an Indian temple outside Kuala Lumpur last year, police said.

One of the Rohingya admitted supporting the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, a militant group blamed for attacks in Myanmar that sparked an army crackdown, and had also planned to target the Myanmar embassy in Kuala Lumpur, police said. The second Rohingya was a 25-year-old laborer who admitted to being militant with ties to IS, police said. The Rohingya are a Muslim minority that have long faced persecution in their Buddhist homeland.

Police are hunting for three more members of the suspected terror cell who allegedly planned to attack entertainment outlets. Authorities in Muslim-majority Malaysia regularly announce IS-related arrests but it is rare for police to seize explosives or weapons. Malaysia practices a moderate brand of Islam and has not seen any notable terror attacks in recent years. But security forces are on alert for militants from Malaysia and other parts of the region heading to the country after IS lost the last of its territory in the Middle East. Authorities say scores of Malaysian radicals flocked to fight with the jihadists in Iraq and Syria. — AFP

## India cyclone death toll rises, anger grows

**NEW DELHI:** The death toll from a major cyclone that hit eastern India and Bangladesh in early May rose to 77 yesterday as anger grew over millions of people still without power and water. Cyclone Fani, the first summer cyclone to hit India's Bay of Bengal coast in 43 years, made landfall in Odisha state on May 3 packing winds up to 200 km per hour. The winds damaged half a million houses, uprooted hundreds of thousands of trees and knocked out power, telecommunications and water for millions of people in one of India's poorest states.

The Indian death toll, which earlier stood at 41, shot up with fresh casualties reported from Puri and Khurda districts on Sunday. Thirteen people also perished in Bangladesh after Fani barreled northwards. "The toll has gone up to 64 with maximum deaths (39) reported from Puri," an official at the State Emergency Operation Centre told AFP. India initially won praise, including from the United Nations, for moving some 1.2 million people to safety before the storm arrived, in what Odisha's chief minister called the "biggest human evacuation in history".

But this praise has turned to anger for many local people at what they see as the slow pace of reconstruction and apathy from the authorities. "I have lost my thatched house in the cyclone. No one from the government has come to see my damaged house," Shantilata Mishra, a resident in the Puri district, was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency. "I do not know when they will assess the damage and give me assistance to construct my house," she said.

Angry survivors have even been taking to the streets to protest the slow pace of relief as well as high prices of essential food items and water. On Sunday, demonstrators blocking roads in Odisha's state capital Bhubaneswar said a lack of coordination among various government agencies was compounding their misery. "There is a limit to our patience. We are being made to spend sleepless nights. We have to purchase drinking water at exorbitant prices," a protester told PTI. — AFP

## Philippines votes in polls expected to strengthen Duterte

**MANILA:** Filipinos headed to the polls yesterday in a vote that is expected to strengthen President Rodrigo Duterte's grip on power, opening the way for him to deliver on pledges to restore the death penalty and rewrite the constitution. More than 18,000 positions are at stake, including half of the seats in the upper house Senate, which has served as a bulwark against some of Duterte's most controversial policies.

Duterte is known internationally for his foul-mouthed tirades and deadly drug war, but remains hugely popular among Filipinos fed up with the country's general dysfunction and leaders who have failed to fix it. He wants to bring back capital punishment for drug-related crimes as part of his narcotics crackdown, in which thousands of alleged pushers and users have already been killed by police. His tough-on-crime platform - which also includes lowering the age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 12 - was key to his landslide election victory in 2016.

Crowds gathered at voting centers in the capital Manila even ahead of polls opening at 6:00 am (2200 GMT Sunday) in an election where some 61 million are registered to cast ballots. "I voted for many of the candidates endorsed by President Duterte because his government is doing its job," said Myrna Cruz, 51. "I support their programs, including the anti-drug campaign... but I wish the bloodshed would stop," she added, echoing many Filipinos' nuanced backing of the crackdown.

Voters across the country flooded social media with images of their ink-stained fingernails, which are daubed blue as a protection against voter fraud. The opening of the polls saw isolated outbursts of violence, which is not unusual in the Philippines' frequently bloody competition for elected posts. At least 20 people were killed and 24 wounded in election-related violence in the run up to the vote, according to an official count. The military said nine people were shot and wounded yesterday during a confrontation at a polling station on the restive southern island of Jolo, which is home to insurgents and powerful local clans. — AFP



Rodrigo Duterte



## Analysis

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## Britain's Trump? Farage surges on Brexit discontent

Polls show his Brexit Party easily winning next week's European Parliament polls and edging ahead of Theresa May's Conservatives in a UK general election. Nigel Farage is channeling Donald Trump's brand of angry populism to help turn British politics on its head. "You are in denial, the BBC is in denial, the Tory and Labor parties are in denial," the nationalist poster boy of the 2016 campaign to get Britain out of the European Union told the broadcaster in a feisty interview. "I think you are all in for a bigger surprise than you can even imagine," he said of the May 23 elections. The rise and rise of the 55-year-old former commodities trader is one of the most immediate and striking consequences of May's failure to lead Britain out of the European Union on time.

Britain was meant to have split away after 46 years on March 29. May's inability to force her EU divorce deal through parliament has pushed that back until October 31. Some think the date may have to be delayed further still - giving EU supporters time to reverse Brexit. All this has fuelled voter suspicions of politicians and turned Farage into a voice of the disaffected who has both May's government and Brussels on edge.

### 'More than a flash in the pan'

A May 8-9 YouGov survey showed his three-month-old Brexit Party winning 34 percent of the UK vote in the European Parliament poll. The opposition Labor Party was second with just 16 percent. May's Conservatives trailed in fifth with 10 percent after the Liberal Democrats and the Greens. Voting intentions in any general election that might result from the current political impasse make equally grim reading for May's team. A poll taken for Saturday's edition of The Daily Telegraph showed the Brexit Party on 20 percent and the Conservatives on 19. YouGov has the Conservatives coming first in the general election but losing nearly half their parliamentary seats.

The question now is whether the Brexit Party is a passing phenomenon or a new force that breaks Britain's existing political order. "The Brexit Party has the potential to be much more than a flash in the pan," said UK national populist movement analyst and author Matthew Goodwin. "The rise of the Brexit Party is deeply problematic for the Conservative Party because it is eating away at Conservative Party support, making a radical left Labor government much more likely."

### 'The enemy'

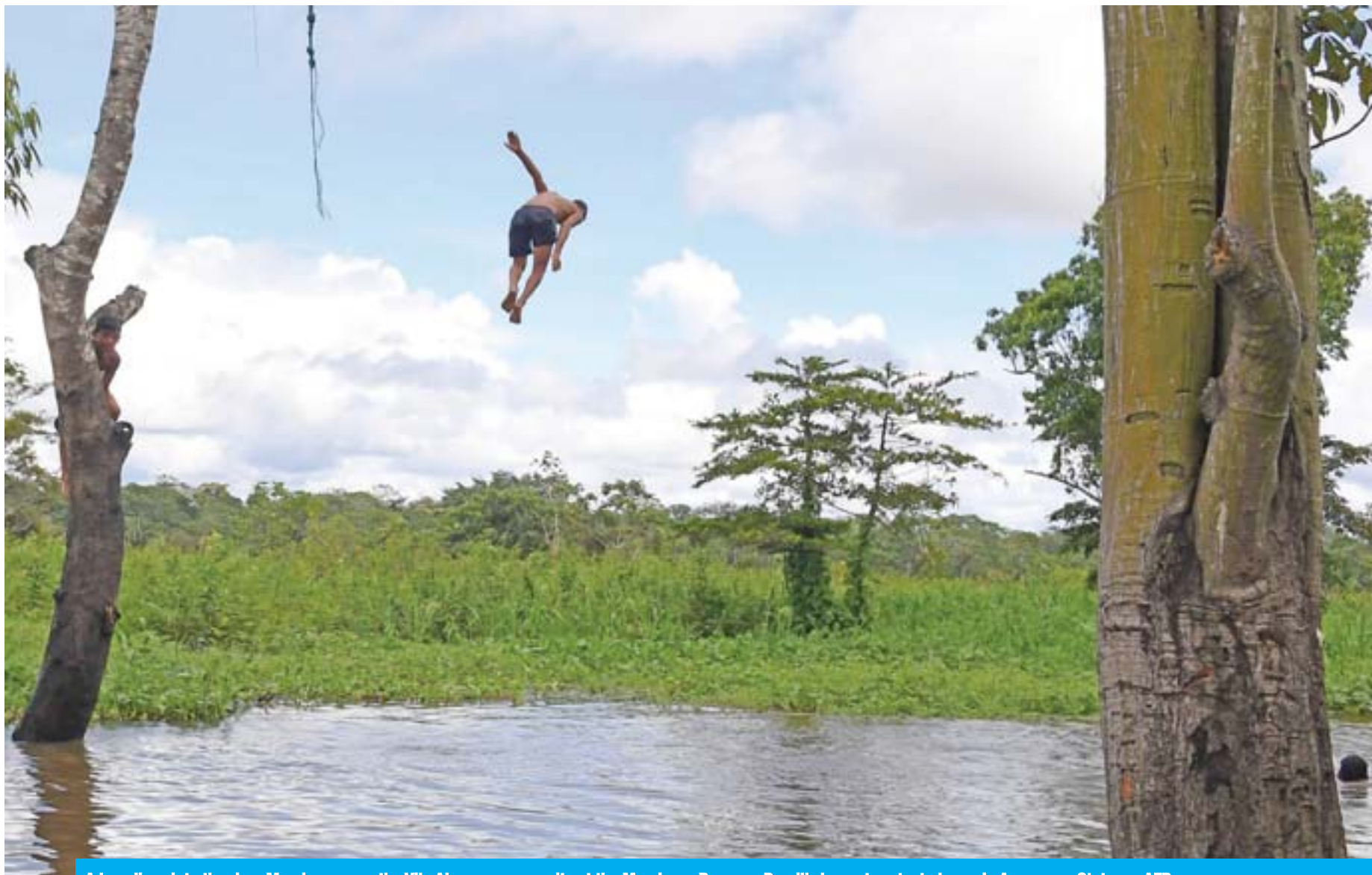
The parallels between Farage and Trump are striking. They doubt the science behind climate change and embrace gun rights. They both blame social ills on migrants and support strong borders. Farage also appears to have taken a page out of the US president's playbook by portraying himself as the victim of a biased and out-of-touch media. The BBC "now behave with outrageous bias," Farage told the PoliticsHome.com website a few hours after his spat with the venerable UK broadcaster. "The BBC are now the enemy." It was a familiar echo of Trump's "enemy of the people" refrain that has him and much of the US media exchanging daily blows. "Farage certainly exhibits elements of Trumpism," the analyst Goodwin said.

May's government never expected to do well in a European vote. But a potentially disastrous showing in a general election that could set Conservatives back many years has members of her party on edge. "People mocking, denouncing or vilifying Nigel Farage are missing the point," junior Brexit minister James Cleverly, the deputy party leader, tweeted on Sunday. "Rather than say 'people are wrong to vote for him & his party' we should ask 'why are people voting for him & his party?'"

### 'Fighting the political class'

Voters in southeast England have actually been re-electing Farage as their European Parliament representative since 1999. He has used the time to make numerous enemies in Brussels - perhaps none as vocal as the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator Guy Verhofstadt. The Belgian accused Farage on Sunday of having "one of the lowest attendance rates" in the chamber. "He would rather sign in & go to the pub than fight for British interests in Europe," Verhofstadt tweeted. "Sending him back would be insane!" Farage did not respond to his Brussels nemesis. But he did pin a clip of his exchange with the BBC to the top of his Twitter account. "We are not just fighting the political class, but the BBC too," Farage wrote. — AFP

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



A boy dives into the river Mamiraua near the Vila Alencar community at the Mamiraua Reserve, Brazil's largest protected area in Amazonas State. — AFP

## Fears over rising violence in Amazon as 'forest guardians' battle logging

Following traditional rituals, indigenous chief Olimpio Santos Guajajara paints his face with red dye from urucum seeds as he prepares to go on patrol to protect Brazil's Amazon rainforest. He is the leader of about 120 Guajajara Indians who call themselves "guardians of the forest" and fight illegal logging in the Amazon where rainforest destruction hit the highest level in a decade in 2018, according to government data. On a rarely permitted visit, the Thomson Reuters Foundation followed 12 "guardians" on a three-day patrol in the northeast state of Maranhao where they set fire to an illegal logging camp and to piles of timber ready to be sold.

"Today our land is under threat ... Logging, fishing and hunting are all forbidden on indigenous lands by law," said Santos, wearing string necklaces with tattoos lining both arms. "It's destroying our lives. It's destroying our culture." But he said the government had failed to clamp down on illegal logging and concerns about land are escalating with no sign of an end to the encroachments which was fuelling violence.

"We take action ... and are defending the law," he said, explaining that the face paint was an appeal to "Mother Forest" to protect the guardians. "It is a very big war that we are facing still today." Brazil's 900,000 indigenous people make up less than 1 percent of the population and live on reservations that account for 13 percent of the country. They are increasingly concerned about illegal logging and agriculture encroaching on the jungle.

Brazil led the world in rainforest destruction in 2018, according to independent monitoring group Global Forest Watch. The World Wildlife Fund estimates that more than a quarter of the Amazon rainforest will be without trees by 2030 if the current rate of deforestation continues. The Arariboia territory where the Guajajara live is also home to the Awa Indians, hunter-gatherers whom indigenous rights group Survival International has described as the most threatened tribe in the world.

Bruno Pereira, coordinator for uncontacted tribes at FUNAI, Brazil's indigenous affairs agency, said this tension has led to the emergence of forest vigilante groups, or guardians, across the Amazon, with fears conflicts will escalate. But he said it was a complicated situation as loggers paid some of the locals to co-opt them into their activities which was also pitting indigenous tribes against each other. "Whole towns have been built on the proceeds from illegal logging inside the indigenous lands. It is an extremely violent region," Pereira said.

"There are even conflicts among themselves as they are

trying to survive within their land ... I don't think they (the guardians) are acting in the best way but I do understand that they are so desperate that they have to act like this," Santos said at least three Guajajara Indians had been killed in conflicts with illegal loggers since the group started in 2012. Some estimates put the number of land activists murdered across the Amazon as high as 80.

### Controversial leasing

Human rights groups have voiced fears that the situation could get worse under Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro, who put indigenous land decisions under the Ministry of Agriculture, sparking concerns that more land would be opened to farming. But on May 9, a congressional committee voted to reverse President Bolsonaro's decree giving the Agriculture Ministry power to define tribal lands and removing the country's indigenous affairs agency from the Justice Ministry. The decision must still be ratified by the full lower house of Congress and then the Senate. But Agriculture Minister Tereza Cristina Dias said the administration's push to repeal a ban on commercial farming on indigenous land was in response to requests from indigenous people themselves. "Since I was a congresswoman (in 2015-2018) I received more than 150 indigenous people saying: 'we would like to be able to lease a plot of land in our area'," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in her office in Brasilia, the capital.

This would be on land that has already been cleared rather than deforesting new areas, she added. "So they (indigenous people) would like the law to be changed ... so that they can lease and produce on the land. The ideal is they produce in their own areas," she said. Not everyone agrees, however. Joenia Wapichana, the first indigenous woman to be elected to Brazil's Congress, said indigenous people have the right to receive full government support to farm their land "but this does not justify opening indigenous land up for leasing".

### 'No choice'

The guardians' work against illegal logging is widely recognized by government bodies in charge of protecting indigenous rights and the environment. But although citizens' arrests are legal under certain circumstances, authorities have warned against the danger of indigenous people going head-to-head with loggers and taking justice into their own hands. "The guardians inform us and make reports for us (on logging)," said Cassandra Parazi, federal police chief in Maranhao's capital Sao

Luis in an interview in her office. "But it's important that they remain vigilant, this kind of initiative to attack and try to defend (the land) with their own hands is dangerous, it is reckless."

Parazi said the federal police and environmental protection agency Ibama have conducted about a dozen operations in Maranhao state since 2015, destroying sawmills and logging camps, but this was not enough to halt illegal logging in the region. Corruption was also hampering efforts to protect the land. "The area is so big, it needs more investment ... There are few roads and a lot of rivers. So (illegal logging) is easy to cover up," she said. "It is very easy to hide in the woods."

### 'Generalized conflict'

The guardians patrol entrances to the forest used by trucks and cars where they approach and identify any illegal logging activity and expel those involved from the land, Santos said. During a night patrol followed by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, a balaclava-clad guardian interrogated a Guajajara Indian whom he suspected of working with illegal loggers. "You think this is a joke? It's not," he said, as the man denied any involvement with logging. "If we find out you're deceiving us, that you're lying, it will be much more complicated for you," another guardian said.

Roberto Cabral Borges, coordinator of operations and enforcement at Ibama, said he worried that escalating violence with illegal loggers could make the area even more dangerous. "Something that started as an environmental crime could be placed aside and become a generalized conflict in the area," Borges said. Since the guardians were set up in late 2012, they have destroyed some 200 logging camps, Santos said, adding that the group was setting up a charity and a website for donations.

"I ask the world to look at our struggle and recognize our activities as legal ... because we are fighting for our lives and also for the lungs of the world," he said, gazing at a pile of burning wood. Laercio Souza Silva Guajajara, another guardian, said the group was "not a militia", "We are defending life, we are not killing anyone. It's our fight for the children, for the old, for the whole world," he said, his face and body painted with black dye from jenipapo fruit and wearing a camouflage hat. "If we wait for the government nothing will happen ... We'll fight until the end, until the last breath." — Reuters

described a nomadic childhood and claims to have attended 37 schools before settling in Melbourne. As a teenager, he discovered a talent for computer hacking, and although he has pleaded guilty to 25 such offences, he has only ever walked away with fines. He created WikiLeaks in 2006 with a group of like-minded activists and IT experts, to provide a secure way for whistleblowers to leak information.

A confident speaker, he became its figurehead - and a lightning rod for criticism. The most damaging leaks emerged in 2010, beginning with a video showing a US military Apache helicopter firing on and killing two journalists and several Iraqi civilians on a Baghdad street in 2007. It was followed by more than 90,000 classified US military files from the Afghan war, 400,000 from Iraq, and in November that year, around 250,000 US diplomatic cables covering almost every country in the world.

### Living in a space station

He was arrested in Britain in December 2010 and a judge ordered his extradition to Sweden. The claims were later dropped but Sweden's deputy director of public prosecutions Eva-Marie Persson yesterday said there was "still probable cause to suspect that Mr Assange committed rape". At the time of the first judicial battle, Ecuador's former president, Rafael Correa, said Assange's human rights could be at risk and offered him refuge at his country's embassy.

Assange compared his embassy stay to living in a space station - he exercised on a treadmill and used a sun lamp to make up for the lack of natural light. Correa's successor Lenin Moreno was less patient and accused Assange of interfering in foreign affairs. Assange's supporters said it had become a "Truman-show type situation", accusing Ecuador of gathering thousands of photographs and videos from inside the embassy. After seven years, Assange was finally arrested on April 11. — AFP



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange gestures from the window of a prison van as he is driven out of Southwark Crown Court in London, after having been sentenced to 50 weeks in prison for breaching his bail conditions in 2012. — AFP

### Ties with Russia?

Assange was initially supported by human rights groups and newspapers that once worked with him to edit and publish the war logs. But many were also horrified when WikiLeaks dumped the documents unredacted online, including the names of informants. When in 2016 a UN panel declared that Assange had been detained arbitrarily, one of his previous media partners, The Guardian, dismissed the idea and said he should face justice. There have since been questions about his relationship with Russia, with WikiLeaks identified in independent prosecutor Robert Mueller's probe into interference in the 2016 US election. Mueller found that Russian government actors hacked White House hopeful Hillary Clinton's campaign "and publicly disseminated those materials through various intermediaries, including WikiLeaks".

### War logs exposed

Born in Townsville, Queensland, in 1971, Assange has



TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

# Business

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**14** Infiniti Al-Babtain bags another award at Regional Sales Skills Contests 2019



**JINAN, China:** A worker with a hydraulic lift at a factory producing construction machinery for export to many countries, including the US, in Jinan, in east China's Shandong province. China warned yesterday that it will "never surrender to external pressure" after the US ordered tariffs on almost all Chinese exports. —AFP

## China says will 'never surrender' on trade

### Trump warns Beijing against retaliation in escalating trade dispute

**WASHINGTON/BEIJING:** US President Donald Trump yesterday warned Beijing not to retaliate in an escalating trade dispute after China said it "will never surrender to external pressure."

The trade war between the world's top two economies heightened on Friday after Trump hiked tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods, saying China reneged on earlier commitments made during months of negotiations. Beijing vowed to respond to the latest US tariffs. "As for the details, please continue to pay attention. Copying a US expression - wait and see," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a daily news briefing yesterday.

Trump warned China not to intensify the trade dispute and urged their leaders to continue working to reach a deal. "China should not retaliate - will only get worse," he said on Twitter. "I say openly to President Xi & all of my many

friends in China that China will be hurt very badly if you don't make a deal because companies will be forced to leave China for other countries," Trump wrote.

Global equities fell yesterday as hopes of an imminent trade deal were crushed. The Republican US president last week also ordered US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to begin imposing tariffs on all remaining imports from China, a move that would affect an additional \$300 billion worth of goods.

Asked about the threat, Geng said: "We have said many times that adding tariffs won't resolve any problem... We have the confidence and the ability to protect our lawful and legitimate rights."

Chinese state media kept up a steady drum beat of strongly worded commentary yesterday, reiterating that China's door to talks was always open, but vowing to

defend the country's interests and dignity.

In a commentary, state television said the effect on the Chinese economy from the US tariffs was "totally controllable." "It's no big deal. China is bound to turn crisis to opportunity and use this to test its abilities, to make the country even stronger." Before high-level talks last week in Washington, China tried to delete commitments from a draft agreement that Chinese laws would be changed to enact new policies on issues from intellectual property protection to forced technology transfers. That dealt a major setback to negotiations.

Trump has since defended the tariff hike and said he was in "absolutely no rush" to finalize a deal. White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on Sunday there was a "strong possibility" Trump will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping at a G20 summit in Japan in late June. —Reuters

## KAMCO announces Q1 financial results for 2019

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced its consolidated financial results yesterday for the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. The company reported an increase of 470 percent in profit attributable to equity holders to KD 577,669 from KD 101,260 for the same period in 2018. KAMCO also recorded an increase in its revenues by 253 percent from KD 2.09 million in 2018 to KD 7.37 million in 2019 during the first quarter. Earnings per share increased to 2.43 fils for the period in comparison to 0.43 fils in 2018. EBITDA for the period was KD 2.15 million versus KD 0.4 million for the same in 2018, an increase of 428 percent.

For the first three months period, fee income reached KD 4.76 million, up 192 percent from KD 1.63 million in 2018 driven by a growth in management and advisory fees. The Company's assets under management reached KD 4.18 billion (including the effect of acquiring a majority stake in Global Investment House).

Commenting on the results, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, CEO of KAMCO, said, "Our performance during the first three months of 2019 demonstrates our progress as we build momentum towards our growth and expansion strategy. The

- EBITDA KD 2.15 million
- Net Profit KD 577,669
- Net Profit up by 470%
- Revenue KD7.37 million
- Earnings per Share 2.43 fils
- Fee Income KD 4.76 million
- AUM of KD 4.18 billion

Company continues to incur costs related to our expansion plan which has led to an increase in expenses of 216 percent in comparison to last year. Our improved results underpin the potential outcome of implementing our long-term strategic plans that we believe will structurally reduce costs and improve profitability for the Company. We will continue to gradually evolve our products and business model, while focusing on innovative solutions that will allow our valued clients to have better opportunities to efficiently reach their financial and personal goals."

Sarkhou added, "Our funds and portfolios under management continue to perform well in the market and we will continue to enhance them with an aim to outperform their benchmarks. KAMCO's flagship fund, KAMCO Investment Fund ("KIF"), outperformed its benchmark at 10.5 percent vs 9.6 percent as of 31 March 2019. Similarly, our GCC Opportunistic Fund significantly outperformed the S&P GCC Composite benchmark with a return of 11.5 percent vs. 8.7 percent as of 31

March 2019. At the start of the year, KAMCO also launched its co-authored MENA Fixed Income white paper in collaboration with Emirates NBD Asset Management and Fisch Asset Management. The Company, in a consortium led by Tri-International Consulting Group ("TICG") and Oliver Wyman, successfully concluded its advisory role in the bidding process organized by the Capital Markets Authority ("CMA") of Kuwait for an equity stake in Boursa Kuwait, the first successful privatization in Kuwait over the past 7 years."

Commenting on the market, Sarkhou said, "GCC markets recorded the best quarterly performance since 2017 during Q1-19 with the aggregate regional index recording gains in excess of 10 percent. The surge was primarily led by double digit gains recorded by Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti benchmarks further supported by positive UAE markets.

Positive FY-18 earnings season contributed gains during the first quarter as all the markets, barring Abu Dhabi, reported growth in profits during the year. The markets in Q1-19 also reflected positive global markets and oil prices since the start of the year. Besides increase in the flows in the equity markets we also expect increase in bonds and sukuk issuances providing more depth to the fixed income markets."



Faisal Mansour Sarkhou

## Iran insists on ramping up oil sales to stay in nuclear pact

**LONDON/BRUSSELS:** Iran insists on exporting at least 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, triple May's expected levels under US sanctions, as a condition for staying in an international nuclear deal, sources with knowledge of Iran-EU talks said.

The figure was communicated in recent meetings between Iranian and Western officials, including Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, but has not been set down in writing, four European diplomatic sources said. The United States reimposed sanctions in November on exports of Iranian oil after US President Donald Trump last spring unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 accord between Iran and six world powers to curb Tehran's nuclear program.

In an attempt to reduce Iran's crude exports to zero, Washington ended at the beginning of May waivers that had allowed the top buyers of Iranian oil to continue their imports for six months. The sanctions have already more than halved Iranian oil exports to 1 million bpd or less, from a peak of 2.8 million bpd last year. Exports could drop to as low as 500,000 bpd from May, an Iranian official told Reuters this month.

Iran has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz - a major oil-shipping route - and disrupt crude shipments from neighboring countries if Washington succeeds in forcing all countries to stop buying Iranian oil.

According to one European Union official, the Iranians have not been specific, but they wanted to ensure production returned to pre-sanctions levels. Other sources said Iran's demand seemed to be in a general range of 1.5 million to 2 million bpd.

"Zarif said specifically that they want to sell 2 million barrels of oil (per day), basically the level Iran was exporting before Trump withdrew from the deal," said a source present at the New York meeting in which the minister made the statement. —Reuters



# Stronger Q1 economic data boosts optimism on global growth outlook

## Oil rises as US removes Iran sanctions waivers

**KUWAIT:** Confidence in the global economic outlook improved through April amid a spate of encouraging first quarter GDP estimates and as the US and China appeared close to a trade deal - a hope subsequently dimmed when US president Trump threatened to impose further tariffs on imports from China in early May.

Having plunged in March, benchmark bond yields rose on the improving global growth climate and reduced expectations of central bank policy support, while oil prices broke through the \$70/bbl mark for the first time in five months helped not just by the stronger growth outlook but also by the decision by the US to end Iran sanctions waivers on Iran.

### US growth

The first estimate of US GDP growth in 1Q19 came in at an annualized 3.2 percent, well above the consensus of 2.3 percent and accelerating from 2.2 percent in 4Q18. The strong figure came despite the impact of the federal government shutdown - estimated to have lowered growth by 0.3 percent - and fears of a broader slowdown linked to tighter monetary policy, fading fiscal stimulus impact, the US-China trade war and a weakening global economy. Although hailed as “an incredible number” by President Trump, robust quarterly performance was driven by rising inventories - which can sometimes foreshadow weaker growth going forward - and a smaller trade deficit mostly reflecting falling imports, while consumer spending growth roughly halved to 1.2 percent. The underlying picture is therefore somewhat softer than the headline figure suggests, and expectations are for a slower expansion in Q2.

Despite consumers’ softer contribution to growth in Q1, there are grounds for optimism given continued strength of the labor market. Jobs growth in April surpassed expectations at 263,000, unemployment declined to a 49-year low of 3.6 percent and wage growth, at 3.2 percent y/y, was above 3 percent for the ninth consecutive month.

Reports from the business sector are less upbeat. ISM indices on manufacturing (52.8) and non-manufacturing (55.5) both eased in April and while at solid levels are well below peaks of above 60 recorded last August/September amid softer orders and reports of labor scarcity. There are also mixed signals on growth from the international trade data, where the deficit

narrowed to \$49 billion in February (growth-positive) but helped by the first year-on-year fall in imports since 2016.

The Federal Reserve as expected kept interest rates on hold at the 2.25-2.50 percent target range at the start of May. But in post-meeting comments Chairman Jay Powell adopted a slightly more hawkish tone than expected, stating that there was no “strong case for moving rates in either direction” and that recent softness in inflation - the Fed’s preferred core PCE inflation measure slipped to just 1.6 percent y/y in March, well below the 2 percent target - was driven by ‘transitory’, sector specific factors. The comments may have been motivated by a desire to push back against any perceived politicization of the bank in light of President Trump’s rate cut calls. Futures markets have now pushed the probability of a rate cut by end year to below 50 percent, while the US dollar remained close to a near two-year high on a trade-weighted basis in early May.

### European growth surprises in Q1

Similar to the US, Eurozone growth also provided an upside surprise in the first quarter, raising hopes that the single currency bloc may be starting to emerge from last year’s slowdown. GDP rose 0.4 percent q/q, above the 0.3 percent consensus and double the rate of 4Q18. Encouragingly, Italy pulled out of recession with growth of 0.2 percent, while French growth was steady at 0.3 percent. Figures for the all-important German economy were not released, though after growth hit a standstill in 4Q18, survey evidence points to the crucial export sector still under pressure from weakness in global manufacturing - which could intensify following the latest US tariff threats on China.

The European Central Bank left policy unchanged at its April meeting, committing to leave borrowing costs on hold until at least the end of the year (versus earlier discussion of rate hikes) but also hinting that policy could still be loosened if conditions remain weak. Pressure on the bank to enact further stimulus may have been eased by relatively decent Q1 growth performance and also the rise in inflation to 1.7 percent y/y in April, near to the bank’s ‘below but close to’ 2 percent target. The policy outlook may also be shaped by talk of a more fundamental strategy rethink being mooted by some of the candidates to replace ECB chief Draghi when he departs his post in October.

Meanwhile Brexit continues to weigh on activity

in the UK. The composite PMI stood at 50.9 in April, consistent with just-positive growth at the start of 2Q18 from an estimated 0.5 percent q/q in Q1 boosted by uncertainty-related stockpiling. While the deadline for Brexit has been pushed to end-October giving the UK parliament more time to approve the government’s withdrawal deal with the EU, results from UK local elections in early May point to large-scale voter dissatisfaction with the two major parties and continued pressure on prime minister Theresa May to step down, possibly triggering a general election that could shift the political and economic landscape.

### Japanese growth sluggish

Japan’s exports continued to struggle in March, falling 2.4 percent y/y versus a 1.2 percent drop in February, amid US-China trade tensions and a softer global economic climate. Imports recovered however, up 1.2 percent versus a sharp 6.5 percent drop in February. Recent weakness in exports led to Japan posting its first trade deficit in three years in FY18/19. Japan’s domestic economy also remains sluggish with retail sales growth for example averaging just 0.7 percent y/y in 1Q19. The Bank of Japan has vowed to maintain its current monetary policy to support growth, especially with inflation still far below its 2 percent target: inflation was at 0.5 percent in March.

### Chinese economy

Economic growth in China reached a faster-than-expected 6.4 percent y/y in 1Q19 - unchanged from the previous quarter - thanks in part to the government’s pro-growth efforts and after the US (up to then) held off on any further tariff increases. However, downside risks persist, not least because of the recent escalation in trade tensions with the US. The official services PMI slid from 54.8 in March to 54.3 in April and given that the Chinese economy remains fragile, the government is likely to implement further stimulus measures to prop up growth. Indeed, the central bank cut its reserve requirement ratios for some small and medium-sized banks in a bid to support struggling small and private firms.

### Oil rises

Oil prices posted a fourth consecutive month of gains in April, rising to six-month highs amid continued oil market tightness and the Trump administration’s



decision to end the Iran sanctions waivers. Brent crude, the international benchmark, reached as high as \$74.6/bbl in late April - a level last recorded in October 2018 - though has since retreated as the US attempts to press the Saudis and OPEC to pump more crude to offset further supply losses from Iran and as US shale production continues to set record highs. Brent is still up around 32 percent so far in 2019, which is one of the best starts in years. While Saudi over-compliance with the OPEC+ production cut agreement (260 percent in March) has been the primary driver, elevated geopolitical risk related to plummeting Venezuelan crude supply - a 75-year low of 732 kb/d in March - and falling Iranian production have been important contributors.

### GCC private sector

In the GCC, non-oil sector activity continues to improve. The UAE PMI in April reached a more-than-one-year high of 57.6 on robust new orders and new export orders growth, while the Saudi Arabian index was steady at 56.8, with output remaining strong and exports continuing to recover. Saudi private sector credit (+3.1 percent y/y) and retail POS growth (+20 percent y/y) were also showing good momentum in March. Indeed the IMF has indicated that it could revise up its 1.8 percent forecast for Saudi economic growth in 2019 based partly on better-than-expected non-oil activity.

Meanwhile the fiscal picture is also improving, with the kingdom recording in 1Q19 its first fiscal surplus since 2014 (SR27.8bn) on the back of a sizeable increase in revenues (+48 percent y/y) and a more moderate increase in expenditures (+8 percent y/y). However, the budget surplus could be temporary as capex spending is expected to pick up in the remainder of the year.

## 5 ways your job will be reimagined in 2030

By Mohammed Amin

Technology evolution is not slowing down. While many organizations are struggling to keep up, significant changes in the workplace are beginning to take place today and professionals are feeling the impact. Automation, VR, AR, you name it, it’s happening. With rapid developments across science, technology engineering and communication, technology has brought upon a new Industrial Revolution, or “second machine age,” that will greatly influence jobs across sectors, as well as roles within the home. The rise of advanced tools and skills leaves many unanswered questions for the future; however, it’s clear



five major changes are bound to impact the future of work.

### 1) Robots, do you take lunch breaks?

Robots have performed manufacturing activities that humans don’t want to do or shouldn’t do for decades. From repetitive tasks or jobs that do not require unique cognitive skills or emotional intelligence, replacing human workers with intelligent machines can enable a company to become more productive as believed by 61 percent of businesses in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Another bonus: the elimination of the lunch break. Beyond the fears of intelligent machine growth as a job killer, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and automation will enhance the coordination of resources and on-demand learning, which will reset work structures for manufacturing and more. AI-powered machines have an enhanced ability to make basic decisions, learn from experiences and share that learning with other AI programs. This will enable people to rely on them more heavily, while streamlining and improving processes and everyday tasks, while also enabling a mutually beneficial relationship. Unlike humans, robots do not provide emotional intelligence; and thus humans will remain as critical partners working alongside advanced algorithms. A recent survey of over 3,000 global business executives worldwide, conducted jointly by MIT Sloan Management Review and The Boston

Consulting Group, revealed that out of the respondents from the Middle East, 60 percent consider AI to be only an opportunity, not a risk, for their business and 23 percent believe AI already has a large impact on their organization. This also reflects in our Realizing 2030: A Divided Vision of the Future study, as per which 87 percent of businesses in the UAE and Saudi Arabia state that in the next 5 years, they expect humans and machines to work as an integrated team within the organization.

### 2) Gig or fib?

Contract workers, freelancers, ride-share drivers and other alternative work arrangements - otherwise known as the “gig economy” - account for a significant amount of employment growth regionally. While the gig economy becomes more pervasive, the gigs will change. Take autonomous cars for example. Well-known ride sharing companies have invested heavily in the development of driverless cars. While there are early signs of technology leaning this way and the impact may not be evident for some time, you can very well envision a time where autonomous cars will replace “gig” drivers, and humans will have to come to terms with what this means for the future of their various professional endeavors. However, with a change in the gig economy also comes new opportunity. Around 85 percent of the jobs that today’s population

will be doing in 2030 haven’t been invented yet, according to our research.

### 3) Visualize your work in real-time

Businesses are looking to VR and AR to enhance training, collaboration and much more. On-demand access to AR learning resources will reset expectations and practices around workplace training and real-time decision-making will be supported by easy access to information. VR-enabled simulations will immerse people in alternative experiences and places, creating empathy and empowering a blend of physical and virtual worlds. For example, Nike, Meta and Dell are partnering to use VR, AR, voice control, a digital canvas and haptic technology to allow designers to create their vision in more natural ways. OEMS are investing heavily in innovation on the content creation side, consumption of the content for gaming, entertainment and work and service and support, to be able to take advantage of what VR and AR have to offer.

### 4) Up in the clouds

Whether it’s public, private or hybrid cloud, organizations are relying on it and it’s expected to grow. Chitale Dairy, a dairy farming business in India, recently launch a ‘cow to cloud’ initiative to tag and capture data through AI and IoT to alert farmers when they need to change the cows’ diet, arrange vaccinations, etc. The cloud is the most agile

method for enterprise companies, like Chitale Dairy, to benefit in terms of efficiency and profitability, but also the customers in the end. Organizations must train their employees to master the cloud, and in turn, companies will experience strong benefits when it comes to simplifying their tasks, saving time and focusing efforts on strategic areas of their businesses to maximize revenues.

### 5) Clear the bias

Human-machine partnerships will enable people to find and act on information without the interference of emotions or bias, potentially eliminating stereotypes. Machine learning will increase a person’s ability to evaluate an employee prospect and identify optimal talent or even a worker’s aptitude for gaining new knowledge or learning new skills without personal judgment. Both hiring processes and daily tasks will experience significant improvements as prospects and employees are viewed solely for their skills, and biases are removed from the equation.

Keeping a pulse on these imminent changes today will prepare both employee and employer for what’s to come in the next 15 years and beyond. While challenges and hurdles may arise, humans must act now on technology’s impact on the future by maximizing these relationships now.

*Note: Mohammed Amin is Senior Vice President, Middle East, Turkey & Africa at Dell Technologies*

## EXCHANGE RATES

### Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	305.000
Euro	345.110
Sterling Pound	398.480
Canadian dollar	229.240
Turkish lira	52.630
Swiss Franc	303.630
US Dollar Buying	303.800

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.729
Indian Rupees	4.379
Pakistani Rupees	2.187
Srilankan Rupees	1.743
Nepali Rupees	2.737
Singapore Dollar	225.760
Hongkong Dollar	38.875
Bangladesh Taka	3.603
Philippine Peso	5.893
Thai Baht	9.616
Malaysian ringgit	78.005

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.388
Qatari Riyal	83.826
Omani Riyal	792.723
Bahraini Dinar	810.420
UAE Dirham	83.095

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.850
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.726

Yemen Rival/for 1000	1.225
Tunisian Dinar	105.170
Jordanian Dinar	430.670
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.033
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.344

### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.340
Canadian Dollar	227.315
Sterling Pound	400.840
Euro	342.770
Swiss Frank	310.905
Bahrain Dinar	809.355
UAE Dirhams	83.265
Qatari Riyals	84.500
Saudi Riyals	82.055
Jordanian Dinar	430.540
Egyptian Pound	17.753
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.721
Indian Rupees	4.390
Pakistani Rupees	2.154
Bangladesh Taka	3.605
Philippines Peso	5.865
Cyprus pound	18.105
Japanese Yen	3.750
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.748
Malaysian Ringgit	74.240
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.330
Thai Bhat	10.526

Turkish Lira	50.004
Singapore dollars	223.485

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.388935	0.402835
Czech Korune	0.005261	0.014561
Danish Krone	0.041719	0.046719
Euro	0.334401	0.348101
Georgian Lari	0.110349	0.110349
Hungarian 0.000965	0.001155	
Norwegian Krone	0.030801	0.036001
Romanian Leu	0.054848	0.071698
Russian ruble	0.004650	0.004650
Slovakia	0.009109	0.019109
Swedish Krona	0.027549	0.032549
Swiss Franc	0.294593	0.305593
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.204061	0.216061
New Zealand Dollar	0.194042	0.203542
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.221091	0.230091
US Dollars	0.300500	0.305800
US Dollars Mint	0.301000	0.305800
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003010	0.003811

Chinese Yuan	0.042995	0.046495
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036722	0.039472
Indian Rupee	0.003776	0.004548
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002690	0.002870
Korean Won	0.000246	0.000261
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069673	0.075673
Nepalese Rupee	0.002680	0.003020
Pakistan Rupee	0.001524	0.002294
Philippine Peso	0.005772	0.006072
Singapore Dollar	0.217320	0.227320
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001376	0.001966
Taiwan	0.009680	0.009860
Thai Baht	0.009302	0.009852
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.793387	0.809887
Egyptian Pound	0.017586	0.020186
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000210	0.000270
Jordanian Dinar	0.424715	0.433715
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020503	0.044503
Omani Riyal	0.784851	0.790631
Qatar Riyal	0.079376	0.084316
Saudi Riyal	0.080140	0.081440
Syrian Pound	0.001291	0.001511
Tunisian Dinar	0.097409	0.105409
Turkish Lira	0.044772	0.056272
UAE Dirhams	0.081507	0.083207
Yemeni Riyal	0.000990	0.001070



## Business

# Microsoft partners with Cubical Services to accelerate growth for Kuwaiti startups

## Start-up incubator to receive access to Microsoft

**KUWAIT:** Microsoft yesterday announced it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cubical Services, a business incubator that offers planning, implementation, and operation services to aspiring entrepreneurs and to start-ups in line with the Kuwait Vision 2035.

"The role of start-ups and small businesses is well known," said Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait. "Their activities have long made up the lion's share of non-oil GDP in the region. Supporting fledgling innovators as they push the frontiers of human endeavor has always been a passion of ours, here at Microsoft. As we work with Cubical Services Business Incubator to provide access to our Microsoft for Start-ups initiative, we continue our support for Vision 2035, by equipping the Kuwaiti entrepreneurial community with everything it needs to innovate freely and achieve more."

Under the terms of the MoU, Microsoft will provide access for selected businesses to its Microsoft for Start-ups program, which is designed to accelerate growth and innovation using the intelligent cloud. Cubical Services' Business Incubator serves entrepreneurs and business owners through four main divisions which are the SME Division, Real Estate Division, Incubation Programs Division, and Entrepreneurship Programs Division.

"Vision 2035 demands the full commitment of incubators like Cubical Services," said Abdulrahman J

Alfawaz, CEO of Cubical Services. "But we also seek out partners that can support our efforts to guide, encourage and empower our homegrown innovators and entrepreneurs. Microsoft's track record of mentoring businesses that are just starting out is exemplary. We now set out as partners to accelerate SME sector growth in pursuit of a future that will benefit all Kuwaitis."

Cubical Services will also promote the Microsoft for Start-ups program to its clients and refer start-ups that meet certain criteria to Microsoft, for inclusion in the scheme. In turn, Microsoft will refer suitable start-ups to Cubical Services for its own incubation program.

Some start-ups may also qualify for Microsoft workshop opportunities, where entrepreneurs and their leadership teams will receive training in person by Microsoft industry experts, through presentations, exercises, case studies, online videos and Q&A sessions. In some instances, Microsoft may also offer part-time consultancy delivered by its product experts and business and technical leaders.

Cubical Services is Kuwait's first officially licensed, one-stop business incubator, qualified by the National Fund. Cubical Services strives to actively encourage current and potential entrepreneurs to successfully execute their business ambitions by offering all-inclusive services and support in every part of an entrepreneurs' business cycle to create a



healthy ecosystem where entrepreneurs can fulfil their business potential in order to enrich the Kuwaiti economy and elevate its talents regionally and internationally.

Since its launch Cubical Services has worked on over a total of 500 projects and 1,000 entrepreneurs ranging from fully implementing the business to man-

aging the full operations of an established business and gained experience in the following industries: Business Services, Consumer Services, Education, Financial Services, Government, Healthcare, Media and Entertainment, Non-profit, Real Estate and Construction, Retail, Fashion, Software and Internet, Food and Beverage, and Wholesale and Distribution.

## Iran metal exports may be harder to sanction than oil, say experts

**TEHRAN:** Iran, hard hit by US sanctions on its oil sales, now faces restrictions on metals exports-but industry insiders say foreign income from mining and steel will be harder to curb.

Tensions are soaring a year after Washington withdrew from a multilateral 2015 deal over Iran's nuclear program. A US aircraft strike group is heading for the Gulf and Tehran has said it will stop abiding by some restrictions on its nuclear activities.

US President Donald Trump last week imposed sanctions aimed at punishing anyone who buys or trades in Iranian iron, steel, aluminum or copper.

That came after Washington in November re-instated sanctions aimed at slashing the Islamic republic's oil exports, by far its top source of foreign currency.

But the steel and mining sector, Iran's second-largest source of foreign revenue, may prove harder to target. Relatively decentralized, made up of small and medium-sized companies and selling mostly to nearby countries, it is less vulnerable to sanctions, experts say. "The US cannot completely stop exports. Some countries, companies with no US ties, are OK to work with Iran," said industry analyst Mojtaba Fereydouni.

"Also our main export markets are our neighbors-Iraq and Afghanistan, and recently Syria and Oman." He pointed out that Iranian metals firms, no strangers to sanctions, were relatively unscathed by an initial tranche of restrictions re-imposed last year. "In August, steelmakers were barred from importing essential raw materials and any trade in steel products... yet exports are up" for the year, he said. According to official data, Iran's mineral exports grew about 20 percent year-on-year to \$6.2 billion in the 12 months to March, with steel making up over two-thirds of that figure.

Another industry official, Amir Sabbagh, said that while metals firms will face extra costs, they will be "manageable" as the country's weakened currency has made



TEHRAN: Iran's steel and mining sector may prove harder to target.

exports more profitable.

Iran's rial has lost more than 57 percent of its value against the dollar on the black market in the last year, making exports more lucrative. Sabbagh, an official with a state-owned mining firm, wrote on Telegram that the sanctions' main impacts would likely be to increase sea freight costs and reduce exporters' bargaining power. The sector could also be hurt by banking sanctions re-imposed by Washington in November. Analyst Henry Rome warned that this could hurt Iranian importers who buy many of their raw materials from states further afield such as China, South Korea, Kazakhstan and Russia. "The financial sanctions will choke off at least some of these relationships," said Rome, a specialist on Iran sanctions for the Washington-based Eurasia Group consultancy.

### Jobs at risk?

But Tehran-based economist Ehsan Soltani said minerals firms may be cushioned by the fact that their revenues, particularly from steel shipments, rarely make it back to Iran's financial system.

Instead, they are largely kept outside the country to

pay for imports. Only one-third of Iran's \$40 billion in non-oil export revenue returned to the country in the last Iranian year, economy minister advisor Hossein Mirshojaiean told semi-official news agency ISNA.

Steelmakers say they keep the money outside Iran in order to pay for raw materials, arguing that they cannot bring it into Iran due to the banking sanctions anyway, Soltani said. Despite these factors, analyst Rome warned that potential factory closures and job losses would increase pressure on the government.

Mining employs 200,000 people directly and thousands more in downstream businesses, according to Soltani. But Fereydouni said the industry could be protected by the fact the government retains a majority share in most major companies, while smaller, downstream firms can fly under the US radar.

"Major companies... are still quasi-governmental and therefore will not lay people off under any circumstances" for fear of the political and social consequences, he said. Ultimately, he added, sanctions are "nothing new" for Iran's mining industry. "We have always been sanctioned. Sometimes less, sometimes more," he said. —AFP

## Pakistan reaches \$6 billion IMF bailout package

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan has reached an accord with the International Monetary Fund for a three-year, \$6 billion bailout package aimed at shoring up fragile public finances and strengthening a slowing economy, officials said on Sunday.

The deal, which still needs approval by the IMF board in Washington, would be the 13th such bailout since the late 1980s. Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh told PTV television he hoped it would be Pakistan's last. Prime Minister Imran Khan's government came to power last year determined to avoid another bailout and initially sought billions of dollars in funding from friendly countries including China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

But with inflation climbing to over 8 percent, the rupee losing a third of its value over the past year, and foreign exchange reserves barely enough to cover two months of exports, it was forced to turn to the IMF. "Pakistan is facing a challenging economic environment, with lacklustre growth, elevated inflation, high indebtedness, and a weak external position," the IMF said in a statement outlining the framework deal.

The IMF forecasts Pakistan's economic growth slowing to 2.9 percent this fiscal year from 5.2 percent in 2018, while the central bank has cut its estimate to between 3.5-4 percent.

As the bailout talks neared culmination, Khan shook up his top economic team, replacing Asad Umar with Hafeez Shaikh as finance minister and making IMF economist Reza Baqir central bank governor instead of Tariq Bajwa.

### Currency flexibility

For decades, Pakistan has had chronic problems collecting tax and the program envisages reforms to improve public finances and cut public debt, including "revenue mobilization measures to eliminate exemptions, curtail special treatments, and improve tax administration," the IMF statement said.

In addition, it foresees a "comprehensive plan for cost-recovery" in the creaking energy sector, where mounting debt backlogs have acted as a growing drain on government resources. The budget for the coming 2019/20 fiscal year, expected later this month, will aim for a primary deficit, not including debt servicing costs, of 0.6 percent of gross domestic product. The savings should allow room for a "substantial increase" in social spending to strengthen welfare protection and boost infrastructure and human capital development, the IMF added.

It said the independence of the State Bank of Pakistan would be protected and the central bank would focus on reducing inflation and safeguarding stability. A "market-determined" exchange rate for the rupee would help the financial sector, it added in comments reflecting the IMF's longstanding push for Pakistan to adopt a more flexible currency policy to end repeated boom-and-bust cycles.

One of the key sticking points during the IMF bailout discussions had been how to manage the currency, whose exchange rate the central bank underpins in a de facto managed float system and which many analysts see as overvalued. The package will include "an ambitious structural reform agenda" to boost growth, the IMF said. "Priority areas include improving the management of public enterprises, strengthening institutions and governance, continuing anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism efforts."

But it made no explicit mention of privatizing notoriously sensitive and high-employing state-controlled companies like Pakistan International Airlines of Pakistan Steel Mills. — Reuters

## World equities sink as US and China exchange trade war salvos

**LONDON:** World stocks sank yesterday in reaction to new eruptions in the US-China trade war, while oil rallied on simmering tensions in the crude-rich Middle East. In cryptocurrency deals, bitcoin rebounded back above \$7,000 for the first time since September.

Equity investors began the day in underwhelming fashion in Asia, as the lack of a US-China trade deal jarred markets. Negative sentiment spilled over into Europe on the back of the latest developments in the trade war between the world's top two economies.

Negotiations in Washington ended Friday without agreement and a massive US tariff hike on Chinese imports kicked in. Then on Monday, President Donald Trump told China via Twitter not to retaliate, a warning ignored by Beijing where the government announced tariffs on \$60 billion worth of US goods from June 1.

### 'Nowhere near'

"Judging by Trump's tweets alone, the two nations are apparently nowhere near signing a trade deal," said Fawaz Razaqzada, a market analyst at Forex.com. "And for the markets, this is all that matters right now. Thus, for sentiment to improve again, Trump's tone towards China will need to improve first and foremost," he said.

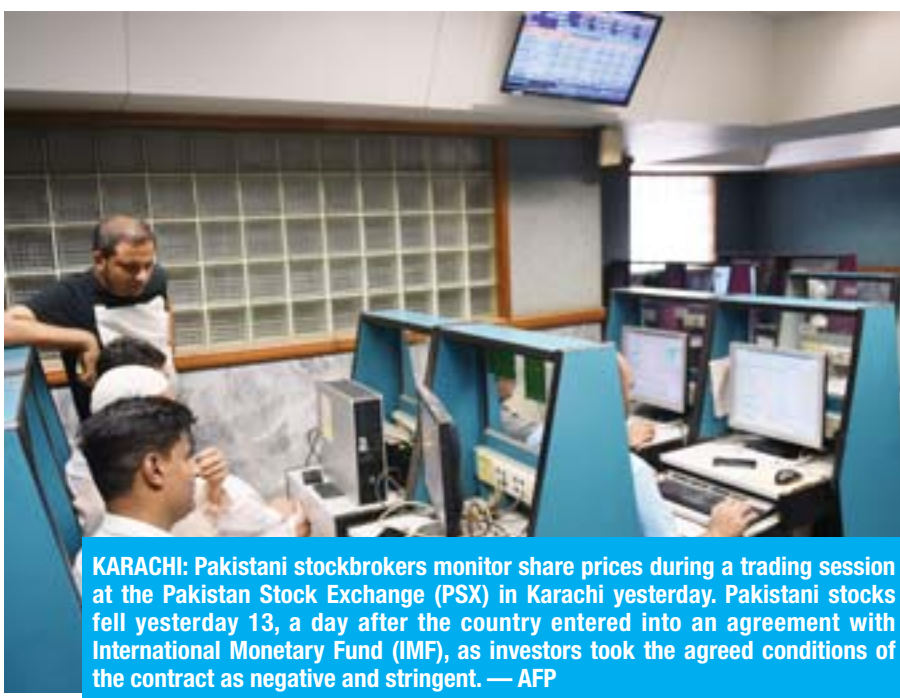
At the opening bell in New York, Wall Street's Dow index fell more than 400 points, while eurozone stock markets were as much as 1.5 percent lower by that time, with London doing a little better. Markets remain on red alert over a trade war between the two big superpowers that observers warn could shatter global economic growth-and also hurt demand for commodities like oil.

### 'Groundhog Day'

"It's Groundhog Day yet again, with yet another day of US-China focused selling taking hold," said senior market analyst Joshua Mahony at trading firm IG. White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow said Trump and China's Xi Jinping could meet next month on the sidelines of the G20 summit to hash out their differences on trade-but no new talks are yet scheduled.

### Bitcoin mystery

Trump had accused Beijing of reneging on its commitments and ordered new punitive duties-which took effect Friday-on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, raising them to 25 percent from 10 percent. He then ordered a tariff hike on almost all remaining imports from China, which are worth about \$300 billion, according to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbrokers monitor share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi yesterday. Pakistani stocks fell yesterday 13, a day after the country entered into an agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF), as investors took the agreed conditions of the contract as negative and stringent. — AFP

Some assets, like gold and some government bonds, have been doing well from the trade turmoil as investors ditch risky investments like stocks in a flight to safety.

Yesterday, some analysts were wondering whether cryptocurrency bitcoin should be added to the list after rising by \$1,000 over the weekend to 9-month high. Calling the surge "a mystery to investors", FXTM research analyst Lukman Otunuga observed "the coincidental view" that bitcoin's price rose at the same time as US-

China trade tensions.

"While it's far too premature to suggest that bitcoin has restored itself as a potential safe-haven asset for investors, the idea will attempt to pick up further momentum if the cryptocurrency continues to explode higher amid the risk-off conditions," Otunuga said.

### Mideast oil tensions

Oil prices charged higher yesterday as simmering tensions in the crude-rich Middle East eclipsed worries over the global demand outlook. — AFP



## Business

# Infiniti Al-Babtain bags another award at Regional Sales Skills Contests 2019

Regional contest takes place at Park Hyatt Hotel in Dubai



**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, is proud to announce that Al-Babtain's Sales Ambassador Mohammed Shafy won the 2nd runner up award in Infiniti Regional Skills Contests 2019.

The event that announced the winner during the FY18 regional contest took place on April 18th in Park Hyatt Hotel Dubai Creek in Dubai.

Shafy, who attended the regional contest for the first time bagged the award in his first attempt and was recognized for his demonstration of advanced

skills, best practice approach to sales, and unique performance across the board.

Contestants were tested on brand and product knowledge as well as Infiniti sales process through a variety of tests and activities.

Shafy was congratulated by Al-Babtain CEO Saleh Al-Babtain in the presence of Chief Human Resources Officer Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain; Sales Director Jan Scheidgen, Brand Manager Khalil Abboud and Group L&D Manager Dr M. Mahendhran.

"I am honored to belong to a group of hardworking



members who continue to deliver exceptional results and make us proud every year. The automotive industry is a challenging and constantly advancing sector that requires the most qualified contenders to lead the brand to the forefront of its competition. I would like to congratulate Mohammed Shafy on his exemplary win and look forward to witnessing more from our ambitious employees this year," said Al-Babtain CEO - Saleh Al-Babtain.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948, to present a model of honesty, integrity, and total dedication, gaining a solid reputation in the State of Kuwait and

the Middle East area. Today, Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 70 years, Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success and a large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long-term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information technology, industrial and Finance.

## Bank ABC Islamic announces 16.8% increase in Q1 net profit to \$9.6m

**MANAMA:** Bank ABC Islamic yesterday announced its results for the first quarter of 2019:

### Business performance

- Net profit for the first quarter was \$9.6 million, 16.8 percent higher than the profit of \$8.2 million reported in the first quarter of last year.
- Net operating income rose to \$11.6 million, 13.9 percent higher compared to the first three months of last year of \$10.2 million.
- Operating expenses were \$1.9 million compared to \$1.8 million for the same period of last year.

### Balance sheet:

- ABC Islamic Bank's total assets stood at \$1.773 billion as of March 31, 2019, 1.6 percent higher compared to \$1.745 billion at 2018 year-end.
- Shareholders' equity at March 31, 2019 stood at \$361 million, 2.7 percent higher compared to \$352 million at 2018 year-end.
- The Bank's capital base remains very strong with a capital adequacy ratio of 33.5 percent, predominantly Tier 1, which totalled 32.4 percent.

Commenting on the results, Hammad Hassan, Managing Director of Bank ABC Islamic, said, "The first quarter results are strong, considering the continuing general economic slowdown in our core markets. While demand for new financing by corporates and financial institutions remained low, capital markets activity in MENAT witnessed a healthy start in Q1 2019. The Bank in collaboration with capital markets team of the Group were active in this area and successfully concluded a high-profile sovereign Sukuk mandate."

## ABK wins 'The Banker Deal of the Year 2019' Middle East award for DAE deal

**KUWAIT:** 'The Banker Deals of the Year Awards 2019' were recently announced and ABK was honored to be recognized as the winner of 'Deal of the Year' for their landmark financing facility arranged last year with Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE), which was for \$800 million. ABK served as the Coordinating Mandated Lead Arranger and Bookrunner in a syndicate that also included First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) as Mandated Lead Arranger & Bookrunner and Global Facility Agent & Islamic Investment Agent and Noor

## Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 12th May 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 5th May until 9th May 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

### The winners this week are:

Awthah Shaker Rashid Saad  
Bassam Yaqoub Jassim Bo Albanat  
Tamather Khalid Alahmad Alsabah  
Ejaab Saleh Alotaibi  
Jameelah Ahmad Rajab Al-Raees

Gulf Bank's second Al-Danah quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on 26 June 2019, and the third quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 25 September 2019. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1,000,000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event.

Bank as Mandated Lead Arranger and Islamic Structuring Bank. The accordion lenders included: Bank of Baroda, China Construction Bank, Union Bank of India, Agricultural Bank of China, RakBank, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and Bank Woori.

The facility, which has a four-year tenor, featured both conventional and Islamic tranches, making it one of the largest of its kind signed in the region. The financing was arranged to support DAE's purchase of aircraft, spare engines and pre-delivery financing that DAE intended to dispose of or refinance.

The Banker, published since 1926 and owned by The Financial Times Ltd., is one of the most respected media titles in the financial sector, and the Deals of the Year Awards are among the most coveted in the industry. The UK-based publication provides global financial comment and insight, and is a key source of data and analysis for the banking industry.

Michel Accad, Group CEO said: "Winning 'The Banker Deal of the Year' is a tremendous achievement

Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2019 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

The Al-Danah draws are all approved by and held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of

for ABK, and we are very

proud to be recognized in the category of Loans Winner Middle East. The financing facility arranged for the DAE was a landmark deal in the region, and demonstrates the strength in depth of the level of service that we can provide to our corporate clients. What makes this even more special is the fact that this was our first deal for our new DIFC branch, and it was oversubscribed and closed in record time. On behalf of ABK, we take this opportunity to share this recognition with First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) & Noor Bank, as well as all the other banks involved in the deal."



Michel Accad



Commerce. Furthermore, Gulf Bank have partnered with Ernst and Young Kuwait (EY) with reference to "Al-Danah Prize Draw" system in order to assist in assessing processes, technical controls considering relevant parameters and provide recommendations in-line with industry leading practices. The study was conducted in line with industry standards and control requirements relevant to similar prize draw schemes wherein, a detailed review of prize draw management system along with draw scheme parameters, data extraction for draw, filtration of customers as per defined business criteria and necessary system interactions was conducted to advise on any potential areas of improvements.

## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi draw

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

### The lucky winners are:

1. Naser Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Awadhi
2. Haitham Maher Ajam Aughli
3. Sarah Farhan Jasem Naif
4. Kamelah Essa Jelewi Abdullah
5. Marie Pierre Beliveau

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the

draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

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

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

## Huawei records 50% growth in smartphone sales worldwide

**KUWAIT:** Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) has reported an impressive start to 2019, recording the second highest number of smartphone sales worldwide for Q1 2019 resulting in a 50 per cent growth in the number of Huawei smartphones in the global market, according to the International Data Corporation (IDC) Q1 2019 report.

The report states that a 59.1 million Huawei smartphones were shipped across the globe during the first quarter of 2019, resulting in the Chinese technology giant now holding a 19 per cent share in the global smartphone market, the largest in Huawei's history.

The latest results underline Huawei Consumer Business Group's (CBG) rapidly-growing reputation as a major player in the global smartphone marketplace and reinforce the company's commitment to providing consumers with the latest advanced technologies, according to executives.



"With smartphones now such an intrinsic part of modern lifestyles and technologies evolving at a rapid rate, we feel it is our duty at Huawei (CBG) to learn and develop from within, in order to continue to deliver excellence to our loyal consumers and the wider market," said Jason Jiang, General Manager of Huawei CBG Kuwait.

"Our results for Q1 highlight how as a company we stay abreast of latest developments. A 50 per cent growth in the volume of Huawei smartphones globally is an indicator that our consumers believe in our products and that Huawei Consumer Business Group is delivering the most advanced devices that will support their everyday tasks," Jiang added.



## What's On



# Burgan Bank rewards top-performing employees and branches for Quarter 1



**B**urgan Bank recently held its quarterly ceremony to reward the best branches and employees of Branches, Contact Center, Direct Sales and Merchant Sales for their outstanding work in Quarter 1/2019. Divided into separate categories, the top achievers were presented with the titles of "Best Branches," "Best Customer Service Representative" and "Best Merchant Sales officer" at Al Hamra Luxury Center. The ceremony is held periodically in recognition of their hard work, optimal performance, and commitment to quality assurance and premium customer service.

The event that was held at the Grand Cinemas in Al Hamra Luxury Center witnessed the attendance of senior management from the bank and branches alongside top-performing employees. Nasser Al Qaisi - Chief Retail Banking officer at Burgan Bank applauded their efforts

and efficiency as they each received a certificate of appreciation. He further explained that their performance was a demonstration of the bank's increased investment in advanced training and development to sustain successful banking operations. The employees were additionally treated to a blockbuster movie soon after the rewarding ceremony.

The Customer Experience Management (CEM) in Burgan Bank has adopted objectives to continue to upgrade its banking operations and maintain high quality services in line with the Bank's customer satisfaction strategy. The Customer Experience Management (CEM) continues to create incentive based initiatives to further inspire employees, develop their skills, and enhance commitment to the Bank's practices and processes to improve customer experiences.

## NBK distributes Iftar meals in Khaitan and Al-Farwaniya

**N**ational Bank of Kuwait (NBK) distributed Iftar meals in Khaitan and Al-Farwaniya as part of NBK Ramadan Charity Campaign: a sub-program of "Do Good Deeds in Ramadan". The Bank's convoys toured the inner-city neighborhoods in both areas, where tens of NBK volunteers distributed meals to fasters.



Talal Al -Turki

NBK Public Relations Team Leader, Talal Al-Turki, said that NBK is committed to fulfilling its social mission in the holy

month of Ramadan. In line with NBK social corporate responsibility and in maintaining the Bank's consistent approach in serving the community, the Bank's campaign is focused on distributing meals in remote, heavily populated and labor-intensive areas, in addition to corporations, hospitals, the airport, and other public utilities institutions.

Al-Turki added that NBK's campaign also includes hosting fasting guests in the Iftar tent set up near the Scientific Center, where a team of volunteers will be present to greet the fasting guests and distribute meals, as well as to provide them with any other required services during their visit. For over 20 years, NBK has carried out the "Do Good Deeds in Ramadan" program, which includes many events, contributions, social welfare and voluntary activities.

This initiative is in line with NBK's keenness to reach out to various social institutions and all sectors of the society, maintaining its leading position as a dedicated private institution that is keeping true to its CSR values through translating them into valuable programs and initiatives that have substantive social dimension.



Within its social responsibility activities meant to provide support and sponsorship for all activities organized by various governorates and in collaboration with Farwaniya governorate, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently visited security and firemen in Farwaniya to wish them a happy Ramadan. Speaking on the occasion, CBK's deputy director for corporate communication, Amani Al-Wer'a said that the visit comes to express appreciation for their role in safeguarding us.



The Diplomatic Women Committee (DWC) recently extended their congratulations on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan to Sheikha Mudhi Al-Mubarak Al-Sabih and all the ruling family members. DWC members also met with the Deputy PM and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleel to wish him Ramadan Mubarak.

## Submission open for the new Red Bull Illume Image Quest

**Y**ou've got incredible images just waiting to be seen - the window is now open to submit Red Bull Illume Image Quest. Photographers all around the world are getting ready - Red Bull Illume is back, with some exciting new changes! The world's greatest imagery contest for adventure and action sports returns with new categories, new opportunities, and of course, new challenges. Submit your best images to Red Bull Illume Image Quest 2019 now - the submission phase is finally open and will stay open until July 31st!

With multiple new categories including Innovation by Sony, Moving Image, Emerging by Red Bull Photography, and Best of Instagram by SanDisk; there are now more reasons than ever to enter the brand-new Red Bull Illume - including of course, the grand prizes! The prize packages will include some serious camera equipment and accessories with a total value of € 100,000,- for the category winners and the overall winner.

### Category Winners

The I1 category winners will pick up this incredible set of prizes: from consumer electronics giant Sony the phenomenal Alpha A7 III camera kitted out with the 24-105 mm F4 G Master lens. Storage specialist SanDisk will offer a bundle made up of three of their Extreme Pro Memory Card's, with a suitable card reader, plus an Extreme Pro Portable SSD hard drive that offers photographers the best mobile memory solutions available.

The award-winning company, Skylum, will provide photo-editing software including Luminar 3 and their Signature Presets. Skylum will also present a special prize to the winner of the 'Creative by Skylum' category - with the winner becoming a part of the Global Skylum Ambassador Team.

Likewise, Red Bull Photography will grant the winner of the 'Emerging by Red Bull Photography' category a spot at the Red Bull Rising Talent photography workshop including travel, accommodation and board expenses. In addition, high quality photography apparel and accessories will come from photography and accessory brand, COOPH, to keep them equipped and protected at their upcoming shoots.

### Overall Winner

The overall winner will also be guaranteed to receive all of the above prizes by winning a category. Furthermore,

the overall winner will receive the Sony Alpha A9 camera with a 24-70mm f2.8 lens from their G-Master range. The Sony A9 is perfect for capturing the kind of high-speed, faster-than-the-eye-can-see action that Red Bull Illume photographers are capturing every day; making it the ideal prize for the overall winner of the Image Quest 2019.

In addition to the storage package mentioned above, SanDisk will provide the overall winner a once in a lifetime experience: taking them on a shoot with a SanDisk Extreme Team Member. The Extreme Team is a group of sports photographers known for their uncompromising vision, so this experience is sure to get your adrenaline flowing and push your photography skills to the next level! Submissions from the main contest are open on [www.redbullillume.com](http://www.redbullillume.com) from now until July 31 -but as always, we suggest getting ahead of the game. Got your adventure and action sports shots? Submit as soon as possible - we can't wait to see your best work!



## Health &amp; Science

# In Greece, smoking is alive and kicking despite bans

**ATHENS:** When George Balafoutis returned home from New York two years ago, he was shocked to see what little impact nearly a decade of anti-smoking laws had made on stubbing out Greece's favourite guilty pleasure. It was then that Balafoutis, now 38, decided to build a website dedicated to informing non-smokers where they could enjoy a meal or coffee unmarred by other patrons' cigarette smoke.

"After so many medical studies on (the harmful effects of) passive smoking, it's unacceptable for smokers to keep on ignoring the health of pregnant women and children," he said. Balafoutis' website, akapnos.gr, currently lists more than 400 smoke-free establishments but he acknowledges that the movement has yet to gather steam. "Restaurant and club owners are afraid of losing smoking customers, and politicians are afraid of losing votes," fumed the cybersecurity architect who came back to work in Greece because he missed his homeland, family and friends.

And with Greece headed for local elections on May 26, officials are unlikely to press the point, he conceded. In 2009, Greece banned smoking in indoor public places, instituted stiff fines and created a complaints hotline. However, in practice, the law is still rarely enforced.

Nikos Louvros, an Athens bar owner and pro-

ponent of smokers' rights, proudly provides ashtrays on the tables of his Booze Cooperativa venue, where customers can puff away at ease. "It makes sense not to smoke in a hospital but when you're having fun, you should have the choice of going somewhere where you can smoke," he said.

Louvros even founded a smokers' political party in the wake of the 2009 legal clampdown, so strongly did he feel about people's right to smoke. In Greece, 72 percent of licensed establishments are restaurants that allow smoking, the highest figure in the European Union, according to a 2017 Eurobarometer study. Some 37 percent of Greeks smoke, compared to an EU average of 26 percent, it found.

## 'I'll quit when I choose'

Earlier this year, the issue sparked a row when European health commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis reacted with disdain to a 2016 photo of Greek junior health minister Pavlos Polakis smoking inside the ministry. "It's shameful! This guy knows nothing about health," Greek daily Kathimerini quoted Andriukaitis as saying.

Polakis, a veteran surgeon, scornfully replied on Facebook: "I'll quit when I choose to... ok 'guy'???" Anti-smoking laws in Greece date back to the mid-19th century. An 1856 royal decree issued by the country's first post-indepen-

dence monarch, king Otto of Bavaria, forbade the use of pipes and cigarettes in public offices and shops. The 2009 anti-smoking law carries a fine of 50-500 euros (\$56-\$560) for an individual, and 500-1,000 euros for the establishment where the infraction occurred.

"In the end, we will join the ranks of civilized nations... what are we, the idiots of Europe?" then health minister Dimitris Avramopoulos — now EU migration commissioner — said, at the time the law was tightened. Few people are reported to the police, however. When the economic crisis hit Greece a year later, few could argue with business owners complaining that their livelihood depended on placating a paying majority of smoking patrons. Even today, "most owners prefer to risk it and flout the law," admits Yiorgos Kavvathas, head of the GSEVEE confederation of small enterprises.

Local council initiatives to discourage smoking remain few and far between, prompting the mayor of Greece's second largest city, Thessaloniki, Yannis Boutaris — another chain smoker — to protest in March: "We are the only country in the world where laws are not respected because that's just how we feel like." Authorities have had more success in eliminating tobacco products from public view. — AFP

## Native Australians take action on climate change

**SYDNEY:** Indigenous residents of low-lying islands off northern Australia will submit a landmark complaint with the United Nations yesterday accusing the government of violating their human rights by failing to tackle climate change. The Torres Strait Islanders will tell the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva that rising seas caused by global warming are threatening their homelands and culture, lawyers representing the group said.

The lawyers, from the non-profit ClientEarth, said the case was the first of its kind to be lodged with the UN equating government inaction on climate change to a human rights violation. In their complaint, the islanders ask the UN to find that international human rights law requires Australia to

reduce its emissions to at least 65 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The country should become carbon neutral by 2050, phasing out its use and export of coal completely, they say.

The complaint also demands the government allocate Aus\$20 million (US\$14 million) for emergency infrastructure like sea walls to protect Torres Strait communities. "Advancing seas are already threatening homes, as well as damaging burial grounds and sacred cultural sites," the claimants said in a statement. "Many Islanders are worried that their islands could quite literally disappear in their lifetimes without urgent action."

Kabay Tamu of Warraber island said that his community had a "right to practice our culture in our traditional homeland". — AFP

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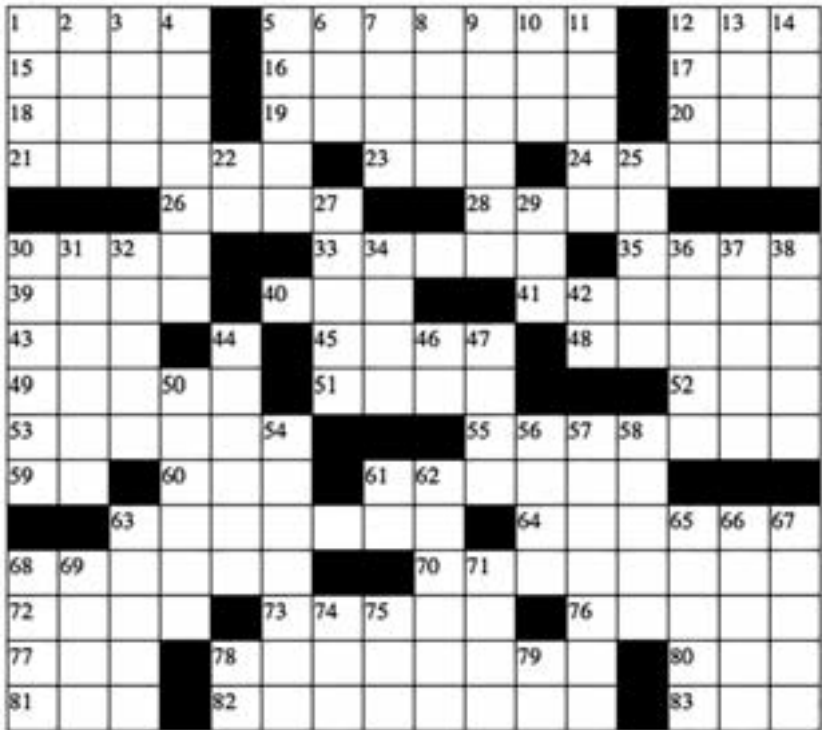
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ACROSS

- 1. Walk heavily and firmly, as when weary, or through mud.
- 5. European fishes.
- 12. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
- 15. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 16. Waterfall in Canada is the Horseshoe Falls.
- 17. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- 18. Decapod having eyes on short stalks and a broad flattened carapace with a small abdomen folded under the thorax and pincers.
- 19. Of or relating to or characteristic of Angola or its people.
- 20. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 21. Reports of the work of a society or learned body etc.
- 23. One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- 24. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
- 26. A carriage consisting of two wheels and calash top.
- 28. Not only so, but.
- 30. The work of caring for or attending to someone or something.
- 33. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
- 35. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- 39. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
- 40. A master's degree in business.
- 41. A Christian Bishop who translated the Bible from Greek into Gothic (311-382).
- 43. Considerate and solicitous care.
- 45. Divulge information or secrets.
- 48. Being deficient in moisture.
- 49. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
- 51. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- 52. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- 53. The striking of one body against another.
- 55. A radaceous rock consisting of sharp fragments embedded in clay or sand.
- 59. A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
- 60. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 64. One of the six playing periods into which the game of polo is divided.
- 68. King of the Huns.
- 70. Dried out by heat or excessive exposure to sunlight.
- 72. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 73. Reconnaissance (by shortening).
- 76. Jordan's port.
- 77. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
- 80. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
- 81. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- 82. A confidential or secret meeting.
- 83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- 1. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
- 2. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
- 3. A port city in northwestern Algeria and the country's 2nd largest city.
- 4. A person who lowers the quality or character or value (as by adding cheaper metal to coins).

- 5. Squash bugs.
- 6. A container.
- 7. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
- 8. Highly excited.
- 9. A constitutional monarchy in southeastern Asia on Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.
- 10. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
- 11. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- 12. Group of people related by blood or marriage.
- 13. A measuring instrument for measuring and indicating a quantity or for testing conformity with a standard.
- 14. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- 22. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
- 25. Soreness and warmth caused by friction.
- 27. A cruel and brutal fellow.
- 29. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
- 31. Great coolness and composure under strain.
- 32. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
- 34. A telephone connection.
- 36. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- 37. (law) A defense by an accused person purporting to show that he or she could not have committed the crime in question.
- 38. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- 42. Being ten more than fifty.
- 44. A metrical unit with stressed-unstressed-unstressed syllables.
- 46. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- 47. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 50. Any of various spectacular plants of the genus Laelia having showy flowers in many colors.
- 54. Small buffalo of Mindoro in the Philippines.
- 56. Law intended to eradicate organized crime by establishing strong sanctions and forfeiture provisions.
- 57. A nonflammable liquid (trade name Ethrane) used as an inhalation general anesthetic.
- 58. Informal terms for a meal.
- 61. A midwestern state in north central United States.
- 62. A deceitful and unreliable scoundrel.
- 63. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- 65. Botswanan statesman who was the first president of Botswana (1921-1980).
- 66. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 67. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- 69. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
- 71. A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
- 74. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
- 75. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
- 78. Date used in reckoning of dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
- 79. The eleventh month of the civil year.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, on the job and at home, being admired makes you feel on top of the world. You need some accolades because you probably aren't getting them from the younger set at home. Work in a practical manner and you'll be receiving more kudos. Aries. Your children and those that are younger take on special meaning now where your love is concerned. They make your life's memories better and you appreciate it, even when they're not as well-mannered as you wish. Your independence is looked at with respect today because others can see that in the way you work and how it reflects on their lives too. You have a following of work friends and family friends who love you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, this may be a very difficult time. Your career route may be running counter to your morals or temperaments. You like your life to be steady. This isn't the time for fixed situations now. There are changes to be made and you're the one that has to make them. Move carefully where work is concerned. Take your time to study and contemplate what you need to do in the work area of your life. Your love life is put on hold so you can solve one problem at a time, Taurus. Try to remain calm. Take some time with those you love most this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, desires are strong today. Your attitude has you looking for a way to spend money now on your personal wardrobe. Go shopping at lunch and buy what feels good. This is in appreciation of your life, your job and anything else you can think of at the moment. You mind is sharp and clear. Your words are the only thing you need when it comes to protecting yourself, Gemini. There shouldn't be too much need for that today. Everyone finds you entertaining and knowledgeable too. This is the best of all worlds for you. Keep the day going later with something or someone you love.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, something you have to do at work today may go against the grain for you. This will make you stop sharply because of the intent, take a look, then look at it again. Trouble with the decision of whether you can do what's requested, haunts you throughout the day into the night, Cancer. Talk to your lover tonight and let all your reservations about your job come out. Your lover, family and those close to you take on more importance to you now. Thinking about them and the confidence they've helped to instill in you is rewarding. Your answer for work may come while this is happening. Today, you tend to idealize those you love. They make your world go around and you're proud to be a part of their world.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, feeling dissatisfied with your home life could find you looking for an apartment or staying with a friend. Unless changes are made soon, you'll be changing your life completely. Make sure this is what you want before making a commitment you may not want later. Though you're working today, you're probably also taking the time to analyze your life, what you want and how you want it. Leo. Be truthful with self and don't allow another to be able to decide for you when it comes down to it. You alone bear the responsibility of this decision.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, you're good at work because you have a great sense of just what the public wants and you've also got the goods on how to make it work. Practical application to any problem is your forte. Making the most of your situation is second only to your intelligence for putting ideas together. This is a very good day for implementing ideas and making them happen. Virgo, you feel successful and you are. It shows. Getting your point across on any subject is tantamount to whatever you need at this time. Things are going your way.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, since you had work on your mind yesterday, you may decide to call into work for a needed day off. This isn't the best time to try to speak with others. Being with those who love you may be the best thing you can do for yourself now, Libra. Private thoughts stay on your mind throughout the day. Being at home and away from those who wish to invade your mind is the best manner in which not to have issues. You have clear vision into what you need on the love front and can put these ideas into practice if you stay home today. Then you'll have more room for longing for the good times later in your memories.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, though this is a time to get work done easily, it's not the time to try to get ideas across to your workmates. They just don't get it. This could bring on irritation. Try to stay away from that. Children and your lover mean more to you now, Scorpio. Work your work and get home as soon as you can. Do something you find soothing with your family and maybe your pets too. That can make a long day shorter especially if you're having fun. Play a game with them so that everyone gets to talk and laugh.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarius, the thought may cross your mind today to find out what your true ethnicity is. A simple DNA analysis can give you what you seek. Desire for knowing your roots is strong now because you need to find out where you belong even with your family's love. Curiosity leads you to study and maybe decide to travel to your family's country of origin or at least see if you have a family crest. Studying your history is most important now for giving you a feeling of being. Trying to communicate with your bosses may not be the best thing to attempt at this time. If you want to talk and receive feedback, do it at home, Sagittarius.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, lots of mental pressures bring on foggy thinking. This isn't the time for it but what time really is best to feel like this? You may have a difficult time with the small annoyances that seem to come your way now, Capricorn. Try to think through each situation as it comes. Concentrate on making those times better without fighting with yourself over your lack of thinking clearly and being frustrated. Stay away from shopping, choosing anything you want to last or redecorating your home. Not too much really interests you now except for being able to think more clearly. Spend time with your dog out of doors. That should help a little as long as you can turn loose the irritation with yourself.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Aquarius, ideas seem to be flowing now. Speaking with others and getting their input makes you happy you started the conversation at work. Directional responsibilities are seen in a great light. Practical ideas make for some great reviews by fellow coworkers. Work mates are listening and taking your thoughts into consideration. Coming to terms with what's happened to you and working through those issues are what you're doing now, Aquarius. Putting those problems behind you can end some pain you've had. Others understand and try to help. Enjoy your time with loved ones tonight.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, this very well could be a period of getting ahead financially in a very good manner. Work hard now to make what you desire. The idea and the making of material wealth means a lot to you now. This could be because you want the notoriety money brings and the wealth too. Making your mark on the world means more to you now. Organizing takes on more significance. Leading coworkers and anyone else connected to you on the job gives you intense personal pleasure now. Administering projects builds your mental prosperity in your workplace for which you're pleased, Pisces.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Flowers 2 - Word Search



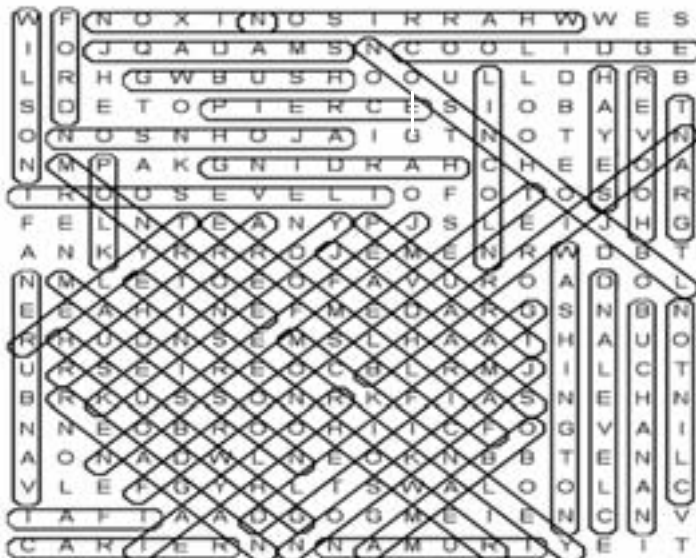
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Yesterday's Solution

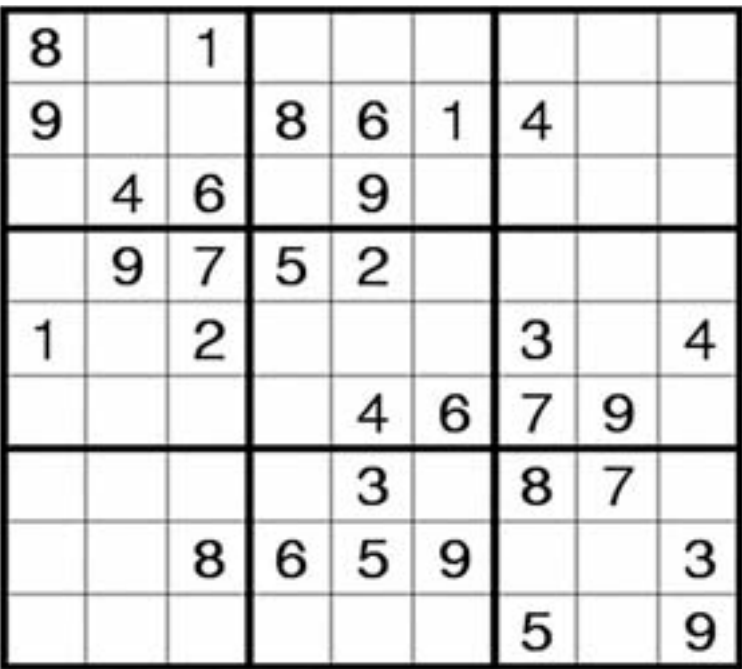
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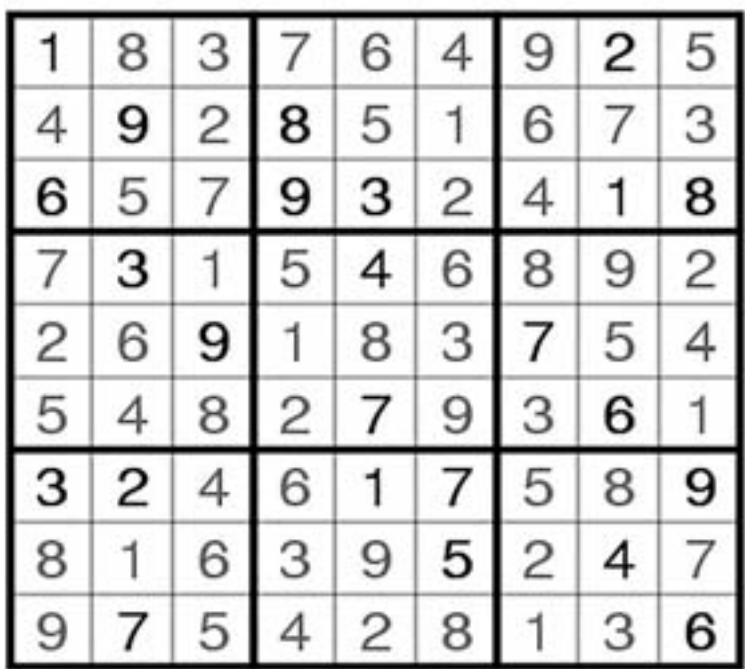
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The hidden sentence is:  
WE SHOULD BE TOO BIG TO TAKE OFFENSE AND TOO NOBLE TO GIVE IT.

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019



A scarecrow is displayed during a Scarecrows Fair in Castellar, Italy's northern village near Cuneo. — AFP

## 'HALF MAN, HALF GOD' MARADONA IS KING OF CANNES

Diego Maradona is sure to cause a stir when he turns up next week at the Cannes film festival for a new documentary about his jaw-dropping life by the Oscar-winning maker of "Amy". It is only one of a wave of new works about the flawed Argentine football genius that include a just-wrapped Amazon biopic series that follows every step of his dramatic rise and fall. The poster for Asif Kapadia's striking documentary "Diego Maradona" also pulls no punches, calling him both hero and a "hustler".

Yet Maradona will still walk the Cannes red carpet for the man who won plaudits and prizes for his insight into the life and tragic death of singer Amy Winehouse. Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, Bono and Iggy Pop will climb the same carpet during the festival, which starts Tuesday, but few if any of them can draw the crowds or the passion as the short man born in a Buenos Aires shantytown. It is this complex yet unshakable adoration, forged in Maradona's frequent flirtations with death, that drew Kapadia to his story.

After his acclaimed portrait of the Brazilian Formula One ace Ayrton Senna, who lost his duel with death at 34 as he was leading the San Marino Grand Prix, the filmmaker said he had to steel himself to tackle another sporting hero who lived life on the edge. Despite swearing never to make another sports film after "Senna", Kapadia caved in when he discovered a cache of footage from Maradona's mythic period playing for Napoli.

### Partying with the Camorra

"It was infamous," he told a documentary conference in Copenhagen earlier this year, with some sequences showing the player partying with dons from the Camorra, the Neapolitan mafia. They were meant to go into a 1991 documentary that was never shown. "We managed to get our hands on them and thought, 'He is

really interesting and his journey is incredible.' What he gets up to, and what happens to him, has much wider themes," Kapadia said.

Maradona also agreed to talk, sitting down for three long interviews because "he liked 'Senna'. That was one of the reasons we were able to get through the door," Kapadia, who has invented his own genre of "true fiction" documentaries, concentrates on Maradona's Naples years, the most operatic part of his career. Between 1984, when he was welcomed to the city by 70,000 fans, to 1991 when he failed a drugs test because of his cocaine habit, Maradona's magic left foot won the club two Serie A Italian championships and his "hand of God" goal put England out of the World Cup in 1986.

But Kapadia said he was just as interested in Maradona after his fall. "After two films about people



Argentinean soccer star Diego Maradona greets the public in the 'La Bombonera' stadium of Boca Juniors Athletic club in Buenos Aires.



Former Argentinean football player Diego Maradona poses as he arrives to attend the screening of Steven Soderbergh's film 'Che' at the 61st Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos

who tragically died young I wanted to test myself with somebody who is still around. It's a different type of story-of what happens when you get older if you're a star." Like Senna and Winehouse, Maradona is "another person who felt like he was fighting a system", Kapadia insisted. "This is the third part of a trilogy on child geniuses and fame, and the effect it can have, and what they mean to their country and what they mean to people," he told The Guardian.

**Ravaged hero**

Maradona's status as "half man, half God" has drawn director after director to his rollercoaster life story. Two-time Cannes winner Emir Kusturica, who tackled him in his 2008 documentary "Maradona by Kusturica", identified three Maradonas: "The football teacher, the politically incorrect citizen and the family man." Italian Oscar winner Paolo Sorrentino created an unforgettable image of the ravaged hero in "Youth", his movie on ageing, with an overweight Maradona lookalike in an oxygen mask doing kick ups with a tennis ball.

That tragic but defiant figure is the heart of a new Maradona play in Paris based on a book by Argentinian writer Alicia Dujovne Ortiz, where this "demi-god tries to escape destiny for something worse". The big-budget Amazon series "Maradona"-which will go out later this year-follows the "Golden Boy" from the cradle through the highs and lows of his career at Sevilla, Barcelona and Napoli, with a relay of actors playing Maradona through the ages.

All eyes at Cannes will be on how the hugely unpredictable icon performs before the eyes of the world, having made headlines at the last World Cup in Moscow with his antics in the stands. Never one to avoid the grand gesture, he dedicated a recent victory of the Mexican club he manages, Dorados de Sinaloa, to the Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, who has just survived a coup attempt. Maradona had previously fallen asleep during one of Maduro's speeches and had to be woken when the cameras turned to him when the president praised him.—AFP

## UK's Jeremy Kyle Show suspended after death of guest

The Jeremy Kyle Show, one of Britain's best-known daytime television programs, was taken off-air indefinitely on Monday after a guest died a week after appearing on the talk show, broadcaster ITV said. The show, which began in 2005, is well-known for its format which involves members of the public engaging in sometimes fiery

arguments about their personal lives, often involving lie detector or DNA tests.

ITV said that the episode featuring the guest who died would not be screened and the channel would review the show. "Everyone at ITV and The Jeremy Kyle Show is shocked and saddened at the news of the death of a participant in the show a week after

the recording of the episode they featured in," ITV said in a statement.

"Given the seriousness of this event, ITV has also decided to suspend both filming and broadcasting of The Jeremy Kyle Show with immediate effect in order to give it time to conduct a review of this episode." In 2007, a judge compared the program to

bear-baiting after one guest was convicted of assault after a fight on set during the filming of a show. One of ITV's most popular daytime shows in Britain, a US version of the show was less successful, and ended in 2013 after two seasons.—Reuters



# Cannes rocks! Tsunami of pop stars make film festival splash

Bono, Elton John, Iggy Pop, Tom Waits... The red carpet at Cannes is shaping up to look like a dream rock festival line-up. Not to mention Rihanna and a couple of the surviving members of Led Zeppelin, who may yet put in an appearance at the world's biggest film festival, which starts Tuesday. The opening movie alone, the tongue-in-cheek zombie flick "The Dead Don't Die", is chock full of A-list musicians.

As well as Waits and Iggy Pop—who plays a rampaging member of the undead—it also stars singer Selena Gomez and rapper and Wu-Tang Clan guru RZA. Its director Jim Jarmusch is a composer in his spare time and leads Bill Murray and Adam Driver are both musical, with the "Groundhog Day" actor touring North America as a singer with a chamber orchestra in 2017.

And that is all before the promise of Elton John bringing his grand piano to the Croisette to play at the premiere of his biopic, "Rocketman". With "Bohemian Rhapsody" taking more than \$900 million at the box office, cinema bosses are wetting their lips over the amount a film about the sex and drug-fuelled life story of the writer of such standards as "I'm Still Standing" will rake in.

## Sex, drugs and Elton John

Unlike that the Freddie Mercury movie, which skirted around the singer's complex personal life, the Elton John picture prides itself on its warts-and-all portrayal. The singer—who has been frank about his struggles with his

sexuality, drugs and alcohol—was himself deeply involved in the film, which his husband David Furnish produced. "We didn't want to compromise the fact we felt it had to be hard-hitting and truthful," Furnish said. "I think we would have got a lot more interest (from studios) at the higher-budget levels if we'd been willing to produce a more sanitised version of Elton's life."

"That never appealed to Elton," he added. "His life has had incredible moments of lightness but also moments of real darkness. We wanted to be very honest about those and not gloss them over." More than a decade in the making, the film was written by Lee Hall of "Billy Elliot" fame with its star Jamie Bell playing Sir Elton's friend and lyricist Bernie Taupin, who penned such classics as "Rocketman", "Candle in the Wind" and "I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues" with John.

British actor Taron Egerton, who shaved his hair to mimic the singer's receding 1970s hairline and painting a gap in his teeth, said he was freaked out when the man himself walked onto the set as he was performing "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting". "I don't think I could have done it if he was around a lot," he admitted. But the now 72-year-old superstar was impressed, the Hollywood Reporter last week that "I didn't think it was Taron. I thought it was me."

## Led Zeppelin documentary

Distributors at Cannes will also get a sneak preview of first authorized documentary on the

legendary rock band Led Zeppelin. Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones and the late John Bonham all spoke to director Bernard McMahon, the maker of the acclaimed television series on roots music, "American Epic". "When I saw everything Bernard had done both visually and sonically on 'American Epic', I knew he would be qualified to tell our story," Page said in a statement.

Speculation is also rising that pop idol Rihanna—who is about to launch her new luxury Paris-based fashion house Fenty—could also turn up on the Riviera, with a source close to her entourage telling AFP that he "wouldn't be shocked up she drops by". U2 frontman Bono will definitely be there to support the documentary "5B", which is showing in the official selection and tells the story of the San Francisco General Hospital ward that was the first in the States to treat patients with AIDS.

"Bono has been a fervent champion of the cause" and the "fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria", the festival said. Star pianist James Rhodes' struggle with post traumatic stress disorder after a teacher raped him as a child is also coming to the big screen in the forthcoming film "Instrumental", with its producers Lionsgate set to unveil the project at Cannes. Londoner Rhodes, who will be played by actor Andrew Garfield, had to go to court in 2015 to get a ban on the publishing of his autobiography lifted.—AFP



A general view shows the Festival's official poster on the eve of the opening of the 72nd Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southeastern France. — AFP

## Cannes makes a killing on the film festival

The Cannes film festival is not just about killings made on big-money movie deals sealed over champagne in hotel suites and on luxury yachts. It is a goldmine too for many locals in the French Riviera resort. "For my boss the festival is the goose that lays golden eggs," a hotel receptionist called Herve said. The proof, he declared, is that a room in his two-star hotel goes "from 40 euros (\$45) a night to 260" as soon as the red carpet is rolled out. It is not the only establishment to rake it in when the population of the town almost triples for the festival.

A few minutes' walk away, the price of a room in a rival three-star hotel rockets five times from 71 euros a night to 350 — without breakfast. "The six rooms that we put aside for the very last minute will be filled very rapidly" at the very top price, said the receptionist at the hotel, which is officially fully booked. Even if the four days in March when MIPIM, the world's leading property congress, is held in Cannes are more profitable day-for-day for the conference town, the film festival fortnight with its 40,000 accredited movers and shakers is on an entirely different scale.

## Town makes \$200 million

For hotels close to the giant Palais des Festivals, where the red carpet premieres are held, the festival accounts for nearly a sixth of their annual turnover, said the Cannes hoteliers union, UMIH. The festival was worth 197 million euros to the town in 2017, according to official municipal figures. Even so, hoteliers insist there is still room for improvement. "Everything fills up for the first week of the festival but the second is more difficult," said Christine

Welter of UMIH. "For several years now people are not staying as long as they did," she added.

She also warned that "the cards are also being reshuffled" by the possible defection of people working with Netflix, whose films are barred from competing in the festival because it refuses to release them in French cinemas. "When suddenly demand falls the market has to adjust," Welter cautioned, pointing the finger of blame partly at what she regards as the unfair competition of people letting out their homes and apartments. Just as many homes in Cannes are being rented out now as hotel rooms—"6,000 of each," she revealed.

## Locals cashing in

It has become something of a racket, Welter complained, with some people renting out several flats. Airbnb alone claims between 2,500 and 4,000 arrivals a night, peaking with 4,600 on Friday May 17 — nearly 10 times the number of Cannes homes it is handling on the Friday before the festival. With that amount of fast money to be made, "some locals don't think twice about going and sleeping in a campsite along the coast so they can rent their places out for a fortune," quipped Herve, the hotel receptionist.

For the resort's restaurants—some of whom put up their prices—the festival is also a boon. "May is the biggest month in the year for us: the place is jammed. We can do 5,000 covers in 11 days," said Pascal Hamard, who runs an Italian restaurant. However, he has noticed a drop off in recent years, which he blames on people trying to cash in. "You feel some of the clientele have become ultra suspicious and are worried about being ripped off," the restaurateur added, with taxis and hotels hiking up their rates. "Now people coming to Cannes for the festival are more careful—we can feel that they have been warned by their bosses—and budgets are that much tighter," Hamard said.—AFP



In this file photo Irish rock band U2 singer Bono flashes the Victory sign upon his arrival at the European Council in Brussels.

# Jumeirah Al Wathba: Your gateway to a bliss filled Eid

Jumeirah Al Wathba Desert Resort and Spa is waiting to welcome you and your family for an Eid break filled with adventure, culture, relaxation and gourmet dining all set to the breathtaking backdrop of panoramic desert views. Opened in February, the intimate resort is the newest addition to Abu Dhabi's line of top world-class destinations. Just 45 minutes from Abu Dhabi airport and 90 minutes away from Dubai, Jumeirah Al Wathba is remote enough to provide escapism yet ideal for exploring nearby city attractions.

The hotel has been designed to evoke the atmosphere of a traditional Bedouin village with a square bordered by restaurants, bars and souks. This central plaza leads on to luscious courtyards, intimate spaces and walkways intertwined with water features and pools inspired by the falaj—which provides the constant soothing sound of water. The guest rooms, suites and private villas, which feature the latest technological features, are all inspired by traditional tents and offer an elegant Arabesque setting fitting to the rustic desert environment outside.

The one and two-bedroom suites are spacious and ide-

al for families with their own living room, dining area, walk-in closets and private balconies. For those seeking that extra bit of privacy and the ultimate luxury getaway Jumeirah Al Wathba also offers 13 private high-class villas. You can choose between a one or two-bedroom villa, each of which has a private plunge pool and a terrace where you can bask in the panoramic views, and a maid's room in the latter. Every stay comes with complimentary access to the Kids Club.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai's well-known tourism and retail attractions are all within an easy drive, but with so much to fill your time within the resort: we doubt you want will to leave your desert sanctuary. Here's a look at some of the experiences that will reconnect, awaken and restore you this Eid.

## Talise Spa

Rejuvenate your senses at the resort's beautiful spa. Talise Spa features 12 luxury treatment rooms, including two couple rooms, all built around a picturesque garden area. Along with relaxation areas, a sauna, steam rooms, plunge pools, and a traditional Turkish hammam, this decadent spa also features salt rooms and the region's foremost all-encompassing cryo facilities. Signature treatments on the extensive spa menu include the Al Wathba Revitalizing Massage, the Red Carpet Facial by Margy's Monte Carlo and the Hammamii Desert Massage ritual which uses nourishing local oils for healing trigger point therapy. Every treatment by the fully qualified staff can be tailored according to your wishes.

## Catch your breath and unwind

The stunning 1,000 sqm crystal water pool is undoubtedly the shining centerpiece of the resort. It's surrounded by meandering waterways, lush greenery, palm trees, huge day beds, and sumptuous cabanas. Relax with the family or send the kids off to the Sinbad's Kids' club. Every stay comes with complimentary access to the club, which features a private children's pool, outdoor playground, and an array of indoor entertainment - there is also a dedicated space where teenagers can hang out. The daily Falcon



Show will give your family an insight into the secret relationship between desert dwellers and their birds.

## Desert-side dining

Jumeirah Al Wathba features six main restaurants and bars combining local and international influences: Bait Al Hanine, located at the centre of the resort, is a bright and stylish all-day dining restaurant with indoor and outdoor spaces perfect for the whole family; Terra Secca is an upscale trattoria with exceptional food, impeccable service, and stunning desert views; Panache restaurant and pool bar offers fashionable drinks and an array of healthy dishes and Arabic favorites; intimate lobby lounge, Hayaakom is a welcoming space serving light fare, Arabic inspired mocktails, and fresh coffee; Al Mesayan terrace is an extraordinary rooftop bar perfect for desert and star gazing.

Al Mabeet Desert Camp set slightly away from the main resort, gives you an-encompassing Bedouin experience. The desert camp offers Pan Arabic cuisine with a main serving of Emirati culture. Experience the spirit of nomadic life with this a high-end recreation that comes with impeccable hospitality and relax under the stars to the live entertainment. With flights from Kuwait to Abu Dhabi or Dubai taking just over 90 minutes, this warm and alluring contemporary haven of desert luxury is well within easy reach. So, what are you waiting for? Use this Eid to soothe your senses and spend some quality family time at Jumeirah Al Wathba Desert Resort and Spa.







Cyprus' Tamta poses for a picture during the Red Carpet ceremony of the 64th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest 2019 at Expo Tel Aviv in the Israeli coastal city.



Finland's Darude, right, and Sebastian Rejmen



Israel's Kobi Marimi



Netherlands' Duncan Laurence — AFP photos



Malta's Michela



Netherlands' Duncan Laurence



Malta's Michela



Austria's Paenda



Israeli supermodel Bar Refaeli



Switzerland's Luca Hänni

# EUROVISION CONTESTANTS WALK THE ORANGE CARPET IN TEL AVIV

Contestants from 41 countries walked an orange carpet in Tel Aviv's "Culture Square" on Sunday for the opening ceremony of Eurovision 2019, brushing aside security concerns and calls for a pro-Palestinian boycott. The 64th Eurovision Song Contest holds semi-finals in Tel Aviv, Israel's entertainment and business capital, on Tuesday and Thursday ahead of the grand final on Saturday.

Instead of the traditional red carpet, an orange carpet, matching the logo of a company sponsoring the international song fest, was rolled out at the Tel Aviv square that houses Israel's Habima national theatre and the Israel Philharmonic. "Everyone is excited in my team. I'm really happy to be here," said Cypriot singer Tamta, the first artist to stroll the walkway flanked by visiting photographers and reporters.

The four members of Poland's Tulia gave a quick sample of their folk singing style called "spiewokrzyk" or "scream singing" to the crowd's enjoyment. Finish DJ Darude said artists behind the scenes of the festival were "slapping high-fives and having a good time." Concerns had been raised that the contest could be disrupted by a surge in cross-border violence between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza. But a ceasefire that went into effect a week ago has been holding.

When Israel was selected last year to host the 2019 Eurovision finals, the internationally televised event was identified by the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign as a target for its campaign to pressure governments, companies, performers and academics to isolate Israel. BDS has called on artists and broadcasters to withdraw, saying that holding it in Tel Aviv amounted to "artwashing - whitewashing through arts" Israel's policies towards Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

No delegations have pulled out. Israel has mounted a counter-campaign, rebutting BDS attacks and accusing some supporters of being anti-Semitic or having ties to militant groups such as Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, allegations BDS leaders reject. An Israeli ad for Eurovision that used a misogynistic term and an anti-Semitic trope to send up stereotypes about Israel has raised hackles among some viewers.

The 4-1/2 minute song video, posted online by Israel's public broadcaster Kan on Friday, underscored worries about low attendance at the competition given security

concerns and calls for a boycott. Two singers are shown greeting a wide-eyed couple arriving at Tel Aviv's airport with: "I know just what you heard - that it's a land of occupation. But we have so much more than that!"

In an apparent spoof of the common local mispronunciation of "beaches", a male singer urges: "Come and enjoy our lovely bitches." On Israel's often unwieldy demographics, he adds, beaming: "Most of us are Jews but only some of us are greedy." Some Israelis were left fuming or confused. Shahaf Weisbein, an Israeli activist with the left-wing Women for Peace group, denounced the video as a "disgrace" that "whitewash(es) the apartheid reality" of Palestinians. "It also includes an ugly anti-Semitic trope of Jewish 'greed'," she said in a statement. Kan spokeswoman Gili Shemtov defended the video, saying it included "self-deprecating humor". — Reuters



Czech Republic's Lake Malawi



France's Bilal Hassani





# In Lebanon, vintage film posters question Western cliches

A pale woman rides through the desert, flanked by armed men on camels, a palace shimmering in the distance. This is Lebanon—or so someone thought in the 1950s. At a Beirut cultural centre, Lebanese film buff Abboudi Abu Jawdeh is exhibiting vintage film posters from his collection that show off a lost art, but also offer insight into decades of Western clichés of the Arab world. On a guided tour, the collector gestures towards the desert scene, which is an Italian poster for the 1956 French movie “The Lebanese Mission”. “This is from the artist’s imagination,” the 61-year-old says, standing beside the image featuring the camel riders and a palace resembling India’s Taj Mahal.

“He knew Lebanon was in the East, so he did this,” he says, despite the country having ski slopes and sand only on its Mediterranean beaches. Abu Jawdeh moves along to another poster for the same film, this time featuring an oil well. “I hope we will have some,” he says, as his country only this year starts exploration for the hydrocarbon off its coast. A glance at the film’s synopsis reveals more inconsistencies. A Frenchman falls for the daughter of a Lebanese nobleman while in Lebanon hunting for uranium, a metal not mined in the country.



Abboudi Abu Jawdeh shows part of his vintage cinema poster collection at his office in the Lebanese capital Beirut — AFP Photos

### ‘Orientalists’

Abu Jawdeh first began collecting posters in his teens, starting with films starring American actors Steve McQueen and Clint Eastwood. Visiting old cinemas in Lebanon and across the region, he unearthed a world of images—for more foreign films, but also thousands of prints advertising films from the Arab world. Some of his finds in this rare collection date back to 1930s Egypt or Lebanon in the late 1950s. Today he owns some 20,000 posters,



stacked up to the ceiling at his publishing house, their bright colors shielded from the sunlight.

Different versions of the same poster are especially revealing—indicating which country required a change in a film title or a bra to be painted over a naked back to avoid offence. But as he collected, Abu Jawdeh also started noticing a trend in some of the Western posters for films set in the Middle East. They “resembled the paintings that Orientalists painted of the region in the 18th and 19th centuries,” he says. Dozens of these images are on show until May 25 at the Dar El-Nimer cultural centre in Beirut.

Titled “Thief of Baghdad”, after a much-remade fantasy film from 1924, the show is replete with turbaned men, flying carpets, snake charmers and belly dancers. There is Elvis Presley starring in a film called “Harum Scarum”, and a British-Egyptian comedy reportedly inspired by late Egyptian king Farouk’s unrequited passions for a belly dancer. With captions summarizing often outlandish screenplays, the posters show a fantastical world far removed from the modern Middle East, but also gross misrepresentation.

### ‘We’re not all belly dancers’

“Come to savage seething Arabia on a terror search for forbidden treasures of the ages,” reads the tagline for the 1957 action film “Forbidden Desert”. Late Lebanese-American academic Jack Shaheen analyzed portrayals of Arabs in Hollywood films. He watched more than 900 movies spanning a century to the early 2000s, and found only five percent showed Arab roles as “normal, human characters”. Instead, a whole people was systematically dehumanized or vilified. Often, all Arabs were Muslims, and all Muslims were Arabs, wrote the researcher of Christian descent.

Female characters were largely belly dancers or enchantresses, silent “bundles of black” or “terrorists”. Abu Jawdeh says that he and others may not have always

rejected such depictions. “We too liked seeing a belly dancer,” he says. But the public now will likely see the posters differently, he adds, welcoming a fresh-eyed reevaluation of how the West has viewed the Arab world. “They need to see them to re-examine these human relations,” he urged.

Round the corner, Rabbah Faqih, a masters student in archive management, looks at a poster featuring a skimpily dressed actress. “I’m all for a good expressive poster to draw people in, but I’m against commodifying women like this,” she says. “We’re not all belly dancers in Lebanon,” says the 30-year-old, dressed in a long black robe, her hair covered. — AFP



Visitors observe vintage cinema posters displayed at an art exhibition in the Lebanese capital Beirut



Vintage cinema posters are displayed at an art exhibition in the Lebanese capital Beirut



# Classifieds

Tuesday, May 14, 2019



STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing rising dust over open areas and some scattered clouds will appear.

**BY NIGHT:** Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	<div>SFC. CHART13/05/2019 0000 UTC</div>	
KUWAIT CITY	42 °C	30 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	42 °C	24 °C		
ABDALY	41 °C	25 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	43 °C	26 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	38 °C	25 °C		
SALMIYAH	36 °C	30 °C		
AHMADI	35 °C	29 °C		
NUWAISIB	39 °C	25 °C		
WAFRA	41 °C	24 °C		
SALMY	42 °C	26 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	05/14	Hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas and some high clouds will appear	43 °C	25 °C	NW	15 - 50 km/h
Wednesday	05/15	Hot with a chance for rising dust	43 °C	26 °C	NW-VRB	15 - 50 km/h
Thursday	05/16	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	42 °C	26 °C	NW-S	12 - 32 km/h
Friday	05/17	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	40 °C	25 °C	SW-SE	08 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:27
Sunrise	04:56
Zuhr	11:44
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:31
Isha	19:58

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	38 °C
MIN. Temp.	25 °C
MAX. RH	43 %
MIN. RH	13 %
MAX. Wind	N 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

Automated enquiry  
about the Civil ID card is  
**1889988**

## EMERGENCY

 **112**

## Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines`	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9



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

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 14/5/2019				Departure Flights on Tuesday 14/5/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	THY	611	Cairo	13:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
KAC	102	London	00:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	FBS	119	Sarajevo	14:45
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	KAC	673	Dubai	14:50
RBG	1154	Alexandria	01:10	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	FDB	5060	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	JZR	1233	Taif	16:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	FEG	342	Sohag	16:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:15
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:50
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	253	Amman	18:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
RBG	1551	Alexandria	06:15	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	JZR	501	Lahore	18:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
IRA	675	Lar	08:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
JZR	702	Asyut	08:25	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	FDB	058	Dubai	20:50
SAW	703	Damascus	09:30	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
JZR	708	Luxor	09:55	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	RBG	214	Sohag	21:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
JZR	1222	Jeddah	10:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	624	Doha	10:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
MSR	610	Cairo	12:45	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	222	Riyadh	13:30	ICV	6752	Hong Kong	22:55
FBS	118	Sarajevo	13:30	KAC	795	Madinah	22:55
JZR	212	Jeddah	13:45	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
				KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
				KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20





CAIRO: Muslim believers gather before breaking their fast at the Al-Azhar mosque as they mark the 1079th anniversary of the establishment of the mosque, during the holy month of Ramadan in Egypt's capital Cairo. Egypt's Al-Azhar is the Sunni Muslim world's foremost religious institution. — AFP

# S Korea latest big export: Jobless college graduates

SEOUL: Cho Min-kyong boasts an engineering degree from one of South Korea's top universities, a school design award and a near-perfect score in her English proficiency test. But she had all but given up hope of finding a job when all her 10 applications, including one to Hyundai Motor Co, were rejected in 2016. Help came unexpectedly from neighboring Japan six months later: Cho got job offers from Nissan Motor Co and two other Japanese companies after a job fair hosted by the South Korean government to match the country's skilled labor with overseas employers.

"It's not that I wasn't good enough. There are just too many job seekers like me, that's why everyone just fails," said the 27-year-old, who now works in Atsugi, an hour southwest of Tokyo, as a car seat engineer for Nissan. "There are numerous more opportunities outside Korea." Facing an unprecedented job crunch at home, many young South Koreans are now signing up for government-sponsored programs designed to find overseas positions for a growing number of jobless college graduates in Asia's fourth largest economy.

State-run programs such as K-move, rolled out to connect young Koreans to

"quality jobs" in 70 countries, found overseas jobs for 5,783 graduates last year, more than triple the number in 2013, its first year. Almost one-third went to Japan, which is undergoing a historic labor shortage with unemployment at a 26-year low, while a quarter went to the United States, where the jobless rate dropped to the lowest in nearly half a century in April.

There are no strings attached. Unlike similar programs in places such as Singapore that come with an obligation to return and work for the government for up to six years, attendees of South Korea's programs are neither required to return, nor work for the state in the future. "Brain drain isn't the government's immediate worry. Rather, it's more urgent to prevent them from sliding into poverty" even if it means pushing them abroad, said Kim Chul-ju, deputy dean at the Asian Development Bank Institute.

In 2018, South Korea generated the smallest number of jobs since the global financial crisis, only 97,000. Nearly one in five young Koreans was out of work as of 2013, higher than the average 16 percent among the member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In March, one in every

four Koreans in the 15-29 age group was not employed either by choice or due to the lack of jobs, according to government data.

## Labor mismatch

While India and other countries face similar challenges in creating jobs for skilled labor, the dominance of family-run conglomerates known as chaebol makes South Korea uniquely vulnerable. The top 10 conglomerates including world-class brands such as Samsung and Hyundai, make up half of South Korea's total market capitalization. But only 13 percent of the country's workforce is employed by firms with more than 250 employees, the second lowest after Greece in the OECD, and far below the 47 percent in Japan.

"The big companies have mastered a business model to survive without boosting hiring," as labour costs rise and firing legacy workers remains difficult, said Kim So-young, an economics professor at Seoul National University. Yet while increasing numbers of college graduates are moving overseas for work, South Korea is bringing in more foreigners to solve another labor problem - an acute shortage of blue collar workers.

South Korea has the most highly edu-

cated youth in the OECD, with three-quarters of high school students going to college, compared with the average of 44.5 percent. "South Korea is paying the price for its overprotection of top-tier jobs and education fervor that produced a flood of people wanting only that small number of top jobs," said Ban Ga-woon, a labor market researcher at state-run Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education & Training.

Even amid a glut of over-educated and under-employed graduates, most refuse to "get their hands dirty", says Lim Chae-wook, who manages a factory making cable trays that employs 90 people in Ansan, southwest of Seoul. "Locals simply don't want this job cause they think its degrading, so we're forced to hire a lot of foreign workers," Lim said, pointing to nearly two dozens workers from the Philippines, Vietnam and China working in safety masks behind welding machines.

In the southwestern city of Gwangju, Kim Yong-gu, the chief executive of Kia Motor supplier Hyundai Hitech, says foreign workers are more expensive but he has no choice as he can't find enough locals to fill vacancies. "We pay for accommodation, meals and other utility costs in order not to

lose them to another factory," said Kim. Out of a staff of 70, 13 are Indonesian nationals, who sleep and eat at a building next to his factory.

## No happy ending for everyone

For those who escaped Korea's tough job market, not all has been rosy. Several people who found overseas jobs with government help say they ended up taking menial work, such as dishwashing in Taiwan and meat processing in rural Australia, or were misinformed about pay and conditions. Lee Sun-hyung, a 30-year old athletics major, used K-move to go to Sydney to work as a swim coach in 2017 but earned less than \$A600 (\$419) a month, one-third what her government handlers told her in Seoul.

"It wasn't what I had hoped for. I could not even afford to pay rent," said Lee, who ended up cleaning windows at a fashion store part-time before she returned home broke less than a year later. Officials say they are making a "black list" of employers and improving the vetting process to prevent recurrence of such cases. The labour ministry also established a "support and reporting centre" to better respond to problems.— Reuters

## Saudi tankers hit by 'sabotage...

Continued from Page 1

A senior Iranian lawmaker said "saboteurs from a third country" could be behind it, after saying on Sunday the incident showed the security of Gulf states was fragile.

Highlighting international concerns, Britain's Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt warned of the risks of "a conflict happening by accident" with an unintended escalation between Washington and Tehran over an unravelling nuclear deal. Washington withdrew last year from a 2015 pact between Iran and global powers aimed at reining in Tehran's nuclear plans. Since then, the United States has ratcheted up sanctions on Iran, saying it wanted to reduce its oil exports to zero.

## Chokepoint

A fifth of global oil consumption passes through the Strait of Hormuz from Middle East crude producers to major markets in Asia, Europe, North America and beyond. The narrow waterway separates Iran from the Arabian Peninsula. Iran's Revolutionary Guards, designated a terrorist organization by the United States, threatened last month to close the chokepoint if Tehran was barred from using it.

Oil prices rose yesterday, with Brent crude futures at \$71.71 a barrel by 0912 GMT, up \$1.09. Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said that one of the two Saudi vessels was attacked in the UAE economic zone on its way

to be loaded with Saudi crude from Ras Tanura port for delivery to state-owned Aramco's customers in the United States.

The attack did not cause any casualties or an oil spill but caused significant damage to the vessels' structures, he said in a statement. Trading and shipping sources identified the Saudi vessels as very large crude carrier (VLCC) tanker Amjad and crude tanker Al Marzoqah, both owned by Saudi shipping firm Bahri, which did not respond to a Reuters request for comment.

The UAE Foreign Ministry had said there were no casualties and the Fujairah port operations were normal. An investigation was launched in coordination with international authorities, it said, calling on global powers to prevent any parties trying to harm maritime safety and security. Gulf stock markets fell yesterday, with the index in Dubai, the region's trade and business hub, down 2.6% and the Saudi index down over 2%.

## Kuwait condemns attacks

Meanwhile, Kuwait yesterday voiced "strong condemnation" of vandalism acts that targeted four ships near the UAE territorial waters late Sunday. A source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement, branded the act as "criminal", as it is seen as a blatant breach of international law and an escalation of tensions in the region: jeopardizing its safety, as well as the one of maritime traffic and the overall world trade and energy supply. Such act must be internationally encountered in a swift manner in order to limit its serious aftershocks, the source said in a statement. Kuwait reaffirms its supportive stance with the UAE to secure its stability and maintain its sovereignty, concluded the statement.

Sunni Muslim allies Saudi Arabia and the UAE have backed US sanctions against Shiite Iran, a fellow OPEC producer but regional foe. After the United States ended all sanctions waivers that had allowed some nations to continue importing Iranian crude, Washington said Riyadh and Abu Dhabi would help compensate for any shortage in oil supply.

Falih said the attack aimed to undermine maritime freedom and the security of oil supplies to consumers worldwide. "The international community has a joint responsibility to protect the safety of maritime navigation and the security of oil tankers, to mitigate against the adverse consequences of such incidents on energy markets and the danger they pose to the global economy," he said.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said the incident "has a negative impact on maritime transportation security" and asked regional countries to be "vigilant against destabilizing plots of foreign agents", the semi-official ISNA news agency reported. The US Maritime Administration said in an advisory on Sunday that incidents off Fujairah, one of the seven emirates that make up the UAE, had not been confirmed and urged caution.

The Maritime Administration had said earlier this month that US commercial ships including oil tankers sailing through Middle East waterways could be targeted by Iran in one of the threats to US interests posed by Tehran. Washington said it was sending a US aircraft carrier and other forces to the Middle East due to what it said were Iranian threats, while Tehran has called the US military presence "a target" rather than a threat. Iran has said it would not allow its oil exports to be halted.— Agencies

## New Delhi hit by rare summer air pollution alert

NEW DELHI: New Delhi suffered a rare summer air pollution alert yesterday as dust storms and heat over northern India took smog to hazardous levels. The world's most polluted capital city is blanketed in a toxic smog of car fumes, agricultural smoke and factory waste most winters, but it is less severe in summer months.

Yesterday, the Indian government's air quality index hit "very poor" with PM 2.5 particles, the most harmful, at 154 micrograms per cubic meter, five times the normal safe level. Clouds of dust swirled around the streets and many people brought out masks generally used in winter. "Right now we are in the thunderstorm

season. High speed winds are raising a lot of dust but we think it is only transient and will change in a day or two, when it rains," V K Soni, an India Meteorological Department official, told AFP.

Pollution levels started rising the day after a top minister promised that Delhi's air would be clean in three years because of action taken by the government. "Our government has done 100 per cent corruption-free, transparent, time-bound, result-oriented and quality work and that is why Delhi will be free of air and water pollution in the next three years," Transport and Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari told an election-campaign press conference last Thursday.— AFP



NEW DELHI: An Indian commuter drives along a busy road as he wears a mask during a polluted day in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP



Sports

# Ryu takes no-hitter into 8th as Dodgers blank Nationals

## Pillar’s single caps Giants’ comeback win over Reds

LOS ANGELES: Hyun-Jin Ryu no-hit the visiting Washington Nationals for 7 1/3 innings as the Los Angeles Dodgers won the finale of a four-game series 6-0 on Sunday afternoon. Ryu (5-1) threw eight shutout innings to extend his overall shutout streak to 24 innings. He allowed one hit, struck out nine and walked one while lowering his ERA to 1.72. Ryu was coming off a complete-game shutout against the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday. He needed only 93 pitches in that win but threw a career-high 116 on Sunday. Corey Seager hit a grand slam in the bottom of the eighth and drove in five runs for the Dodgers. Cody Bellinger went 3-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored, and Russell Martin had two hits.

### Yankees 7, Rays 1

Masahiro Tanaka won an early pitching duel as New York defeated Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla. Rays left-hander Blake Snell (3-4) took the loss. The reigning AL Cy Young winner struck out 12 batters—one short of his career high—in just 5 2/3 innings. Tanaka (3-3) struck out seven and allowed just five hits and no walks in seven innings. He also retired 12 consecutive batters from the second through the sixth innings and fired first-pitch strikes to 19 of the 26 hitters he faced. In all, Tanaka required just 73 pitches, 55 for strikes.

### Cubs 4, Brewers 1

Jon Lester pitched 6 2/3 strong innings and Kris Bryant slugged a two-run homer as host Chicago defeated Milwaukee. Lester (3-1) limited the Brewers to one run (none earned) while allowing nine hits, walking one and striking out six. Bryant went 3-for-4 with three runs scored and two RBIs. Jhoulys Chacin (3-4) took the loss for the Brewers. He allowed six hits, one walk and two runs (one earned) in six innings.

### Red Sox 11, Mariners 2

Michael Chavis had three hits and five RBIs, and J.D. Martinez homered twice as Boston took advantage of porous defense from visiting Seattle in rainy conditions to complete a three-game sweep. Xander Bogaerts walked a career-high four times, and Rafael Devers had his third straight three-hit game as the Red Sox extended their season-best winning streak to five games. Boston has won 11 of its last 13, outscoring opponents 100-37 in that stretch. Omar Narvaez homered for the second straight day for the Mariners, who have dropped 12 of their last 14 and were outscored 34-8 in the series.

### Pirates 10, Cardinals 6

Josh Bell went 4-for-4 with a career-high five RBIs and visiting Pittsburgh rallied for a 10-6 win against St. Louis in the finale of a four-game series. Francisco Cervelli collected three hits, Gregory Polanco had two hits and scored three runs, and Adam Frazier and Colin Moran had two-run doubles for the Pirates, who have won three in a row. Jose Martinez had three hits, scored two runs and drove in two for St. Louis. Paul

Goldschmidt had two hits, including a two-run homer, to finish 9-for-17 in the series.

### Astros 15, Rangers 5

Corbin Martin excelled in his major league debut, while Alex Bregman and George Springer each hit two homers for Houston, which completed its first four-game home sweep over Texas. Martin (1-0), a second-round pick by the Astros in 2017, allowed two runs on three hits and one walk over 5 1/3 innings. The Houston native's nine strikeouts tied for the second most in franchise history in a debut. The Astros provided Martin ample run support, starting with Springer producing his 29th career leadoff home run against Texas starter Adrian Sampson (0-3).

### Giants 6, Reds 5

Kevin Pillar's tiebreaking single in the eighth inning rallied San Francisco past visiting Cincinnati. Trailing 5-4 after Cincinnati took the lead in the top of the eighth, San Francisco tied it on an RBI groundout by Mac Williamson off reliever David Hernandez (0-2) before Pillar singled to center. Tony Watson (2-0) got the win after getting two outs in the eighth, and Will Smith notched his 10th save.

### Indians 5, Athletics 3

Roberto Perez belted a go-ahead, three-run homer in the sixth inning as visiting Cleveland averted a three-game series sweep against Oakland. Carlos Santana had an RBI double and Jordan Luplow added a sacrifice fly for the Indians, who won for just the second time in their last 11 games in Oakland. Jeffry Rodriguez (1-2), who saw Cleveland shut out in two of his other three starts this season, welcomed the run support on Sunday. He picked up his first win after allowing three runs on six hits in six innings. He walked three and struck out three.

### Rockies 10, Padres 7

Charlie Blackmon drove in three runs with a pair of homers, Daniel Murphy hit a three-run double and Raimel Tapia followed with a two-run homer in a five-run seventh inning as Colorado defeated visiting San Diego. Antonio Senzatela (3-2), who retired 14 straight hitters before Wil Myers singled with two outs in the seventh, allowed three runs on four hits over 6 2/3 innings. He walked two and struck out seven, as the Rockies won the rubber match of the three-game series. Blackmon homered twice off Padres left-handed rookie starter Nick Margevicius, who fell to 2-4.

### Phillies 6, Royals 1

Cole Irvin tossed seven strong innings in his major league debut and visiting Philadelphia scored six runs in the fifth to beat Kansas City. J.T. Realmuto ripped a two-run double and Odbel Herrera had a two-run single among his two hits to highlight the big inning for the Phillies, who won for the 10th time in their last 14 games. Alex Gordon had an RBI single in the third for the Royals, who were thwarted in their bid to record a



series win for the first time since posting a three-game sweep against Cleveland in mid-April.

### White Sox 5, Blue Jays 1

Lucas Giolito allowed one run over seven innings, and Yonder Alonso and Tim Anderson both smacked fourth-inning home runs to lift visiting Chicago over Toronto. The White Sox won the final two games of the three-game series as the Blue Jays lost for the 10th time in 12 games. Giolito (4-1) limited Toronto to four hits and one run, striking out eight and walking one. Piggybacking off a strong showing in his last outing, Giolito worked seven-plus innings in successive starts for the first time since Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, 2017.

### Braves 5, Diamondbacks 3

Atlanta left-hander Max Fried showed no ill effects from being hit by a line drive last week, helping Atlanta beat Arizona in Phoenix. Fried (5-2) was able to take his turn in the rotation, despite being struck on the left hand by a line drive against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday. He scattered nine hits over five innings and struck out seven. Four members of the Braves bullpen covered the final four innings, with Luke Jackson pitching the eighth and ninth to earn his fourth save. Zack Godley (1-3) returned to the starting rotation for Arizona after making two relief appearances.

He went only two innings, allowing four hits and one run, with two strikeouts.

### Tigers 5, Twins 3

Nicholas Castellanos went 3-for-4 with a home run, double and two RBIs, and Brandon Dixon also homered and doubled and scored two runs to lead Detroit past Minnesota in Minneapolis. Daniel Norris (2-1) picked up the win for the Tigers, who earned a split of their four-game series with the American League Central-leading Twins. Norris allowed two runs on six hits and a walk over 6 1/3 innings while striking out five. Ehire Adrianza homered and had two hits, and Byron Buxton went 3-for-3 with a walk and an RBI for Minnesota. Marwin Gonzalez and Jake Cave also finished with two hits for the Twins.

### Orioles 5, Angels 1

Dwight Smith Jr. and Chris Davis each hit one of Baltimore's four home runs in a win over visiting Los Angeles. The Orioles also received homers from Stevie Wilkerson and Pedro Severino, as home runs accounted for all five of their runs. John Means (5-3) lacked his usual command but still made it through six innings to earn the victory. He gave up one run on four hits and fanned four, but he also walked three and threw 110 pitches. —Reuters

## Spieth says he is close to top form

NEW YORK: Jordan Spieth will have a third opportunity to complete the career grand slam at the PGA Championship this week, but his form is a far cry from that which saw him ranked third in the world as recently as this time last year.

Spieth has not won since the 2017 British Open and, more troubling, has not even contended at any tournament he has played this year.

He showed glimpses of his old self at the Byron Nelson tournament in his home city of Dallas at the weekend, but ultimately finished a disappointing equal 29th after a mediocre final round.

Spieth says that he is happy with every part of his game except his driving and that he is close to getting that area back to where he wants it.

"I really think I've done a good job now of embracing the struggle," he said last week. "My last four to six starts, I've been a couple of tee balls away from really having a chance to win and that's without feeling like I had my best stuff.

"So, just tightening up the tee game is really the key at this point. The rest of it is really coming together."

Several former players, however, are not quite so sure a return to form for Spieth is just around the corner.

"He talks about getting comfortable and all sorts of things but it just doesn't look comfortable for me," six-times major champion Nick Faldo said during a conference call last week for CBS television, which will screen the PGA Championship in the United States.

"I watch his hip action, and his leg action, the whole action which leads to balance and power. To me that just doesn't seem right and that's why he's got ... the two-way miss.

"He can block it right and pull it left with the driver."

The two-way miss refers to the dreaded affliction of wondering which side of

the fairway you are going to miss with your bad shots.

Spieth, 29, almost completed the calendar grand slam in 2015, winning the Masters and U.S. Open before contending but falling just short at the British Open and PGA Championship.

His iron play was magnificent back then, his short game sublime and his putting unparalleled, particularly from mid-range. He sank so many 20-footers, they began to look almost routine.

### Those days are long gone.

"The putting woes have been well-documented. He doesn't have the same confidence because he's now seen an awful lot of misses his last 18 months," said Faldo.

Golf Channel analyst Brandel Chamblee also wonders whether Spieth, who won a third major at the 2017 British Open, will ever find his way back to his previous heights.

"His golf swing has changed so much, it's almost been completely stripped of all of its athleticism," Chamblee said recently. "Spieth was one of the best drivers of the ball his first couple of years on the PGA Tour. People now just think of him as a poor driver of the golf ball.

"It looks to me like he's in a very tough spot. Who knows if he'll ever find his way back? A lot of people who go down that road can't remember how to get back home." As for Spieth's putting, former British Open champion Ian Baker-Finch has noticed the Texan change his routine.

"When you feel a little anxious or confused with aim it throws off your routine and that's what it looks like to me," Australian Baker-Finch, a master putter in his day, told Reuters.

What this will all add up to next week is open to question, but Faldo does not expect it to be pretty.

"It seems like golf's hard work from three or four years ago," he said.

Spieth, however, is shrugging off the criticism. "There's a lot of experts out there that actually have no idea what they're saying," he said. —Reuters

## Kang captures first US PGA Tour title at Byron Nelson

DALLAS: South Korea's Kang Sung fired seven birdies in a four-under par 67 on Sunday to claim his first US PGA Tour victory, a two-shot win over Matt Every in the Byron Nelson in Dallas, Texas.

Kang drained a 23-foot birdie putt at 15 to take the lead for good on a marathon day that saw the leaders play 27 holes thanks to the six-hour weather delay on Saturday.

Kang, who equalled the Trinity Forest course record with a bogey-free 10-under 61 on Friday, finished with a 23-under par total of 261. Every had edged ahead by one through nine holes when darkness halted play on Saturday.

But Kang fired three birdies and bogey over the final nine holes of the third round to regain a three-shot lead.

Every responded with seven birdies—including five on the front nine—in a five-

under par 66 in the fourth round. But he was unable to maintain the lead and his 21-under total of 263 was only good enough for a share of second place alongside compatriot Scott Piercy.

Piercy capped a bogey-free tournament—the first on the US PGA Tour since 2010 — with a seven-under 64. Kang strung together three straight birdies at eight, nine and 10. He was unable to get up and down from a green side bunker at the 12th, but he reeled off another trio of birdies at 14, 15 and 16 to move to 24-under for the tournament.

He was three strokes up when he arrived at 18, where his closing bogey proved immaterial. "I'm so happy right now," Kang said after notching his first tour win in his 159th start. "Yesterday we finished too late," Kang said. "I didn't have time to sleep much, only slept about three hours."

Because he knew it would be hard to concentrate, Kang said he told his caddie "I just wanted to be chill and having some fun and then when my turn came just try to really focus in-and it worked out great."

World number three Brooks Koepka fin-



DALLAS: Sung Kang of Korea poses for a photo with the trophy after winning the AT&T Byron Nelson at Trinity Forest Golf Club in Dallas, Texas. —AFP

ished strong, carding a six-under par 65 to finish alone in fourth on 20-under 264 heading into his PGA Championship title defense at Bethpage Black next week. —AFP

## All eyes on Woods even if Koepka the one to beat

NEW YORK: Defending champion Brooks Koepka is the one to beat at this week's PGA Championship even if Tiger Woods will have the boisterous New York galleries on side as one of golf's four major tournaments begins a new era in the spring.

After being held since 1972 in the dog days of summer, the PGA Championship's move to May should ensure milder weather and more attention from US sports fans whose thoughts by August have invariably turned to American football.

For the first time ever in a major championship, every player ranked in the top 100 in the world will tee it up, barring late withdrawals. The field will comprise 156 players, but 155 of them will be in the supporting cast as one man takes centre stage.

Tiger-mania is back in full force after he ended his decade-plus major drought by winning the Masters last month, and Woods is one of the favourites on a course where he lifted the US Open trophy in 2002.

But big, brawny Bethpage, a 7,459-yard course in Farmingdale on Long Island, is arguably less suited for his 43-year-old game than the other major venues this year.

While not short off the tee, Woods is no longer among the game's biggest hitters after his 2017 spinal fusion. He may have to let rip with his driver to hoist the Wanamaker Trophy a fifth time, adding to his previous successes in 1999, 2000, 2006 and 2007.

Fifty players are averaging 300 yards or more on the PGA Tour this year.

Woods, at 299 yards, is respectable, but gone are the days when he could overpower a course.

He now gets the job done the old fashioned way, by relentlessly hitting greens in regulation. At 75 percent, Woods is the year's best on tour at it, which could prove decisive at Bethpage.

Legitimate title chances will line up like jets at nearby JFK airport, but anyone with designs on winning will likely have to contend with the quiet assassin Koepka, who for all his dominance in recent majors remains less than a crowd favourite.

Koepka and Woods have developed a close rivalry at the majors, with Koepka heading a 1-2 finish at the PGA at Bellerive before Woods turned the tables at Augusta, where he clinched his 15th major title. The stoic Koepka does not stand out as superior in any single category of the game, but is good across the board, and his mind is perhaps his best weapon, seemingly immune to pressure. Others with the goods to contend include Europeans Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose, Jon Ram and Tommy Fleetwood, and Americans Dustin Johnson, Justin Thomas and Rickie Fowler. —Reuters



# Dhoni eyes Chennai clean-out after losing IPL final to Mumbai

## Bumrah best bowler in the world, says Tendulkar

**HYDERABAD:** Chennai Super Kings skipper M.S. Dhoni suggested his ageing side needs a shake-up after they lost a nail-biting Indian Premier League final to archrivals Mumbai Indians. The thriller saw Mumbai edge out Chennai on Sunday after Australian Shane Watson was run out going for an unlikely second run in the final over to end a blistering 59-ball innings at 80.

Chennai then needed two runs off the last ball to overtake Mumbai's 149-8. But Sri Lanka paceman Lasith Malinga trapped Shardul Thakur lbw to claim a record fourth title for Mumbai. "We need to go back and reflect as to how we reached the finals. I don't think it was one of those years where we played really good cricket and we got into the finals," said Dhoni.

"After the World Cup, once we come back, that's the time we get to the drawing board and see what can be done to fill the gaps. "Nothing against the bowlers, but batting could have been better," said Dhoni, whose team has won three IPL titles from eight finals.

None of Chennai's batsmen made it to the top-10 scorers list in this year's IPL, India's cash-rich domestic Twenty20 showpiece tournament. Dhoni — 37 but still a key member of India's World Cup squad—was Chennai's best with 416 runs, including three fifties.

Watson's return to the IPL next season was already uncertain after the 37-year-old bid farewell to Australia's Big Bash early this year. The Australian all-rounder and Dhoni are among the 11 members of the 25-man Chennai squad aged over 30.

### 'A LOT OF MISTAKES'

Dhoni was run out in Sunday's final for two, leaving the defending champions in trouble at 82-4. "We committed a lot of mistakes and Mumbai Indians also did the same and at the end of the day the winning team was the one that made one mistake less than the other team," said Dhoni, adding that his immediate focus is on the 50-over World Cup starting later this month in

England and Wales.

Kieron Pollard smashed an unbeaten 41 off 25 deliveries for Mumbai while paceman Jasprit Bumrah returned figures of 2-14 from his four overs. The Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai were the team to beat this year in the world's most popular T20 league, ending top of the table after 14 league games.

"We played some good cricket. Good to see we qualified in the top two," said Sharma. "Our bowling in this tournament was excellent. At different stages, our bowlers put their hands up and brought us back in the game."

Indian cricket great Sachin Tendulkar yesterday hailed Jasprit Bumrah as the "best bowler in the world" after the Mumbai Indians paceman played a key role in his team's fourth Indian Premier League title win.

The 25-year-old took 2-14 in Sunday's IPL final as Mumbai edged Chennai Super Kings by one run in the thrilling finale in Hyderabad. He is set to lead India's pace attack at the World Cup, which starts in England and Wales later this month.

"Without any doubt, let me go on record and say that he is the best bowler in the world at this stage," said Tendulkar, an advisor to the Mumbai team. "The best is yet to come."

With Lasith Malinga giving away 32 runs from his first three overs and Chennai needing 18 off the last 12 balls, Bumrah choked the opposition in the penultimate over and sent Dwayne Bravo back to the pavilion for 15. He was named man-of-the-match for his efforts. "Winning a fourth title for Mumbai makes me very happy," said Bumrah, the top-ranked bowler in the world in the one-day format.

"I was surprisingly very calm. I wasn't panicking, just focusing on the next ball." Bumrah has picked up 85 wickets in 49 ODIs and 51 scalps in 42 T20 games for India since his international debut in January 2016. India begin their World Cup campaign against South Africa in Southampton on June 5. —Agencies



**HYDERABAD:** Mumbai Indians team players celebrate with team owner Nita Ambani (centre L) and the trophy after their victory against Chennai Super Kings in the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 final cricket match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad. —AFP

## US down South Africa 3-0 in Women's WCup tune-up

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Samantha Mewis scored once in each half and Carli Lloyd added a late goal as the United States dominated South Africa 3-0 on Sunday in a Women's World Cup tune-up. The victory at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, launched the Americans' "Send-Off Series" of matches as they prepare to defend their title at the World Cup in France, which begins on June 7.

Mewis opened the scoring in the 37th minute, finishing with a low shot inside the right post after Rose Lavelle slipped a ball into the top of the penalty area. Mewis struck again in the second half, after South African keeper Kaylin Swart's deflection of a cross from Megan Rapinoe wasn't enough to keep the ball from a charging Mewis, who slotted it into the back of the net.

Lloyd buried an injury-time strike through three South African players to notch her 108th international goal. The United States will take on New Zealand on Thursday in St. Louis and face Mexico on May 26 in Harrison, New Jersey before departing for France.

They open the World Cup in Group F against Thailand, Chile and Sweden, their first match against the Thai side on June 11 in Reims. —AFP

## Mercedes dominance bad for F1 box office, says Hamilton

**BARCELONA:** Lewis Hamilton cut short his celebrations after winning the Spanish Grand Prix to warn that Mercedes' dominance could be a menace to Formula One's box office appeal. The defending five-time world champion seized the initiative at the start of Sunday's race and then cruised to his 76th career victory ahead of team-mate Valtteri Bottas, who had started in pole position.

It was the Mercedes pairing's fifth consecutive one-two finish and left rivals Ferrari floundering in pursuit. The two Mercedes drivers are competing against each other ... and it's not much fun for outsiders, admits Hamilton, especially for spectators.

## S Africa to appeal against Semenya testosterone ruling

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa yesterday said it would lodge an appeal after Olympic champion Caster Semenya lost her case challenging new rules forcing female athletes to regulate their testosterone levels. Semenya's case has provoked a furious debate across sport worldwide about gender and "hyperandrogenic" athletes, those with "differences of sexual development" (DSD).

The decision on May 1 by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne,

Switzerland, means female athletes with elevated testosterone will have to take suppressive treatment if they wish to compete as women in certain events. "We'll file the appeal as soon as we possibly can," Vuyo Mhaga, spokesman for the South African sport and recreation ministry, told AFP. Mhaga said the appeal, to be lodged at the Switzerland Federal Tribunal, would be based on complaints over the judges' past record on similar cases, lack of clarity over how the ruling could be implemented and how the evidence was handled.

"It is not explained how the IAAF (the International Association of Athletics Federations) is going to administer those regulations," he said. "We feel that the scientific information that has been brought has been actually completely ignored and

we've got a belief that a different court will arrive at a different determination. "Everything is being done through Athletics SA."

The IAAF argued that athletes such as two-time Olympic 800 metres champion Semenya had an unfair advantage over others. Semenya, 28, won the 800m at the Doha Diamond League meeting on May 3 in her first race after the ruling, saying that "actions speak louder than words".

Asked if she intended to take hormone-suppressing treatment, the three-time world champion said: "No way. "I don't know what will happen next. But no one should tell me what to do, if people want to stop me from doing something that's their problem, not mine."

The South African government, sports

bodies and fans have reacted in fury over Semenya's case, which many in the country see as having racist undertones.

The World Medical Association has urged doctors not to enforce the controversial new rules, warning that attempts to do so would breach ethics codes.

The court itself said there was insufficient evidence to overturn the new regulations, but it "expressed some serious concerns as to the future practical application" of the rules. The rules must remain a "living document", which are revised based on new information, the court added. The DSD rules-first adopted last year but suspended pending the legal battle—came into effect on May 8, applying to distances from 400m to a mile, and includes the heptathlon. —AFP

## Serena eases to victory in Rome

**ROME:** Serena Williams made a winning return from injury beating Swedish qualifier Rebecca Petersen 6-4, 6-2 to advance to the second round of the Italian Open clay-court tournament yesterday. Williams, 37, has not played since a hard-fought three-set win over Petersen in the second round at the Miami Open in March before withdrawing with a knee injury.

The 23-time Grand Slam winner—now ranked 11th—also withdrew from Indian Wells in March complaining through illness. Watched by her husband Alexis Ohanian, Williams doubled faulted on her first match point but sealed victory on her second against her 58th-ranked opponent.

A four-time Rome winner Williams last won on the red clay of the Foro Italico in 2016. She will play either her older sister Venus, who received a wild card entry to the tournament she won in 1999, or Belgian Elise Mertens in the second round.

Should Serena and Venus meet in Rome, it will be their first meeting on European clay in nearly 17 years. Their last meeting on red clay came at the 2002 Roland Garros final. Serena Williams is preparing for the French Open later this month where she could match Margaret Court's record of major singles titles.

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic tightened his grip on the ATP tennis rankings Monday following his win in the Madrid Open.

The Serbian world number one widened his lead over Spaniard Rafael Nadal who was dumped out of the Madrid tournament by young gun Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in the semi-finals.

Tsitsipas lost the final to Djokovic but eased two places up the rankings to seventh on the strength of his recent show of form. Dominic Thiem of Austria, winner of the Barcelona Open, moved



**ROME:** US Serena Williams returns the ball to Sweden's Rebecca Peterson, during their WTA Masters tournament tennis match yesterday at the Foro Italico in Rome. —AFP

into fourth place after his elimination from the Madrid semi-finals. He is one sport behind Roger Federer, his quarter-final victim in Madrid.

### ATP rankings released yesterday:

1. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 12115 pts
2. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 7945
3. Roger Federer (SUI) 5770
4. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 4845 (+1)
5. Alexander Zverev (GER) 4745 (-1)
6. Kei Nishikori (JPN) 3860 (+1)
7. Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE) 3790 (+2)
8. Kevin Anderson (RSA) 3755 (-2)

sure, as when you are competing against another team. That's what F1 is about.

"That's the exciting part, when you arrive and you're competing against one or two other teams who are also bringing their A-game. Naturally in those teams, that's another two drivers.

"That puts another spanner in the works and often when the cars are close, there's strengths and weaknesses of either team and how you play those and benefit from those, it's awesome.

"But when that's not there it's definitely not as exciting from a competition point of view. Racing within a team, it's not really how F1 should be in my opinion, but it is how it is right now."

No team has won every race in a season, but McLaren came close in 1988 when they triumphed in 15 of the 16 races - beaten only when Ferrari took advantage of a late collision at Monza—and Mercedes, in 2016, won 19 of 21.

Team chief Toto Wolff, like Hamilton, is wary of

any premature assessments or forecasts, but said he recognised the conundrum he and his team faced as they reduced the sport's spectacle with their metro-nomic excellence and supremacy.

"If I take myself out of the Mercedes standpoint, of course, as a fan you want variability and unpredictability," he said. "We all enjoyed Liverpool coming back strong as they did and Spurs making it against all odds.

"I had my laptop on my knees watching the game when we saw they were beating Barcelona! But, where we are now, it cannot be our objective.

"And, I feel, it's also bad karma if we were to think that we are now really walking on water - then, the next week, you are going to get one in the face for sure ...

"We have had five fantastic performances, but we're not taking it for granted. Next week is going to be a tremendous challenge for us. We've not performed well in Monaco these last years." —AFP



## Sports

# Guardiola hailed as ‘obsessive’ genius behind City winning machine

## Reds post third-highest Premier League points tally ever with 97

**LONDON:** Pep Guardiola was eulogised yesterday for his relentless hunger for success that propelled Manchester City to a second consecutive Premier League title after a titanic battle with Liverpool. Guardiola claimed his eighth league title in 10 seasons as a coach in charge of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City as the English champions followed up their record 100-point campaign last season with another stunning 98-point season thanks to a 4-1 victory at Brighton.

That meant Liverpool's long wait for a first league title since 1990 continued despite the Reds posting the third-highest Premier League points tally ever with 97 after they beat Wolves 2-0 on Sunday.

“Pep's party,” ran the headline in the Guardian newspaper. “The only real world star in this set-up is the manager. “They didn't go for (Cristiano) Ronaldo or (Lionel) Messi but invested in fine young players, almost all of whom have been pushed to the outer levels of their talent.”

City became the first side in a decade to retain the title as Guardiola's demands ensured there was no drop-off at the Etihad as has happened in the seasons that followed title wins under Roberto Mancini and Manuel Pellegrini.

“Manchester City could buy great players, good enough to take them up the mountain, but they could never stay there. Because you cannot buy hunger, the sustaining daily hunger that drove the greatest teams of other eras,” said the Independent.

“Senior officials at City say that they have never seen as much focus and character from a City side in the modern era as what they have seen this season. “This is the opposite of what we have come to expect from champion City sides. And it is a vindication of the daily intensity and demands of their obsessive manager.”

Liverpool, whose season could still end in glory if they win the Champions League next month, were also praised

for the contribution they made to a thrilling race. “Nothing underscores the brilliance of Pep Guardiola's team more than the presence of Liverpool a short neck behind. Liverpool are, without doubt, one of the greatest teams the competition has ever seen,” said the Daily Mail.

“Encapsulating this campaign is a battle of superlatives. Liverpool were amazingly good. Incredibly, City were even better.” Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said this season is just the beginning of a journey for his side, but in their three-decade wait to win the league, the Reds have finished second before and failed to build on it the following season. “They're entitled to wonder, given that they've pulled one of the most stupendous league campaigns in history and still fallen short, what more can be done?” added the Independent.

Klopp pointed to City's financial power, backed by the club's Abu Dhabi owners, as a principal reason why they will not be easy to overhaul. However, unlike Manchester United, who ended the season as close to the relegation zone as they were to City, 32 points behind the champions in sixth, City have invested their money wisely.

“More than half a billion pounds lavished on one of the most expensive and brilliant squads ever assembled. But we only have to look down the road at Manchester United to know that you can pour millions down the drain,” said The Times. “The danger, when City have smashed so many records in two years of domestic domination — 198 league points from a possible 228, 19 domestic cup ties won out of 20 — is that it is regarded as easy, normal, expected. Those figures suggest a relentless machine.

“It is in watching Guardiola on the sidelines that we see the stress, the agony, the pressure that has been relentless since setting out last August, requiring 18 wins out of 19 since Christmas to stay ahead of Jurgen Klopp's brilliant Liverpool.” — AFP



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola (C), Manchester City assistant coach Mikel Arteta (R) and Manchester City's Belgian defender Vincent Kompany (L) show the Premier League trophy to supporters outside the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. — AFP

## Juventus lose stripes and match as Florenzi, Dzeko keep Roma's CL hopes alive

**MILAN:** Alessandro Florenzi and Edin Dzeko scored late as Roma beat Juventus 2-0 to keep their hopes of Champions League football next season alive on Sunday. Dzeko set up Florenzi for the first after 79 minutes in the Stadio Olimpico with the Bosnian then slotting in the second two minutes into injury time as Juventus fell to just their third defeat this season.

The defeat came on the day that Juventus displayed their new strip which no longer features the club's iconic black and white stripes in a breakaway from over a century of tradition. Massimiliano Allegri's side have not won a match since sealing an eighth consecutive Scudetto, being held to 1-1 draws in their last two games against Inter Milan and Torino.

Roma needed a win after their Champions League rivals Atalanta, AC Milan, Torino and Lazio all won their games this weekend. Juventus and Napoli have already booked their berths in next season's elite European berths with two places remaining.

Atalanta beat Genoa 2-1 on Saturday to move third two points ahead of Inter Milan, who play bottom club Chievo. AC Milan also won 1-0 against Fiorentina 1-0, and are one point behind Inter in fifth, with Roma equal on points with Milan, with two games left to play.

“A great (goalkeeper Antonio) Mirante kept us up in the first half but I am satisfied with the game,” said Roma coach Claudio Ranieri. “We must continue to believe in it. Even if not everything depends on us, we must reach the end with a clear conscience.”

Playing in their new jerseys, Juventus with nothing left to play for, and with growing speculation over Allegri's future, failed to take advantage of their first half domination. Mirante pulled off towering saves, denying Juan Cuadrado and Paulo Dybala.

After the break Cristiano Ronaldo had the ball in the back of the net after 64 minutes but was ruled offside. But Roma captain Florenzi, perhaps annoyed by Ronaldo who had just made fun of his size, turned things around when he picked up a Dzeko cross to break the deadlock.

Dzeko added the second in injury time as Roma join AC



**ROME:** Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo runs with the ball during the Italian Serie A football match between AS Roma and Juventus Turin at the Olympic stadium in Rome. — AFP

Milan on 62 points, with Torino, now two points behind, dropping out of the European places into seventh.

Torino captain Andrea Belotti scored a brace including the winner with a spectacular overhead kick in a come from behind 3-2 win over ten-man Sassuolo. Belotti missed a penalty after 17 minutes in Turin but made up with two second-half goals.

“We knew very well how important it was to win today,” said Belotti. “We have to fly low, there are still two games left and we have to win them.” Mehdi Bourabia put Sassuolo ahead after 27 minutes, but the visitors played a man down for most of the game as the Moroccan midfielder was sent off for a second yellow card after celebrating by pulling his jersey over his head.

Belotti almost scored after the break but Sassuolo goalkeeper Andrea Consigli denied his overhead kick. The Torino captain grabbed the equaliser on 56 minutes, but Sassuolo charged back with Jeremie Boga racing down the

flank to force a Salvatore Sirigu save, only for Pol Lirola to turn in the rebound with a back-heel flick.

Simone Zaza pulled Torino back into the game on 81 minutes with Belotti sealing victory with another overhead kick which this time found the back of the net a minute later for his eighth goal in the last ten league games, to bring his tally to 15.

The three points could also be vital for Torino's Europa League hopes, with their final two games against struggling Empoli and Lazio. Sassuolo are sitting in tenth position. Empoli kept their hopes of Serie A survival alive with a 2-1 win at Sampdoria.

Fabio Quagliarella pulled a goal back for Sampdoria converting a penalty in injury time to take his Serie A leading tally to 26 goals-five more than Juventus star Ronaldo. Napoli beat SPAL 2-1 in a game with nothing to play for as Carlo Ancelotti's side are already assured of second place and SPAL have staved off relegation. — AFP

1 win at Burnley on the last day of the season. The Gabon forward's goals meant he finished with 22 in the league-the same number as Mane and Salah.

### SPAIN KARL TOKO EKAMBI (Villarreal)

Ekambi scored his 18th goal of the season to fire Villarreal to a 1-0 win over Eibar in La Liga. The Cameroonian forward struck the winner in the 59th minute for his sixth goal in nine matches. Villarreal's victory leaves them 14th in the table ahead of their last game of the season away to Getafe next weekend.

### DJENE DAKONAM (Getafe)

Getafe's Dakonam scored an own-goal in a 2-0 defeat to Barcelona. The Togolese poked into his own net as Lionel Messi looked to pounce on a one-two with Sergi Roberto at Camp Nou. Arturo Vidal had already put Barca ahead as Getafe slipped out of the top four, with a final game at home to Villarreal to come next weekend.

### ITALY MUSA BARROW (Atalanta)

Gambian international Barrow broke through immediately after being introduced as a substitute at the break. His first goal this season in a 2-1 win over Genoa put Atalanta third in Serie A and close to a first Champions League qualification.

### MEHDI BOURABIA (Sassuolo)

Moroccan midfielder Bourabia put Sassuolo ahead after 27 minutes against Torino but was sent off immediately after for a second yellow card after celebrating by pulling his jersey over his head, as his side fell to a 3-2 defeat.

### GERMANY ANTHONY UJAH (Mainz)

The Nigerian scored twice in four minutes soon

after half-time to give Mainz a 2-0 Bundesliga win at Eintracht Frankfurt, who were beaten on penalties by Chelsea in a Europa League semi-final last Thursday. It was a surprise result as Frankfurt are six places above Mainz and the loss completed a disastrous eight days for Eintracht after a 6-1 drubbing at Bayer Leverkusen last weekend.

### IHLAS BEBOU (Hanover)

Togolese striker Bebou found the net for Hanover against Freiburg, but even a 3-0 win was not enough to save his side from relegation. Bebou prodded the ball in from close range to score Hanover's second as they picked up only a fifth win of the season.

### SALOMON KALOU (Hertha Berlin)

Ivorian veteran Kalou scored an injury-time penalty to snatch a late 4-3 victory for Hertha in an entertaining dead-rubber in Augsburg. Hertha went behind three times, but Kalou equalised after 75 minutes before completing his brace from 12 yards with the last kick of the game.

### CHADRAC AKOLO (Stuttgart)

Democratic Republic of Congo international Akolo made his first appearance since February as Stuttgart secured the relegation play-off place with a 3-0 win over Wolfsburg. The midfielder fell out of favour under former coach Markus Weinzierl, but interim boss Nico Willig welcomed Akolo back into the fold on Saturday.

### AMADOU HAIDARA (RB Leipzig)

The Mali international came off the bench as Leipzig spoiled Bayern Munich's title party with a 0-0 draw. Bayern missed the chance to wrap up a seventh consecutive title as Borussia Dortmund clawed back two points with a win over Fortuna Dusseldorf to send the title race to the wire. — AFP

## Liverpool seek ‘perfection’ in bid to dethrone Pep's City

**LONDON:** “If you are second you are nothing,” said former Liverpool manager Bill Shankly. But rarely can a runner-up have been more proud of falling just short than Liverpool in the Premier League this season. Shankly won three league titles on Merseyside in the pre-Premier League era and built the foundations for two decades of dominance that endured even after he departed. Yet even he could not conceive of amassing 97 points in a league season, let alone that mark only being good enough for second place.

Liverpool's points tally was not just a club record, but the third-highest in Premier League history, behind only Manchester City's 98 this season and City's haul of 100 points in romping to the title last year.

Unfortunately for Jurgen Klopp's men, it will be Pep Guardiola's champions they have to beat again to end a 30-year wait for a league title next season. “As long as City are around, with the quality they have, the financial power and all that stuff, it's not that any other team will pass them easily,” said Klopp, whose side lost only one league game all season, to City in January, and still missed out.

“You need to be very, very close to perfection to win the Premier League as long as this is the case.” City's wealth in the decade since the club was bought by Sheikh Mansour, a member of Abu Dhabi's royal family, has transformed the blue half of Manchester into serial winners.

Sunday's title triumph was their fourth in the past eight seasons, but City have not always made the most of their new-found wealth, drifting under Roberto Mancini and Manuel Pellegrini after previous title triumphs.

Guardiola is the point of difference. The Catalan has now won the league in eight of his 10 seasons as a top-flight coach in three different countries with Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City.

Worryingly for the competition, Guardiola insisted City will only get stronger next season. But the notoriously intense Catalan also has a history of not over-staying his welcome. Next season will be his fourth in Manchester, matching his longest managerial stint so far at Barca, after which he required a year's sabbatical, citing exhaustion.

“I cannot deny I am so tired, but at the same time winning the title gives you a lot of energy,” said Guardiola on Sunday. “Winning is so addictive.” Liverpool's fate in the coming years may ultimately depend on how long the drug of winning sustains Guardiola at the Etihad.

There will also be a fear on Merseyside that Liverpool have come close before, most notably under Rafael Benitez a decade ago and Brendan Rodgers in 2013/14 and failed to take the next step a season later.

The stars may not align the same way next season. Huge goalkeeping errors from Everton's Jordan Pickford and Tottenham's Hugo Lloris kept Liverpool on City's coattails with late winners.

City may have sped away into the distance had Riyad Mahrez not blasted a late penalty over the bar when the sides met at Anfield in a 0-0 draw in October, while the champions suffered shock defeats in December to Crystal Palace and Leicester thanks to wonder strikes from Andros Townsend and Ricardo Pereira.

However, unlike previous near misses when Xabi Alonso and Luis Suarez soon departed for Spain, this Liverpool side look built for the long term. Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane, Virgil van Dijk and Alisson Becker have been tied down to long-term contracts.

Flying full-backs Andy Robertson, 25, and Trent Alexander-Arnold, 20, should only get better with age. Big summer signings Fabinho and Naby Keita grew as the campaign went on and should kick on in their second season in the Premier League. — AFP

## Mahrez stars for champions City

**PARIS:** Algeria winger and 2016 African Footballer of the Year Riyad Mahrez created the second goal and scored the third for Manchester City as they won a second successive Premier League title.

He was the stand-out African in Europe at the weekend as star-stacked City triumphed 4-1 at lowly Brighton to pip Liverpool by one point after a thrilling race. A Mahrez corner allowed Aymeric Laporte to nod City into a 2-1 first-half lead and the north African struck the third goal on 63 minutes to put his side firmly on the path to glory.

### ENGLAND RIYAD MAHREZ (Manchester City)

City dominated the second half at Brighton and with 63 minutes gone the 28-year-old Algerian cut in from the wing and unleashed a right-foot shot that gave his club a 3-1 advantage. France-born Mahrez has two Premier League winners medals having been part of the Leicester City side that sensationally became champions three years ago.

### SADIO MANE (Liverpool)

Senegalese Mane scored twice in Liverpool's 2-0 win against Wolves to earn a share of the Premier League's Golden Boot award. The Senegal forward, 27, ended the season with 22 league goals, level with teammate and last year's winner Mohamed Salah of Egypt as Liverpool finished on 97 points, one behind Manchester City.

### PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Arsenal)

Arsenal forward Aubameyang grabbed a share of the Premier League Golden Boot award with two goals in a 3-



**25** Kang captures first US PGA Tour title at Byron Nelson



**26** Serena eases to victory in Rome



**27** Guardiola hailed as 'obsessive' genius behind City winning machine



TORONTO: Serge Ibaka #9 of the Toronto Raptors and Jimmy Butler #23 of the Philadelphia 76ers battle for a rebound during Game Seven of the second round of the 2019 NBA Playoffs at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, Canada. — AFP

## Raptors advance on Leonard's wild shot

### Seventh and deciding game of Eastern Conference semifinal

**TORONTO:** Kawhi Leonard hit a buzzer-beating jump shot that bounced up and around the rim before finally dropping through the net, and the Toronto Raptors defeated the visiting Philadelphia 76ers 92-90 on Sunday night in the seventh and deciding game of their Eastern Conference semifinal. "It was short, then it was long, then it was in," Toronto's Marc Gasol said of the shot.

"It was like a movie moment," added Fred VanVleet. Leonard finished with 41 points and eight rebounds, and the winning shot came after Jimmy Butler tied the game on a layup with 4.2 seconds remaining.

Teammates swarmed Leonard along the baseline after his fall-away shot from the right corner. He let out a scream as fans danced in the stands. "Pretty much I'm a

guy that acts like I've been there before. So probably the last time you've seen me scream was when we won (the NBA title with San Antonio in 2014)," Leonard said.

"Whenever it's a moment that I haven't really experienced, I'll try to show some emotion and let it come out. Tonight was one of those nights. It was a great feeling." Toronto advanced to face the Milwaukee Bucks in the conference final. The Raptors are seeking their first NBA Finals appearance in franchise history.

"That was just a great shot," Toronto's Pascal Siakam said of the game-winner. "I don't know what to say. Watching it, it was amazing. It looked good and then it hit the rim. ... Shout-out to Philly. They played a great series." The 76ers' Joel Embiid was emotional

after the loss. "I felt like we had a chance," he said. "A lot of things go through your mind and it just sucks." Leonard hit a 24-foot jumper with 1:42 to play to give Toronto an 87-85 lead. The Raptors led by four with 1:14 to play on a steal by Kyle Lowry, who set up Siakam for the layup.

Butler made 1 of 2 free throws, cutting the lead to three. With 12.1 seconds to play, Embiid made two free throws to trim the lead to one. Leonard made 1 of 2 free throws with 10.8 seconds remaining, and Butler tied the score at 90 on his layup.

Serge Ibaka provided 17 points and eight rebounds for the Raptors. Siakam had 11 points and 11 rebounds. Lowry, who had an injured thumb taped in the first half,

had 10 points, and Gasol added seven points and 11 rebounds.

Embiid had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the 76ers. JJ Redick scored 17 points, Butler added 16, Tobias Harris scored 15 and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Ben Simmons finished with 13 points.

After the Raptors took a five-point lead early in the fourth quarter on Ibaka's 3-pointer, Embiid's 3-pointer put the 76ers ahead by one point with 7:37 left.

The Raptors took a five-point lead on Leonard's floating jumper and a free throw with 4:48 to go but Redick nailed a jumper and hit the free throw to tie the game at 85 with 3:29 remaining. The Raptors led 18-13 after one quarter and 44-40 at halftime. — Reuters

## Hughton sacked as Brighton manager

**LONDON:** Chris Hughton was sacked as manager of Brighton and Hove Albion after four-and-a-half years at the helm, the Premier League club said in a statement yesterday.

Hughton led Brighton into the top flight in 2017, ending a 34-year absence, and they have just survived their second season despite failing to win any of their last nine games.

"Undoubtedly, this has been one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as chairman of Brighton and Hove Albion, but ultimately one I have made due to how we struggled in the second half of the season," chairman Tony Bloom said.

"Chris has done an excellent job, first stabilising our club, reaching the play-offs in his first full season, securing our first ever promotion to the Premier League, and retaining our status in successive seasons."

Hughton's final game in charge was Sunday's 4-1 home defeat by title-winning Manchester City.

Brighton, who reached this season's FA Cup semi-final, ended two points above the relegation zone with 36 points.

"Our run of three wins from 23 Premier League matches put our status at significant risk," Bloom added.

"It is with that in mind, and the performances during that period, that I now feel it's the right time for a change."

Hughton is the seventh Premier League manager to lose his job this season. The club also confirmed that his assistant Paul Trollope and first-team coach Paul Nevin had also left.

Former Ireland international fullback Hughton, who enjoyed a long playing career with Tottenham Hotspur, joined Brighton in December 2014 with the team struggling near the bottom of the second-tier Championship.

The following season he took them into the promotion playoffs and a year later they were promoted automatically as runner-up behind Newcastle United, the club he once managed.

Brighton finished a creditable 15th last season but have laboured in their second campaign, struggling to score goals. — Reuters



BRIGHTON: Brighton's Irish manager Chris Hughton (R) greets Manchester City's Spanish assistant manager Mikel Arteta (L) during the English Premier League football match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Manchester City at the American Express Community Stadium in Brighton, on Sunday. — AFP