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Ramadan KAREEM

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|--------|-------|
| IMSAK  | 03:12 |
| Fajr   | 03:22 |
| Dhur   | 11:44 |
| Asr    | 15:20 |
| Magrib | 18:36 |
| Isha   | 20:05 |

# Katyusha rocket crashes into Green Zone, near US Embassy

If Tehran attacks, it will be ‘official end of Iran,’ Trump warns

## Amir receives King of Jordan



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received King of Jordan Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein, Jordanian Crown

Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdullah and their accompanying delegation at Dasman Palace. During the reception, the Jordanian guests congratulated His Highness the Amir on the holy month of Ramadan.

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BAGHDAD: A rocket was fired into the Iraqi capital Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses government buildings and diplomatic missions, on Sunday night, falling near the US Embassy but causing no casualties, the Iraqi military said. The attack came two weeks after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned Iraqi leaders during a surprise visit to Baghdad that if they failed to keep in check Iran-backed militias, which are expanding their power in Iraq and now form part of its security apparatus, the United States would respond with force.

His visit came after US intelligence showed Iran-backed Shiite militias positioning rockets near bases housing US forces, according to two Iraqi security sources. A US State Department official noted that there had so far been no claim of responsibility, and that no US-inhabited facility was impacted. “But, we take this incident very seriously,” the official said. “We will hold Iran responsible if any such attacks are conducted by its proxy militia forces or elements of such forces, and will respond to Iran accordingly.”

The Iraq military said the Katyusha rocket fell in the middle of the Green Zone, near the Monument of the Unknown Soldier. The monument lies in open ground about half a kilometer north of the sprawling, riverside US Embassy compound. The blast was heard



BAGHDAD: The US embassy compound is pictured in Baghdad's Green Zone yesterday in the Iraqi capital. A Katyusha rocket crashed into Baghdad's Green Zone which houses government offices and embassies including the US mission, Iraqi security services said in a statement. — AFP

across central Baghdad, according to Reuters witnesses and residents.

The embassy in Baghdad and US consulate in the Iraqi Kurdish regional capital Erbil has already evacuated non-emergency staff, out of apparent concern about perceived threats from Iran. Iran's Iraqi allies rushed to condemn the attack and stressed that a war between Tehran and

Washington would be bad for Baghdad and the whole region.

Militia leader and politician Hadi Al-Ameri, whose electoral block holds the second largest number of seats in Iraqi's parliament, urged Iraqis in a statement overnight “not to be the fire that fuels this war” that would “burn everyone”.

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Ramadan Kareem

## Prayer and Ramadan

By Dr Teresa Leshner

Another Ramadan has arrived and almost two billion Muslims around the world abstain from food and drink from dawn until dusk for an entire month. While this is one of the main deeds that characterize Islam, there is one that is superior to the month-long fast: it is the habitual daily prayer.

The daily prayer is the most significant act of a believer since, according to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), it is the deed most loved by God and “Between man and non-belief is the abandonment of prayer.” Prayer is an exercise that increases one's self-discipline and strengthens one's faith by training him to look beyond the illusive qualities of life on earth. There is a specific sequence and method for the ritual prayer in Islam, which is preceded with ablutions.

Just as one would groom himself before meeting an important friend, ablutions prepare the Muslim physically and mentally for his encounter with God. Every prayer starts with the first chapter from the Holy Quran, which constitutes what could be called “the Lord's Prayer” in Islam. Bowing and prostration are also essential parts of the ritual prayer, and these postures are reserved for no other being but God as a tribute to His supremacy, power and majesty.

After invoking blessings on God's righteous servants, especially Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Prophet Abraham (PBUH), the prayer ends with a greeting of peace. Habitual daily prayers nourish the soul, strengthen the will and revitalize the spirit. They are the mainstay of the Muslim's faith. In addition to the ritual prayer, the Muslims engage often in remembrance of God and supplication, which differs from ritual prayer in that it can be offered at any time and in any form.

It is a spontaneous prayer from the heart of a believer at any moment during his life - in times of need, in moments of joy, during reflection or strenuous effort. It is informal communication with God, a “spiritual snack” between the ritual prayers. In addition to the five daily prayers, there are optional prayers at night, which can be performed in congregation or in solitude. Called taraweeh prayers during Ramadan, they begin daily about two hours after sunset.

In addition, qiyam-ul-layl is prayer that is performed particularly during the last one-third of the night. These night prayers become especially important during the last ten nights of the month as Muslims anticipate Lailat-ul-Qadr, or the “Night of Destiny.” It is said to be worth a thousand months in merit (Quran 97:1-5). It is on the Night of Destiny that the Quran was first revealed.

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## Qatar ‘not invited’ to emergency Arab summits in Saudi

DUBAI: Qatar has not been invited to two regional summits called to discuss attacks on Saudi oil assets, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday. Saudi King Salman on Saturday proposed holding the two meetings in Makkah on May 30 to discuss implications of last week's drone strikes on oil installations in the kingdom and attacks on four vessels, including two Saudi oil

## Houthis deny targeting Islam holiest site

DUBAI: Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement denied Saudi media reports yesterday that it had fired a ballistic missile towards Makkah, Islam's holiest site, at a time of heightened tensions between Tehran and Gulf Arab states allied to Washington. “The Saudi regime is trying, through these allegations, to rally support for its brutal aggression against our great Yemeni people,” Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said on Facebook.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are leading a Western-backed coalition of Sunni Muslim states that intervened in Yemen in 2015 to try to restore the internationally recognized government ousted from power in Sanaa by the Houthis in late 2014. Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV, citing eyewitnesses, reported that Saudi air defense forces intercepted two ballistic missiles above the western cities of Taif and Jeddah. The first

## Google, Android cut Huawei ties

LONDON: Huawei will support its smartphones and tablets by providing security updates and services, it said, after Google barred it from updates to the Android operating system. But the Chinese technology firm did not say yesterday what would happen with phones it sells in the future, which are unlikely to have access to Google's popular services, including Gmail, YouTube and maps unless a special license is obtained.

Huawei's devices in its home market use a custom operating system based on open source Android but do not include access to any Google services, which are banned in China. But Google's curbs will hugely damage Huawei's global appeal. “Huawei will continue to provide security updates and after-sales services to all existing Huawei and Honor smartphone and tablet products, covering those that have been sold and that are still in stock globally,” a Huawei spokesman said by email.

“We will continue to build a safe and sustainable

tankers, off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt have imposed an economic and diplomatic boycott on Qatar since June 2017 over allegations that Doha supports terrorism and is cosying up to regional foe Iran. Qatar denies the charges. “Qatar, which is still isolated from its neighbors, did not receive an invitation to attend the two summits,” the director of the Foreign Ministry Information Office said on Twitter, citing State Minister for Foreign Affairs Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi. The Saudi Foreign Ministry and government communications office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Saudi Arabia has accused Iran of ordering the drone strikes and said while it did not want war to break out in the region, it was ready to respond strongly. The UAE has

one had been directed towards Makkah, it said, without giving evidence.

A spokesman for the Saudi-led military coalition fighting in Yemen did not immediately respond to a request for comment. More than two million Muslims from around the world make the annual haj pilgrimage to Makkah. Many also visit the city during the holy month of Ramadan, which is currently underway. Riyadh has accused Iran of ordering last week's drone strikes on two oil pumping stations in the kingdom, for which the Houthis claimed responsibility. Tehran denied doing so.

Washington and Tehran have been sparring over sanctions and the US military presence in the region, raising concerns about a potential conflict between the United States and Iran. On Sunday, the Houthi-run SABA news agency said the group would start military operations against 300 vital military targets, including headquarters and facilities, in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and coalition targets inside Yemen.

Continued on Page 24



BEIJING: A Huawei logo is displayed at a retail store in Beijing. US internet giant Google said it was beginning to cut ties with China's Huawei, which Washington considers a national security threat. — AFP

software ecosystem,” Huawei, which aspires to leapfrog Samsung to be the world's biggest smartphone maker, said. “As one of Android's key global partners, we have worked closely with their open-source

Continued on Page 24

not blamed anyone for the sabotage acts against the tankers pending an investigation and said it was committed to de-escalation. Iran has denied it carried out either attack. The UAE on Sunday said that the current “critical circumstances” in the region required a “unified Arab and Gulf stance”.

Meanwhile, Kuwait yesterday welcomed a call by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for holding an urgent Arab summit in Makkah. Kuwait's permanent representative mission at the Arab League said Kuwait supports this urgent summit in Makkah. The Saudi King Salman had invited Gulf and Arab leaders to two emergency summits in Makkah on May 30 to discuss the repercussions of recent attacks on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). — Agencies

## Gulf countries strengthen oil coordination

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister said countries in the Gulf have strengthened coordination to provide oil to global markets amid increased regional tensions. “It is normal amid this escalation that Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries take these steps,” Khalid Al-Jarallah told reporters late Sunday on the sidelines of a Ramadan sit-down organized by the Iraqi embassy.

“There is cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the Gulf countries to provide guarantees for oil tankers and continuous supply of energy to global markets,” Jarallah's comments come days after sabotage attacks against tankers in highly sensitive Gulf waters and the bombing of a Saudi pipeline—the latter claimed by Iran-aligned Yemeni rebels. Both attacks targeted routes built as alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz, the conduit for almost all Gulf exports.

The US Fifth Fleet headquartered in Bahrain said the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council began “enhanced security patrols” Saturday in international waters, in “tight coordination with the US navy”. Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the strait in case of war with the United States, which earlier this month announced it was sending an aircraft carrier and strike group to the region. Kuwait's deputy foreign minister said “tension was escalating quickly” but he remained hopeful.

He added Kuwait was in “constant contact” with its ally, the US. On Saturday, OPEC giant Saudi Arabia called for urgent meetings of the GCC and the Arab League to discuss recent “aggressions and their consequences” in the region. The two summits are scheduled to be held in Makkah on May 30. Jarallah welcomed the kingdom's invitation, saying Kuwait was keen to take part in discussions on issues “potentially dangerous” to the region.

Oil supplies were sufficient and stockpiles were still rising despite massive output drops from Iran and Venezuela, said OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia and key producer UAE on Sunday, as oil exporters met in Jeddah. Producer nations discussed how to stabilize a volatile oil market amid rising US-Iran tensions in the Gulf, which threaten to disrupt global supply. — Agencies



## Local

# Preliminary tests show Filipina housemaid died of natural causes, investigations continue

## Interior Ministry suspends vehicle impoundment until further notice

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Following up the recent death of a Filipina housemaid in Kuwait and claims by the Philippine government that she had been sexually abused and murdered, Kuwaiti security sources stressed that initial examination of the deceased's body showed that she died of natural causes and that there was no evidence of a crime. The latest developments in this regard came as statements were released by the Philippines presidential palace yesterday that it is reviewing the agreement signed with Kuwait over the rights of Filipinos working in the state.

In this regard, the Manila Bulletin and Inquirer newspapers said Malacanang announced the need to review the agreement signed with Kuwait after the death of the housemaid Constancia Lago Dayag, adding that the president's official spokesperson said

any measures would be withheld pending recommendations from the labor minister after what it deemed as violations of the agreement.

Notably, despite Kuwaiti reports, the Philippine media insists that the 47-year-old maid was sexually assaulted and murdered, with bruises found on her body, which was denied by Kuwaiti security authorities who stressed that the maid had been in good terms with her sponsor's family. They added that by reviewing recent calls on her mobile phone, it was found she had relationships with some Pakistani friends.

### No impoundment

The Interior Ministry's assistant undersecretary for traffic and operations affairs Maj Gen Jamal Al-Sayegh issued a resolution suspending the impoundment of violating vehicles and only imposing traffic fines till further notice. Security sources said this is a

temporary measure meant to reduce pressure on the ministry's impoundment garages.

### Heritage village

Well-informed sources said the state property department at the finance ministry requested evicting the heritage village project on Abdullah Al-Ahmad Street, adding that the ministry had not yet provided the municipality with a copy of the eviction warrant.

### Shuaiba Port

The Kuwaiti Ports Authority announced that the State Audit Bureau has approved its contract with international consultant CH2M to design and supervise the project of expanding Shuaiba Port. Acting assistant undersecretary for marine operations at Shuaiba Port Essa Al-Mulla said the project is part of the 2035 vision, adding that the project involves

building new docks to boost the port's capacity in terms of vessel sizes and lengths.

### Fourth structural plan

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) recently made special remarks about Kuwait Municipality's report on the fourth structural plan project (2040), said informed sources. The sources added the report stressed that other sectors had to be involved to obtain more revenues for the state budget, without defining these sectors. The report also included remarks concerning Kuwait metropolitan area, namely in the south, distributing employees according to their residences, sluggish economic growth due to delay in attracting direct foreign investments, climate change, pollution levels, obstacles hindering development plans and land plots given up by KPC to be used for other projects.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. — KUNA

## Municipality crackdown on Farwaniya 'bachelors'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya municipality's inspection teams inspected 'bachelor' residences in Khaitan, Omariya and Rabiya, where they filed 59 warning notices to landlords and responded to four complaints concerning letting houses to bachelors.

In other news, the Ahmadi committee at the Municipal Council yesterday approved a request by the awqaf ministry to remove the parking of a mosque in block 2 in Wafra. Meanwhile, it postponed reviewing another request made by the Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company to provide two plots in Wafra and Abdaly to sell fodder.



## Kuwaiti Deputy FM meets US Ambassador

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman yesterday. They tackled during the meeting relations between Kuwait and the US and the latest regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Assistant Foreign Minister for Americas Minister Plenipotentiary Reem Al-Khaled. — KUNA

## Two Kuwaiti students in Jordan die in car accident

**KUWAIT:** Two Kuwaitis studying in Jordan have died in a car accident, Education Minister and Minister of Higher Education Hamed Al-Azmi said yesterday. The minister expressed his deep sorrow and condolences to the family of the deceased,

Abdullah Haidar and Adnan Al-Shouli. Kuwait's cultural attache in Amman is cooperating with authorities to arrange the transfer of the late students, he said. Kuwaitis studying abroad were urged to exercise caution when driving. — KUNA



## KFSD attends UN disaster risk reduction conference

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Director General of Kuwait Fire Service (KFSD) Directorate Lieutenant General Khalid Al-Mikrad assigned an official delegation headed by Head of Planning and Information Department and Kuwait's National Liaison Officer at the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Lieutenant Colonel Mushari Al-Fares to

attend the Sixth UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by the Swiss government in Geneva in cooperation with the United Nations. Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim received Lieutenant Colonel Mushari Al-Fares and Captain Mohammad Al-Ajmi, who briefed the ambassador about discussions held at the forum.



**JEDDAH:** Oil Minister Khaled Al-Fadhel attends the 14th Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) Meeting of the OPEC and non-OPEC countries. — KUNA

## Kuwait committed to less oil output for global market balance

**JEDDAH:** Kuwait is committed to decreasing oil production as per a deal struck between global oil producers aimed at ensuring market balance, a minister said on Sunday. On the sidelines of a meeting in Jeddah amongst member nations of global production cartel, OPEC, and non-OPEC nations, Oil Minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Khaled Al-Fadhel said commitment to the deal was "very big." He praised this commitment, saying the ministerial talks were aimed at ensuring a semi-fixed price beneficial to both producer and consumer. The talks, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and Russia, were also attended by Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Oman, Bahrain, Venezuela, Libya, South Sudan, Azerbaijan and Brunei. They come ahead of OPEC talks scheduled in June in Vienna.

Saudi Minister of Energy, Industry and

Mineral Resources Khaled Al-Faleh said the acts of sabotage and terrorism that targeted two Saudi vessels and two oil pumping stations last week have had no impacts on the global oil market. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has enjoyed sustained stability, was the victim of serious sabotage on two back-to-back occasions," he said in opening remarks to the 14th Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) Meeting of the OPEC and non-OPEC countries on Sunday.

"Although the recent acts of sabotage have not affected our supplies — we call on our colleagues, as well as global partners, to condemn such deplorable acts of violence," the Saudi minister said. "These acts threaten uninterrupted supplies of energy to the world and put a global economy that is already facing headwinds at further risk," Faleh stressed. Dealing with the global oil market outlook, he said,

"Although multilateral institutions have moderated their forecasts of world growth, the levels are still reasonably healthy with the US leading a steady performance while the Chinese economy started the year fairly strongly. But the growing trade dispute between the same two leading global economic powers (US and China) is casting a shadow over the global economic outlook."

This could also have a contagion effect on other nations, which could show in weakening oil demand, Faleh said. Urging the major oil producers to comply with their respective production quotas, the Saudi minister affirmed that the global oil market is well supplied and there is no need to increase production at present. "Our shared goal of market stability, which clearly benefits everyone including consumers, has made the Declaration of Cooperation credible, responsive, and highly effective," Faleh pointed out. — KUNA



## Local

# Health Ministry ready to face any emergency in the region

## Minister attends Kuwait Association of Surgeons' ghabqa



By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah said the ministry is ready to face any emergency that may occur in the region, adding that medicines and medical supply reserves are enough for six months. He said medicines protecting against radiation are available for citizens' and expats in case of war. The minister was speaking to journal-

ists during a ghabqa organized by the Kuwait Association of Surgeons on Sunday. He added that many medicines will arrive soon and the radiation prevention sector is ready.

Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah also said yesterday that the ministry's medicine stock is sufficient for six months, noting that the emergency plan prepared by the ministry has been put in place since last September. He also noted that the central emergency committee is in contact with the



ministry, and it will receive a new medicine shipment in the near future.

Sheikh Basel said the central emergencies committee is in constant contact with all ministry facilities, and meets once a month to follow up on the plan, while subcommittees meet six times a month. "The ministry is ready, although we do not wish for war. We wish peace and security prevail in our beloved country and the rest of the region," Sheikh

Basel said.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Kuwait Association of Surgeons Dr Salman Al-Sabah said the association is interested in training surgeons and sending them on international training courses, besides caring for the nursing teams and organizing training courses to hone their skills. He said the society is also interested in voluntary health work by holding training courses on health services.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Association of Surgeons hosted a ghabqa on Sunday at the Four Seasons Hotel. Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah, Kuwait Association of Surgeons Chairman Sheikh Dr Salman Al-Sabah and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



## KIB celebrates girgian with children at Amiri Hospital

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Bank (KIB) organized a special girgian celebration for children at Amiri Hospital. As part of its social responsibility program taking place throughout the month of Ramadan, the bank distributed girgian giveaways amongst children, thereby spreading happiness and putting smiles on their faces.

On this occasion, Senior Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, lauded the efforts made by volunteer group 'KIB Heroes' that were responsible for organizing the event. During which, the volunteer group also engaged in friendly conversation and fun activities with children, as well as distributed a number of gifts and girgian sweets amongst them.

Najia also added that this initiative came as part of KIB's strong commitment to taking part in traditional events with children during Ramadan, particularly children who are sick. The Bank is particularly adamant on spreading happiness and bringing hope to their hearts to help speed up their recovery. Accordingly, each year during Ramadan, KIB celebrates the joy of girgian with sick children and their families.

As part of its leading social responsibility program which aims at positively impacting diverse segments of the local community, KIB always strives to organize a number of visits to community centers and hospitals across the country.



## Kuwait keen on partaking in WHO General Assembly

**GENEVA:** Kuwait's participation in the World Health Organization's (WHO) General Assembly gains momentum on an annual basis, said a Kuwaiti senior diplomat yesterday. On the sidelines of the opening ceremony for the WHO General Assembly held on May 20-28, Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim said that the relation between Kuwait and the specialized UN organization was of humanitarian and strategic natures. He added that Kuwait was keen on funding many of WHO's health programs around the world, noting that his country was the sole Arab member in the organization's emergency fund.

The State of Kuwait is amongst the chief supporters of WHO's campaigns in the Middle East namely the ones championing the vaccinations of children in war-torn countries such as Syria and Yemen, said Ambassador Ghunaim. He indicated that his country was also strongly backing the international organization's efforts to combat Ebola in West Africa and other disaster-stricken areas. The Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that Kuwait's leadership was also keen on cooperating with WHO, revealing that His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's award for elderly healthcare will be handed on the sidelines of the organization's General Assembly.

Kuwaiti Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Humoud Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who is heading his country's delegation to the General Assembly, will be handing in the award during a ceremony to be attended by top WHO officials and international figures. Ambassador Al-Ghunaim said that General Assembly this year will touch on efforts to combat non-communicable diseases such as obesity, cancer, diabetes, heart diseases amongst others. —KUNA



## Local



# AUB holds Ramadan ghabqa for its employees and their families



Tareq Muhmood and some AUB senior management welcome the employees.



AUB employees' children at the ghabqa.

**KUWAIT:** In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan and a Kuwaiti tradition, Ahli United Bank (AUB) held a ghabqa for its employees and their families at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait on Sunday, May 19, 2019 in presence of the Acting CEO, Tareq Muhmood, the executive management and a large crowd of the bank employees and their families. The ghabqa featured a family feel, atmosphere of joy and pleasure.

The ghabqa was well organize and included many competitions and pleasant surprises where gifts were distributed to employees and their families. The girgian (distribution of confectioneries) celebration designated to the employees' children added a joyous festival atmosphere to the ghabqa.

Tareq Muhmood expressed his pleasure with this family gathering of the bank staff, stressing that the friendly atmosphere of cooperation and team spirit plays a key role in achieving the desired goals, adding that the holy month of Ramadan is an opportunity to meet and celebrate together.



Naqeeb Amin delivers a speech.

er. As for the family of Ahli United Bank, Ramadan is an ideal opportunity to demonstrate our appreciation and respect for each other and a good chance to meet our families and enjoy beautiful times together, emphasizing that this ghabqa is one of a series of events rolled out by the

bank during the holy month of Ramadan for its employees and the community in general. This year program includes organizing a seminar for the bank employees on how to spiritually prepare to receive this blessed month and to boost obedience and worship. The bank also distributed gifts to the employees, held a daily religious competition as well as the Holy Quran competition organized by the bank for its employees and the youth in general, distributed foodstuff boxes to the families in need and celebrated the girgian with sick children in hospitals.

Commenting on this event, Naqeeb Amin, HR General Manager at AUB said "This ghabqa is a revival of a well rooted tradition aimed at bringing together our employees and their families in this holy month." These religious and national celebrations are an opportunity to reflect the concept of the one family among the bank employees, to foster the spirit of understanding and communication, and to strengthen human and social relations among colleagues.



A competition in progress.

Mariam Al-Mudhaf, HR Assistant General Manager said "Through this distinctive Ramadan gathering, we aim to instill the virtues of good and giving among AUB

staff. This Ramadan ghabqa is good occasion that is part of AUB community responsibility and reflects its standing commitment to caring for its human resources."

## Amazing Shami Ramadan vibes at Palms Beach Hotel and Spa ghabqa



**KUWAIT:** The Palms Beach Hotel and Spa held its annual Ghabqa gathering for the local media who experienced the wonderful mystical Shami vibes. The event was attended by the Hotel's General Manager, Rabih Al-Atrash, management members as well as a number of journalists, photographers, bloggers and social media influencers.

On this occasion, Atrash, along with the Hotel staff welcomed all guests and invited them to enjoy the one-of-a-kind Shami night. Atrash praised the long mutual relationship between the hotel and the media, during which they showed constant support and commitment to the hotel's various activities and events.

All attendees cherished the Palms Shami nights and its



exceptional panoramic view and prime location on the Arabian Gulf, as they lived one of the most luxurious Ramadan experience ever. Thanks to the amazing location, Shami decor and the lavish buffet that included a variety of scrumptious cuisine and desserts, in addition to the traditional Ramadan drinks. The fusion buffet also catered live cooking corners to serve mouthwatering

culinary delights, assorted grills and pasta that are prepared by expert chefs. Moreover, attendees enjoyed the live music and Shami traditional shisha making. Palm's ghabqa a night to remember. Moreover, media delegates expressed their gratitude for the warm reception and wonderful gathering, and mainly for the hotel's continuous efforts to strengthen the bonds with the local media.





Local



# Zain's management shares iftar meal with Contact Center agents

In recognition of their efforts during the holy month of Ramadan



Eaman Al-Roudhan with Zain's executive management and Contact Center agents.



Eaman Al-Roudhan with Customer Care Division executives.

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced that the company's executive management shared the Ramadan iftar meal with Contact Center (107) agents in recognition of their efforts during the holy month of Ramadan. The event witnessed the attendance of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan along with Chiefs and Directors from across the company's divisions.

This annual initiative comes under the umbrella of Zain's strategy to recognize and highlight the tireless efforts and hard work of its contact center agents, especially those who work around the clock all week long to provide the highest standards of customer serv-

ice to Kuwait's largest family of subscribers.

Zain's executive management, headed by Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan, was extremely keen on being present in the Contact Center's operations hall with the employees to share the blessings of the holy month of Ramadan with them. The company's Chiefs and Directors were keen on motivating the agents to highlight the most outstanding efforts that contribute to the excellent service quality Zain customers enjoy today.

Through such initiatives, Zain aims to encourage its employees to give their best by uplifting their spirits during the working hours of the holy month of

Ramadan. The company believes that such recognition strengthens the workflow mechanism within its workforces and ultimately results in providing better services to Zain customers.

Zain's executive management expressed their pride in the great role employees play in maintaining the leadership position the company enjoys in the Kuwaiti tech and telecom market. The company believes that Human Resources is considered the powerhouse of any organization's success, and providing an ideal work environment for employees is key to allowing them to discover new areas of creativity within themselves.

Zain stressed that it has always been keen to organ-

ize a number of social and humanitarian initiatives during Ramadan to support the various sectors of the Kuwaiti society, and the company is keen on reflecting the religious as well as traditional humanitarian values and principles to enrich the art of giving and to increase bonding between individuals.

The company further affirmed its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility campaign during the holy month of Ramadan, which includes an extensive array of programs that cover different areas. The initiatives and programs include humanitarian, voluntary, cultural, religious, sports, and recreational activities to cater to the different segments of society.

## NBK distributes airline tickets at its Iftar tent

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues to welcome fasting people at its iftar tent located at Ras Al-Salmiya, where the bank has recently organized a special event in cooperation with Kuwait Airways, including the distribution of airline tickets.

This collaborative effort is part of 'Do Good Deeds in Ramadan' program and in line with the strategic partnership between NBK and Kuwait Airways. A draw was held for guests to win 10 airline tickets. The event was attended by Mark Davies, Director Marketing at Kuwait Airways, and NBK Public Relations Team Leaders, Talal Al-Turki and Yaqoub Al-Baqer.

"This initiative reflects the social and charitable commitment of both organizations, especially in the holy month of Ramadan, where fasting people will be given the opportunity to travel to see their loved ones," NBK Public Relations Team Leaders, Talal Al-Turki said.

Turki highlighted the distinctive and deep partnership

between NBK and Kuwait Airways, confirming that it is not limited only to business affairs, but also extends to supporting humanitarian and charitable causes.

Turki said that the iftar tent is open every day throughout the holy month of Ramadan before iftar time and provides iftar meals for all fasting guests who visit the tent. Dedicated NBK employees have volunteered to supervise welcoming and serving the guests including the distribution of iftar meals inside the tent.

Turki stressed that NBK iftar tent is an integral part of the "Do Good Deeds In Ramadan" program, which also includes distributing meals to fasting people by visiting different locations, in addition to distributing iftar meals at mosques and hospitals. It is worth noting that NBK has introduced a new initiative at this year's iftar tent to reduce waste and encourage recycling in cooperation with Omnia Projects Management. By the end of the holy month, this initiative is expected to have recycled about 18,000 cardboard and plastic items. 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.



## Ramadan 'girgian' is my favorite

By Ben Garcia

Ramadan is a joyful time of year in the Muslim world as fasters gather at sundown to break their fast with family and friends. In Kuwait, there are many traditions and activities that take place every year. To commemorate Ramadan and the experiences of our readers, this year the Kuwait Times is asking readers what they love about Ramadan. What is your favorite food, activity, memory, event, or thing that you absolutely adore and look forward to each year? We want to know. Email [local@kuwaittimes](mailto:local@kuwaittimes) with your answer and it might end up in the newspaper.

"I like the second week of Ramadan the most, where the kids whom I babysit go around our neighborhood and sing

traditional girgian songs - it's like the treat or trick thing," said Grace Bicada, a domestic helper. "In the Philippines, we have the same culture of going house to house, singing Christmas carols and asking for gifts. We always prefer to get money. Here in Kuwait, if we go around, kids receive just candies, chocolates and nuts, and they are very happy - it's really amazing! It can relieve homesickness and stress. I really like it, and during Ramadan, this is the part I really want to go back to and relive. This is a busy time, and we stay awake till morning to make sure our bosses are satisfied with our work."



### Consumer Protection and Control Sector

Recall Product

Fluke SM100, SM200 and SM300

Electrical Socket Testers

Defect

Fluke Corporation and Fluke UK ("Fluke") has identified a safety concerning the Fluke SM100, SM200 and SM300 Electrical socket testers. Fluke has looked into the matter and identified that it appears all three models exceed acceptable limits for peak leakage current. On assessment, this has been deemed a moderate safety risk.

Procedure

Fluke has chosen voluntarily to recall the SM100, SM200, SM300 out of an abundance of caution. Although the risk presented is believed to be moderate and the number of product still is low use. Fluke considers customer safety to be of the utmost importance and wishes to take this action as a matter of absolute best practice.

Contact

Please contact

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This recall has been organized pursuant to Articles Nos (42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47) of Law no (27/2017) issuing the executive regulations of Law No. (39/2014) concerning consumer protection

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Rights groups seek probe into Kashmir torture

## High fives, selfies and snap election as Zelensky takes power

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MUMBAI: Indian men watch share prices on a digital broadcast outside the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) yesterday. —AFP

# Exit polls forecast Modi election victory

### India shares hit record high • Nerve-jangling three-day wait until official count

**NEW DELHI:** Indian shares hit a record high yesterday after exit polls from the country’s marathon election indicated a new term for Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While opposition parties refused to concede and the country faces a nerve-jangling three-day wait until the official count begins, most media polls said Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies would secure enough seats to form a new government after the world’s biggest election. The seven rounds of voting over six weeks ended on Sunday with about 65 per cent of the 900 eligible voters taking part, the election commission said.

India’s share and currency markets soared on the back of the polls. The Bombay Stock Exchange Sensex index had its biggest one-day gain in nearly six years - 3.75 percent - to close at a record high 39,352 points while the Indian rupee strengthened to 69.63 to the dollar from its Friday close of 70.22. Traders called the polls boost to Modi a vital sign of stability for one of the world’s fastest growing major economies. “This ends a significant political uncer-

tainity,” said Sujan Hajra, an economist at Anand Rathi securities in Mumbai.

Modi fought an acrimonious campaign framed around his tough national security stance rather than the economy. The opposition had attacked his handling of India’s finances particularly the withdrawal of most cash notes in 2016 and new taxes. The prime minister and other top BJP leaders made no immediate claim of victory. But party spokesman G V L Narasimha Rao said the polls “clearly show a huge positive vote for the leadership of Narendra Modi who has served the country with unmatched dedication”. “That people reward good performance has once again been proved by the overwhelming public mandate. This is a slap for the abusive opposition that made baseless charges and spoke lies,” he added.

Most polls predicted the BJP would lose some seats but still form a government. The BJP won 282 seats of parliament’s 543 elected seats in its 2014 landslide triumph and with allies had 336 seats. Leading polls projected the BJP-led alliance winning between 282 and 313 seats this time.

**Modi referendum**

The opposition Congress party was predicted to double its 2014 tally of 44 seats - a historic low since India’s independence in 1947 - but still fall far short of a claim to power. The party pointed to the unreliability of polls in previous elections. Mamata Banerjee, head of the regional Trinamool Congress party that dominates in West Bengal state, dismissed the forecasts as “exit poll gossip”. While the opposition attacked Modi’s handling of the economy and failure to create jobs, the vote increasingly became a personal referendum on one of India’s most popular and divisive prime ministers ever.

The 68-year-old leader went to scores of rallies across the country to fire up his Hindu base and turn the campaign into a debate on national security following tit-for-tat air raids with Pakistan in March. Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi traded insults throughout the campaign. Gandhi, 48, attacked Modi over alleged corruption in a French defense deal and the plight of farmers, as well as on the economy.

Modi’s government has fallen short on creating jobs

for the million Indians entering the labor market every month, while the shock introduction of a sudden ban on high-denomination cash in 2016 disrupted business and Indian banks are struggling with huge bad debts. Hostilities spilt over again on the final day of voting. Tens of thousands of security forces guarded polling booths in West Bengal state on Sunday where the BJP has made a push against Trinamool Congress. An improvised bomb was thrown at one Kolkata polling station and security forces intervened to stop supporters of the BJP, communists and other parties from blockading voting booths across the state capital.

In Madhya Pradesh state, in central India, a BJP worker was allegedly shot dead by a Congress official in Indore, police told media. The Delhi-based Centre for Media Studies estimates that parties have spent more than \$7 billion on the election, making it one of the most expensive campaigns in the world. Much of the cash was spent on social media, where the parties used armies of “cyber warriors” to bombard India’s Facebook and WhatsApp users with messages. —AFP

## 32 dead in Tajikistan prison riot

**DUSHANBE:** At least 32 people were killed in a prison riot in Tajikistan, including 24 members of the Islamic State group and three guards, authorities said yesterday. Five inmates and the three guards were initially killed by prisoners in the riot that erupted on Sunday evening, and the others died in clashes with security forces trying to restore order, the justice ministry said in a statement. The prison in Vakhdat, 17 km east of the capital Dushanbe, holds 1,500 inmates.

The ministry said the rioters first stabbed to death three guards, and then five other inmates “in order to intimidate” the others. They then took other prisoners hostage before opening fire in the jail’s medical facilities. “Following a reprisal operation, 24 members of this group were killed and 35 others arrested. The hostages were freed” and calm restored, the statement said.

Two of the prisoners murdered by the rioters were well-known activists of the banned opposition group Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, the local prison service said. Among the leaders of the riot, authorities identified Bekhruz Gulmurod, the son of the former head of Tajik special forces who became a member of the IS leadership in Syria and was killed there in Sept 2017. The 20-year-old was sentenced to 10 years in prison in July 2017 for attempting to join IS in Syria. He was previously detained at Dushanbe airport before boarding a flight to Istanbul. Authorities said the prison was now functioning normally, with the “situation currently under control.”

The prison is a short drive from Dushanbe, with residential neighborhoods nearby. It houses inmates convicted of various crimes, including terror and extremism charges, and is secured by armed guards. Families of inmates gathered near the prison yesterday to find out if their relatives were safe. In Nov 2018, another riot claimed by IS left 26 people dead in Khujand, a city in the northeast of the country. That riot was initiated by a former IS member seeking to spark a mass escape.

Last week a Tajik court sentenced nine of the prison staff, including the head of the prison, to jail terms up to four years of prison for “negligence”. The rioters are awaiting sentencing and face new prison terms ranging from ten to twenty years. —AFP

## Flow of arms into Libya risks proxy war

**TRIPOLI:** Despite a UN embargo, weapons are still flowing into Libya where an assault on the capital by strongman Khalifa Haftar threatens to escalate into a proxy war between regional powers. Haftar, whose self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) is allied with an administration in eastern Libya, is supported especially by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). On the other side, Turkey and Qatar back the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) which is recognized by the international community.

Haftar on April 4 launched an attack on the capital that has ground to a halt on the southern outskirts of Tripoli in the face of GNA forces backed by militias from western Libya. Both sides have called in reinforcements as fresh weaponry arrives despite a UN arms embargo officially still in place since a 2011 revolt that toppled Libya’s longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi. The GNA boasted on Saturday of new “armor, ammunition and... weapons”

for its fighters. It did not specify the source but posted photographs on its Facebook page of dozens of Turkish BMC Kirpi armored vehicles at Tripoli port. The Moldova-flagged vessel which made the delivery belongs to a Turkish firm and set sail from a port in Turkey, according to navigation websites. Arnaud Delalande, a defense consultant and specialist on Libya, interpreted the delivery as an apparent open show of support for the GNA.

In a swift response, pro-Haftar websites on Sunday posted photos and videos of Jordanian-built armored cars they said were being supplied to the LNA. Such deliveries “show that neither party plans to give in and that it is headed more towards a war of attrition”, said Delalande. A military source in eastern Libya, contacted by AFP, declined to confirm or deny the delivery of Jordanian armor but said “there is no halt to the flow of reinforcements” to the frontline.

**Roughly even in air war**

On the GNA side, Turkish support “will help narrow the gap in weaponry between the two sides”, said Wolfram Lacher of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin. He said: “The large number of UAE-made armored vehicles had helped Haftar’s forces in suburban areas, and they could now lose that advantage.” However, “the risk is that such overt support (from Turkey) will prompt Haftar’s backers to step up their assistance, and perhaps to intervene even

## Australia election stokes mistrust in opinion polls

**SYDNEY:** The failure of opinion polls to tip a conservative win in Australia’s elections has raised questions about their credibility just years after similar errors in forecasting Brexit and Donald Trump’s victory in the US. Australia’s ruling Liberal-National coalition claimed a shock victory in Saturday’s election, after two years of trailing the opposition Labor Party in every major national poll. The polls showed a slight tightening between the two main parties with Labor ahead roughly 51-49 just before the election.

The tentative result, pending final results from the Australian Electoral Commission, shows the coalition instead ahead 51-49 yesterday. “Why did we have such an amazing sequence of polls in a row that all got the same (results)?” Australian polling analyst Kevin Bonham told AFP of the years of polling that pointed to a Labor victory. Most media routinely rely on polls -

surveys of hundreds, sometimes thousands of voters by phone or online - to flag political trends and tip the leading candidates.

But question marks were raised about their accuracy in 2016 after the failure to forecast Britain’s vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump’s triumph in the US presidential election. In Australia, political polling has had a good record, and is so closely followed in Canberra that a string of prime ministers were dumped by their own parties over the past decade over poor showings in surveys. Traditionally, pollsters contacted voters using extensive landline lists, such as the phone book.

But with voters ditching landlines, it is become more difficult for pollsters to collect an accurate representative sample of the electorate. Bonham said signs polling was becoming less accurate had emerged at the state level, particularly ahead of regional elections in Victoria state in November which failed to capture a strong swing to the incumbent Labor government. “It’s become increasingly harder to actually just find where a telephone number is and therefore design an efficient sample,” Martin O’Shannessy, the ex-chief of major Australian pollster Newspoll, told AFP. “This is being faced by the whole research industry and what we are seeing is the tip of the iceberg.”

more directly.” For Lacher, “this war is now turning into a proxy war between rival Middle Eastern powers”. “The more both sides receive arms and ammunition from their foreign backers, the longer the war will last, the more destructive it will be, and the more difficult it will be to resolve,” he said. The more than six-week-old battle for Tripoli has already cost over 450 lives and left 2,000 injured and displaced almost 70,000 residents, according to UN agencies. Both sides have ignored international calls for a ceasefire and dialogue. The frontlines are largely frozen, although “the balance of power on the ground is in favor of the pro-GNA forces but not decisively”, said Delalande. In the air battle, the rival forces are roughly even with around 15 fighter-bombers on each side, he said. But increased air support from the UAE, especially through the Chinese-built Wing Loong drones deployed in eastern Libya since 2016, could swing the balance of power in Haftar’s favor, he said.

According to a report seen by AFP, UN experts are probing the UAE’s possible military involvement in Libya following Blue Arrow missile strikes in April by Chinese-built drones of the type used by the Emirati military. The UN’s group of experts on the country noted in a September report an increase in the number of armored vehicles being supplied to the LNA as well as mortars and rocket launchers. Libyan analyst Jalal Al-Fitouri said “secret or public imports of arms have been going on for years” but have now been stepped up by both sides. —AFP

Pollsters have also turned to cheaper forms of collecting opinions, such as robocalls and online surveys, which experts say are significantly less accurate. O’Shannessy said the key problems that emerged from the polls of the 2016 US elections were similar. “The good quality polls, which did the best job that they could have sampling... and used human operators, generally got the answer right. However they were only 12 percent of all the polls,” he said. “The other 88 percent were online (polls), robopolls... the average error for those polls was five percent and the biggest error was 10 percent.”

One alternative method of sampling voters has been through social media. In Australia, Griffith University data scientist Bela Stantic said he accurately predicted Trump’s win, Brexit and the conservatives’ win on Saturday by analyzing millions of social media comments. He told news.com.au he was successful as he had used large sample sizes - some two million “relevant” tweets from around half a million accounts. O’Shannessy said to make news polls more accurate, Australia’s market research sector was lobbying for access to the government’s Integrated Public Number Database (IPND), which contains all listed and unlisted telephone numbers and is used by emergency services and law enforcement. —AFP



## International

# Scandal dogs populists as EU parliament vote nears

## Main parties set to lose ground in polls

**BRUSSELS:** As up to 400 million Europeans prepare to vote for the EU parliament, the populist challenge to the Brussels consensus has been disrupted by scandal. In Austria, the far-right vice-chancellor has resigned in disgrace after falling victim to a hidden camera sting as he appeared to seek Russian backing. Britain's Nigel Farage, the leader of the Brexit Party, has led a strong campaign but has been dogged by questions about where his money comes from.

And in France, veteran right-winger Marine Le Pen has been forced to deny that former Donald Trump adviser Steve Bannon has any role in her campaign. The cloud of scandal partly overshadowed coverage of Italian hardliner Matteo Salvini's pre-election nationalist European unity rally in Milan on Saturday. So far, there is no sign these wobbles will blunt the advance of populist forces in this week's vote, but they have opened space for centrist critics.

### 'Help slow the advance'

German Chancellor Angela Merkel spurred the mainstream counter-attack at the weekend, urging EU voters to reject nationalist "politicians for sale". Matthias Jung of German pollster Forschungsgruppe Wahlen told the Tagesspiegel that the scandal could help "slow the advance of the populists". Nationalists, eurosceptics and the populist far-right are expected to improve their representation in the European Parliament in the election.

But it is not clear they can work together closely enough to disrupt the pro-EU consensus, even if the main centre-left and centre-right parties suffer. Turnout has traditionally been low in the pan-conti-

mental vote, however, and mainstream politicians are hoping the scandals will mobilize the electorate. In France, President Emmanuel Macron's liberal Renaissance movement is battling to win more seats than Le Pen's National Rally. Macron's supporters denounced Bannon's presence in France, and accused the European far-right of serving as a "Trojan horse" for Trump and Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

In Austria, protests erupted after Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache was caught on video offering favours to a woman purporting to be the niece of a Russian oligarch. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, who tried to tame the far-right FPÖ by tying it into a coalition with his conservative People's Party, pulled the plug and called early elections. The European Parliament, which will be elected in votes across 28 nations between Thursday and Sunday, has never been more important in framing the continent's laws. But each vote since the first one in 1979 has seen a lower turnout than the last, and much of the energy in this year's race has come from those opposed to deeper integration.

No big personalities have emerged among the candidates to lead the European Commission, the top job in Brussels and one that will be assigned by Europe's national leaders. For now, only Britain is on the verge of quitting the union altogether, but eurosceptic and europhobic parties of various flavors are mounting a challenge. Polling at the start of the campaign period pointed to around 173 members being elected from these groups in the 751-member Strasbourg and Brussels assembly. And the main centre-right and centre-left groupings that have dominated pan-European



**ROUFFACH, France:** People work yesterday to prepare the mailing of election material to citizens as part of the upcoming European parliament elections. — AFP

politics in recent years look set to lose ground.

According to opinion polls, the top two groups could lose 30 seats each, meaning they will not be able to form a majority and may have to reach out to liberals and Greens. The liberal ALDE hopes for an infusion

of new blood from Macron's Renaissance and from Spanish party Ciudadanos. For Brussels insiders, the big night will not be Sunday when the first results of the parliamentary race emerge, but two days later when the national leaders meet for dinner. — AFP

## Sweden requests Assange detention on rape suspicion

**STOCKHOLM:** Swedish prosecutors yesterday issued a formal request to hold WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, currently imprisoned in Britain, on suspicion of rape - a first step towards seeking his extradition to Sweden. Swedish deputy director of public prosecutions Eva-Marie Persson said in a statement she had filed a request with the Uppsala district court to have Assange detained in his absence over an alleged rape. Detaining someone in their absence is a standard part of Swedish legal procedure if a suspect is outside the country or cannot be located.

The request follows last week's reopening of a 2010 rape investigation, and Persson added that once the court had granted the request, she would then ask British authorities to transfer Assange to Sweden. "If

the court decides to detain him, I will issue a European Arrest Warrant concerning surrender to Sweden," Persson said. 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 by British police 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. The Swedish investigation concerns events which took place in 2010 when a Swedish woman accused Assange of rape, after meeting him at a WikiLeaks conference in Stockholm. Assange has always denied the allegations. Swedish authorities closed the investigation in 2017, when Sweden's then director of public prosecutions Marianne Ny argued that since Assange could not be reached, having taken up residence in Ecuador's embassy, it was not possible to proceed with the probe. But the investigation was reopened on May 13 following Assange's arrest in London.

### Uncertain future

The prosecution authority was unable to say when the detention hearing would take place since this would

be up to the court to decide, and that a European Arrest Warrant would only be issued after the court had granted the detention request. When contacted by AFP, the Uppsala district court, where the request was filed, said the detention hearing had not yet been scheduled. Assange's Swedish lawyer Per E Samuelson said that he didn't think the detention hearing could take place this week, since he would need to go over the matter with his client first. "I've written the district court and said that they can't hold a detention hearing until I've met my client and received instructions. Since he is currently incarcerated in London I haven't even been able to establish contact over the phone yet," Samuelson told AFP yesterday. Assange is already the subject of an extradition request from the United States, where he is wanted for hacking. That request was only revealed following his arrest in London.

Eva-Marie Persson said it would be up to British authorities to decide which country's request should take precedence. "In the event of a conflict between a European Arrest Warrant and a request for extradition from the US, UK authorities will decide on the order of priority. The outcome of this process is impossible to predict," Persson said. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Turkey orders arrest of 249

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish authorities yesterday ordered the arrest of 249 past and present foreign ministry personnel suspected of ties to the group blamed for a failed 2016 coup, the prosecutor's office said. At least 78 have already been detained, the office in the capital Ankara said. The latest crackdown is part of a probe in 42 cities into alleged irregularities in the foreign ministry entrance exam in favor of members of a movement led by US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen. The suspects joined the foreign ministry between 2010 and 2013, according to the prosecutor's office. Fourteen are currently serving in the ministry, while the rest had already been removed from their posts, a judicial source said. — AFP

#### Armed group kills 11 in Brazil

**SAO PAULO:** An armed group entered a bar in the Brazilian northern city of Belem on Sunday and fired at patrons, killing 11 people and leaving one wounded, according to local media reports. The armed group, whose members were wearing masks to cover their faces, arrived in cars and a motorbike before shooting dead six women and five men in the bar in a poor, violent neighborhood in the capital of Para state, said G1 news website. There was no information regarding possible motivation for the crime and no arrests had been made by early Sunday evening. The identities of the victims were not given. Some videos taken right after the shooting were posted on social media, showing slain people on the ground and a dead woman on top of the bar's counter. —Reuters

#### Katumbi returns home from exile

**LUBUMBASHI, DR Congo:** Thousands of people welcomed Moise Katumbi, a prominent foe of former DR Congo president Joseph Kabila, as he landed at Lubumbashi airport yesterday after three years in self-imposed exile. The government in Kinshasa meanwhile told people to expect an important announcement regarding the appointment of a prime minister by Kabila's successor, Felix Tshisekedi. Katumbi, a wealthy businessman and former governor of Katanga province in the southeast of the country, returned three years to the day after he flew to Belgium. He flew home in a private jet to be greeted by supporters, many of them dressed in white, lining the road between the airport and the center of Lubumbashi, the capital of mineral-rich Haut-Katanga province. — AFP

## Ethiopia hosts \$173K-a-seat dinner to beautify capital

**NAIROBI:** Scores of wealthy Ethiopians paid an eye-watering \$173,000 to attend a dinner thrown by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, to raise funds to beautify the capital Addis Ababa, state media reported yesterday. The state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate published pictures of diners, some wearing tuxedos, seated at a long rose-covered banquet table. "A seat at the event is valued at 5 million birr," the report said. The dinner was held to raise funds for a three-year project by Abiy to "lift the image" of the capital, a bustling, fast-changing city where modern buildings have shot up, construction is ever-present and greenery scarce.

"The rapid growth and expansion of the city over the past few years has not adequately utilised the natural resources and beautiful topography that the city is endowed with," according to a video of the project posted on Abiy's website. The video said that currently green cover is only 0.3 sq m per capita in Addis Ababa, and the project hopes to raise this to seven square metres per capita - in line with average green coverage in Africa. The project along an area of 56 sq km envisions parks, bicycle paths and walkways along the rivers of the capital, the planting of trees and the development of urban farms.

The project is estimated to cost \$1 billion, according to Fana. It was not known how many people attended the dinner, or who they were. Abiy's website said that those present would have a plaque with their name on it placed along the project route, and would have a private photo-op with the prime minister. The pictures would be compiled into "an album of individuals who changed the face of Addis Ababa."

Abiy has won praise for his reformist agenda since taking office in April last year. Ethiopia is home to over 100 million people, the second most populous country on the continent after Nigeria, and its economy is the fastest growing in the region. However, it is also one of the poorest, and the World Bank estimates average earnings of \$783 per year. —AFP



**KAFRANBEL, Syria:** A woman salvages items from a building that was destroyed during airstrikes by Russia in this town in Idlib province yesterday. — AFP

## Russia air strikes kill 10 civilians in northwest Syria

**KAFRANBEL, Syria:** Air strikes by Syrian regime ally Russia have killed 10 civilians including five children in a northwestern militant bastion, a monitor said yesterday, hours after Moscow announced a ceasefire there. The Russian army said the air raids overnight on the town of Kafranbel, in Idlib province, came after it pinpointed the area as the launchpad for rocket fire on its key Syria air-base of Hmeimim.

Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, controls a large part of Idlib province as well as parts of neighboring Aleppo, Hama and Latakia provinces. The stronghold is supposed to be protected from a government offensive by a September buffer zone deal, but regime and Russian bombardment has increased there since late April. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Russian air strikes overnight killed five children, four women, and one man in Kafranbel. The raids hit near a hospital in the town, knocking it out of service, the Britain-based monitor said.

An AFP correspondent saw five homes on the edges on the town that were destroyed or damaged after the strikes.

Survivors picked through the debris to save the belongings they could, the reporter said, while a young man covered in dust from head to toe leant against a wall, shell-shocked after his father was killed. Umm Wasel narrowly missed the air strike on her home after relatives invited her over to break her daily fast of the Islamic month of Ramadan with them. "I came back at night to find my home devastated," said the 72-year-old, dressed in a long red robe and a black scarf covering her hair. People "had thought I was under the rubble", she said.

### Children killed at school

The Observatory said six other civilians also died in bombardment by regime forces in other parts of the Idlib region on Sunday. Fighting raged in the north of Hama province between loyalists and jihadists early yesterday, the Observatory said, after relative respite in bombardment over the past three days. Russian aeroplanes pounded the south of Idlib province, while government aircraft targeted the north of Hama province with machine guns, missiles, and crude barrel bombs, the monitoring group added.

Save the Children said 38 children had been killed in shelling in northwest Syria since April 1, including nine at school, seven at the market and one in hospital. "Schools, hospitals and other vital civilian infrastructure must be protected from attack," the charity's Syria director Sonia Khush said. "Children are particularly vulnerable to the impact of explosive weapons, and warring parties should make a particular effort to protect them," she said.—AFP

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## International

# High fives, selfies and snap election as Zelensky takes power in Ukraine

## New president says ceasefire first priority

**KIEV:** Television comedian Volodymyr Zelensky took the oath of office as Ukraine's new president yesterday, promising that as hard as he had worked in the past to make Ukrainians laugh, he would now work to keep them from crying. As his first act, he dismissed the parliament still dominated by loyalists of his defeated predecessor, setting up an election in two months in which his new party has a chance to win its first seats. The inauguration day was marked by informal moments that conveyed the outsider persona that helped carry the political novice to a landslide victory last month.

He high-fived cheering supporters who held their arms outstretched outside the Soviet-era parliament building, and stopped for a selfie with the crowd. At one point he jumped up to kiss a man on the forehead. He later eschewed a motorcade to make his way to his new office on foot. "Dear people, during my life I tried to do everything to make Ukrainians smile," he said in his speech to parliament. "In the next five years, I will do everything, Ukrainians, so that you do not cry."

Zelensky grew to national fame playing the role of a schoolteacher who unexpectedly becomes president after a pupil films him making a foul-mouthed tirade against corrupt politicians and posts the video online. His campaign exploited the parallels with that fictional narrative, portraying him as an everyman who would stand up to a crooked political class. In

his inauguration speech, he called on officials to take down the customary portraits of the president that hang in their offices, and put up pictures of their children instead.

Ukraine's most pressing issue is conflict with its neighbor Russia, which annexed its Crimea region in 2014 and backed separatists in a war in the east that has killed 13,000 people. Zelensky said his first task was to achieve a ceasefire, adding that dialogue could only happen after the return of Ukrainian territory and prisoners of war. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov yesterday said Russian President Vladimir Putin has no plans to meet with Zelensky and would not be congratulating him on taking up the post. The Russian president will instead "congratulate him on the first successes" in regulating the conflict, he said, calling it a "domestic problem" for Ukraine.

Born in Ukraine's Russian-speaking east, Zelensky briefly switched from the Ukrainian language to Russian during his speech, to talk about the need to win over the hearts and minds of people in separatist areas. That prompted the head of a populist party, Oleh Lyashko, to interrupt the speech to interject that Ukrainians living in Crimea and the east also understood Ukrainian. Zelensky replied: "They understand the Ukrainian language, yes. Thank you very much! Thanks for continuing to divide people, Mr Lyashko!"

Parliament is still dominated by the bloc named for Zelensky's defeated opponent, con-

fectionary tycoon Petro Poroshenko, and by a range of smaller parties mostly founded as the personal vehicles for other political insiders. Zelensky called on lawmakers to use the two months until the snap election to pass a law that would strip them of immunity from prosecution and another law that bans officials from illegally enriching themselves. "You will have two months for this. Do it and you will deserve medals," Zelensky said.

Zelensky had defeated Poroshenko by promising to fight entrenched corruption, deliver a ceasefire in the east and raise living standards in one of Europe's poorest countries. His campaign relied on his broad social media presence and comedy gigs, and also traded on the image of his fictional president, who is scrupulously honest and outwits corrupt lawmakers and oligarchs. Last week he accused lawmakers of trying to sabotage his ability to call a snap election. However, lawmakers of various parties told Reuters they would accept the call for a new vote. "I see no reason to challenge Zelensky's decision," said Ivan Vinnyk, a lawmaker in Poroshenko's faction.

Despite his everyman image, critics accuse Zelensky of having too close a relationship with a powerful businessman, Ihor Kolomoisky, whose TV channel broadcasts his comedy shows. Zelensky has rejected those accusations. Zelensky also said he wanted to replace the head of the state security service, the general prosecutor and the defense minis-



**Kiev: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky holds the Bulava, the Ukrainian symbol of power, during his inauguration ceremony at the parliament yesterday. — AFP**

ter. Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak and the head of the SBU security service Vasyl Grytsak swiftly tendered their resignations.

Zelensky has so far not spelled out his nominations for key appointments that fall within his purview. "I'm waiting for a change

for the better, but I do not think that change will come very quickly," said Oleksandr, a 45-year-old Zelensky supporter from the eastern Luhansk region. "For him the main problem is the economy and here he needs to eliminate the influence of the oligarchs." — Agencies

## Far-right ministers ready to quit Austria govt after scandal

**VIENNA:** Austrian far-right ministers yesterday were ready to quit their posts, the party chief said, after the country's coalition government collapsed over a corruption scandal days before European elections. Conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has called for fresh elections after a hidden-camera sting forced his far-right deputy to resign, bringing an end to a coalition many on the European right held up as a model.



**Sebastian Kurz**

With Kurz scrambling to regain control over the weekend, saying he can no longer tolerate the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) scandals, media speculation is growing he will also oust far-right Interior Minister Herbert Kickl.

The FPÖe closed ranks behind Kickl, threatening to quit their cabinet posts, which besides the interior ministry include the foreign, defense, transport and social affairs ministries. "We will give up our government offices if Interior Minister Herbert Kickl is forced out," Norbert Hofer, who is infrastructure minister and took over the FPÖe leadership on Sunday, told a press conference. "I feel very sorry that such a great government project ends so soon... I think this government was very popular," he said, adding that Kickl had done "nothing wrong". Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen on Sunday suggested elections be held in early September with a date to be fixed after further talks with other parties.

### Fake Russian backer

Heinz-Christian Strache stepped down as vice-chancellor and FPÖe leader after recordings published by German media Friday showed him offering government contracts in return for campaign help to a fake Russian backer in a villa on the resort island of Ibiza. Elsewhere in the footage, Strache appears to hint at ways political donations could escape legal scrutiny. Kickl was FPÖe secretary general at the time when any political donations would have been made. Strache on Saturday denied the party had received illegal funds. "It is clear Herbert Kickl cannot investigate himself," Kurz was quoted by the Kurier newspaper yesterday. He has said the recordings were the final straw in a string of FPÖe-related scandals.

The most damaging recent controversy linked to interior minister Kickl was last year when he ordered raids on the country's own domestic intelligence agency BVT. Numerous documents were seized, raising fears among Austria's Western partners about the possibility of leaks to Moscow. The FPÖe has a cooperation agreement with President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party.

Over the weekend thousands of people demonstrated in Vienna against the government at an impromptu gathering in front of the chancellery on Saturday, as well as at a previously planned pro-EU rally on Sunday. In an emotional resignation statement Saturday, Strache said he had been "stupid" and "irresponsible" but was the victim of a "targeted political attack". In the recordings - of unknown origin - Strache and a colleague from his party, who has also resigned, are seen talking to a woman purporting to be the niece of a Russian oligarch.

They discuss how she could gain control of the country's largest-circulation tabloid, the Kronen Zeitung, and install editorial staff who would help the FPÖe's 2017 election campaign. In return, Strache held out the possibility of awarding public contracts. The Kremlin yesterday denied any involvement in the sting operation. The scandal has already made waves outside of Austria. German Chancellor Angela Merkel over the weekend reacted to the scandal by warning of the dangers of far-right politicians "for sale", who wanted to "destroy the Europe of our values". — AFP

## Biden the man for Dems desperate to beat Trump

**PHILADELPHIA:** The crowded 2020 presidential race features six women, three African Americans and a dozen youthful contenders. But Denise Haley is going old school, supporting white male frontrunner Joe Biden as the Democrat best positioned to beat Donald Trump. "He could lead the nation and bring us back together," Haley, who is black, told AFP of the 76-year-old former vice president, reflecting what appears to be a solidifying sentiment amid voters whose support has given Biden a commanding poll lead.

Haley, a 60-year-old healthcare professional, was in the crowd Saturday when Biden came to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to address the biggest, most boisterous rally of his four-week-old White House campaign. Many attendees thrilled at Biden essentially sidestepping discussion of the gruelling primary battle ahead and focusing on the general election face-off with Republican Trump, whom he often attacked with explicit condemnation.

"Biden is Trump's biggest rival and has the highest chance of kicking Trump out of office," high-schooler Ankita Kalasabail, who is 16 but will be old enough to vote in 2020, said in explaining her support for a man 60 years her senior. "We need to beat Trump" and Biden has a stronger shot than the 22 other Democratic candidates, said Mickey Kirzecky, a consultant.

## Salvini fumes as ruling partner slows anti-migrant bill

**ROME:** Italy's governing populist Five Star Movement appeared to have coalition partner Matteo Salvini on the back foot yesterday, as it challenged the strongman over his latest anti-migrant decree. The head of the far-right League is courting votes ahead of the European elections by waging war on refugees and migrants attempting to reach Europe by boat, and he wants his bill adopted ahead of the May 26 ballot. But while the bill was slated for debate at a cabinet meeting yesterday, the M5S signalled it was not prepared to pass the law in its present form.

The draconian update to Salvini's earlier security decree has drawn fire from his coalition partner M5S, the Catholic Church and even the UN's human rights agency. While the M5S reluctantly passed the initial security law in November, political watchers said it knew it could stand up to Salvini now because he would not risk the government collapsing just before the EU vote. Any large-scale crisis in the government could affect the performance of the League and its plans to head up a nationalist grouping of far-right parties

## US ambassador to China visiting Tibet this week

**BEIJING:** US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad was scheduled to visit Tibet this week, a US embassy spokeswoman said, the first visit to the region by a US ambassador since 2015, amid escalating trade tension between the two countries. The visit follows the passing of a law in December that requires the United States to deny visas to Chinese officials in charge of implementing policies that restrict access to Tibet for foreigners, legislation that was denounced by China.

"This visit is a chance for the ambassador to engage with local leaders to raise longstanding concerns about restrictions on religious freedom and the preservation of Tibetan culture and language," the spokeswoman said in an emailed statement. Branstad was travelling to Qinghai province and neighboring Tibet from May 19 to May 25 on a trip that will include official meetings as well as visits to religious and cultural heritage sites, the spokesperson said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the government welcomed Branstad's visit and he could see



**PHILADELPHIA: Former US vice president Joe Biden arrives for the kick-off of his presidential election campaign in on May 18, 2019. — AFP**

Biden, a veteran Democrat who spent 36 year in the US Senate, boasts the thickest resume of any candidate seeking to deny Trump a second term. But crucially, said Kirzecky, he has a knack for connecting with all-important blue-collar voters. "I hate to use the word electability, but I think that's part of what comes into play," she added, stressing Biden's more moderate politics and his popularity with working-class Americans - a constituency that helped Trump win the White House in 2016. "I think he might be a healing candidate," she added.

The historically diverse race is cluttered with progressives vying for the votes of Democrats witnessing their



**Matteo Salvini**

in the Europe parliament. "If (the decree) is just an empty electoral stunt it means they're taking Italians for a ride," said M5S head Luigi Di Maio. "We'll see (at the cabinet meeting). The interior minister hasn't let us read it yet," Di Maio said of the final draft.

### 'Cannot last forever'

The League has not appreciated the recent change in the anti-establishment M5S from yes-man to challenger. Cabinet secretary and League member Giancarlo Giorgetti described his party's loyalty to the M5S yesterday as "unreasonable", saying it "cannot last forever". He also said Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte - whose name was put forward by the M5S when the coalition was formed - could not be a neutral leader. Salvini lashed out at all and sundry on Sunday after discovering live on television that a Sicilian prosecutor had overruled his order to close the ports to migrants rescued by the German charity Sea-Watch. The furious minister said early yesterday that the government was not at risk - "as long as people keep their word". "I wouldn't want, for example, ports to be opened after everything I've done" to close them, he said. — AFP

for himself the big changes that have taken place there since Tibet was "peacefully liberated" more than six decades ago. China hopes that Branstad does not take any "prejudices" with him on this trip and goes with an objective attitude so he can reach his own conclusions, Lu told a daily news briefing.

"Especially on the protection and development of Tibetan culture, religion, heritage, and history, I hope that he can respect the facts and draw his own conclusions, instead of being confused and disturbed by hearsay and certain long-standing rumors and smears." In December, China criticised the United States for passing the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, which seeks to promote access to Tibet for US diplomats and other officials, journalists and other citizens by denying US entry for Chinese officials deemed responsible for restricting access to Tibet. The US government is required to begin denying visas by the end of this year.

China says it is "resolutely opposed" to the US legislation on what China considers an internal affair, and it risked causing "serious harm" to their relations. The ambassador's visit comes as tensions have been running high between the two countries over trade. China struck a more aggressive tone in its trade war with the United States on Friday, suggesting a resumption of talks between the world's two largest economies would be meaningless unless Washington changed course. — Reuters

## Huawei CFO house arrest contrasts with Canadians in China

**TORONTO:** Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou described her house arrest in Vancouver as "restricted to a limited space" even as she spent her past six months in a six-bedroom, multi-million dollar Canadian home. Meng, 47, has access to top lawyers, moves around relatively freely in Vancouver, albeit with restrictions, and her comments drew immediate comparison between her life in house arrest versus the two Canadians detained in solitary confinement in China for a similar length of time.

Daughter of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd's billionaire founder, Ren Zhengfei, Meng was arrested at Vancouver's airport in December on a US warrant and is fighting extradition on charges that she conspired to defraud global banks about Huawei's relationship with a company operating in Iran. Businessman Michael Spavor, who worked with North Korea, and former diplomat Michael Kovrig were picked up separately in December, shortly after Canada arrested Meng. Both were formally arrested earlier this month on state secret charges but it was unclear if they have been moved to another facility where they might get better treatment.

"The difference between the terms of detention of Madame Meng and the two Canadians is going to just jump off the page," said Paul Evans, a professor at the University of British Columbia who specializes in China and Canada relations. He added that the contrast could anger Canadians who compare Meng's conditions with those of Kovrig and Spavor. The two Canadians have no access to lawyers or bail, are questioned every morning, afternoon and evening, and are held in a room where the lights are not allowed to be turned off at night, according to Canadian diplomats. China has said only that the legal rights of the two men are being fully guaranteed. Meanwhile, Meng lived in her C\$5.6 million (\$4.2 million) home in Vancouver, which has six bedrooms and five bathrooms, after posting a C\$10 million bail in December. "Despite being physically restricted to a very limited space during my time in Vancouver, my inner self has never felt so colorful and vast," Meng wrote in the letter published last Monday on the Xinheng Community, an internal forum for the 188,000 Huawei employees. She praised employees for their concern and said there were employees "staying up all night just to follow my case in distant time zones." — Reuters



## International

# Hindu groups to double down on demands as Modi set for big win

## RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal to push temple, cow, Kashmir issues

**NEW DELHI:** A Hindu temple on a disputed site, life in jail for killing cows and ending the autonomy of India's only Muslim-majority state are some demands Hindu groups plan to push Prime Minister Narendra Modi on if he wins the general election as expected. The ruling coalition led by Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is likely to win an even bigger majority in parliament than the massive mandate it got five years ago, exit polls showed after the country's massive election ended on Sunday, cheering his conservative base.

Votes will be counted on Thursday. The BJP will meet its coalition partners today to discuss a new government. BJP parent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Hindu-first group, said it would hold a three-day dharm sansad, or religious parliament, in the northern city of Jammu starting June 21 to press the government on many of their main demands that had been put on the backburner around the election. "We did not want the opposition to make it an issue against the BJP, so had stopped our agitation," Mahendra Rawat, the Delhi head for RSS,

said. "The Ram temple is the biggest issue for us Hindus."

Many Hindus believe a mosque razed in 1992 was built in the same place where Lord Ram, a physical incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, was born. They also point to evidence there was a temple there before the mosque was built in 1528. The destruction of the mosque by a Hindu mob had led to riots that killed about 2,000 people across the country. The BJP said in its election manifesto it would "explore all possibilities within the framework of the constitution and all necessary efforts to facilitate the expeditious construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya".

The Supreme Court this month gave a panel arbitrating the decades-long dispute until Aug 15, raising hopes for an amicable settlement. Rawat and officials of two other RSS affiliates, the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal, said their other main demand is the abolishment of decades-old special rights for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, a northern state dominated by Muslims in the Hindu-majority country.

The BJP has consistently advocated an

end to Kashmir's special constitutional status, which prevents outsiders from buying property there, arguing that such laws have hindered its integration with the rest of India. In its election manifesto, the party also reiterated its long-held desire to abolish Kashmir's autonomous status. Kashmiri political leaders have warned a repeal would bring widespread unrest. VHP and the Bajrang Dal said they also want the cow, considered sacred by many Hindus, to be declared a national animal whose killing would be an offence punishable with life in jail.

Cow slaughter is banned in most Indian states, and many BJP-ruled states have tightened regional laws on it in the past few years and launched a crackdown on unlicensed abattoirs in the country's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh. Penalties for killing a cow differ from state to state, with most ranging from six months to five years in prison. "We are happy with the projections for the BJP," said Bholendra, a leader of the Bajrang Dal in Uttar Pradesh, who goes by one name. "Now all attempts should be made to protect and preserve Mother Cow." — Reuters



**AMRITSAR:** Indian Border Security Force personnel stand guard outside a sealed room where electronic voting machines (EVM) are kept after the 7th and final phase of the India's general election at Khalsa College yesterday. — AFP



**SRINAGAR:** In this file photo taken on March 10, 2019, Kashmiri members of the Association of Parents of the Disappeared (APDP) take part in a protest demanding information on their missing loved ones. — AFP

## Rights groups seek probe into Kashmir torture

**SRINAGAR:** Tens of thousands of people in Indian Kashmir have been subjected to torture in the past three decades, according to a report released yesterday by two prominent human rights groups which called for a UN investigation. The report said at least 40 people in 432 case studies researched died "as a result of injuries received during torture". The Indian government declined to make an immediate comment on the claims by the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons and the Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society. Officials said authorities would study the allegations first.

Kashmir is marking the 30th anniversary of an uprising which has left tens of thousands dead, mainly civilians. The Muslim majority Himalayan region has been divided between Pakistani and Indian sectors since their independence in 1947 and both claim it in full. Kashmir civilians have been systematically tortured by the Indian state to curb dissent, said the report titled: "Torture: Indian State's Instrument of Control in Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir".

While past scandals involving US prisons at Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib in Iraq had received international attention, "torture remains hidden in Jammu and Kashmir, where tens of thousands of civil-

ians have been subjected to it," said a statement issued by the groups. The report said the 432 individuals investigated had been subjected to water-boarding, beatings with iron rods and leather belts and electric shocks to the genitals.

It said the latest death was in March when a school principal, Rizwan Pandith, died while being held by a police special counter-insurgency group. Police alleged the 29-year-old died while "he was trying to escape from police custody," the report said. The rights groups called for an international investigation led by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. They urged India to ratify the UN Convention Against Torture.

Indian governments have for decades denied access to Kashmir for UN investigators. Juan Mendez, a UN special rapporteur on torture from 2010 to 2016, said he made repeated requests for the Indian UN mission in Geneva to issue an invitation but got no response. The report said torture has been used since Kashmir's division in 1947. The practice "attained an unprecedented magnitude post 1990" after the current insurgency erupted.

A top security official in Kashmir told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity, that the government would respond only after examining the document. In 2010, the whistleblower website Wikileaks told how the United States had evidence of torture of civilians in Indian Kashmir following briefings by the International Committee of the Red Cross. In 2018, India rejected the first ever UN report on human rights abuses blamed on government forces in Kashmir, calling it "fallacious, tendentious and motivated". — AFP

lence in the multi-ethnic, Buddhist-majority island. But that rings hollow to voters like 56-year-old construction worker Sunil, who voted for Sirisena in 2015 amid hopes the career politician would combat corruption but now feels the president has not focused on governing. "The president has no time for this because he is busy going all over the place," said Sunil on a recent morning in Colombo, vowing never to vote for Sirisena again. Sirisena's trip to China, where he met President Xi Jinping, was pre-planned and beneficial to the nation, coordinating secretary Shiral Lakshilaka told Reuters. Sirisena returned to Sri Lanka on Thursday and only addressed attacks on Muslim homes and shops on Friday, five days after the violence erupted. Some disgruntled Sri Lankans were also frustrated that Sirisena's son's wedding went ahead. It was originally scheduled to be held in the Shangri-La, which was bombed, and ultimately celebrated at the Hilton Colombo.

Sirisena, one user identified as @sankadon tweeted, "can't even postpone the extravagant wedding at least (for) the tears and blood of the people who lost their lives due to his inability". Spokesman Ekanayake pushed back at the criticism, saying the wedding was scaled down and that Sirisena did not attend all the festivities.

The criticism comes on top of accusations that government paralysis due to a feud

## Rising heat scorches recovery efforts in cyclone-hit Odisha

**CHENNAI:** From the safety of a relative's house, Mohammed Tazmul Hussein watched coconut trees crashing onto the roof of his home as Cyclone Fani barreled into eastern India. Two weeks after the cyclone struck Odisha state on India's east coast, travelling at 200 km an hour and forcing the evacuation of more than one million people, Hussein is struggling to pick up the pieces and rebuild his home. As well as having no electricity, not enough clean drinking water and no tree cover, thousands like Hussein are now exposed to heatwave conditions with temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius.

"We live by the coast and have never had to bear the intensity of summer like those in western parts of the state," Hussein, 53, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation over the phone from Bhagwanpur village near the temple town of Puri. "But the cyclone took away all our shade giving trees and

uprooted electricity poles. And with electricity yet to be restored, the heat is sapping. I feel helpless."

Fourteen districts of Odisha felt the impact of Cyclone Fani on May 3. More than 10 million have been affected by the worst summer cyclone in the state in 43 years, according to government data. Hussein's house is one of the more than 500,000 that were damaged in the cyclone, that destroyed crops, contaminated water bodies and snapped communication and power lines.

"There are people who stood near the rubble, unable to recognize what was left of their homes," said Tushar Kantidas, senior manager for disaster risk management with charity Plan India. "People have lost everything and there is an urgency to rebuild, with food and shelter being a priority. But the rising temperatures have become the new challenge." — Reuters

## Slavery and gang rape in Chinese cybersex dens

**LONDON:** Thousands of North Korean women and girls - some as young as nine - are being trafficked into sexual slavery in China as they try to flee poverty and oppression in their homeland, experts on the reclusive state said yesterday. The sexual exploitation of North Koreans generates at least \$105 million in annual profits for the Chinese underworld, according to a report by the non-profit Korea Future Initiative, which includes harrowing accounts from trafficked women.

"Victims are prostituted for as little as 30 Chinese yuan (\$4.30), sold as wives for just 1,000 yuan, and trafficked into cybersex dens for exploitation by a global online audience," the report's author Yoon Hee-soon said. "Many are sold more than once and are forced into at least one form of sexual slavery within a year of leaving their homeland."

An estimated 60 percent of North Korean girls and women in China are trafficked into the sex trade, according to the report to be launched at an event at Britain's parliament yesterday. Nearly half are pressed into prostitution, about a third sold into marriage and most others pushed into cybersex, researchers said. No one at the Chinese embassy in London was immediately

ly available for comment. Gathering information in North Korea is notoriously difficult. Many North Koreans are enslaved in brothels in districts in northeast China with large migrant worker populations, the report said.

### Tattoos of ownership

Trafficking survivors said prostitutes in Shanghai were branded with tattoos such as lions and butterflies to show ownership and deter abductions by rivals. Interviewees told of women dying from sexually transmitted diseases and abuse. Girls and women enslaved in cybersex dens are usually aged between 12 and 29 but sometimes younger, the report said. They are forced to perform sex acts or sexually assaulted in front of webcams. A live-stream featuring a young girl can cost \$110, researchers said, adding that many subscribers appeared to be South Korean.

One woman, referred to as Ms Choi, told how she was taken to an apartment where she was shocked to see pre-pubescent girls. "(There) was a bed in front of a table with a computer and webcam. Four men ... gang raped me. When the third man began raping me (I) was bleeding ... I cannot remember any more." The report said women forced into marriage were mostly sold in rural areas for 1,000 to 50,000 yuan, and were raped and abused by their husbands. Estimates of the number of North Koreans in China vary between 50,000 and 200,000. China's policy of detaining and repatriating North Koreans forces them to live in the shadows, placing them at high risk of exploitation, Yoon said. — Reuters

## China trip, son's wedding: Lanka leader denounced

**COLOMBO:** After coming under fire for not acting on warnings about Easter bombings that killed more than 250 people, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena is now facing criticism over his leadership in the aftermath of the Islamist attacks. On Monday last week, just as anti-Muslim riots were spreading in apparent reprisal for the attacks, Sirisena embarked on a three-day trip to key financier China, leaving some Sri Lankans feeling abandoned.

Going ahead with his son's wedding on May 9 also struck some as an affront to families still in mourning after the April 21 bombings, claimed by Islamic State, which struck churches and hotels. That leaves Sirisena in a weak position ahead of this year's presidential election, voters and analysts say, potentially paving the way for former wartime defense chief Gotabaya Rajapaksa to take over.

Sirisena's allies say he did the best he could in a volatile situation, citing measures like temporarily shutting down social media and deploying the army to stem vio-



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena lays a wreath for fallen soldiers during National War Heroes Day on Sunday. — AFP

between Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe prevented warnings about the attacks from being disseminated. Both men, who fell out after a political crisis in October, say they were not privy to the warnings. Sirisena was in Singapore with family when the attackers struck. He returned to Colombo 15 hours later, appointed a panel

to probe defense lapses and replaced both the police chief and the defense secretary.

There are no political polls in Sri Lanka, but analysts said Sirisena was on the back foot in elections that must be held by December. "President Sirisena does not have a fighting chance," said Eurasia analyst Akhil Bery. — Reuters

## Afghan working women face perils at home and office

**KABUL:** Minutes before Mena Mangal, a prominent Afghan journalist and parliamentary adviser, was shot dead by two men in Kabul, she had slammed the door of her parent's home after reminding them to pay the neighborhood shopkeeper 15 Afghanis (20 cents). "Mena never forgot her duty towards our home and work. After years of struggle she had achieved success and happiness," said Anisa Mangal, Mena's mother, told Reuters, as she sat surrounded by her husband, four daughters, a son, grandchildren at her two-story home in eastern Kabul. "She did the right things ... worked very hard to become a professional woman."

No-one has been arrested over the broad daylight killing, but police officials said Mangal's family had filed a case against four men, including her ex-husband. "These four people are on the run but the police are trying to arrest them," said Kabul police spokesman Firdaws Faramarz. Mangal's mother believes it was her dedication to home and career that got her killed. She accuses her daughter's ex-husband of involvement in the murder because Mangal would not give up her job and continued to appear on television. Reuters was unable to contact Mangal's former husband. Calls to family members went unanswered.

The brazen attack on Mangal has drawn widespread condemnation - including from US officials and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau - and highlighted what activists say is the continuing plight of Afghan women, who still suffer high levels of sexual and domestic violence and discrimination. Educated Afghan women, the torchbearers of a drive to improve women's rights since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001, say they still face hostility, be it from conservative family members or headline Islamist groups, for pursuing professional and financial independence.

Earlier this month, for example, the Taliban, launched a deadly attack on the head office of US-funded aid group Counterpart International in Kabul, citing the "intermixing" of women and men working at the site and its promotion of "western activities". At least nine people were killed and 20 were wounded in a siege that lasted for more than seven hours. "The Taliban want to kill women who work with men. If I die, there will be no one to feed my parents and siblings," said an Afghan woman who has worked at Counterpart for more than three years, speaking on condition of anonymity. "If I sit at home will the Taliban come to pay the bills?"

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said its fighters targeted Counterpart because it was funded by US aid agencies. Women could study and work, he said, but the intermingling of the genders ought to be kept in check in Afghanistan.

### Price of freedom

Though many hardships remain, access to public life has improved for Afghan women since US-backed forces ousted the Taliban, especially in cities such as Kabul, where tens of thousands now work outside the home. But for many, concerns about the hazards of going out to a job extend beyond their own safety. Until April, thousands of Afghan women now working for the government were happy to bring their children to the office. The daycare center attached to every government building provided reassurance their children were close by and safe.

The centers were originally established in 1945 to encourage women into the workforce, but closed under the Taliban, who ruled from 1996 to 2001 and did not allow women to go to school or work, nor walk on the street without being accompanied by a male relative and wearing the all-enveloping burqa. Now reopened, the government runs more than 370 creches where around 17,000 children aged from 3 months to 5 years are provided with milk, food, cots, toys and education at subsidized rates. "Having a daycare center next to my office is a blessing. I feed my child after every two hours and get back to work without any stress," said Sadia Seddiqi, an HR official at a government ministry.

But this sense of security changed in April, after a suicide bomber and gunmen belonging to the Islamic State group attacked the Afghan communications ministry in central Kabul. About a dozen people were killed during the attack. Police evacuated about 100 children along with 2,800 employees from the complex. Harrowing TV pictures of children, teachers, and mothers screaming for hours after every gunshot inside the ministry building has forced hundreds of mothers to re-think their childcare. — AFP







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**12** Gulf Air reveals Malaga Costa del Sol in series of new destinations for 2019



**13** China's tech transfer problem is growing: EU business group



**14** NBK holds lecture on credit cards and protection against fraud



# Warba Bank net profits grow by 31% to reach KD 3.821 million in Q1 2019

Earnings per share 0.90 fils at 105% growth • Total revenues increased by 45%, reaching KD 27.184m

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, the best corporate bank and best investment bank in Kuwait, continues to achieve strong results realizing outstanding performance where the first quarter 2019 earnings recorded a remarkable growth, thanks to Allah blessings. Thus the Bank continues the growth march it has initiated in recent years.

With several achievements and successes in all areas of operation resulting in remarkable financial results accounting for the first quarter 2019 profit of KD 3.821 million or 31% increase compared to KD 2.917 million for the same period in 2018, the total revenues achieved as a result of the outstanding performance of all business sectors reached KD 27.184 million or at an increase of 45 percent compared to the same period last year. The operational revenues increased at a gross rate of 31 percent recording KD 14.226 million by 31 March 2019 compared to KD 10.880 million for the same period 2018.

Commenting on the Bank results for the first quarter 2019, Abdul Wahab Abdullah Al-Houti, Warba Bank Chairman said: "By Allah blessings, Warba Bank results in the first quarter 2019 complements its achievements in 2018, which the Banks has built upon towards achieving further growth and successes. Today, Warba Bank is investing in its growth, expansion and banking operations at all levels. The profits reflect the Bank's development strategy, expansion and financing plans to diversify its profit resources, avoid risks, rationalize spending and increase operating income from its core banking activities to ensure sustainable development and profitability which confirm performance integrity in-light of the Bank commitment to its investment and financing policy and effective risk management according to best practices in this field.

"The growth witnessed by Warba Bank today in terms of the customer demand on the Bank's services both from retail and corporate, is a strong indicator of its position as a champion in the Islamic banking sector being a modern Islamic banking institution that keeps abreast of the technological developments and is working to implement them in its banking services and products".

Al-Houti stressed that Warba insists on championing the digital banking sector and injecting necessary investments in this field to develop digital banking solutions that keep pace with growth in the global banking sector while meeting the aspirations of customers looking for flexible, fast and secure digital banking services especially in terms of the financing services heavily visited by customers at high demand submitting financing applications through, "Warba Online", which saves time and effort, by filling in an application form, the customer can realize his/her entitlement to get financing and will then be contacted by our specialist team till the service is accomplished. Al-Houti concluded: "During the past period, we have been able to honor our promises to our customers and, thankfully, we have been able to differentiate them with a range of exclusive banking services and solutions that have contributed to the enrichment of this fast growing sector."

The Bank's total assets increased due to its expansion strategy in the local and regional markets and investment in high quality low risk assets amounting to KD 2.593 billion, while the financing portfolio witnessed a remarkable growth of KD 1.762 billion, an increase of 29 percent compared to 31 March 2018. As a result of the high quality of the financing portfolio, the Bank's non-performing financing ratio was 1.68 percent at the end of the first quarter this year.

Shaheen Hamad Alghanem, Warba Bank Chief Executive Officer, said that the Bank achieved outstanding results in the first quarter. He stressed that the Bank's current approach is to participate in financing mega economic

projects in the Kuwait and overseas confirming that it is a high important strategy to the Bank's business for supporting development efforts.

He pointed out that in 2019, Warba Bank will continue to finance Kuwaiti companies, help them develop their business and implement their expansion plans. Small and medium enterprises will be given greater importance, in line with the Bank's belief in supporting the youth business and developing the entrepreneurs' performance which would contribute in income diversification while providing more employment opportunities and building national experiences in business. He stressed that the 50 percent capital increase in December 2018 is the main platform for developing the Bank's medium-term operations and enhancing its financing contributions in viable projects that secure sustainable returns, support corporate sector. The capital increase has also helped injecting needed investments in developing the Bank's digital infrastructure and geographical expansion throughout Kuwait.

## Warba Bank performance in Q1, 2019

Since the beginning of this year, Warba Bank has been developing its financing solutions to cover new sectors. After scoring several achievements in providing financing for sectors such as health care, auto and building materials, the Bank expanded its efforts and entered a new sector to secure its financial services, that is medical treatment at medical institutions abroad after signing an agreement with "Travel Market" the associate of Boodai Aviation Group. To get a medical treatment financing, the Bank provides two methods: The first is to deposit the treatment amount in the form of Al-Sunbula deposit at Warba Bank for a specified period of time with a return of up to 3 percent whereas the customer will have the opportunity to enter and win in the weekly and quarterly Al-Sunbula draws throughout the deposit period. The second method is to apply for direct financing from Warba Bank without any profits on the required amount of not exceeding KD25 with a flexible instalment period up to five years.

Moreover, the Bank added a unique service to its financing portfolio offering the opportunity to obtain personal finance to purchase building materials smoothly by following easy steps on smart devices through the Bank's partnership with Banaa.com, the company specialized in providing best offers and alternatives on all building materials.

In the first quarter, Warba Bank enhanced its auto financing program under the slogan: "Installment at Cash Price" without a down payment and 0 percent profit over 5 years, which has attracted customers and non-customers at a big demand. The Bank signed an agreement with Al-Zayani Group, the exclusive agent in Kuwait for Maserati's Italian-made cars, to provide financing for the purchase of the magnificent Maserati cars, including: Maserati Levante, Maserati Ghibley and Maserati Quattro Porte. The Bank also participated for the second year in row, at the Auto Show, held last March at the Marina Crescent with participation of many agencies of international brands. A team from Warba Bank presented financing solutions for those wishing to purchase cars.

## Al-Sunbula Account & Deposit

Due to the increasing demand witnessed by Al-Sunbula account from Warba Bank, the Bank worked in early 2019 to develop the account and deposit in a new and sophisticated way. The developments included an increase in the number of draws, becoming weekly with five winners each getting an amount of KD 1,000 and the

in China (23 percent), after the Chinese economic slowdown (45 percent), the global economy (27 percent) and rising labor costs in China (23 percent).

The study, which received replies from 585 firms, was conducted in January, as trans-Pacific trade tensions eased. They ratcheted up again in early May with the United States and China slapping steep increases in punitive customs tariffs on each other.

But early this year, a quarter of European companies in China said they were already suffering from the US increase in tariffs on Chinese products.

Many European companies manufacture products in China and export them all over the world.

A small number (six percent) have already relocated to circumvent the US penalties, or are planning to do so elsewhere in Asia or Europe. But Europeans say they share many of the grievances raised by the Trump administration in its campaign against Beijing. "The fundamental issues driving the trade war need to be resolved by addressing market access barriers and regulatory challenges while also tackling SOE reform and forced tech transfer," Roule stressed.



Abdul Wahab Abdullah Al-Houti



Shaheen Hamad Alghanem

Mega Draws, held every quarter awarding five winners, with cash prizes and Land Cruiser VXR.

In terms of upgrades to the Al-Sunbula deposit, the Bank has increased the expected rate of return to the customer to reach 3.5 percent when depositing KD 100,000 and above for 3 years - which is the highest rate in the Kuwaiti banking sector with returns disbursed monthly or at deposit maturity as per customer's choice. The deposit also gives customers the opportunity to enter the weekly and quarterly Al-Sunbula draws for every 1000 Kuwaiti Dinars as well as access to other special services.

## Warba...Socially responsible.

Warba Bank Corporate Social Responsibility Calendar in 2018 has been full so rich. It includes organizing and sponsoring a number of social events aimed at various segments of society. In 2019, the Bank continues in implementing its leading corporate social responsibility program based on supporting various segments of society in different fields; notably culture, education and the health sector. In the first quarter this year, Warba Bank strengthened its strategic partnership with the Super Kick Academy, which was held earlier this year, by launching a promotional campaign for users of FayeZ App, the Bank's sport application offering them great discounts when they register their children at the Academy.

Under this partnership, parents can get discounts starting at 5 percent on the Academy's registration fees by redeeming the points they collected when using the FayeZ App. The greater the number of steps taken and calculated by the application, the higher the discount rate reaching maximum 25 percent. Application users are entitled to redeem Points to receive a one-time discount at a monthly rate. It's noteworthy that FayeZ, has made a strategic turn in educating the Kuwaiti society on the importance of sports and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

For spreading its cultural and educational role about Islamic banking among young people, Warba Bank organized a recreational activity for Tala account customers, aged 14 years and younger at Trambo Xtreme in Morouj complex offering them free tickets to enjoy the Trambo Games, and gifts. The Bank's team was keen to be present at the event through a special corner where it provided all necessary information about Tala's investment account for children, which is based on the principles of Islamic Shari'a, and aims at educating young gen-

Some 20 percent of the companies surveyed complained of being forced into technology transfers for the benefit of a Chinese partner, double the figure two years ago. For a quarter (24 percent), such transfers were currently under way. "The authorities are saying there are no technology transfers any more but this is not what we see in our survey," she said. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang reiterated Beijing's denial.

"We do not have a national policy of forcing foreign companies to transfer technology," Lu said at a regular press briefing. He recalled that the country's rubber-stamp parliament adopted in March a foreign investment law that prohibits the use of "administrative means" to force the transfer of technology.

## 'Ambiguous rules'

More than half of the companies said legal protection of intellectual property was "inadequate", and 45 percent say they suffer "unequal treatment" compared to their Chinese counterparts. State firms and their subsidies are their main bone of

eration about the importance of savings from an early age.

Warba Bank also participated in the open day event organized by the Civil Aviation Administration for its employees at its premises at Kuwait International Airport. A team from Warba Bank has provided staff with a full explanation of the Bank's products: flexible financing offers and solutions that suit all needs as well the Bank's marketing campaigns.

## Winning awards

Warba Bank has harvested a number of local and regional awards in the first quarter this year. In terms of banking operations, the Bank received the "Elite Quality Recognition 2018" Award from GE. B. Morgan Chase 2018, for the quality of operations in both categories after achieving high ratios in direct operations (STP) for the transfer of funds amounted to 99.0 percent in the classification MT103 and 99.7 percent in the classification of MT202. The award came in recognition of the Bank success to maintain a distinct level of services and processes offered throughout the year in the field of electronic transfer in USD. As well, the Bank won two prestigious awards from IFN magazine: "Structured Finance Deal of the Year" for completion of the first sukuk transaction related to financing aviation sector Sharia compliant (Shaheen SPV) and "Cross Border Deal of the Year" for leading a syndicated financing arrangement of Byrne Equipment Rental LLC with the value of \$ 91 million.

On local level, and during the "Creative Advertising" event, Warba Bank won "Marketing & Media Communication Fast Growth Excellence" Award for given the bank's strong excellence and strong presence on both media and advertisement levels in 2018. The award reflected the great and intensive efforts exerted by the Bank's team throughout 2018 to communicate with the Kuwaiti society through all media channels including print, audio and visual.

The Bank has sponsored the "Loans, Bonds & Sukuk Middle East 2019" conference, the largest in the region in the banking in the Middle East, bringing together Sukuk issuers, investors and bankers to discuss the latest developments in the local and international debt markets: the conference has formed an excellent platform for Warba Bank to communicate with stakeholders and discuss future cooperation opportunities.

contention. The Europeans largely accuse these companies of enjoying preferential treatment, with 62 percent saying they have better access to public contracts.

And the outlook is getting gloomier: only 45 percent of the firms surveyed say they are optimistic about growth prospects for their sector over the next two years, compared to 62 percent a year ago.

Half do not expect to see a level playing field in the next five years or even beyond.

Fifty-three percent say business has become more difficult in the past year, up from 48 percent a year ago, with "ambiguous rules and regulations" topping of the list of obstacles cited by companies.

Difficulties with access to the internet, which is closely monitored and censored by the Communist government, is an unfavorable factor for 51 percent of respondents. Despite the problems, China remains one of the top three global destinations for future investment by 62 percent of the surveyed companies, a slight increase from last year, while 56 percent plan to expand their business in the country this year. —AFP

## EU firms 'caught in trade war crossfire'

**BEIJING:** European firms are "caught in the crossfire" of the US-China trade war and fewer are optimistic about their future in the world's second-largest economy, a business survey showed yesterday.

The clash between Beijing and Washington does not benefit European companies, contrary to what some might have hoped at the beginning of the dispute last year, according to the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

"Now the trade tensions are seen as another uncertainty on the business environment, something that won't be sorted out quickly whether there is a deal or not," said chamber vice president Charlotte Roule.

"The trade tensions, according to our members, are not good for business". According to the survey, the trade war is one of the top concerns for European firms



Business

# Gulf Air reveals Malaga Costa del Sol in series of new destinations for 2019

Decision reinforces Costa del Sol Tourist Board’s connectivity strategy



**MANAMA:** Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, yesterday revealed its first new destination for 2019 being Malaga - Costa del Sol in Spain. Commencing 14 June and operating until 15 September 2019, Malaga will be added as a seasonal summer destination as the airline continues revealing throughout the year its further network expansion plans for 2019.

“In line with our 5-year strategy to become the airline of choice, and in light of the recent adaptation of the new boutique business model, we are adding a seasonal destination to cater to summer’s peak travel demand,” said Gulf

Air’s Chief Executive Officer Kresimir Kucko. He also commented: “Malaga is known for its summer appeal as a holiday destination and is very popular to our customers in the region. Gulf Air is flying to a direct point in Spain for the first time and we are excited to offer this opportunity to everyone this summer.”

The President of Costa del Sol Tourist Board and the Provincial Government of Malaga, Francisco Salado, has congratulated Gulf Air on the decision to introduce, for the first time, a direct flight between Bahrain and Costa del Sol. “The new flight reinforces the importance of the

objectives marked by the Tourist Board and its department of Connectivity and Emerging Markets. Gulf Air and Costa del Sol Tourist Board are already working on a co-market-ing plan with the aim of promoting the destination and consolidating the flight frequency and future program-ming, based on a successful, ongoing, strategic alliance.”

Earlier in 2019, Gulf Air announced its new boutique business model concept which will reinforce its focus on product and customer experience. As already done in the hospitality industry, Gulf Air will differentiate itself as a boutique airline that is unique in the way it operates com-

paring to airlines that are more volume driven. This approach will give the airline a competitive advantage that will translate in its new fleet, new Falcon Gold class offer-ing, new exclusive products, new destinations for 2019 and its presence in the new terminal at Bahrain International Airport due to open towards the end of the year.

With the new business model concept, Gulf Air aims to grow strategically in size, expand to more boutique desti-nations in 2019 and continue its fleet modernization pro-gram by receiving additional 2 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner’s and 4 Airbus A320neos this year.

## Thyssenkrupp’s turmoil marks war for Germany’s economic identity

**FRANKFURT:** When Thyssenkrupp CEO Guido Kerkhoff announced plans to list its prized elevators unit last week, he set off a battle for the conglomerate’s future that could test Germany’s brand of “social market” capitalism.

Kerkhoff had little choice but to think the unthinkable when the company’s share price sank to a 15-year low on May 8. The plan to take elevators public not only broke with long tradition but marked the abandonment of a turnaround plan he himself had unveiled less than eight months before. Now Thyssenkrupp’s future is in play, with activist investors on the one side baying for a restructuring of the group to drive up value, and its top shareholder - the charitable Krupp foundation - and workers on the other side with a mandate to protect the unity of the company and jobs.

It’s also a clash of cultures and of differing visions of capitalism: Anglo-Saxon profit maximization pitted against Germany’s long-term focused social market economy model. Kerkhoff’s strategy will not only decide the fate of his career, but also the shape of Thyssenkrupp - a poster child of Germany’s so-called Rhineland capitalism, which buttressed the country’s economic success by emphasising social policies to protect workers’ rights as much as the rules of free enterprise.

Thyssenkrupp’s conglomerate structure has fallen out of favour in the market, reflected in the deterioration of its share price. Many investors say Kerkhoff and the non-profit foundation must move to reshape the group’s port-folio, including through spin-offs and divestments.

Ingo Speich, head of sustainability and corporate gov-ernance at top-20 shareholder Deka Investment, said this kind of active portfolio management was the likeliest and best solution for the group.

“Parts will be separated out and the resulting proceeds used to make acquisitions.” Bankers and investors are now eyeing the prospect of finding new owners for the group’s sprawling businesses, ranging from steel and elevators to car parts and submarines.

Components Technology, which makes automotive parts, and Industrial Solutions, which makes chemical and cement plants, may be merged with sector peers in the medium to long-term, according to three financial sources familiar with the matter. Elevators may end up in the hands of Kone or Schindler, should they intercept Thyssenkrupp’s IPO plans, while plant engineering could be combined with Linde’s engineering unit, one of the sources said. Other investment bank pitches to potential buyers will focus on finding a partner for some of Thyssenkrupp’s automotive businesses, where Bosch, ZF Friedrichshafen, Nexteer or Mando are seen as potential players, according to the sources.

The company’s Rothe Erde machine parts unit may attract interest from Sweden’s SKF, Schaeffler and Japan’s NSK, they said. “This is the breakup of Thyssenkrupp,” said a senior banker who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter. All the companies either declined to comment on potential deals or were not immediately available to comment. Kerkhoff has acknowledged that new ownership structures for its businesses is needed to turn the company around. But Thyssenkrupp declined to comment on any future asset sales.

**‘No quick, easy wins’**

Such a process will however be lengthy and difficult, according to three separate financial and labor sources, for two reasons: apart from elevators, all other units of Thyssenkrupp are less profitable than their peer average, are going through a restructuring or are in need of one.

This is reducing their value and makes it less probable that an M&A frenzy will ensue. “I don’t see quick, easy wins unless assets are sold under value,” said another senior banker. “A fire sale is not the way forward.”

Secondly, powerful labor representatives at Thyssenkrupp, who control half of the seats on group’s 20-member supervisory board, are willing to oppose M&A that will result in further job cuts among its 161,000-strong workforce. The 10 workers’ representa-tives can team up with the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach Foundation, which holds a 21 percent stake, to

veto major changes. The foundation’s mandate is to pre-serve the unity of the company while at the same time relying on healthy dividends to fund its non-profit activi-ties for promoting the “common good”.

It therefore needs to tread carefully, preserving the company’s future without obstructing needed reforms. The elevator IPO, part of a plan that also includes 6,000 job reductions, has found support because it brings in cash that is badly needed to fix Thyssenkrupp’s balance sheet and strengthen the businesses as a whole. “It will be a dif-ficult path for the company and its employees. But we won’t abandon workers,” said Markus Grolms, vice chair-man of Thyssenkrupp’s supervisory board and secretary at IG Metall, Germany’s biggest labor union.

The conflict at Thyssenkrupp also illustrates the grow-ing influence of activist shareholders on European house-hold names, with demands to tackle underperformance and simplify structures.

Swedish investor Cevian, a shareholder since 2013 that has long pressed for change, holds an 18 percent stake, while more recent investor Elliott holds under 3 percent. Both have criticised Thyssenkrupp’s underperformance.

Activists argue specialized businesses are often more highly valued than conglomerates because in times of growth, high-potential assets do not have to share the bal-ance sheet with cash-consuming, lower-return businesses.

Conglomerates tend to be valued at a trading multiple of some of their lowest performing business resulting in the so-called conglomerate discount and higher refinanc-ing costs.

In recent years, groups that have reshaped their portfo-lios through spin-offs and sales have outperformed peers in terms of share price development, Goldman Sachs said in a study last year, a trend which helped asset disposals in Europe reach their highest level since 2007.

“It’s not necessarily that boards and companies were doing things wrong before,” said Rich Thomas, managing director and head of European shareholder advisory at investment bank Lazard . “But things are different now and now boards and companies need to do things differently because the world has moved a bit underneath them,” he added, referring to the rise of investor activism. “And now, I think, in many ways European and German boards are playing a little bit of catch-up.” — Reuters

## Deutsche says money-laundering reports not waived for Trump

**FRANKFURT AM:** Germany’s largest lender Deutsche Bank failed to forward suspicions about transactions involving US President Donald Trump to American author-ities, the New York Times reported, prompting the firm to issue a categorical denial yesterday.

“At no time was an investigator prevented from escalat-ing activity identified as potentially suspicious” to the Treasury Department, a spokesman for the bank told AFP. “The suggestion that anyone was reassigned or fired in an effort to quash concerns related to any client is categori-cally false,” he added.

The New York Times reported Sunday that Deutsche did not follow recommendations from its own money-laundering specialists that some transactions by companies controlled by Trump and his son-in-law Jared Kushner should be flagged to authorities. Certain dealings in 2016 and 2017, including some with entities and individuals out-side the US, set off automated alerts in the bank’s systems, prompting employees to prepare “suspicious activity reports” on some of them.

But executives “rejected their employees’ advice” that they be sent to the Treasury, the NYT reported.

Former employees interviewed by the paper, some speaking on condition of anonymity, alleged a culture of blocking suspicious activity reports to protect client relationships at Deutsche, with one saying she was fired after raising concerns. Deutsche Bank was one of the few major banks to continue to lend to Trump following the bankruptcies of his casinos and other businesses in the 1990s, and has lent “billions” to him and Kushner accord-ing to the NYT.

“We have increased our anti-financial crime staff and



The headquarters of German bank Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP

enhanced our controls in recent years and take compliance with the anti-money-laundering laws very seriously,” the Deutsche spokesman said.

While the lender has boosted its compliance staff to around 3,000 people spread around the world, its per-formance in pursuing financial crime has failed to satisfy some authorities.

Last year, German market watchdog Bafin took the unprecedented step of naming audit firm KPMG as an independent supervisor of Deutsche’s progress on squeezing out money-laundering and other illicit activi-ties. That role has been extended to cover so-called “cor-respondent banking” after Deutsche was drawn into a massive money-laundering scandal around Denmark’s Danske Bank. — AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

| ASIAN COUNTRIES           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer        | 304.900 |
| Euro                      | 341.790 |
| Sterling Pound            | 391.030 |
| Canadian dollar           | 228.300 |
| Turkish lira              | 50.700  |
| Swiss Franc               | 306.740 |
| US Dollar Buying          | 296.700 |
| ASIAN COUNTRIES           |         |
| Japanese Yen              | 2.768   |
| Indian Rupees             | 4.390   |
| Pakistani Rupees          | 2.189   |
| Srilankan Rupees          | 1.728   |
| Nepali Rupees             | 2.735   |
| Singapore Dollar          | 223.370 |
| Hongkong Dollar           | 38.866  |
| Bangladesh Taka           | 3.599   |
| Philippine Peso           | 5.801   |
| Thai Baht                 | 9.650   |
| Malaysian ringgit         | 77.980  |
| GCC COUNTRIES             |         |
| Saudi Riyal               | 81.361  |
| Qatari Riyal              | 83.798  |
| Omani Riyal               | 792.463 |
| Bahraini Dinar            | 810.150 |
| UAE Dirham                | 83.068  |
| ARAB COUNTRIES            |         |
| Egyptian Pound - Cash     | 20.750  |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 17.820  |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000      | 1.225   |
| Tunisian Dinar            | 105.140 |
| Jordanian Dinar           | 430.710 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000    | 0.203   |
| Syrian Lira               | 0.000   |
| Morocco Dirham            | 32.299  |

### Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

| Rate for Transfr      | Selling Rate |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| US Dollar             | 304.540      |
| Canadian Dollar       | 226.702      |
| Sterling Pound        | 390.904      |
| Euro                  | 341.961      |
| Swiss Frank           | 308.985      |
| Bahrain Dinar         | 809.883      |
| UAE Dirhams           | 83.317       |
| Qatari Riyals         | 84.557       |
| Saudi Riyals          | 82.105       |
| Jordanian Dinar       | 430.819      |
| Egyptian Pound        | 17.879       |
| Sri Lankan Rupees     | 1.731        |
| Indian Rupees         | 4.340        |
| Pakistani Rupees      | 2.083        |
| Bangladesh Taka       | 3.607        |
| Philippines Pесо      | 5.797        |
| Cyprus pound          | 18.117       |
| Japanese Yen          | 3.778        |
| Syrian Pound          | 1.591        |
| Nepalese Rupees       | 2.719        |
| Malaysian Ringgit     | 73.937       |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 44.578       |
| Thai Bhat             | 10.589       |
| Turkish Lira          | 50.609       |
| Singapore dollars     | 223.632      |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

| CURRENCY        | BUY           | SELL     |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|
|                 | <b>Europe</b> |          |
| British Pound   | 0.380503      | 0.394403 |
| Czech Korune    | 0.005236      | 0.014536 |
| Danish Krone    | 0.041563      | 0.046563 |
| Euro            | 0.332487      | 0.346187 |
| Georgian Lari   | 0.132261      | 0.132261 |
| Hungarian       | 0.001149      | 0.001339 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.030808      | 0.036008 |
| Romanian Leu    | 0.065366      | 0.082216 |
| Russian ruble   | 0.004731      | 0.004731 |
| Slovakia        | 0.009123      | 0.019123 |
| Swedish Krona   | 0.027638      | 0.032638 |

| Swiss Franc        | 0.295636 | 0.306638 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Australasia        |          |          |
| Australian Dollar  | 0.200985 | 0.212985 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.193099 | 0.202599 |
| America            |          |          |
| Canadian Dollar    | 0.221053 | 0.230053 |
| US Dollars         | 0.300800 | 0.306100 |
| US Dollars Mint    | 0.301300 | 0.306100 |
| Asia               |          |          |
| Bangladesh Taka    | 0.003013 | 0.003814 |
| Chinese Yuan       | 0.042715 | 0.046215 |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 0.037100 | 0.039850 |
| Indian Rupee       | 0.003743 | 0.004515 |
| Indonesian Rupiah  | 0.000017 | 0.000023 |
| Japanese Yen       | 0.002683 | 0.002863 |
| Korean Won         | 0.000245 | 0.000260 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 0.069478 | 0.075478 |
| Nepalese Rupee     | 0.002683 | 0.003023 |
| Pakistan Rupee     | 0.001526 | 0.002298 |
| Philippine Peso    | 0.005762 | 0.006062 |
| Singapore Dollar   | 0.216752 | 0.226752 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee   | 0.001378 | 0.001958 |
| Taiwan             | 0.010177 | 0.010357 |
| Thai Baht          | 0.009304 | 0.009854 |
| Vietnamese Dong    | 0.00013  | 0.00013  |
| Arab               |          |          |
| Bahraini Dinar     | 0.794183 | 0.810683 |
| Egyptian Pound     | 0.017605 | 0.020205 |
| Iranian Riyal      | 0.000084 | 0.000086 |
| Iraqi Dinar        | 0.000210 | 0.000270 |
| Jordanian Dinar    | 0.425139 | 0.434139 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar      | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound     | 0.000157 | 0.000257 |
| Moroccan Dirhams   | 0.020535 | 0.044536 |
| Omani Riyal        | 0.785630 | 0.791310 |
| Qatar Riyal        | 0.079481 | 0.084421 |
| Saudi Riyal        | 0.080220 | 0.081520 |
| Syrian Pound       | 0.001293 | 0.001513 |
| Tunisian Dinar     | 0.097597 | 0.105597 |
| Turkish Lira       | 0.043955 | 0.053800 |
| UAE Dirhams        | 0.081588 | 0.083288 |
| Yemeni Riyal       | 0.000991 | 0.001071 |



## Business

# China's tech transfer problem is growing: EU business group

## Beijing denies problem exists amid growing concerns

**BEIJING:** Cases of European firms forced to transfer technology in China are increasing despite Beijing saying the problem does not exist, a European business lobby said, adding that its outlook on the country's regulatory environment is "bleak". China's trading partners have long complained that their companies are often compelled to hand over prized technology in exchange for access to the world's second-largest economy. Demands by the United States that China address the problem are central to the two countries' ongoing trade war, which has seen both sides pile tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said yesterday that results from its annual survey showed 20 percent of members reported being compelled to transfer technology for market access, up from 10 percent two years ago. Nearly a quarter of those who reported such transfers said the practice was currently ongoing, while another 39 percent said the transfers had occurred less than two years ago. "Unfortunately, our members have reported that compelled technology transfers not only persist, but that they happen at double the rate of two years ago," European Chamber Vice President Charlotte Roule said at a news briefing on the survey.

"It might be due to a number of reasons... Either way, it is unacceptable that this practice continues in a market as mature and innovative as China," Roule said. In certain "cutting edge" industries the incidence of reported transfers was higher, such as 30 percent in chemicals and petroleum, 28 percent in medical devices, and 27 percent in pharmaceuticals, she added. China's top Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, said on Saturday that Washington's complaints on the issue were "fabricated from thin air".

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a daily news briefing that the government did not have any policy forcing foreign enterprises to give up technology, and that if any company came forward with facts proving otherwise China would be able to "resolve" it in a cooperative manner. "But we very much oppose fabrications under any situation in which a factual basis cannot be provided," Lu said. Nonetheless, companies have long feared retribution for speaking up about abuses by government administrators or state-backed local partners, particularly without true recourse in China's Communist Party-controlled courts.

Amid the escalating US-China trade war, Beijing has put pressure on the EU to stand with it against US President Donald Trump's trade policies, though the world's largest trade bloc has largely rebuffed those efforts. The EU has also become increasingly frustrated by what it sees as the slow pace of economic opening in China, even after years of granting China almost unfettered access to EU markets for trade and investment. However, European officials say publicly that they do not support the use of tariffs as a solution.

Trump earlier this month raised tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent, and has said the duties are causing companies to move production out of China to Vietnam and other countries in Asia. The majority of European firms in the chamber's survey said that their business strategies were not changed by the trade war, though it was completed by 585 respondents in January and February, well before the United States' latest tariff increase.

At the time, 6 percent of respondents said they were moving or had moved production out of China as a result of the tariffs, and 4 percent said they were



OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: A container ship sits docked at the Port of Oakland in Oakland, California. —AFP

considering or had already decreased investment in China. Forty-nine percent of the respondents affected by US tariffs said their companies had covered the cost themselves and kept prices the same. The chamber added that members had a "bleak outlook" on

China's regulatory environment, with 72 percent of members saying they expected obstacles to increase or stay the same in the coming five years, even as the Chinese government has vowed continued reform and opening. —Reuters

## Sprint, T-Mobile mega-merger gets nod from key US official

**WASHINGTON:** The top official at the US communications regulator yesterday announced his support for the proposed \$26 billion merger between telecoms firms Sprint and T-Mobile.

Ajit Pai, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, said both companies had promised his agency they would offer a next-generation 5G network to 99 percent of Americans within six years of completing the deal while also expanding access to mobile broadband. "The construction of this network and the delivery of such high-speed wireless services to the vast majority of Americans would substantially benefit consumers and our country

as a whole," Pai said in a statement.

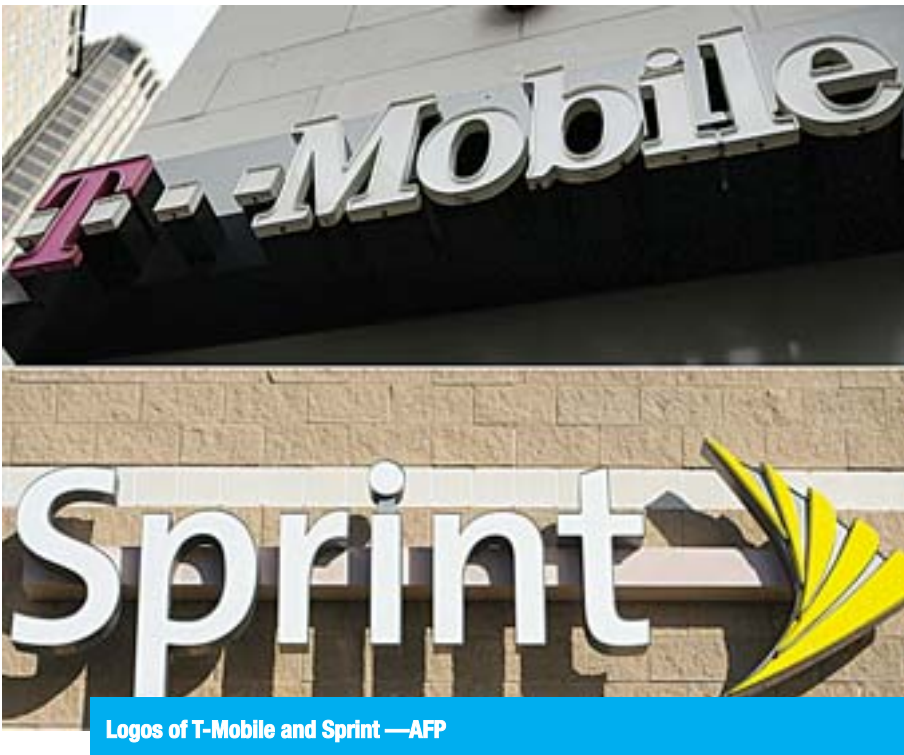
Failure to make good on their pledges could result in billions in payments to the US Treasury, creating an incentive for the companies to meet their obligations on time, according to Pai.

The commission is due to consider the merger proposal next month but still requires approval from the Justice Department. T-Mobile and Sprint are respectively the third- and fourth-largest wireless carriers in the US in terms of number of customers.

The two firms had previously called off merger talks after failing to clinch mutually agreeable terms.

5G, or fifth-generation, wireless communications networks would enable services such as remote surgery or driverless cars and allow customers to experience video and virtual reality with greater ease.

Together, T-Mobile and Sprint have about 131 million subscribers, virtually matching second-ranked AT&T and posing stiff competition to market leader Verizon Communications. —AFP



Logos of T-Mobile and Sprint —AFP

## Ryanair sees more turbulence after profit slumps on cheaper fares

**LONDON:** Irish no-frills airline Ryanair yesterday warned of further profits turbulence after annual earnings slumped almost a third, mainly on cheaper fares triggered by overcapacity in the European short-haul sector. Profit after tax dropped 29 percent to 1.02 billion euros in the year ending March 31 compared with a year earlier, also on higher fuel and staff costs, the Dublin-based carrier said in an earnings statement. Ryanair said net profits could decline further in 2019/20, to between 750 million and 950 million euros.

"Short-haul capacity growth and the absence of Easter in the fourth quarter led to a six percent fare decline," chief executive Michael O'Leary said in the statement. However the drop in fares attracted more passengers, whose numbers climbed nine percent to 142 million for the year. Europe's short-haul sector is being weighed down by fierce competition despite some consolidation, including Ryanair's recent pur-

chase of Austrian carrier Lauda. "We expect further consolidation and airline failures in winter 2019 and again into 2020 due to over-capacity, weaker fares, and higher oil prices," Ryanair said Yesterday. After falling sharply following the results update, shares in Ryanair recovered to trade down 0.4 percent at 10.76 euros in Dublin stock market business.

"Fares down, traffic up, costs jumping-more of the same kind of themes we've been seeing for a number of quarters from Ryanair and for the whole European airline sector," noted Neil Wilson, chief market analyst at Markets.com. Ryanair's profits update comes as the airline undergoes major restructuring. Mirroring a set-up by British Airways and Iberia owner IAG, Ryanair aims to have four distinct operations, each with its own chief executive. Under overall boss O'Leary will be Ryanair DAC overseeing the Irish operations, Ryanair UK, Lauda for its Austrian business and Ryanair Sun, or Polish unit, according to an announcement earlier this year.

### Higher costs

Ryanair's recent performance has been hit also by pan-European strikes last year that forced it to cancel flights, affecting thousands of passengers, and



In this file photo, a Ryanair Boeing 737-800 aircraft lands at Barcelona's 'El Prat' airport. —AFP

offer improved pay deals to staff via landmark deals with unions. The airline yesterday said last year's staff costs jumped by 200 million euros on pay increases for staff, notably pilots. Ryanair is also exposed to any Brexit fallout, with Britain accounting for about one-quarter of its revenues.

The airline yesterday said the outlook for its current financial year was in

part dependent on "no negative Brexit developments". Ryanair's fierce rival EasyJet on Friday said the British airline's net losses more than quadrupled in its first half on "tough" market conditions and high fuel costs. The carrier also warned that its second-half performance would encounter turbulence, partly because of Brexit turmoil and Europe's economic slowdown. —AFP

## Warba Bank launches 'Fayez' at Avenues

**KUWAIT:** Out of its keenness on promoting the significance of practicing sport during the holy month of Ramadan, Warba Bank recently launched its 'Fayez' walking activity at the Avenues.

The first of these activities was held on May 17. Warba Bank plans to hold similar activity on the weekends until the end of Ramadan: that is on May 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31 in addition to June 1st.

In this regard, Warba Bank marketing and corporate communication executive manager, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi said that the activity is part of Warba bank's social responsibility activities set to promote the culture of health.

Notably, Warba Bank launched 'Fayez' application on all smartphones to encourage subscribers on practicing walking as a sport.



Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi



## US stocks drop as Huawei ban hits tech shares

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street stocks dropped early yesterday amid worries over US-China trade talks and as US government restrictions on Chinese company Huawei hit American technology companies.

About 15 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 25,661.41, down 0.4 percent. The broad-based S&P 500 had shed 0.6 percent to 2,842.14, while

the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index had tumbled 1.4 percent to 7,704.41.

US stocks have been volatile the last two weeks as the prospect of a trade agreement between Beijing and Washington has been shaken by fresh tariff announcements on both sides. In the midst of a trade war with Beijing, President Donald Trump has barred US companies from engaging in telecommunications trade with foreign companies said to threaten American national security, a move targeting Chinese giant Huawei.

Google, which makes the Android system used on many smartphones, said it was complying with the US order. Google parent Alphabet fell 2.3 percent, while shares

of chip companies Qualcomm and Intel also retreated after US news reports said they had stop supplying Huawei.

Equity markets on both sides of the Atlantic slid yesterday as investors fretted over the latest flare-up in the China-US trade war. Eurozone heavyweights Frankfurt and Paris were each down more than 1.5 percent, while London held up better thanks to a weak pound, as investors tracked ongoing Brexit turmoil.

European stock markets struggled in the face of a US crackdown on China's Huawei Technologies yesterday after a report that German-based chipmaker Infineon had halted shipments to Huawei. A profit warning from Ryanair also pressured airline

stocks, overpowering the impact of a surge in oil producers due to rising crude prices and pushing the pan-European index STOXX 600 down 0.5% by 0930 GMT. Tech stocks fell the most across all European sectors as the report on Infineon followed news on Sunday that Google was suspending some business with Huawei.

"Chipmakers in Europe, and United states have been hit by trade tensions, especially today because Huawei has been banned from Google's Playstore," said Vlad Totia, research analyst at Accendo Markets. A source told Reuters that Google had suspended business with Huawei that required the transfer of hardware, software and technical services except those pub-

licly available via open source licensing. AMS, STMicroelectronics, and ASML were down between 3% and 7% as fears of a disruption to the industry's global supply chain grew.

Nokia and Ericsson however, gained from the news as investors judged damage to Huawei could benefit the European telecom equipment makers. Europe's largest low-cost carrier Ryanair fell more than 3% after it was the latest major player to provide signs of pain in a sector struggling with overcapacity, Brexit and delays in delivery of the Boeing 737 Max. EasyJet Plc, Lufthansa AG and Air France, all slid in response, pushing the travel and leisure sector down almost 1 percent. —Agencies



## Business

# NBK holds lecture on credit cards and protection against fraud

Event hosted by KLS seeks to create awareness about banking and security



**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) held a lecture on credit cards and protection against fraud, as part of its efforts to raise awareness about banking and security in the society at large, and to reaffirm its commitment to protecting customers in every service and product it provides.

The lecture was organized by Kuwait Lawyers Society and presented by NBK's representatives, Sanad Al-Shatti, Bader Aljanah and Bashar Ibrahim. NBK ensures it always takes part in events that help promote banking services and the Bank's leading role in providing secure services to customers and ensure they can trust the latest banking solutions and therefore help advance the banking sector in Kuwait.



Introducing the lecture, Sanad Al-Shatti, Head of Merchants Acquiring, National Bank of Kuwait, affirmed that the bank ensures to spread awareness about the banking sector and cooperates with the Central Bank of Kuwait in that regard. He pointed out that the Bank employs every method of communication with customers to provide them with all the necessary information related to their transactions and safety of their personal data.

Al-Shatti said: "We are always seeking to spread awareness about the various aspects of banking and have most recently notified our customers to avoid having their cards double swiped through the stores system, in addition to other protective initiatives."

In the first part of the lecture, Bader Aljanah, Credit Card Team Representative, National Bank of Kuwait gave a detailed presentation on the features and benefits offered by NBK credit cards. He said: "NBK Credit Cards provide customers with a unique lifestyle and features that fit their needs, giving them access to many rewards and exclusive offers."

Aljanah presented how customers can take advantage of the features offered by NBK Credit Cards, which include the NBK Rewards Program that give discounts and offers at over 850 stores in addition to ongoing campaigns launched throughout the year. The second part of the lecture focused on ways to protect customers. Bashar Ibrahim, Senior Manager -

Authorization and Fraud Control Unit, reaffirmed that NBK Credit Cards enjoy the highest level of security and protection and said: "NBK also ensures that it launches communication campaigns to help protect customers against any fraud possibility."

Ibrahim presented the initiatives and efforts made by NBK in order to provide customers with the necessary protection. NBK credit cards are the ideal payment method. Customers can enjoy many advantages when shopping with an NBK Credit Cards, including redeeming points in the NBK Rewards Program, collecting NBK Miles Points, purchase protection service, extended warranty service and entering the many NBK draws.

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

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 19th May 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 12th May until 16th May 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

### The winners of this week are:

Nael Mohsen Ali Al-Enezi  
Jassim Mohammed Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi  
Khaled Ali Thabet Mohammad  
Wajih Yousef Mohammad  
Turki Maiah Ali Saleh

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. 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 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.

## 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. Bahrin Hakimuddin
2. Naser Mohammed Mubarak Al-Rasheed
3. Mohammad Abdulbaset Ali
4. Mubarak Hussein Mohammed Alajmi
5. Abdulmajed Ahmed Albokhasan

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.

## KIC announces a net profit of KD 5.9 million for Q1 2019

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Insurance Company announced a net profit of KD 5.9 million and earnings per share of 31.9 fils for the first quarter of 2019, compared to KD 4.98 million and earnings per share of 26.96 fils for the same period of 2018.

Meanwhile, the company maintained the gross written premium, which amounted to KD 11.7 million compared to KD 11.8 million for the same period of last

## Ooredoo first to introduce fastest and newest Netgear router in Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait announced it has recently launched the new Netgear M2 Router that is the fastest mobile and fixed router. The device is sold exclusively at Ooredoo and is a major upgrade in Ooredoo's portfolio, offering superfast mobile broadband Internet to deliver incredible download speeds up to 2 Gbps and upload speeds up to 150Mbps; bringing our mobile broadband experience to unparalleled new heights. Making the Netgear M2 Router a perfect addition to any Shamel internet plan for customers that seek unrivaled performance.

## Will he, won't he? Speculation over Japan's sales tax hike

**TOKYO:** After months of speculation that Japan's government could postpone an impending sales tax hike to avoid damaging the economy, it appeared set to go ahead with the move thanks to stronger-than-expected growth data released yesterday.

The data showed GDP expanded by 0.5 percent in the first quarter, and while the recovery was soft and economists expressed concern over weak consumption, the data is likely to boost the case for the sales tax to finally go ahead. The consumption tax issue is huge politically in Japan and there had been suggestions that it could be postponed for a third time, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe calling a snap election this summer.

Here are some key questions and answers about the tax, which is due to be raised from eight percent to 10 percent from October:

### What is it?

The consumption tax is an eight-percent tax payable on goods and

year. As for the net operating profit for the current period, it amounted to KD 2.9 million compared to KD 2.7 million for last year. In addition, the shareholders' equity increased to KD 87.9 million for the 1st quarter of 2019, compared to KD 71.4 million for the 1st quarter of 2018.

Sami Sharif, CEO of Kuwait Insurance Company, stated that these results reflect the continuous growth of the company, and confirm its ability to protect its assets as well as the rights of its clients and shareholders, especially amid the extreme competition in the local insurance market and the highly unstable global economic conditions.

Moreover, Sami Sharif commended the company for continuously preserving its credibility and transparency by adhering to the rules and regulations of corporate governance issued by the Capital Markets Authority. This approach enhances the company's resilience, bolsters its risk management strategy and

Ooredoo stated that it is proud to be the first to introduce this device in Kuwait. This is a continuation to its ongoing efforts to enrich customers' lives by providing them with the latest developments in the field of telecommunications technology. The Netgear M2 router combines ultrafast download speeds with the support of 4GX LTE Advanced CAT 20 with up to 5-band Carrier Aggregation, which provides the best internet connection experience in the market.

The new device, manufactured by Netgear, is capable of providing speeds up to 2 Gbps, and boasts a powerful battery for all day use with the Improved Jumpboost feature, it can be used as a power bank for other devices, can connect up to 20 other devices on its superfast WiFi and also includes a LAN port.

Ooredoo has always been keen to be the pioneer in providing its customers with the latest technologies. This particular major upgrade in devices will enable customers to stream ultra HD video content, use virtual reality devices freely and play online games uninterrupted, in addition to the latest trends in the field of technology.

### Why could it be postponed?

Abe and his senior officials have insisted the hike will proceed as planned. The leader has said it would take a shock on the level of the Lehman Brothers collapse to derail it.

But in a research note published before yesterday's GDP data, Tobias Harris, an analyst at Teneo consultancy group, noted that Abe said a similar thing in 2016 and then, "after a feeble attempt to argue that such a shock could be imminent, he postponed the tax increase for a second time anyway".

And after enjoying a long period of uninterrupted growth, the economy slammed into reverse at the end of last year. A series of forward-looking indicators, notably a key government index, suggest that the economy may have entered a recession.

The last consumption tax hike in 2014 was widely blamed for sparking a recession and Abe is desperate to avoid a repeat.

Harris said: "If the escalation in the US-China trade war intensifies downward pressure on Japan's economy, the prime minister could use the slowdown to justify delaying the tax hike again (blaming external factors)."

### What's the political impact?

With Abe enjoying high personal popularity ratings and political

opposition next to non-existent, speculation is swirling that he could use a delay in the tax hike to call a snap general election.

"Having failed to achieve diplomatic breakthroughs with Russia or North Korea that might otherwise have justified a snap election, delaying the consumption tax is the best argument Abe can make for calling a general election," said Harris.

The consumption tax is seen by many as a third-rail in Japanese politics and politicians avoid raising taxes if they can help it. In April 1989, then-prime minister Noboru Takeshita ushered in Japan's first-ever sales tax-at three percent-and was forced to resign two months later amid plunging popular support and a separate corruption scandal. His successor then received a drubbing at the ballot box.

### What can soften the blow?

Abe has promised a series of measures to mitigate the economic impact, including maintaining the rate at eight percent for food and non-alcoholic drinks. In addition, consumers will be offered incentives if they pay using cashless methods, as Japan seeks to wean itself off paper money.

Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda has said he believes these measures will mean the tax hike has only a limited impact on the economy. —AFP





## What's On



# UPAC organizes annual Ramadan iftar gathering for its employees

United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a leading commercial real estate and facilities management company, recently celebrated the Holy month of Ramadan by organizing its annual iftar gathering for its employees. Over 100

UPAC employees, along with their families, broke fast together on 13 May 2019 at The Palms Beach Hotel and Spa Kuwait. After the dinner, employees participated in a raffle draw for prizes. After the event, attendees collected Ramadan gifts along with Girgeaan

boxes for children. Nadia Akil, CEO of UPAC, said "social gatherings, especially during significant events like Ramadan, helps foster teamwork and collaboration. I'm grateful to have such a hardworking team at UPAC."

## KidZ organizes graduation ceremony



KidZ nursery administration recently organized its 11th graduation ceremony, which was conducted in a Hollywood style using red carpets and the walk of fame, was attended by KidZ general director, Mohammed Faisal Al-Weqian, executive manager, Nada Soud Al-Thakair, kids, their friends and parents. The ceremony started with recitation from the holy Quran and included a speech by manager Sara Shwaish, another by the graduates and a number of artistic performances.



The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently visited the children ward at the physiotherapy and rehabilitation hospital to celebrate Girgeaan along with other visitors and hospitalized kids. CBK's deputy director for corporate communication, Amandi Al-Wera stressed that Girgeaan was a traditional cultural and social activity and that CBK is keen on annually reviving it.

## Entrepreneurship master class conducted by Injaz Kuwait

On 30th of April, INJAZ Kuwait conducted an entrepreneurship master class exclusively for the students of class 9. The students were welcomed with a warm welcome address by Mussarat (HOD Commerce Department), after which the stage was handed over to Abdullah. He introduced the students to the world of entrepreneurship and business, and gave them tips to becoming successful entrepreneurs.

The most fun part of the day was when Abdullah asked the children to select their CEOs and create their own companies. A total of 12 children were selected as CEOs to represent their own team. He gave the children a total of 1 hour to build up their own companies that includes an attractive logo, company description, benefits of the company, source of profit etc. The children came up with innovative and exciting ideas and spent their hour efficiently under the leadership of their CEOs. They were given three papers to draw their logos and write down about their companies. The children invested in all their ideas and created interesting companies.

At the end of the one hour, children were provided with a healthy meal. After the tasty treat, the CEOs were asked to

come up to the stage with four of their team mates to introduce their new companies to the panel of judges and to the other children present in the auditorium. All of the 12 CEOs showcased a ton of confidence and leadership qualities while presenting their companies, and were brilliant. Rachel's company "Young Trends" bagged the first position. The second position was secured by Yukta Menon's company called "Go School". And finally the third place was given to Sanskar Mishra's company called "Shop Point".

Medals were handed out to the three teams and its team mates by our Respected Vice principal, Dr Sam T Kuruvilla, while the other children encouraged and appreciated the champions of the day. Abdullah congratulated all the children who took part in the session and appreciated their efforts. He ended the session by calling the winners the CHAMPIONS of the day and the others the WINNERS!!! As a token of love, two cards were given to Abdullah and Danah, which they loved and thanked us for. The children really enjoyed the whole session and learned more about entrepreneurship in a fun and exciting way. It was surely a day well spent!!



## IWG host annual Ramadan Ghabqa

The International Women's Group organized their Ramadan Ghabqa on Sunday, 19 May 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Farwaniya. Sheikh Faisal Al-Malik Al-Sabah, Governor of Farwaniya was amongst the VIPs including IWG's female Ambassadors, Ambassador's wives and a selection of prominent women within the Kuwaiti society.

Clethe Gubler, wife of the Ambassador of Switzerland to Kuwait and President of the Group, opened with a welcome speech and greeted all the attendees of this very special evening. She further explained the significant importance of this Holy month and how, in the traditions, it is customary to act on noble deeds and embody all the values that Ramadan holds. Thanking the Honorary President HE Sheikh Anwar Al-Sabah for all her support to the Group, Gubler concluded with announcing the next IWG President for 2019-2020, Mrs. Anita Devote, wife of the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kuwait.

The group honored Clethe Gubler as



IWG's President for the year 2018-2019 and gave her a token of appreciation to reflect the group's gratitude for all the valuable efforts she put in throughout her presidency. On this occasion, the group hosted Dr Rasha Al-Sabah, who gave a powerful speech on the achievements of Kuwaiti women over the years: their leadership positions and their participation in the Arab, Gulf and international forums as well as the roles played by them through their effective participations in many cultural and scientific activities around the world.

The evening included a variety of cultural activities. Among those activities was a show

of Ramadan outfits designed by Roqaya Al Zaid. Additionally, a small video presentation took the guests on a journey through the customs and traditions of the Holy Month in the Islamic world. Girgeaan is a traditional event and the ladies got the chance to experience it while receiving their very own Girgeaan goodie bags. As always, the Hotel has aided in adding a special ambience to the event through the hall and table decorations and their deliciously prepared Ramadan Buffet. The lovely evening ended with the Board thanking all attendees, those there in person and those that aided in any other form of support.





## Health

# Sinking feeling: Philippine cities facing 'slow-motion disaster'

**MANILA:** When Mary Ann San Jose moved to Sitio Pariahan more than two decades ago, she could walk to the local chapel. Today, reaching it requires a swim. The main culprit is catastrophic subsidence caused by groundwater being pumped out from below, often via unregulated wells for homes, factories, and farms catering to a booming population and growing economy.

The steady sinking of coastal towns and islets like Pariahan in the northern Philippines has caused Manila Bay's brackish water to pour inland and displace thousands, posing a greater threat than rising sea levels due to climate change. "It was so beautiful here before... Children were playing in the streets," San Jose said, adding: "Now we always need to use a boat." Most of the former residents have scattered to other parts of the region. Just a handful of families remain in Pariahan, which had its own elementary school, a basketball court and a chapel before the water flowed in.

These days just the flooded chapel, a cluster of shacks on bamboo stilts where San Jose lives with her family, and a few homes on a bump of land remain. The children that live there commute 20 minutes by boat to a school inland and most of the residents eke out a living by fishing. The provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan — where

Pariahan is located — have sunk between four and six centimeters annually since 2003, according to satellite monitoring. "It's really a disaster that is already happening... It's a slow-onset disaster," explained Narod Eco, who is part of a group of scientists tracking the problem.

## Threat to lives

By comparison, the UN estimates average sea level rise globally is about three millimeters per year. The creeping bay waters put people and property at risk, while the threat is amplified by high-tides and flooding brought by the roughly 20 storms that pound the archipelago every year. Some areas have raised roads in an effort to keep up with the sinking, creating odd scenes where the street surface is at the height of door knobs on roadside buildings.

At least 5,000 people have been forced out of the mostly rural coastal areas north of Manila in recent decades as the bay water has moved further inland, regional disaster officials said. The sinking is very likely permanent because the ground in the hardest hit areas is mostly clay, which sticks together after the water is pulled out. The fate of towns such as Pariahan provides a preview of the problems that may await some of the capital's 13 million people.

Sections of Manila along the shore of the bay are sinking too, with excess groundwater pumping being the most likely cause, Eco, the researcher, told AFP. The subsidence there though is at a slower rate than the northern coastal communities, potentially due to less pumping or differences in the soil, he added. A moratorium on new wells in the greater Manila area has been in place since 2004. But enforcing that ban as well as shuttering existing illegal wells, falls to the National Water Resource Board and its roughly 100 staffers who are responsible for policing the whole country. "We have insufficient manpower resources," the board's director Sevillo David told AFP. "It's a very big challenge for us, but I think we are doing the best we can."

The demand for water has soared as Manila's population has nearly doubled since 1985, and the size of the nation's economy has expanded roughly ten-fold over the same period. This explosive growth has created a ravenous demand for water, especially in the agriculture and manufacturing industries to the north of the capital. "The sinking is a very serious threat to people, their livelihoods and cultures," said Joseph Estadilla, a spokesman for alliance seeking to protect Manila Bay coastal communities. — AFP

## Doctors start halting support for vegetative Frenchman

**REIMS:** French doctors yesterday began switching off the life support of a quadriplegic man who has been in a vegetative state for the last decade, in a hugely controversial case that has divided France. The dispute over the fate of Vincent Lambert, 42, who was left with severe brain damage after a traffic accident in 2008, has split his own family and even become a subject of political tension in France ahead of the weekend's European elections.

His parents, devout Catholics, have repeatedly launched court action to keep him alive, putting them at odds with Lambert's wife and five siblings who believe the most humane course is to let him die. Following a final judicial ruling to

end the nutrition and hydration Lambert receives, doctors yesterday started halting his life support at the Sebastopol Hospital in the northern French city of Reims.

Medical sources told AFP that under these conditions it would mean that Lambert dies within days or a week. Jean Paillot, the lawyer for Vincent Lambert's parents, said they would launch multiple legal challenges in a last-ditch bid to prevent Lambert dying, including with the Paris court of appeal and the criminal court of Reims.

Vincent Sanchez, the doctor treating Lambert who has been the target of the parents' anger, said in a message to the family that the "halting of treatments" and "profound and continued sedation" had been initiated. In the message seen by AFP, he urged everyone to "rally around him (Vincent Lambert) so these moments are as peaceful, intimate and personal as possible." The parents' lawyers had at the weekend said they wanted Sanchez removed from the case and also struck off France's medical register. — AFP

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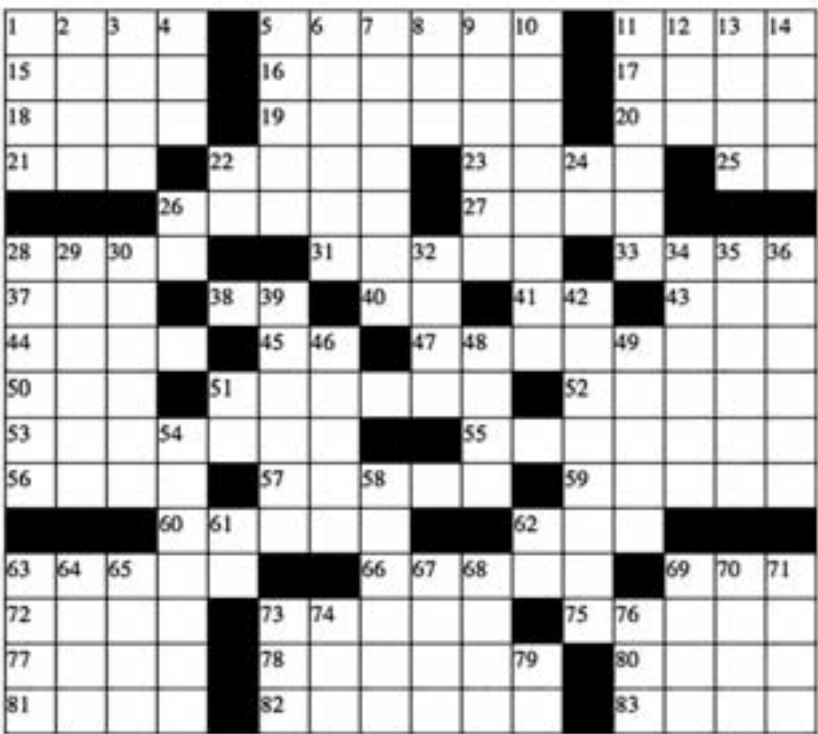
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CROSSWORD 2213



ACROSS

- 1. In bed.
- 5. A shrub or tree of the genus Rhus (usually limited to the non-poisonous members of the genus).
- 11. A Hindu prince or king in India.
- 15. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- 16. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
- 17. Very dark black.
- 18. (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
- 19. Accumulate on the surface.
- 20. The lean flesh of a fish similar to cod.
- 21. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
- 23. A slender double-reed instrument.
- 25. Military action involving the use of electromagnetic energy to determine or exploit or reduce or prevent hostile use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- 27. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
- 28. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
- 31. Of or in relating to the nose.
- 33. A salt deposit that animals regularly lick.
- 37. An enlarged and muscular saclike organ of the alimentary canal.
- 38. A person forced to flee from home or country.
- 40. A small digital computer based on a microprocessor and designed to be used by one person at a time.
- 41. A public promotion of some product or service.
- 43. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
- 44. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
- 45. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- 47. Abnormal union of bodily tissues.
- 50. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 52. The time interval between the deposit of a check in a bank and its payment.
- 53. Low tufted white-woolly yellow-flowered herb of California.
- 55. A fast narrow sailing ship of the Mediterranean.
- 56. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- 57. Inability to coordinate voluntary muscle movements.
- 59. Of or relating to the former Indo-European people.
- 60. A holy war by Muslims against unbelievers.
- 63. A book in the Old Testament describing how Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan (the Promised Land) after the death of Moses.
- 66. With rapid movements.
- 72. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- 75. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- 77. (statistics) Approximating the statistical norm or average or expected value.
- 78. A worker who attaches something by nailing it.
- 80. Expel, as of gases and odors.
- 81. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 82. Doglike nocturnal mammal of Africa and southern Asia that feeds chiefly on carrion.
- 83. Give over.

DOWN

- 1. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- 2. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 3. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
- 4. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
- 5. Sudden mass fear and anxiety over anticipated events.
- 6. Of or relating to or characteristic of Hades or Tartarus.
- 7. Remove the strap or straps from.
- 8. An enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of many body compounds (e.g., epinephrine and norepinephrine and serotonin).
- 9. A unit of weight used in some Spanish speaking countries.
- 10. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
- 11. Put a new heel on.
- 12. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 13. A humorous anecdote or remark.
- 14. Again but in a new or different way.
- 22. A state in southeastern United States between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.
- 24. A Russian river.
- 26. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
- 29. Iraqi leader who waged war against Iran and who invaded Kuwait (born in 1937).
- 30. A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
- 32. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- 34. Extreme mental retardation.
- 35. A waste pipe that carries away sewage or surface water.
- 36. East Asian perennial having large reddish-orange black-spotted flowers with reflexed petals.
- 39. A person who is rejected (from society or home).
- 42. Brought low in spirit.
- 46. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
- 48. Resist or confront with resistance.
- 49. Eat noisily.
- 51. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
- 54. A Mexican City just south of San Diego on the Lower California peninsula.
- 58. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
- 61. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
- 62. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- 64. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
- 65. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 67. Very light colored.
- 68. A primeval personification of air and breath.
- 69. The highest level or degree attainable.
- 70. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- 71. Fill to satisfaction.
- 73. Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydracid) used to treat tuberculosis.
- 74. The chance to speak.
- 76. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
- 79. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Try to relax some during this day. You'll need it. Things aren't the best but you can turn it around if you just keep on working. Try to stay away from turmoil of any kind. That means keeping your mind on business only while at work. Going against the flow could make you nervous and make you make a mistake you'll be sorry for later. Try to be patient. Do your work and go home. If you have someone you love, let your issues be soothed in your love making. Be kind. You may push people to the edge without knowing you've done so. Be gentle with all you love because you don't realize your own strength, mental or physical, at this time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You're fun to be with as you'll hear mentioned today. Being witty and thoughtful of others makes others notice. You're also thinking about doing better in the coming year on health issues. Exercising and eating better is on your mind. Be sure to remember that exercising doesn't have to be full out gym weight lifting and strict daily routines. It can be a multitude of items you enjoy. Just start and let it work its way into your thoughts and heart. There will be a celebration from those who care for you at work and at home. You make friends easily and it's not just work-related meaning you just get cake. People actually like you and want to party with you. Enjoy your time today. Tomorrow you can get serious.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Ambition is intensified for all the right reasons since yesterday's thoughts. Be assertive today and move onto work or whatever with authority and confidence which others will notice. You have the drive and energy you need to make events happen to your liking. Handling those that are at odds with you with your persuasive manner of speech helps you get them back into the fold where they're not scared of moving on with you in the investment. Go out with your new found love tonight because he or she may be the only one available after the last couple of days.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a time for creativity and your imagination, which should be relatively easy for you. Also, at this time, you have an urge to study just to learn. Probably this is need to learn is starting for work but may become based on another occupation down the road. You'll find yourself investigating your own thoughts and emotions because of your need too. Plus, you're using your own life's issues to help others learn too. Talking to someone you haven't been able to speak with but someone for whom you care, could bring pleasure, later. Watching an old movie may bring enjoyment after a long day's work.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a time of domesticity. Planning and getting things done for your home takes precedence over work at this time. You may have taken the day off so that you can take care of home items perhaps even looking for another home. You have a need to feel settled, before you can get on with work as you want to do. Friends call on you for help and you're glad to talk about their problems rather than yours. This is a great time to work with others if you have the time to do so.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

At work you've got all the answers and know how to talk about them to others in such a manner as to get those coworkers excited about how to fix problems. Understanding your past and seeing how that works currently makes you know how to create in your current life what's to come to life in the future. That's where you reap what you've sown. That's the way that spiritualism really works and Karma is its carrier. Knowing how life works gives you a sense of satisfaction. It also helps you in your quest for betterment for you and your family. That's the psychic self you've come to enjoy.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Watch what you're doing today. Don't push yourself or coworkers too hard. It won't be pretty for either of you. Disciplined work gives you a sense of achievement because you can see what you've accomplished immediately. Those who work with you will seek you out for your good advice which will also happen with your friends as well. You've got a knack for understanding situations for others now but not so much for yourself. Being able to assist friends and coworkers in their problems only brings more people pouring out their hearts to you when they found you've aided others.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You're in the mood to put in the work and effort to create a better work life. Circumstances are working with you rather than against you. That's a wonderful feeling. Don't try to do too much too fast now. Let it come as it needs to do. This feels normal with a touch of anxiety for wishful outcomes prodding you on at this time. Communicating with workmates is easily done. Getting your point across seems to have never been easier. Higher ups entertain you and the things you working towards now with enthusiasm. You're working on extraordinary things. You've made your luck.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You've seen the light. Problems in life, you've found, are valued not for the hindrance they make you experience but for coming out on the other side of it with a better sense of what's best for you. You learn to appreciate your responsibilities and examine them and those hinderances as valuable information to getting what you deserve. Wanting it all is what you're after now, and you ask the universe to send you what you need to get to that high place. Some things have to be moved out of your way in order for you to make the trek. If it's love, then do your homework first before looking. Knowing what you want begins this trip. Love and work are the same.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Stick close to the one you love because you're going to need it today. Things you thought easily done now, aren't. Wrong choices could be made. Thinking that socializing may be what you need to do today rather than working, is on your mind from the time your feet hit the floor. You have a sense of isolation at this time but that will be short-lived thankfully. Perhaps that's just your attitude now and not really true. Others just have their own cross to bear, as well, and like you, no time to spare. Now is the time to keep your cards and you close to the proverbial chest. Spend time with family and make your home life more cheerful.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Breakthroughs on self has come as a jolt to your person. Maybe you're taking the time to think about you and why you're here on earth. This is part of the reason why the information hit you as it has. That's got some psychic qualities to it. When data comes out of the blue, after asked questions, then you can be sure it comes from a universal source. Sudden insights generally bring facts about your spiritual growth and how it has been done. Realizing that is what's happening is another thing. Friends want to be close. Allow it because you receive as well as give then.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Strong desires make you want to enjoy yourself now instead of working, even with this being a Tuesday. Your mind knows no boundaries of work days when it makes a decision. Either take the day off or go into work knowing you'll be going through the motions today rather than coming up with new, good ideas. Romance is possible. Maybe it's someone new you met at work. That may be the reason to go to work today. Children and family mean more to you now. A need to be respected by them has you thinking what you could do to accomplish that admiration.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Home Sweet Home - Word Search

X K F D A F W I G R W K T L P C C  
F D I N I N G R O O M N R O N H B  
O J I M O K C C S T E S N V Y I Y  
O C O M F O R T E M S L Z E K M T  
R I H T M R A W E O E T S S Q N F  
F Y N M A I E S R O F X E D T E O  
W I X E R T A P T R B A O S J Y G  
T M R W H B T I V G E P M N O A I  
P R A E I C E I Z N D N R I R L A  
L Y X V P G T P C I R H W D L S C  
B A T Q A L A I L V O P E A D Y P  
M O O R H T A B K I O N S E L V Q  
U W A V I V E C Y L M C B N Q B H  
L G D O F E N C E E S K L S T E P

ATTIC BASEMENT BATHROOM BEDROOMS BEDS CHIMNEY CLOSETS COMFORT DININGROOM FAMILY FENCE FIREPLACE GARAGE GARDEN KITCHEN LAWN LIVINGROOM LOVE PATIO PETS ROOF STAIRWAY TREES WARMTH

Hockey - Solution

W V T G C P Z E C J P F U O Q K W  
K K C F Q E R O B S K T V E F Q R  
P F R P Z N T J F W K G P X X E S  
A C I L O A O R E F E R E E F Z F  
S E M A D L H X J H S E S F Q B W  
S R M Y O T S S N G S I O O Z Z K  
V O S E L Y P U E K N E D M E E Q  
K C I R T T A H O T C I G E M S P  
G S G G O A L I E A A G T I N E I  
T K B K T G S M F L L K T H R N P  
T C H E C K N R R O M R S I G U E  
C I N Z D R N I V I E E O I C I N  
V T S A D G W E C V N D T K V D F  
A S T S I S S A O I S K D K I N D

ASSIST CHECK FACE OFF FIGHTING GLOVES GOALIE HAT TRICK HELMET NET OFFSIDE OVERTIME PASS PENALTY PERIODS PLAYER PUCK RINK SCORE SKATES SLAP SHOT STICK

Daily Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 2 |   | 4 | 5 |   |   |
|   |   | 4 |   | 3 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 9 | 4 |   | 1 |   |
| 1 |   |   | 2 |   | 8 |   | 9 |
|   | 4 |   |   | 3 | 6 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |   | 7 |   |   |
|   |   | 6 | 4 |   | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 5 |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |

Yesterday's Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 |

Yesterday's Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | A | V |   | S | C | O | F | F | L | A | W |   | K | E | B |
| U | S | A |   | T | A | D | A | R | I | D | A |   | E | Y | E |
| C | A | R | B | U | R | E | T |   | T | H | U | M | B | E | D |
| A | R | R | A | C | K |   | T | R | H |   | L | O | A | S | A |
| S | H | O | O | K |   | H | E | V | E | A |   | D | B |   |   |
|   |   | B |   | C | A | N |   | M |   | E |   |   | A | M |   |
| I | S | A | A | C |   | G |   | A | L | H | A | M | B | R | A |
| T | O | M | B | A | K |   | D | G |   | A | B |   | R | A | G |
| E | D | O |   | R | H | E | A |   | C | R | Y | B | A | B | Y |
| M | A | R | S |   | A | C |   |   | M | A | L | A | C | I | A |
|   |   |   | C | O | N | F | A | B |   | A | L | T | A | R |   |
| A | H | E | A | D |   |   | D | E | A | F |   | D |   |   |   |
| C | O | R | B | E | T | T |   |   | G | A | B | R | I | E | L |
| U | T | U |   | S | A | R | A | T | O | G | A |   | A | N | A |
| T | H | C |   | S | P | A | R | E | R | I | B |   | E | O | N |
| E | R | A |   | A | S | P | A | D | A | N | A |   | A | L | E |



# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019



Umbrellas' art installation are displayed during the annual 'Virada Cultural' event, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The Virada Cultural festival offers 24 hours of uninterrupted attractions in stages around the city, such as music, dance, theatre, exhibitions of art and history and other forms of expression. — AFP



Polish couples dressed in traditional costumes and others dance the country's mazurka folk dance in Warsaw.

## Young urbanites help revive Poland's mazurka folk dance

Couples spin to the lively tempo of Poland's mazurka folk dance in scenes reminiscent of peasant life from centuries past. To rhythmic violin and accordion, they could almost be back in the simple cottages of Mazovia, the region around the Polish capital, Warsaw, for which the dance and music were named. Taken across Europe and beyond by Polish soldiers and migrants some 200 years ago, the traditional mazurka evolved, before later almost vanishing. But now it is making a comeback and not only in Poland, putting a spring in the step of urban youngsters and getting pulses racing and hearts pumping. "It was forgotten, but when I see all these young people who come to learn from me, I forget I'm old," says fiddle player Jan Kmita, 83, one of the last surviving masters of the mazurka.

He has spent hours teaching youngsters the up-tempo rhythms and steps at workshops in Warsaw. The Polish mazurka, also known as the mazur, mazurek or oberek, "doesn't really have much to do with the ones we know in France", says Nicolas Roche, a French violinist keen to learn from Kmita. "It has a very specific sound, rhythmic subtleties and a manner of conveying rhythm that is completely different, with slowdowns, accelerations, a whole swing, a feeling that's very different," Roche told AFP.

### 'Like discovering Atlantis'

Choreographer Piotr Zgorzelski, who specialises in Polish folk dances, describes the dance steps of Polish mazurka as "minimalist, with no jumps". Couples stay very



close, twirling "like a whirling dervish, but they do it together... a good dancer can even spin with a full glass on their head without spilling a drop," he says. Zgorzelski also said that he had seen interest in mazurkas burgeon among young urbanites keen to reconnect with the rural origins of their ancestors. Among the mazurka's ardent new fans, Agata Kotlicka, a 27-year-old professional speech therapist, says: "We enter a trance, we can forget ourselves, we don't need alcohol to feel it."

Self-taught Kmita received his first violin at age six and played his first wedding when he was 12. Forgotten about over the years, his talent was re-discovered by a group of folk enthusiasts, who have spent 30 years crisscrossing Poland in a quest to find and preserve traditional music. Janusz Prusinowski, a 50-year-old singer and multi-instrumentalist, is one of those who stumbled across Kmita nearly three decades ago. "We came across these old musicians, it was like discovering Atlantis, a Poland doomed to disappear," he told AFP, of his first encounters with elderly mazurka masters.

It turned out that "Poland wasn't a land of musical illiterates but a people able to speak with an original musical language that (Frederic) Chopin himself drew on," says Prusinowski. He co-founded Warsaw's annual Mazurkas of the World festival that has been leading the mazurka revival for 10 years, now also in evidence in dance halls and other organized events.

### Soldiers and refugees

Mazurkas are dynamic and bold, with accents often placed on the second or third beat and tempo changes that can take dancers by surprise. Some experts believe that their earliest traces can be found in transcriptions of religious music dating to the 15th century. According to Warsaw University musicologist Tomasz Nowak, the term itself first appears in 1708 in a musical notation at a Bernardine cloister in Lowicz, central Poland, where a Catholic nun suggests interpreting a passage like "a real mazur". Around the beginning of the 19th century, Polish soldiers fighting for French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte took their music wherever they were deployed, even to the Caribbean.

Similarly, a couple of decades later, Polish insurgents who lost the struggle against the army of the Russian tsar fled to France, taking the mazurka. In France, the dance became fashionable, changing and evolving as it was adapted to local tastes. Meanwhile, back in the Polish



A young girl watches a couple dressed in traditional costume during the Mazurkas of the World festival.

countryside, the mazurka could be heard at wedding parties until the 1950s. But it was all but forgotten with the advent of radio and the new music it broadcast into villages.

### From shame to pride

Poland's communist authorities tried to transform folk dances like the mazurka into "national dances", making them elaborate stage shows to tour at home and abroad. The 2018 film, "Cold War" by the Polish-born Oscar-nominated director Pawel Pawlikowski, focuses in part on how these stage shows were developed. The last vestiges of the mazurka survived until the 1980s in the depths of the Mazovian region, despite the indifference and even contempt of locals.

After the 1989 collapse of communism, Poles embraced synthesiser-based pop music, turning their backs on some of the music of the past. "We started to be ashamed to play these old tunes," Kmita told AFP. But shame has turned to pride, as young mazurka enthusiasts have begun flocking to dance halls giving a new lease of life to the music and dances of their heritage. "It's only just beginning, the mazurkas are going to survive, they were nearly dead and now they're coming back," Kmita says. "They must like it, I think," he adds, modestly. — AFP

## 'Injured' Maradona unable to attend Cannes film festival

Football legend Diego Maradona will not attend the Cannes film festival, where a documentary about his life is being premiered, after he injured his shoulder, its director told AFP Sunday. The Argentinian icon is the subject of a feature-length work by the British filmmaker behind "Amy", the Oscar-winning look at the tragic life and death of the singer Amy Winehouse. But director Asif Kapadia said Maradona—who had promised to support the film at Cannes—would not be walking the red carpet for the premiere late Sunday. The filmmaker said Maradona, 58, would have to undergo surgery.

"He has pain in his shoulder and he will have to have

an operation," he told AFP. Kapadia said the flawed genius, regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time, agreed to talk to him because he was a fan of his film "Senna", about the Brazilian Formula One ace Ayrton Senna who died after crashing his Williams FW16 into a wall during the San Marino Grand Prix in 1994.

The film follows Maradona's remarkable rise from a Buenos Aires shantytown to global adulation. But it focuses mostly on his time with Napoli when 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. It was also in Naples that the star's use of cocaine made headlines and was the beginning of the end of his career as a player. Kapadia's film contains a cache of footage of the player partying with dons from the Camorra, the Neapolitan mafia, while at the club. "Diego Maradona" is showing in the festival's official selection but out of competition for Cannes' Palme d'Or top prize.—AFP



British director Asif Kapadia (seventh left), British film editor Chris King (fifth left), British producer James Gay-Rees (sixth left), Brazilian line producer Raquel Alvarez (second left), and music composer Antonio Pinto (fifth right) arrive for the screening of the film 'Diego Maradona' at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP





US film director Quentin Tarantino poses as he arrives for the screening of the film “The Wild Goose Lake (Nan Fang Che Zhan De Ju Hui)” at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



(From left) US film director Jim Jarmusch and his partner Sara Driver, British actress and model Tilda Swinton, US actor Luka Sabbat, US actor Adam Driver, US singer and actress Selena Gomez and US film actress Chloe Sevigny pose as they arrive for the screening of the film “The Dead Don’t Die” during the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos

# Films in the running for Cannes’ top prize

From a zombie flick starring Iggy Pop to a tale of Chinese gangsters who decide to take over a city, these are the films vying for the top prize at the Cannes film festival:

**Once Upon a Time in Hollywood**  
Quentin Tarantino apparently slaved for four months straight in the editing room to get his odyssey through Tinseltown’s darkest year in as a late entry for Cannes. This panorama of 1969 has Brad Pitt as the stunt double to Western star Leonardo Di Caprio and takes in everything from Bruce Lee to the sinister tale of cult leader Charles Manson. Margot Robbie plays actress Sharon Tate, who was murdered by Manson’s followers.

**The Dead Don’t Die**  
The poster for Jim Jarmusch’s zombie comedy claims to have a “cast to wake the dead”-and they are not kidding. Bill Murray, Adam Driver, Selena Gomez, Tilda Swinton, Steve Buscemi, Danny Glover and Chloe Sevigny starred in the opening film alongside musicians Iggy Pop, Tom Waits and RZA. US indie icon Jarmusch uses the zombie format for a dark indictment of Donald Trump’s America and its many addictions, from opioids to consumerism and social media.

**Sorry We Missed You**  
Having won the Palme d’Or two years ago with “I, Daniel Blake”, which showed the devastation caused by austerity in Britain, veteran director Ken Loach is back with an indictment of the gig economy. Written by his long-time collaborator Paul Laverty, it is the powerful story of our times, with another Newcastle family battling to keep their heads above water on zero-hour contracts or slaving as a self-employed delivery driver.

**A Hidden Life**  
Two decades after “The Thin Red Line”, American master Terrence Malick returns to World War II with a haunting story of an Austrian conscientious objector guillotined by the Nazis in 1943. Goosepimples also seem guaranteed with the final screen performances of the late actors Michael Nyqvist and Bruno Ganz of “Downfall” and “Wings of Desire” fame. It is the first time Malick has premiered a film at Cannes since he won the Palme d’Or with “The Tree of Life” in 2011.

**Parasite**  
Korean master Bong Joon-ho of “Okja” and “Snowpiercer” fame is another Cannes regular, famous for his dark, gripping, genre-bending creations. This time he tells a tragicomic tale of a poor family’s obsession with a rich one after their son gets a job as a tutor to the daughter of a wealthy industrialist. The tale has echoes of another South Korean movie, “Burning”, which became an art-house hit last year after showing at Cannes. With Bong regular Song Kang-ho (“The Host” and “Snowpiercer”) in the lead, it also stars Choi Woo-shik of the cult horror hit “Train to Busan”.

**Matthias & Maxime**  
French Canadian wunderkind Xavier Dolan wrote, directed and plays the lead in his latest drama about a group of late twentysomethings in his native Quebec. Of late, the prolific young auteur-who made a big splash with “Mommy” and “I Killed My Mother”-has divided critical opinion. Cannes will be hoping this is a return to form.

**The Traitor**  
A biopic of Tommaso Buscetta, the first high-ranking member of Cosa Nostra to break the Sicilian Mafia’s oath

of silence, it stars Brazilian actress and model Maria Fernanda Candido as his third wife, who convinces him to spill the beans to US prosecutors. Veteran Italian auteur Marco Bellocchio shot the film in Sicily, Rome, London and Rio de Janeiro.

**Young Ahmed**  
Three times Palme d’Or winners Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne return to the scene of their greatest triumphs with “Young Ahmed”, a tight and tense tale of a teenager who embraces Islamic extremism. It is set like the Belgian brothers’ previous gritty slices of working-class life in their native French-speaking Wallonia, an area that served as the base for the terrorist cell who carried out the November 2015 Paris attacks.

**Pain & Glory**  
Cannes usually only shows world premieres, but the festival has made an exception for Pedro Almodovar’s most



personal film. Released in Spain and Mexico in March to almost universal acclaim, it is a psychodrama about the past catching up with a film director. With a bearded Antonio Banderas playing the auteur, and Penelope Cruz his mother, it’s no wonder this is the biggest Spanish film of the year so far.

**Nighthawk**  
Having wowed Cannes in 2016 with “Aquarius”, in which the amazing Sonia Braga shone, Brazilian director Kleber Mendonca Filho is back with a hard-hitting story of a human safari in the Amazonian interior.

**Mektoub, My Love: Intermezzo**  
The second installment of “Blue is the Warmest Color”, director Abdellatif Kechiche’s trilogy in homage to Sete, his hometown on the French Mediterranean. Critics were divided on whether the first part was a sensual feast or just leery. At four hours, they will have plenty of time to mull their verdict on this one.

**Portrait of a Young Lady on Fire**  
Celine Sciamma, who won rave reviews for “Girlhood”, her 2014 tale of young black girls growing up in the gritty French suburbs, returns with the story of a painter commissioned to do the portrait of a young woman in the 18th century. The film stars Adele Haenel, one of France’s most sought-after young actresses.

**The Wild Goose Lake**  
Diao Yinan, who won the top prize at the Berlin film festival in 2014 for another crime story-“Black Coal, Thin Ice”-is the sole Chinese contender with this noir thriller. A pair of young lovers end up being chased by both the police and a group of gangsters who have taken control of a city.



(From left) British film producer Rebecca O’Brien, British screenwriter Paul Laverty, British actress Debbie Honeywood, British actress Katie Proctor, Irish actor Rhys Stone, British actor Kris Hitchen and British film director and screenwriter Ken Loach pose during a photocall for the film “Sorry We Missed You” at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



(From left) Spanish actor Antonio Bui, Romanian actress Catrinel Marlon, Romanian film director Corneliu Porumboiu and Romanian actor Vlad Ivanov arrive for the screening of the film “The Whistlers (La Gomera)” at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.

**Oh Mercy!**  
Arnaud Desplechin, the whimsical French director of the 2004 film “Kings & Queens”, is back exploring his northern home town of Roubaix in his latest feature starring Roschdy Zem, Lea Seydoux and Sara Forestier.

**Little Joe**  
Austrian-born director Jessica Hausner’s sci-fi chiller from the near future is a twisted genetic modification fairytale featuring rising British star Ben Whishaw and Emily Beecham.

**Les Miserables**  
French actor-director Ladj Ly, who grew up filming his high-rise Paris suburb and has previously worked with street art megastar JR, makes a striking Cannes debut with this moving story set in the deprived neighbourhood where the 2005 Paris riots began.



(From left) French producer Philippe Bober, French screenwriter Geraldine Bajard, producer Bruno Wagner, French actor Phenix Brossard, Austrian film director Jessica Hausner, British actress Emily Beecham, French producer Bertrand Faivre and producer Gerardine O’Flynn pose during a photocall for the film “Little Joe”.

**It Must Be Heaven**  
Palestinian director Elia Suleiman, who was nominated for the Palme d’Or in 2002 with “Divine Intervention” about a love affair across the Israeli-Palestinian divide, travels to Paris, New York and other cities for this rumination on a life lived in exile.

**Frankie**  
US director Ira Sachs casts Isabelle Huppert, Brendan Gleeson and Marisa Tomei in a film about three generations of a recomposed family coming to terms with the impending death of its matriarch during a final holiday in Portugal.

**The Whistlers**  
Romanian new wave director Corneliu Porumboiu has a detective fly from Bucharest to La Gomera in the Canary Islands to help a criminal escape from prison.

**Atlantics**  
The debut feature of Mati Diop-the first black African woman director to compete for the Palme d’Or-is a ghost story set on a Senegalese building site where the workers decide to take to the seas in search of a better life.

**Sibyl**  
French director Justine Triet depicts a burnt-out psychotherapist who becomes inspired by working with a distressed young actress played by Adele Exarchopoulos, star of the Cannes-winning 2013 lesbian drama “Blue is the Warmest Color”.-AFP



A still from the movie A hidden life for American master Terrence Malick.



Directors Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne.



(From left) French actress Luana Bajrami, French actress Noemie Merlant, French director Celine Sciamma, French actress Adele Haenel and Italian actress and film director Valeria Golino pose during a photocall for the film ‘Portrait Of A Lady On Fire (Portrait de la Jeune Fille en Feu)’.



(From left) Chinese actor Liao Fan, Chinese actress Gwei Lun Mei, Chinese director Diao Yinan, Chinese actor and singer Hu Ge and Chinese actress Wan Qian pose during a photocall for the film “The Wild Goose Lake (Nan Fang Che Zhan De Ju Hui)”.



(From left) French actor Damien Bonnard, French actor Djibril Zonga, French director Ladj Ly and French actor Alexis Manenti pose during a photocall for the film “Les Miserables” at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



# Delon honored at Cannes as festival shrugs off criticism

An emotional Alain Delon received a prize for his six decade-long acting career on Sunday as the Cannes Film Festival shrugged off criticism prompted by his views on women and same-sex couples to give him an honorary Palme d'Or. Delon's hearthrob good looks and roles in major movies throughout the 1960s and 1970s made him an icon in France and he was received with a rapturous standing ovation by the crowd at a special ceremony at the festival on the French Riviera. The decision to honor the 83-year-old actor has been controversial particularly outside France, sparking an online petition in the United States which achieved more than 25,500 signatories.

"One thing I'm sure about is that if there's something I'm proud of, really, the only thing, it's my career," Delon told the gala. "And this Palme d'Or was given to me for my career, for nothing else and that's why I'm happy, and pleased, and satisfied." Delon, who received the prize from his daughter Anouchka Delon, has starred in films including Luchino Visconti's "The Leopard", which won the top prize at Cannes' cinema showcase in 1963. He has inflamed public opinion over the years, including by declaring his friendship for French far-right politician Jean-Marie Le Pen, and has admitted to slapping women. Earlier on Sunday, Delon stood by some of his views in an interview with France's Journal Du Dimanche (JDD) and said other

comments attributed to him had been distorted, as he added that as an actor, he was impeccable.

"I'm not against gay marriage, I don't care: people should do as they please," he was quoted as saying. "But I'm against adoption by two people of the same sex." "I said I'd slapped a woman? Yes. And I should have added that I've received more slaps than I've ever given. I've never harassed a woman in my life. They, however, harassed me a lot." Delon said he was "right-wing, full stop" and was not a supporter of the far-right.

**Great strides?**

In the wake of the "Me Too" movement to demand greater respect and representation for women, which erupted following a wave of sexual harassment scandals that rocked the movie industry, the prize for Delon sparked questions over its timing. "The festival has really tried to make great strides with their organization and ... this year they doubled the number of women in competition," said Rhonda Richford, a Hollywood Reporter journalist based in France. "And so I think that doing that on one hand and turning around and giving this just shows an error in judgment." In the run-up to Cannes, Melissa Silverstein, the founder of women's advocate group Women and Hollywood, called out the festival for honoring "these abhorrent values" with Delon's prize. Actress Eva



French actor Alain Delon waves as he arrives to be awarded with an Honorary Palme d'Or at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos



French actor Alain Delon poses with the Honorary Palme d'Or he was awarded during the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France, on May 19, 2019.

Longoria told reporters at another red carpet party in the southern French city on Sunday that she "understood how it could upset some people."

But Cannes' festival organizers defended their choice, saying Delon was "not perfect" but was being recognized for his acting career. Some fellow actors have also come to Delon's defense. "What Alain Delon says is his own busi-

ness, whether we agree with him or not," said French actress Virginie Ledoyen, who is president of the jury handing out Cannes' "Queer Palm" award for LGBT-relevant films this year. "He's a magnificent actor who really shaped cinema." — Reuters



Chinese director Diao Yi'nan (fifth left) arrives with Chinese actress Wan Qian (third left), Chinese actor and singer Hu Ge (fourth left), Chinese actress Gwei Lun Mei (sixth left), Chinese actor Liao Fan (fourth right), Chinese producer Li Li (third right) and Chinese actor Zhang Yicong (second right) for the screening of the film "The Wild Goose Lake (Nan Fang Che Zhan De Ju Hui)" at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

## Britain's foul mouthed Nan to hit the big screen

British comic Catherine Tate's foul-mouthed grandmother character, whose cursing has kept audiences chucking for 15 years, is to star in a feature-length film called "This Nan's Life", media reported at Cannes yesterday. It will be directed by Josie Rourke, of London's Donmar Warehouse theatre, whose first feature "Mary Queen of Scots" starring Saoirse Ronan was warmly received last year. Nan was created as a charac-

ter on the "The Catherine Tate Show", a hit comedy sketch series which ran on the BBC from 2004 to 2009.

The movie will focus on how Nan became who she is and will also feature her grandson Jamie, played by regular co-star Mathew Horne. Screen reported. Tate wrote the screenplay with fellow actor and comedian Brett Goldstein, who also worked with her on several Nan specials. "A belligerent old-age pensioner... who tends not to like the world," Tate said the character emerged from an experience at drama school when she was sent to entertain a group of old people at a nursing home. "We had to stand up in front of them and sing," she said, recalling how one old lady who was less than impressed. "At the end of it, she went: 'Is she going to stand in front of that felly all day?'" — AFP

## With tent plus tuxedo, film fans camp out at Cannes

In a tiny tent on a campsite in the hills outside Cannes, Christopher and Noe are wrestling with their tuxedos before heading off in the hope of hitting the festival's celebrated red carpet. Like dozens of other cash-strapped fans of the silver screen, they have pitched up at "Le Ranch", a campsite just down the road from the five-star splendor of the Cannes film festival. The two friends arrived in Cannes on a budget train ticket earlier in the week after scoping out the cheapest possible way to make the festival and getting hold of a free three-day pass that the festival offers to cinema enthusiasts under 28.

Cannes," said Christophe as he struggles out of his tent in the pouring rain to go for a shower. Immaculately dressed in a suit and a tie, the pair head down to the action to take up positions outside the Palais des Festivals, the main movie venue, where they will stand for hours in search of tickets for a screening.

And if they get really lucky, they could even be walking the red carpet themselves. "Actually, we spend most of the day begging (for invitations)," admits Noe with a grin, amused by the contrast between the "real life" of the campsite and the star-kissed glamour of Cannes' celebrated Croisette. For Dominique Tallis, who runs Le Ranch, it's also the only time of the year when she is guaranteed a line of people queuing up to use the iron at the camp site's laundry. "In the early morning, I see women leaving in their beautiful dresses and coming back with their stilettos in hand and their makeup all smudged," she laughs.



Outside the Palais de Festival, there are always dozens of fans looking for tickets. — AFP

A 20-minute bus ride from La Croisette, the three-star campsite has become a popular haunt for festival-goers who could never afford the eye-watering prices charged by the town's hotels, whose rates skyrocket during the movie extravaganza. That said, this is far from the luxuries of "glamping" or glamour camping-particularly as this is the wettest Cannes in years. "It's much cheaper than anything else. I wouldn't have the money to stay in

**Car park as dressing room**

"It's a good way of getting back to reality and it's also fun," smiles Yvette Mamalet, clutching sponge bags and towels as she walks with her husband Roger to the shower block where festival-goers are coming and going in flipflops. Every two years, this retired couple comes to Cannes to try and see as many films as possible so they can have an idea what to show at the community cinema they run in the southern French city of Toulouse.

With experience, the two have become experts on how to transform themselves from campers into chic and classy cinephiles, using their car as a changing room to put on their finery before climbing the vaulted red steps of the Palais. In the low-lit corridors of the carpark underneath the Palais, Roger ditches his jeans and dons an elegant suit, finished off with a ruby red bow tie, while in the back seat, Yvette wriggles into a long black dress with a diamante neckline. A last glance in the rearview mirror and the couple are ready, heading up to join the stars as they step onto the red carpet. — AFP

## Camila Morrone: From doubling up with dad to Hollywood's next big thing

Unless you are a battle-hardened follower of Leonardo DiCaprio's love life, or you spend your life on catwalk model feeds on Instagram, you will not have heard of Camila Morrone. But not for long. The Argentinian model-turned-actress is one of the big discoveries of the Cannes film festival, lighting up a small US indie film about a 17-year-old girl looking after her traumatized, opioid-addicted Iraq veteran father. "Mickey and the Bear" has already had the Hollywood Reporter comparing the triple talents that the film reveals-Morrone, debut director Annabelle Attanasio and James Badge Dale, who plays the father-to "Leave No Trace" and "Lean on Pete", "the two finest films of 2018".



US model and actress Camila Morrone poses during a photo session for the film "Mickey and the Bear" during the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

Morrone, who is 21, regards Al Pacino-who dated her actress mother Lucila Sola for years-as her "step-father", and went to the most famous high school in the world, Beverly Hills 90210. She might not seem the obvious candidate to play a slightly chubby girl living on the breadline in a trailer in a beautiful but polluted former mining town in Montana. Yet the actress-whose warmth and smouldering catwalk self-drew comparisons with Sophia Loren-pulled it off and then some, putting on weight and bringing an earthy

groundedness and strength to the part of a teenager who also had to be mother, wife and nurse. Their lives might be worlds apart, but Morrone said she could identify with Mickey.

"I could relate to being a 17-year-old girl and taking on more than I could handle," she told AFP in Cannes. "I didn't grow up overly privileged," she insisted.

"My parents were struggling actors who had a hard time getting work. That's why I hesitated about getting into acting, I had seen them going through that." She was the odd one out in a class of rich kids. "I was able to tap into that" to play Mickey, scrambling to make ends meet while dreaming of escaping her trailer for college in California.

**'My dad and I shared a bed'**

"I lived in a studio apartment with my dad for many years when he was struggling... so I understand that relationship. My dad and I shared a bed until I was 15 because I had no other room to sleep in." Yet fame and wealth were all around her. "I was born in Hollywood, I went to Beverly Hills 90210, so I grew up around all of that stuff. Nobody on the planet has what I grew up around." But getting under the skin of a small-town girl was harder, she said. "Once I got to Anaconda (where the film was shot) that fear went away. Meeting people there and getting to understand their lives" when there are so few jobs, opened her eyes.

With so little work many locals join the military. "The amount of veterans in the US is wild, and Montana has the second-most per capita, after Alaska," Morrone said. "There are lots of people in Anaconda with missing limbs having come back from war," she said. "Heroes like Hank in the film come back as a broken shell of a man with physical and emotional damage. People's families suffer, home life is different and we show this reality."

**No longer a model**

Director Attanasio said she knew immediately Marrone had the chops for the role when she turned up to the audition dressed in jeans and a jumper. Only 26 herself, the pair bring a rare maturity and intelligence to the screen, with critic Sheri Linden hailing their "sharp, affecting film that's brimming with darkness and hope, every instant of it vividly alive." Although often still labeled a model, Morrone said she forewore the catwalk three years ago to "move back in with my mum in L.A" to dedicate herself to acting.

"I want people to see no make-up Cami, down and gritty Cami," she said. Morrone looks up to Charlize Theron-another former catwalk beauty, who won an Oscar for "Monster"-though she has a soft spot for Marilyn Monroe who "never stopped trying to be a good actor... All she wanted was for someone to say she had talent." Even so, she will be back turning heads on Tuesday when she hits the Cannes red carpet in another stunning gown alongside DiCaprio for the premiere of Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon A Time in Hollywood". "Doing indie films is not the biggest payroll so I had to do other things, but acting is my focus," she said. And not just in Hollywood. "My parents wanted me to be Argentinian and they always talked to me in Spanish, I would even have a 'time out' if I spoke to them in English. "I heard that (the great Spanish director Pedro) Almodovar is here. I am gonna go to his hotel and knock at the door," she laughed. — AFP

## Colin Firth to star in WWII drama 'Operation Mincemeat'

British Oscar winner Colin Firth is set to star in a new World War II drama as a spy spreading disinformation to protect Allied soldiers mounting raids against the Nazis, its producers told media at Cannes yesterday. The highly anticipated film called "Operation Mincemeat" is an adaptation of a Ben Macintyre book of the same name, Variety reported. It is set to go into production this year. The movie is set in 1943 as the Allies plan a multi-pronged assault on Nazi-occupied Europe. Firth, who won an Academy Award in 2011 for his starring role in "The King's Speech", plays Ewen Montagu, who tries to throw the Germans off the trail of the massive Allied invasion force.

"We are delighted that 'Operation Mincemeat' has captured the imagination of distributors all over the world at Cannes," See-Saw Films said in a statement.



Variety said the film has sold to distributors across Europe, Asia and Latin America but its US rights are still on offer. Also in Cannes, producers announced that work will begin this year on the thriller "Lair" starring "The Mummy" actors John Hannah, Corey Johnson and Oded Fehr. The film is billed as a "socially conscious horror movie about an LGBT family embroiled in one man's attempt to prove the existence of the supernatural." Cannes, the world's biggest film festival, runs until Saturday. — AFP





Fans react as they watch HBO's "Game of Thrones" series finale at a viewing party at Brennan's bar in Marina del Rey, California. — AFP photos



A woman takes a photo of her dog in front of a "Game of Thrones" mural outside Brennan's bar before a viewing party for HBO's "Game of Thrones" series finale in Marina del Rey, California.



Fans react as they watch HBO's "Game of Thrones" series finale.

# 'NOW OUR WATCH IS ENDED': HISTORY-MAKING 'GAME OF THRONES' WRAPS

After eight epic years, 47 Emmys, and two dead dragons, "Game of Thrones" has said an emotional goodbye to devotees worldwide of one of the most popular shows in television history. The blood-spattered tale of noble families vying for the Iron Throne wrapped with the 73rd and final episode of a ratings juggernaut that has demolished audience records worldwide and redefined weekly "event TV" for the instant-gratification Netflix generation. And while millions watched at home—some nursing a bittersweet goblet of Dornish wine, one would hope—thousands celebrated and mourned the show's denouement in bars, banqueting halls and backyards from Alaska to Armenia.

"It was even more intense than a football finale," said Ewald Klautky, 52, one of around 200 fans gathered in Brennan's Irish bar in west Los Angeles, where guests were enjoying a blue whisky cocktail called "The Night King." Cries of joy, sobs and applause followed the peaks and troughs of what many regarded as a poignant but so-so finale, with one couple even stealing a furtive kiss as the tension built.

"I'll watch the episode again when I'm quiet at home," said 28-year-old manufacturing engineer Shobhana Chetri, who found the episode a disappointment on first viewing. In China, the show's rights-holder triggered outrage among legions of die-hard fans—some of whom took the morning off work to tune in—by mysteriously delaying its broadcast just before it was due to air. That did not stop fans flocking online, with one dramatic twist-in-signature style, not every main character survived until the end credits—provoking a discussion on Twitter-like Weibo that was viewed more than 230 million times.

### Hacked, burned, flayed

One of the darkest and most controversial primetime

series ever made, "GoT" has been the target of criticism over the years for senseless violence and its repeated use of rape as a dramatic device. The scriptwriters have brutalized women, killed children, depicted graphic sex and had their characters hacked, stabbed, flayed, poisoned, decapitated, burned alive, eye-gouged and eviscerated—all in glorious close-up. The adult themes have not deterred fans, however, nor the industry awards circuit, which has seen fit to make the HBO show the most decorated fictional series in history.

Airing in 170 countries under its portentous tagline, "Winter is Coming," the show is also the most expensive ever, with a budget of \$15 million per episode. The season seven finale set an all-time US record for premium cable TV, with 16.5 million people watching live or streaming on the day of transmission and 15 million more tuning in later.

Season six was the first to move beyond the source material, George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" novels, and carve its own path. Critics said it marked a return to form, but the shortened final two seasons have been more of a mixed bag, with many fans furious over what they consider poor writing and a rushed conclusion of the various plot strands.

### Mass-murdering madness (spoilers follow)

Chief among the controversies has been the rapid descent into mass-murdering madness of Emilia Clarke's Daenerys Targaryen, arguably the lead character in an enormous ensemble that has called on the talents of such luminaries as Charles Dance, Sean Bean, Jim Broadbent and Diana Rigg. The biggest question of all—who would be sitting on the Iron Throne when the show ended? — was answered... sort of. In many ways the mystery turned out to be a red herring. Suffice to say the new ruler of Westeros had to bring his own chair.

The episode itself, poignantly entitled "The Iron Throne," proved to be as divisive as the rest of season eight. "It was hacky; it was clichéd. Every character left standing received a saccharine coda," said Kelly Lawler of USA Today. The New York Times' Jeremy Egner called it a "a mishmash of poignant moments and puzzling turns", and "plagued by the same incoherence that has inspired abundant Twitter rage this season and at least one effigial petition." A petition calling for the final series to be remade has now passed 1.1 million signatures.

One Chinese viewer wrote on Weibo: "This kind of junk scriptwriter should be killed by a dragon," echoing disappointment expressed by fans worldwide over the final season. The show's ending was all too much for its stars, including Sophie Turner who first appeared as Sansa Stark as a young teenager. "I fell in love with you at 13 and now 10 years on ... at 23 I leave you behind, but I will never leave behind what you've taught me," she wrote on Instagram of her character.

Clarke also took to Instagram, describing how the "mother of dragons" chapter has taken up the whole of my adult life. "This woman has taken up the whole of my heart," the 32-year-old said. "I've sweated in the blaze of dragon fire, shed many tears at those who left our family early, and wrung my brain dry trying to do Khaleesi and the masterful words, actions (and names) I was given, justice." — AFP

Fan Corey Ben David (left) poses dressed as Daenerys Targaryen at a viewing party for HBO's "Game of Thrones" series finale.



A lion rests in an enclosure at the sanctuary in Jerash, some 50 kilometers north of the Jordanian capital. — AFP photos



A lioness rests in an enclosure.



Lionesses rest in an enclosure.

## Traumatized by conflict, animals find haven in Jordan

For more than a year after being moved to a Jordanian wildlife reserve from war-hit Syria, two bears, Loz and Sukkar, would cower whenever planes flew by, traumatized by past bombardments. They are among dozens of animals that have been rescued from regional war zones, including the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip, and brought to Jordan's Al Ma'wa For Nature and Wildlife. The sanctuary located in Jerash province north of Amman was set up by the Princess Alia Foundation, named after the king's sister, in cooperation with the international animal welfare organization Four Paws.

Sukkar (sugar in Arabic) and Loz (almond) are Asian black bears, now aged nine, who were trapped by war in the Magic World Zoo outside Syria's second city, Aleppo, before being rescued in the summer of 2017. "When they were brought here they were terrified by the sounds of aircraft, especially helicopters and for more than a year they would hide in a room inside their pens each time they heard planes go by," said caretaker Khaled Ayasra. The black bears are among 26 animals—eight lions, 12 lionesses, two Bengal tigers and four bears—who live in the sprawling 1.4-square-kilometre sanctuary in a wooded mountainous region.

Most were rescued from Syria, where the conflict has raged since 2011, as well as the conflict-riddled Gaza Strip where Israel has fought three wars since 2008 with the territory's Islamist rulers, Hamas. Only one animal—a bear called Lula—was evacuated from Iraq. Martin Bauer, spokesman for the Vienna-based Four Paws, said most of the animals were in poor physical and psychological condition before being rescued and "often sensitive to loud noises". "They are usually emaciated, their teeth are in bad condition and... also suffer from psychological trauma," he told AFP.



A black bear walks around an enclosure.

### 'Aromatherapy'

Before they reach the sanctuary, the animals are taken to the New Hope Centre, a veterinary clinic linked to the Jerash reserve, where they are provided with medical care and undergo rehabilitation. Some are then sent back to their country of origin, while others are released into the wild or brought to the sanctuary to start a new life. "In our sanctuaries the animals have the chance to recover from the hardships of their past and very often their natural instincts come back after a while," said Bauer. He said proper food and medical care is "extremely vital" for their well-being, but the animals must also be able to trust their carers and regain self-confidence.

Loz and Sukkar have made huge strides since coming to Jordan. "They are happy and love to play and meet visitors," said Ayasra. Workers at the sanctuary use all sorts of means to help the animals recuperate after years

of hardship. They are given a balanced diet, toys such as balls to play with and even an aromatherapy type of treatment—natural herbs and spices placed in pails inside their pens—to help them relax. Bears eat 16 kilos (35 pounds) worth of fruit and vegetables daily, while the lions are given seven to 15 kilos of meat three times a week. Sultan, the lion, and Sabreen, a lioness, are among the animals who found a new lease on life at the Ma'wa, after their rescue by Four Paws in 2014 from a Gaza zoo following Israeli bombardment. At first, "Sultan was very, very nervous and would destroy everything he found inside his enclosure," said Ayasra. "But now he has calmed down and likes to greet visitors."

### 'Natural habitat'

Al Ma'wa CEO Marek Trela, a Polish veterinary surgeon, said the sanctuary aims to "give a better life to animals who have suffered in different ways". The wildlife reserve "is very similar to their natural habitat" and helps them to thrive as they return to an uncrowded, natural environment, he said. "If they like to see people they can... if they don't want to they hide in the forest and they live their own life. That is what we are trying to give them after the hard time they had," said Trela.

"The most important thing is to let them live their own life... to live the way they like," said Trela, a former vice president of the World Arabian Horse Organization. Although it is not a zoo, visitors can tour the reserve and spend some time with the animals for an entrance fee of five dinars (around \$7). Over the past five years, Four Paws has rescued nearly 100 animals from Gaza, Syria and Iraq, including 43 who were brought out of the Palestinian territory in April. — AFP



Marek Trela, a Polish veterinary surgeon and CEO of Al Ma'wa For Nature and Wildlife sanctuary, speaks on his phone during an interview.



People watch a bear in an enclosure, at the sanctuary in Jerash, some 50 kilometers north of the Jordanian capital.



# Classifieds

Tuesday, May 21, 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 and Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively humid with light to moderate south easterly wind to wind, with speed of 08 - 35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

| WEATHER WARNING |           |           | No Current Warnings                       |  |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---|--|
| STATION         | MAX. EXP. | MIN. REC. | <div>SFC. CHART 20/05/2019 0000 UTC</div> |  |
| KUWAIT CITY     | 37 °C     | 28 °C     |   |  |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT  | 39 °C     | 27 °C     |   |  |
| ABDULY          | 40 °C     | 25 °C     |   |  |
| BUBYAN          | - °C      | - °C      |   |  |
| JAHRA           | 41 °C     | 27 °C     |   |  |
| FAILAKA ISLAND  | 35 °C     | 26 °C     |   |  |
| SALMIYAH        | 32 °C     | 27 °C     |   |  |
| AHMADI          | 32 °C     | 27 °C     |   |  |
| NUWAISIB        | 39 °C     | 25 °C     |   |  |
| WAFRA           | 40 °C     | 25 °C     |   |  |
| SALMY           | 41 °C     | 26 °C     |   |  |

| 4 DAYS FORECAST |       |   |              |       |                    |
|-----------------|-------|---|--------------|-------|--------------------|
| DAY             | DATE  | WEATHER   | Temperatures |       | Wind Speed         |
|                 |       |   | MAX.         | MIN.  |                    |
| Tuesday         | 05/21 | Hot and with a chance for blowing dust with a chance for scattered light rain | 40 °C        | 27 °C | SE-NW 12 - 38 km/h |
| Wednesday       | 05/22 | Hot and rising dust   | 42 °C        | 28 °C | NW 15 - 40 km/h    |
| Thursday        | 05/23 | Hot and rising dust   | 43 °C        | 29 °C | NW 15 - 42 km/h    |
| Friday          | 05/24 | Hot   | 44 °C        | 30 °C | SE-NW 15 - 38 km/h |

| PRAYER TIMES |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Fajr         | 03:23 |
| Sunrise      | 04:53 |
| Zuhr         | 11:44 |
| Asr          | 15:20 |
| Sunset       | 18:36 |
| Isha         | 20:04 |

| RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| MAX. Temp.                           | 38 °C      |
| MIN. Temp.                           | 26 °C      |
| MAX. RH                              | 86 %       |
| MIN. RH                              | 19 %       |
| MAX. Wind                            | SE 53 km/h |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.             | 0 mm       |

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Razak Bawa Petkar Ashfaq Abdul, holder of Indian Passport No. R2311158, hereby wish to correct my name from Razak Bawa Petkar Ashfaq Abdul to Given Name: Ashfaq Abdul Razak and Surname: Petkar. Hereafter in all my doc-

uments my name will appear as Ashfaq Abdul Razak Petkar. (C 5533) 21-5-2019

I, DIANA VALERIAN FERNANDES would like to change my father's name Cosmos Xavier Fernandes to Cosme Xavier Cornelo Cipriano Fernandes as per his birth certificate. (C 5532) 17-5-2019

## EMERGENCY



112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

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Call MSALHOTLINE 128

| 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     |



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

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| Arrival Flights on Tuesday 21/5/2019 |      |             |       |     |      |                   |       |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------|-----|------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines                             | Flt  | Route       | Time  | KNE | 231  | Riyadh            | 14:10 |
| FEG                                  | 241  | Alexandria  | 00:05 | QTR | 1078 | Doha              | 14:10 |
| IGO                                  | 1757 | Kochi       | 00:10 | KAC | 672  | Dubai             | 14:10 |
| THY                                  | 772  | Istanbul    | 00:20 | FDB | 5059 | Dubai             | 14:15 |
| DLH                                  | 625  | Dammam      | 00:50 | GFA | 221  | Bahrain           | 14:15 |
| KAC                                  | 102  | London      | 00:50 | KAC | 304  | Mumbai            | 14:45 |
| JZR                                  | 734  | Cairo       | 01:00 | SVA | 500  | Jeddah            | 14:45 |
| JZR                                  | 722  | Alexandria  | 01:00 | KAC | 618  | Doha              | 14:50 |
| RJA                                  | 642  | Amman       | 01:20 | KAC | 562  | Amman             | 14:50 |
| RBG                                  | 1557 | Alexandria  | 01:25 | KAC | 286  | Dhaka             | 14:55 |
| KLM                                  | 446  | Bahrain     | 01:45 | KAC | 788  | Jeddah            | 14:55 |
| PGT                                  | 858  | Istanbul    | 01:50 | KAC | 692  | Muscat            | 15:00 |
| ETH                                  | 620  | Addis Ababa | 02:15 | KAC | 516  | Tehran            | 15:00 |
| KAC                                  | 156  | Istanbul    | 02:25 | KNE | 118  | New York          | 15:00 |
| QTR                                  | 1086 | Doha        | 02:30 | ETD | 529  | Jeddah            | 15:05 |
| GFA                                  | 211  | Bahrain     | 02:50 | OMA | 303  | Abu Dhabi         | 15:15 |
| OMA                                  | 643  | Muscat      | 03:05 | ABY | 645  | Muscat            | 15:20 |
| ETD                                  | 305  | Abu Dhabi   | 03:05 | UAE | 127  | Sharjah           | 15:35 |
| JZR                                  | 406  | Kochi       | 03:05 | KAC | 857  | Dubai             | 15:45 |
| MSR                                  | 612  | Cairo       | 03:15 | KAC | 546  | Cairo             | 15:50 |
| KAC                                  | 418  | Manila      | 03:20 | FEG | 341  | Sohag             | 16:00 |
| QTR                                  | 1076 | Doha        | 03:30 | FDB | 051  | Dubai             | 16:10 |
| LMU                                  | 5510 | Cairo       | 04:00 | JZR | 732  | Cairo             | 16:10 |
| IGO                                  | 1751 | Chennai     | 04:10 | KAC | 502  | Beirut            | 16:15 |
| KAC                                  | 346  | Ahmedabad   | 04:15 | QTR | 1072 | Doha              | 16:15 |
| KAC                                  | 784  | Jeddah      | 04:25 | FEG | 241  | Alexandria        | 16:45 |
| JZR                                  | 404  | Hyderabad   | 04:50 | SAW | 703  | Damascus          | 17:00 |
| KAC                                  | 382  | Delhi       | 04:55 | SAW | 705  | Damascus          | 17:00 |
| DHX                                  | 170  | Bahrain     | 05:05 | JZR | 116  | Doha              | 17:05 |
| THY                                  | 770  | Istanbul    | 05:20 | SVA | 510  | Riyadh            | 17:10 |
| JZR                                  | 402  | Mumbai      | 05:25 | JZR | 124  | Dubai             | 17:15 |
| KAC                                  | 552  | Cairo       | 05:50 | GFA | 215  | Bahrain           | 17:30 |
| JZR                                  | 112  | Doha        | 05:50 | JZR | 214  | Jeddah            | 17:35 |
| KAC                                  | 362  | Colombo     | 06:05 | JZR | 104  | Bahrain           | 18:00 |
| BAW                                  | 157  | London      | 06:10 | QTR | 1080 | Doha              | 18:10 |
| KAC                                  | 284  | Dhaka       | 06:15 | JZR | 302  | Istanbul          | 18:20 |
| JZR                                  | 714  | Sohag       | 06:20 | MSR | 620  | Cairo             | 18:30 |
| THY                                  | 6376 | Istanbul    | 06:30 | GFA | 217  | Bahrain           | 19:05 |
| KAC                                  | 678  | Dubai       | 06:40 | RJA | 640  | Amman             | 19:05 |
| KAC                                  | 204  | Lahore      | 06:45 | ABY | 123  | Sharjah           | 19:20 |
| RBG                                  | 1551 | Alexandria  | 06:55 | NIA | 0161 | Cairo             | 19:30 |
| KAC                                  | 302  | Mumbai      | 07:05 | KAC | 674  | Dubai             | 19:35 |
| JZR                                  | 408  | Ahmedabad   | 07:05 | RBG | 555  | Alexandria        | 19:40 |
| KAC                                  | 358  | Kochi       | 07:25 | KAC | 616  | Bahrain           | 19:40 |
| KAC                                  | 354  | Bengaluru   | 08:00 | KAC | 776  | Riyadh            | 19:45 |
| IRA                                  | 675  | Lar         | 08:00 | KNE | 381  | Taif              | 20:00 |
| KAC                                  | 332  | Trivandrum  | 08:05 | FDB | 057  | Dubai             | 20:05 |
| UAE                                  | 855  | Dubai       | 08:25 | OMA | 647  | Muscat            | 20:05 |
| JZR                                  | 702  | Asyut       | 08:25 | KAC | 166  | Rome              | 20:10 |
| JZR                                  | 708  | Luxor       | 08:45 | MEA | 402  | Beirut            | 20:15 |
| ETD                                  | 301  | Abu Dhabi   | 08:50 | KAC | 620  | Doha              | 20:30 |
| ABY                                  | 125  | Sharjah     | 09:00 | RBG | 213  | Sohag             | 20:30 |
| QTR                                  | 1070 | Doha        | 09:30 | KAC | 542  | Cairo             | 20:35 |
| IGO                                  | 1753 | Ahmedabad   | 09:40 | ICV | 1088 | Doha              | 20:40 |
| KAC                                  | 384  | Delhi       | 09:55 | ICV | 6752 | Luxembourg        | 20:55 |
| SVA                                  | 512  | Riyadh      | 10:00 | KAC | 172  | Frankfurt         | 21:00 |
| GFA                                  | 213  | Bahrain     | 10:40 | KLM | 445  | Amsterdam         | 21:00 |
| MEA                                  | 404  | Beirut      | 10:55 | JZR | 1234 | Taif              | 21:10 |
| JZR                                  | 1218 | Jeddah      | 10:55 | ETD | 307  | Abu Dhabi         | 21:10 |
| KAC                                  | 624  | Doha        | 10:55 | UAE | 859  | Dubai             | 21:15 |
| QTR                                  | 1074 | Doha        | 11:00 | ALK | 229  | Colombo           | 21:15 |
| SYR                                  | 341  | Damascus    | 11:00 | KAC | 168  | Paris             | 21:20 |
| JZR                                  | 1736 | Cairo       | 11:05 | THY | 764  | Istanbul          | 21:30 |
| SAW                                  | 701  | Damascus    | 12:30 | GFA | 219  | Bahrain           | 21:50 |
| THY                                  | 766  | Istanbul    | 12:30 | KAC | 564  | Amman             | 21:55 |
| UAE                                  | 871  | Dubai       | 12:45 | QTR | 1082 | Doha              | 22:05 |
| MSR                                  | 610  | Cairo       | 12:45 | ETD | 309  | Abu Dhabi         | 22:15 |
| AXB                                  | 393  | Kozhikode   | 13:10 | KAC | 786  | Jeddah            | 22:20 |
| JZR                                  | 222  | Riyadh      | 13:30 | AIC | 987  | Chennai/Hyderabad | 22:25 |
| FBS                                  | 118  | Sarajevo    | 13:30 | BBC | 043  | Dhaka             | 23:00 |
| JZR                                  | 212  | Jeddah      | 13:45 | MSC | 405  | Sohag             | 23:15 |
| KNE                                  | 535  | Jeddah      | 14:05 | MSR | 614  | Cairo             | 23:30 |
|                                      |      |             |       | JZR | 254  | Amman             | 23:35 |
|                                      |      |             |       | FDB | 071  | Dubai             | 23:35 |

| Departure Flights on Tuesday 21/5/2019 |      |                |       |
|--|------|----------------|-------|
| Airlines                               | Flt  | Route          | Time  |
| AIC                                    | 976  | Goa/Chennai    | 00:05 |
| JZR                                    | 713  | Sohag          | 00:10 |
| MSC                                    | 406  | Sohag          | 00:15 |
| MSR                                    | 615  | Cairo          | 00:30 |
| FDB                                    | 072  | Dubai          | 00:40 |
| FEG                                    | 342  | Sohag          | 01:05 |
| IGO                                    | 1758 | Kochi          | 01:10 |
| KAC                                    | 677  | Dubai          | 01:50 |
| THY                                    | 773  | Istanbul       | 01:50 |
| DLH                                    | 625  | Frankfurt      | 01:50 |
| KAC                                    | 417  | Manila         | 02:00 |
| KAC                                    | 285  | Dhaka          | 02:00 |
| JZR                                    | 701  | Asyut          | 02:00 |
| JZR                                    | 111  | Doha           | 02:10 |
| RBG                                    | 1558 | Alexandria     | 02:15 |
| JZR                                    | 707  | Luxor          | 02:50 |
| PGT                                    | 859  | Istanbul       | 02:50 |
| ETH                                    | 621  | Addis Ababa    | 03:05 |
| KLM                                    | 446  | Amsterdam      | 03:10 |
| ETD                                    | 306  | Abu Dhabi      | 04:00 |
| OMA                                    | 644  | Muscat         | 04:05 |
| QTR                                    | 1087 | Doha           | 04:15 |
| MSR                                    | 613  | Cairo          | 04:15 |
| JZR                                    | 1735 | Cairo          | 04:40 |
| LMU                                    | 5511 | Cairo          | 05:00 |
| IGO                                    | 1752 | Chennai        | 05:10 |
| KAC                                    | 303  | Mumbai         | 05:15 |
| QTR                                    | 1077 | Doha           | 05:15 |
| JZR                                    | 1217 | Jeddah         | 05:25 |
| THY                                    | 771  | Istanbul       | 06:30 |
| GFA                                    | 212  | Bahrain        | 06:50 |
| KAC                                    | 623  | Doha           | 07:00 |
| RJA                                    | 643  | Amman          | 07:00 |
| KAC                                    | 167  | Paris          | 07:15 |
| BAW                                    | 156  | London         | 07:40 |
| RBG                                    | 1552 | Alexandria     | 07:45 |
| KAC                                    | 413  | Bangkok        | 07:45 |
| KAC                                    | 165  | Rome           | 08:00 |
| KAC                                    | 171  | Frankfurt      | 08:00 |
| JZR                                    | 211  | Jeddah         | 08:00 |
| THY                                    | 6376 | Dubai/Istanbul | 08:35 |
| KAC                                    | 545  | Cairo          | 08:50 |
| IRA                                    | 674  | Lar            | 08:50 |
| KAC                                    | 501  | Beirut         | 08:50 |
| KAC                                    | 561  | Amman          | 08:55 |
| KAC                                    | 117  | New York       | 09:05 |
| KAC                                    | 787  | Jeddah         | 09:15 |
| KAC                                    | 671  | Dubai          | 09:15 |
| KAC                                    | 691  | Muscat         | 09:20 |
| ABY                                    | 126  | Sharjah        | 09:20 |
| JZR                                    | 731  | Cairo          | 09:45 |
| UAE                                    | 856  | Dubai          | 09:50 |
| JZR                                    | 221  | Riyadh         | 09:55 |
| JZR                                    | 301  | Istanbul       | 09:55 |
| ETD                                    | 302  | Abu Dhabi      | 09:55 |
| KAC                                    | 101  | London         | 10:05 |
| KAC                                    | 515  | Tehran         | 10:35 |
| KAC                                    | 617  | Doha           | 10:40 |
| QTR                                    | 1071 | Doha           | 10:40 |
| IGO                                    | 1754 | Ahmedabad      | 10:40 |
| SVA                                    | 513  | Riyadh         | 10:55 |
| GFA                                    | 214  | Bahrain        | 11:35 |
| MEA                                    | 405  | Beirut         | 11:55 |
| SYR                                    | 342  | Damascus       | 12:00 |
| JZR                                    | 213  | Jeddah         | 12:05 |
| QTR                                    | 1075 | Doha           | 12:10 |
| JZR                                    | 123  | Dubai          | 12:45 |
| JZR                                    | 115  | Doha           | 13:25 |
| KAC                                    | 541  | Cairo          | 13:30 |
| SAW                                    | 702  | Damascus       | 13:30 |
| MSR                                    | 611  | Cairo          | 13:45 |





KASHMIR: Kashmiri Muslims gesture as they pray at the Sheikh Abdul Qadir Geelani Shrine during the holy month of Ramadan in Srinagar yesterday. Muslims around the world abstain from eating, drinking and conducting sexual relations from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. — AFP

# Palestinians shun US-led conference

## June 25-26 event meant to help West Bank, Gaza

**RAMALLAH:** The Palestinians will not attend a US-led conference in Bahrain next month that the Trump administration has cast as a preliminary roll-out of its plan for them to make peace with Israel, a Palestinian cabinet minister said yesterday. Washington announced the conference on Sunday, describing it as an opportunity to drum up international investment for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which is controlled by Palestinian Islamist group Hamas.

The Palestinians, who have boycotted the Trump administration since it recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in late 2017, have shown little interest in discussing a plan that they anticipate will fall far short of their core demands. Palestinian Prime Minister

Mohammad Shtayyeh said yesterday that his government had not been consulted on the June 25-26 gathering in Manama. After the cabinet met, Ahmmed Majdalani, the social development minister and a member of the executive committee of the umbrella Palestine Liberation Organization, said: "There will be no Palestinian participation in the Manama workshop."

He added: "Any Palestinian who would take part would be nothing but a collaborator for the Americans and Israel." US officials have predicted that the event will include representatives and business executives from Europe, the Middle East and Asia, as well as some finance ministers. The economic component discussed will constitute an unveiling of the first part of the Trump

peace plan, US officials have said.

Israeli leaders have not commented on the conference. Israel's finance minister, Moshe Kahlon, said through a spokesman on Sunday that he had yet to receive any invitation. Shtayyeh reiterated Palestinians' demands for a two-state peace deal with Israel entailing control of the West Bank and Gaza, as well as East Jerusalem as their future capital. Israel calls Jerusalem its indivisible capital and has said it might declare sovereignty in its West Bank settlements.

The Trump administration has said its still-secret peace plan would require compromise by both sides. Since being shunned by the Palestinians, it has cut back on US aid for them, contributing to economic hardship

in the West Bank and Gaza. "The financial crisis the Palestinian Authority is living through today is a result of the financial war that is being launched against us in order to win political concessions," Shtayyeh told his cabinet. "We do not submit to blackmail and we don't trade our political rights for money."

Hamas, shunned in the West for its diehard hostility to Israel and locked in a more than decade-old power struggle with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's secular Fatah party, also condemned the Bahrain conference. "We reject any economic and political steps that aim to implement the deal of the century or to normalize ties with the Israeli enemy," Hamas official Fawzi Barhoum said. — Reuters

## Prayer and Ramadan...

Continued from Page 1

No one knows exactly which night it falls on so prayers are conducted late into the night for all of the last then days.

Attendance at designated neighborhood mosques is high, and attendance at the Grand Mosque in Kuwait City reaches about 30,000 during these days. God

instructs us in the Quran to "establish prayer for My remembrance" (20:14). Just as there is a "minimum daily allowance" of calories, vitamins and minerals for a healthy body, the five prayers can be considered the minimum daily allowance of communication with God for a healthy spirit.

*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 inter-faith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, you can contact TIES at Tel: 25231015/6; Hotline: 94079777; e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.*

## Google, Android cut Huawei ties...

Continued from Page 1

platform to develop an ecosystem that has benefited both users and the industry," it added. Almost half of the 208 million phones Huawei shipped in 2018 went outside mainland China, and Europe is the most important overseas market where its devices had a 29% market share in the first quarter of 2019, technology research firm IDC says.

The Google loss was likely to cost Huawei all of its smartphone sales outside China as "device purchasing is now almost entirely driven by the ecosystem," industry analyst Richard Windsor said. "Huawei will not lose access to Android itself, which is open source, but Android devices outside of China must offer access to Google services in order to have any prospect of being sold," Windsor added.

Google, owned by Alphabet Inc, said it would enact restrictions on Android updates after US President Donald Trump added Huawei to a trade blacklist, making it extremely difficult for it to do business with US

counterparts. "We are complying with the order and reviewing the implications," a Google spokesman said. Huawei, which is the largest supplier of telecom networking equipment, is at the centre of trade tensions between Beijing and Washington. The United States has said its gear could be used by China to spy on Americans, allegations Huawei has repeatedly denied.

Google said its Google Play app store and the security protections from Google Play Protect would continue to function on existing Huawei devices. As well as restrictions on the software running its devices, Huawei faces the prospect of losing access to some of the US hardware suppliers it needs to produce its technology. Chipmakers including Intel Corp, Qualcomm Inc, Xilinx Inc and Broadcom Inc have told their employees they will not supply critical software and components to Huawei until further notice, Bloomberg reported.

Founder and chief executive Ren Zhengfei said on Saturday that Huawei's growth "may slow, but only slightly" due to the US restrictions and that it would be "fine" even if Qualcomm and other American suppliers would not sell it chips. Huawei's chip arm HiSilicon had been secretly developing back-up products for years in anticipation of the unlikely scenario that Huawei may one day be unable to obtain advanced chips and technology from the United States, President He Tingbo said in a letter to staff dated May 17. — Reuters

domains to serve the two nations and boost joint Arab action. They also tackled the latest regional and international developments of common interest. The meeting was also attended by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and senior state officials.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah later organized an iftar (fast-breaking) banquet in the honor of the visiting Jordanian King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein and his accompanying delegation. — Agencies

His Highness the Amir and Jordanian King discussed means to cement deeply-rooted bilateral relations in all

## Houthis deny targeting Islam...

Continued from Page 1

Yemen's conflict is widely seen in the region as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Houthis deny being Iranian puppets and say they are waging a revolution against corruption. The strikes on Aramco

pumping stations came two days after attacks on vessels, including two Saudi oil tankers, off the coast of the UAE, which no one has claimed responsibility for.

The UAE has not blamed anyone pending an investigation. Two US government sources said last week that US officials believed Iran encouraged the Houthis or Iraq-based Shiite Muslim militias to carry out the attacks. The Houthis have repeatedly targeted Saudi cities and oil installations with missiles and drones, mostly in border areas. Twice, in 2016 and 2017, the coalition said the group had launched a missile towards Makkah, but the movement said it was targeting nearby airports. — Reuters

## Katyusha rocket crashes into...

Continued from Page 1

His sentiment was echoed by Qais Al-Khazali, another prominent Iran-backed militia leader, who tweeted that a war would be neither in Washington's nor in Tehran's interests.

Tensions between Washington and its Gulf Arab allies on one side and Tehran and its proxies in the region on the other, have been flaring for weeks. On Sunday, US President Donald Trump threatened Iran in a tweet, raising concerns about a potential US-Iran conflict. "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again!" he tweeted.

Trump has tightened economic sanctions against Iran, and his administration says it has built up the US military presence in the region. It accuses Iran of threats to US troops and interests. Tehran has described US moves as "psychological warfare" and a "political game". Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group claimed responsibility for a drone strike on two oil pumping stations in Saudi Arabia last week. The kingdom accused Tehran of ordering the attack. Two days earlier, four vessels, including two Saudi oil tankers, were sabotaged off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

Both Iran and the United States have said they do not want war. After the blast, Iraqi police special forces found a rocket launcher in eastern Baghdad's Al-Sina district, about 7 km away across the Tigris River from the Green Zone, and sealed off the area, a police source told Reuters. Officers were searching for suspects and an ordnance disposal team from the Baghdad Operations Command was inspecting the launcher, the source said.

The Green Zone was regularly targeted by mortars during the US occupation of Iraq that ended in 2011. Rockets have occasionally been fired into the Green Zone since then. The latest such incident was in September, when three mortar shells landed inside the Green Zone, causing no casualties. The Katyusha multiple rocket launcher is an inexpensive type of rocket artillery that can deliver explosives to a target quicker than conventional artillery, but is less accurate.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said yesterday the "genocidal taunts" of US President Donald Trump will not "end Iran", as tensions spike between the two countries. "Iranians have stood tall for millennia while aggressors all gone. Economic terrorism and genocidal taunts won't 'end Iran'," Zarif wrote on Twitter. "Never threaten an Iranian. Try respect-it works!" he added.

The riposte by Iran's top diplomat follows an ominous warning by Trump, who on Sunday suggested the Islamic republic would be destroyed if it attacked US interests. "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again," Trump tweeted. Relations between Washington and Tehran plummeted a year ago when Trump pulled out of a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and imposed tough sanctions.

Iranian officials have repeatedly slammed the unilateral US sanctions as "economic terrorism," saying that they have impeded the flow of essential goods. Tensions have risen further this month with Washington announcing more economic measures against Tehran, before deploying a carrier group and B-52 bombers to the Gulf over unspecified alleged Iranian "threats".

The Trump administration last week ordered non-essential diplomatic staff out of Iraq, citing the danger posted by Iranian-backed Iraqi armed groups. On Sunday a rocket was fired into the Green Zone of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, which houses government offices and embassies including the US mission. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack.— Agencies



Sports



# Neymar dream’ is back in Kuwait for the fourth consecutive year

More than 10,000 teams and 65,000 players in 47 countries

KUWAIT: Neymar Jr recently launched the fourth edition of his signature five-a-side tournament and spoke about his own hopes and dreams. Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five made an instant impact in its debut year in 2016, with more than 10,000 teams and 65,000 players in 47 countries, including Kuwait, vying for overall victory in the world's biggest five-a-side football tournament. This time it will be bigger than ever, with regional qualifiers in more than 60 countries and over 28,000 teams competing.

Barcelona's famous star and Brazilian professional footballer Neymar Junior provides a unique opportunity to thousands of footballers to participate in the national qualifiers kicking off end of the month. Neymar, who was also announced the best football player of the year in 2015, invites all players aged 16 to 25 to form a team of five and join the championship.

After the enormous success and global growth in 2018, Kuwait will re-host 4 national qualifiers of Neymar Jr's Five. The qualifiers in Kuwait will occur over a span of four days: May14 - 15 at Boulevard Football Fields and May 20 - 21 at iCorner, behind Kuwait Towers. Eight teams will then head to the final on May 23, at Marina Crescent Football Fields.

In 2018, over 125,000 players from over 50 countries battled it out to be crowned World Champions, with Mexico coming out victorious. Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five 2019 is set to be even bigger and more players than ever will get the chance to experience this beautiful game, as

there'll also be women's competitions in addition to the mixed competition in some countries.

This year, more than 40 countries from 6 continents will be hosting tournament qualifiers, where players will compete with the same dream of making it through the qualifiers, to their national final to book a ticket to the World Final, which will be celebrated for the fourth time at Instituto Projeto Neymar Jr in Praia Grande, Brazil.

The 2019 World Champions will win the experience of a lifetime, with the chance to play against Neymar Jr himself in Brazil.

Neymar Jr expressed his excitement about the upcoming tournament saying "I hope you are as excited as I am to get out there and outplay as many teams as possible. Gather your team, sign up and I hope to see you and your friends in Brazil".

Last year, 150 teams signed up for six national qualifiers in Kuwait, and only Al Aalam were lucky enough to represent Kuwait in the World Final and compete with teams from all over the world.

Teams of 5 to 7 players can sign up now on [www.neymarjr5.com](http://www.neymarjr5.com) for a chance to represent Kuwait in Brazil and meet Neymar!

Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five Kuwait national final is held in partnership with Honda, Snapple, Acqua Eva Kuwait and X-cite by Alghanim Electronics. Media partner, Kuwait Times, will cover this popular event.



## Blues whip Sharks to take 3-2 series lead

SAN JOSE: The team that sat dead last in the NHL when the calendar flipped to 2019 is now one win away from the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 1970. That kind of turnaround sounds like a cheesy movie of the week, but it's the scenario before the St. Louis Blues after they blasted the host San Jose Sharks 5-0 Sunday afternoon to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"We're close," Blues forward Patrick Maroon told reporters after the game. "We're very close right now. I think the guys know that. It's in the back of their heads, but we know that that's a good hockey team over there, too, and they're not going to give up." The Blues will look to close out the best-of-seven series Tuesday when they host Game 6. The winner of the series will face the Boston Bruins.

Coincidentally, the last time the Blues reached the championship round they lost to the Bruins—a victory memorialized by the famous image of Bobby Orr flying through the air after scoring the Cup-winning goal. St. Louis made the Cup final in each of its first three seasons but hasn't returned since.

"It's gonna be a lot of emotion and it's important our players keep it in check," Blues head coach Craig Berube said. "Our players have done a pretty good job of ... focusing. I don't expect anything different. It's important at the start of the game (to be) simple and direct. Keep your emotions in check and not let them

get out of control."

Berube's charges moved ahead in the series with their most dominating performance of the playoffs. Jaden Schwartz recorded a hat trick and goalie Jordan Binnington made 21 saves for his first career playoff shutout as the Blues claimed their seventh win in nine road games this postseason.

"If you saw the game, you saw how good everyone on the team played," Binnington told Sportsnet. "Everyone was outstanding, making the right decisions, playing hard and playing disciplined. That's a good team win."

And a costly one for the Sharks. Not only did they suffer a defeat, but the Sharks suffered through a war of attrition in what may be their final home game of the season.

Defenseman Erik Karlsson and forward Tomas Hertl didn't play in the third period, while captain Joe Pavelski left early in the final frame after taking a hard check.

Karlsson, who appeared to aggravate a groin injury that limited him during the season, looked nothing like himself on the game's first goal. His poor giveaway resulted in Oskar Sundqvist's score before the six-minute mark. From there, it turned downright ugly for the hosts as the Blues took complete control.

Schwartz's trio of goals gives him 12 in the playoffs, one more than he collected through the regular season, while Vladimir Tarasenko scored on a penalty shot and added two assists. Tarasenko has collected at least one point in every game this series.

Now, the Sharks must find a way to recover and win on the road to force a seventh game at home, which would be Thursday. "We've been here before. We had to go and win in Vegas (in the first round) to get to a



SAN JOSE: Martin Jones #31 of the San Jose Sharks makes a save on a backhand shot by Jaden Schwartz #17 of the St Louis Blues in Game Five of the Western Conference Final during the 2019 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at SAP Center in San Jose, California. — AFP

Game 7," said coach Peter DeBoer, whose team has been outscored 7-1 in the last two games. "You're never comfortable when your back's against the wall like that, but we've been there before and found a way. We're confident we can do that again." Sharks goalie Martin Jones stopped 35 shots in the loss. — Reuters



# Dodgers’ Hyun-Jin Ryu runs scoreless streak to 31 innings to defeat Reds

## Cubs top Nats, take series in Washington

CINCINNATI: Hyun-Jin Ryu threw seven shutout innings and the visiting Los Angeles Dodgers won the finale of a three-game series against the Cincinnati Reds 8-3 on Sunday afternoon. Ryu (6-1) has not allowed a run in his past 31 innings. He gave up five hits against the Reds, struck out five and walked one, lowering his ERA to a major league-leading 1.52. Alex Verdugo had two hits and three RBIs, Cody Bellinger and Russell Martin homered, and Joc Pederson scored three runs for the Dodgers. Reds starter Tanner Roark (3-3) went five innings, allowing two runs and two hits. He struck out seven and walked three. Jose Peraza and Derek Dietrich hit back-to-back homers with two outs in the ninth to account for all the scoring for the Reds, who were trying to win their second consecutive game in the series after the Dodgers won the opener Friday.

### CUBS 6, NATIONALS 5

Albert Almora, Jr. was 3-for-3 with a walk and scored twice, Anthony Rizzo hit a home run, and Kyle Hendricks won his third decision in a row as Chicago held on to beat host Washington. The Cubs have won 15 of their last 20 games while Hendricks (4-4) gave up four runs on six hits with two walks and four strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings after not allowing a hit until the fifth inning. Chicago scored a run in each of the first four innings and led 6-1 at one point. Hendricks, in his previous three starts, went at least eight innings and allowed one run or less each time.

### RED SOX 4, ASTROS 3

Xander Bogaerts' hits scored Mookie Betts twice in three innings, and host Boston averted a series sweep at the hands of red-hot Houston at Fenway Park. Bogaerts delivered the game-winning hit with two outs off Astros left-hander Framber Valdez (1-2) in the seventh inning, scorching a double to center field that scored Betts from first base. Houston had its 10-game winning streak snapped.

### YANKEES 13, RAYS 5

Pinch-hitter Thairo Estrada highlighted a seven-run sixth inning with a two-out, bases-clearing double and New York beat Tampa Bay in the rubber game of a three-game series at Yankee Stadium. The Yankees took their second straight weekend series from Tampa Bay. New York also won for the seventh time in its past 10 games after sending 11 men to the plate and producing five walks and four hits in the sixth against three pitchers. The Yankees led 8-5 when Estrada batted for Gio Urshela against Casey Sadler. He extended the lead to 11-5 by lining a double to left field on a 2-1 sinker that stayed up and over the plate.

### RANGERS 5, CARDINALS 4 (10 INNINGS)

Nomar Mazara's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning capped a back-and-forth game and lifted host Texas to a win over St. Louis. The Rangers took two of three from the Cardinals and have won four of five. St. Louis has lost four of five and is 5-13 this month. The Cardinals took the lead in the 10th when Harrison Bader hit a leadoff double against Jeanmar Gomez (1-0), went to third on a ground-out by Paul Goldschmidt and scored on a sacrifice fly by Paul DeJong. Giants 3, Diamondbacks 2 (10 innings). Pablo Sandoval slugged a pinch-hit home run in the 10th inning to lift San Francisco to a victory over host Arizona. Sandoval took an outside pitch from right-hander Yoshihisa Hirano (1-2) the opposite way over the left field fence to lead off the inning. He homered as a pinch hitter for the second consecutive game. Sandoval's homer was the first hit for San Francisco since there were no outs in the third.

### INDIANS 10, ORIOLES 0

Shane Bieber struck out a career-best 15 batters to highlight his first career complete game as Cleveland cruised to a shutout victory over visiting Baltimore. Bieber (3-2) fanned Rio Ruiz to end the seventh inning to eclipse his previous-best strikeout total of 11, which he set in a 2-0 win over Tampa Bay on Sept. 11. The 23-year-old went on to strike out Richie Martin to end the eighth and Dwight Smith Jr. and Chris Davis in the ninth. Bieber scattered five hits—all singles—and did not walk a batter en route to posting his first win since April 16 and first at home in five starts.

### MARINERS 7, TWINS 4

Edwin Encarnacion, Daniel Vogelbach and Mitch Haniger hit home runs as Seattle defeated visiting Minnesota to salvage the finale of a four-game series. The American League Central-leading Twins had their five-game winning streak snapped. The Mariners had lost their previous three games and 15 of their past 19. Seattle left-hander Yusei Kikuchi (3-1) went six innings, allowing three runs (one earned) on five hits. He walked two and struck out six.

### ROYALS 5, ANGELS 1

Danny Duffy allowed one run over six innings to win his third consecutive start, and Hunter Dozier had a two-run double as Kansas City snapped a four-game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles in Anaheim, Calif. Nicky Lopez and Adalberto Mondesi both went 2-for-5 with a run scored for the Royals, who won for just the second time in their last eight games. Duffy (3-1) allowed five hits and three walks while striking out five. Scott Barlow,



CINCINNATI: Alex Verdugo #27 of the Los Angeles Dodgers hits a RBI double in the second inning against the Cincinnati Reds at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati, Ohio. — AFP

Jake Diekmann, who struck out the side in the eighth, and Ian Kennedy each pitched a scoreless inning of relief as Kansas City won only its sixth road game in 22 tries.

### PIRATES 6, PADRES 4

Third baseman Colin Moran capped a four-run first inning with a three-run homer and added an insurance RBI single in the eighth to lead Pittsburgh to a win over the Padres in San Diego. Joe Musgrove picked up the Pirates' third straight win in the four-game series to complete an unusual double. The winning pitchers in the final two games of the series—Steven Brault and Musgrove—were teammates in 2011 at Grossmont High, which is about a 15-minute drive east of Petco Park. Musgrove (3-4) held the Padres scoreless on one hit through six innings before the Padres scored four times in the bottom of the seventh. Hunter Renfroe hit a three-run homer after a two-out throwing error by the Pirates' pitcher.

### BLUE JAYS 5, WHITE SOX 2

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a two-run, go-ahead homer in the eighth inning and visiting Toronto went on to defeat Chicago. Guerrero's fourth homer of the season came with one out after Jonathan Davis led off the inning with a single against reliever Kelvin Herrera (1-3). Danny Jansen

added a two-run homer in the ninth and Billy McKinney also had a solo homer for the Blue Jays.

### BREWERS 3, BRAVES 2 (10 INNINGS)

Ben Gamel hit a solo homer to lead off the 10th inning to give visiting Milwaukee a win over Atlanta. Gamel's homer, his second of the season, came off right-hander Wes Parsons (1-2) and enabled the Brewers to salvage one game out of three-game series. Atlanta had a four-game winning streak snapped. Left-hander Josh Hader (1-3) pitched the final two innings and earned the win. Hader allowed the game-winning walk-off homer on Saturday.

### PHILLIES 7, ROCKIES 5

Bryce Harper hit a tiebreaking home run during a four-run sixth inning. J.T. Realmuto also went deep, and host Philadelphia beat Colorado to complete a three-game sweep. Andrew McCutchen had two hits and two RBIs, and Andrew Knapp walked three times and scored two runs for Philadelphia. Edgar Garcia (1-0) faced one batter to get the win, and Pat Neshek picked up his third save. Ryan McMahon hit two home runs and Charlie Blackmon and Trevor Story also went deep for the Rockies, who have dropped four of their first five on an eight-game road trip. — Reuters

## Asian Boxing Championship to be held in Kuwait

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Boxing Federations Board of Directors held a meeting chaired by Mohammad Al-Enezi. The meeting discussed the hosting of Asian Boxing Championship during the period Aug 1 - Aug 9th, as Kuwait was involved with other countries to host the event, and finally succeeded in signing a contract with the Asian Boxing Federation to host it.

Meanwhile Chairman of the Board of KBF Mohammad Al-Enezi expressed his pleasure towards Kuwait's return to participate in international events after being absent for a long time for various reasons.

Al-Enezi thanked the Public Authority for Sports with its Director General Dr Humoud Fulaiteh and his Deputy Dr Saqer Al-Mulla for the unlimited support and major efforts, that had a positive effect in hosting the event, promising a strong return for Kuwait boxing



in the coming future.

He added that the board is working round the clock to complete preparations for the championship. He said

there will be more than 20 countries participating, as it is one of the largest five championships in Asia and many countries wish to participate in it.

## Riaz, Amir and Asif named in Pakistan's final World Cup squad

ISLAMABAD: Fast bowlers Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Amir have been drafted in to Pakistan's final 15-man squad for the World Cup along with middle-order batsman Asif Ali, the country's cricket board (PCB) said yesterday. The trio will replace Faheem Ashraf, Junaid Khan and Abid Ali after selectors spoke with skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed and coach Mickey Arthur following Pakistan's 4-0 defeat by England in their recent ODI series.

Wahab, who has 102 wickets in 79 ODIs, last played a 50-overs match for his country in June 2017, but selectors chose the 33-year-old veteran over Junaid and Faheem, who both struggled against England.

"Junaid and Faheem had been originally preferred over a few other bowlers based on their recent performances and the investment we had made on them since 2017," selection committee chairman Inzamam-ul-Haq said.

"They had the opportunity to cement their World Cup spots, but were well below par in the series against England even though they were up against the challenge of bowling on placid and batsmen-friendly wickets.

"Furthermore, Amir and Wahab give the fast bowling attack more experience and support the relatively inexperienced but immensely talented Shaheen Afridi and Mohammad Hasnain."

The hard-hitting Asif was picked for his ability in the middle order, with the form of Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq keeping fellow opener Abid Ali out of the squad, Inzamam added. "After both first choice openers struck early form (against England), we preferred Asif Ali as he brings firepower to the team that can strengthen our chances in the tournament," the former captain said.

Pakistan play warm-up games against Afghanistan (May 24) and Bangladesh (May 26) before starting their World Cup campaign against the West Indies at Trent Bridge on May 31.

**Pakistan squad:** Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicketkeeper, captain), Asif Ali, Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail, Hasan Ali, Imad Wasim, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Hasnain, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Wahab Riaz. — Reuters

## Hazlewood World Cup snub the right decision: Langer

MELBOURNE: Australia coach Justin Langer has defended the decision to leave Josh Hazlewood out of the World Cup squad, saying the paceman lacked match fitness as he recovers from a back injury. Hazlewood, who partnered left-arm quicks Mitchell Starc and Mitchell Johnson during Australia's 2015 World Cup triumph, expressed his frustration last week at first missing out on a place in the initial squad for England and then being overlooked as Jhye Richardson's replacement.

Richardson, ruled out with a shoulder injury, was replaced by namesake Kane Richardson, with Starc, Pat Cummins and Nathan Coulter-Nile the other pace bowlers picked. "He just hasn't been playing any cricket," Langer said in England of the 28-year-old Hazlewood, who has claimed 72 wickets in 44 ODI matches.

"He's come off a second stress fracture in his back and while he's just starting to get up and running in the nets now - I think he's played six white ball games in the last 18 months - that's T20 and one-day cricket.

"We know he's a great bowler. He's a brilliant bowler, but it was just such bad timing for him." World champions Australia head into the tournament on the back of an eight-match winning streak, including series wins away to Pakistan and India.

Much of the focus on Aaron Finch's team will follow former captain Steve Smith and David Warner, who are back in the squad after serving 12-month bans for ball-tampering. Both played key roles in the 2015 tournament and have made plenty of runs in the leadup to England, with Warner top scoring in the Indian Premier League and Smith smashing two half-centuries off an understrength New Zealand in an unofficial warmup series in Brisbane. Langer said both players were champing at the bit.

"It's been hilarious for me, because whether on the Anzac Cove or in the lunch room or we're on the bus playing cards, (Smith's) just shadow batting the whole time," he said. "He loves batting—he's shadow batting on the sand, he's shadow batting in the shower—I'm not joking.

"They've (Smith and Warner) had 12 months to have a good think about a mistake they and the team made. I'm sure they'll be better people for that." Australia play their World Cup opener against Pakistan in Bristol on June 1. The tournament starts on May 30. — Reuters



# Koepka returns to world No 1 after fourth major title

## Brooks took inspiration from the crowd

**BETHPAGE:** Brooks Koepka took inspiration from the crowd turning on him as he nearly “choked away” the PGA Championship and battled through to recover for the most satisfying victory of his career. Koepka shook off four back-nine bogeys in a row to win his fourth major title Sunday at Bethpage Black taking a two-stroke victory over fast-closing Dustin Johnson.

“This is definitely the most satisfying of all the ones I’ve won,” Koepka said. “Today was definitely the most satisfying for how stressful that round was, how stressful DJ made that. This was, by far, the most stressful.”

Koepka began the final round with a PGA record seven-stroke lead and saw it shrink to a single shot. No man has led a major by so much so late and lost. But Koepka nearly did after bogeys on holes 11 through 14.

“I don’t want to say it’s a panic, but it’s definitely a shock when you make a couple,” Koepka said. “I wasn’t nervous. I was just in shock of what was going on — 13 was a bit disappointing and 14 was just a bit of a shock to go four in a row. “I can’t tell you the last time I’ve made four bogeys in a row. I don’t know if I ever have. But just had to reset. I think everybody chanting, ‘DJ’ kind of helped that.”

New York fans are notorious for turning on favorites when they falter and Koepka proved no exception, fans calling out ‘DJ’ to add tension to every blunder.

“It’s New York. What do you expect when you’re half-choking it away?” Koepka said. “I kind of deserved it.

“You’re going to rattle off four in a row and it looks

like you’re going to lose it. I’ve been to sporting events in New York. I know how it goes.”

What he didn’t anticipate is how the chants would give him something to focus upon, shake the shock and the bogeys and reboot.

“I think it actually helped. It was at a perfect time because I was just thinking, ‘OK, all right. I’ve got everybody against me. Let’s go.’

It helped me refocus and hit a good one down 15. That was probably the best thing that could have happened. It was very stressful, the last hour and a half of that round.“You’ve got to right the ship eventually and try to stay mentally strong.”

**“TRYING MY BUTT OFF”**

Koepka parred 15 and 16 while Johnson was making bogeys at 16 and the par-3 17th. Even when Koepka notched his own bogey at 17, he was two ahead at the 18th tee and overcame finding sand and weeds to sink a six-foot par putt for his second PGA title in a row after winning the past two US Open crowns.

“It has been incredibly quick. It has been so much fun these last two years,” Koepka said. “To be standing here today with four majors, it’s mind-blowing.”

Koepka defends himself given the difficult course and windy conditions. “I was playing good. I just made mistakes at the wrong time,” he said. “I challenge anybody to go play this golf course in 15-20-mph winds and see what they shoot.”

Losing never entered his thoughts, Koepka claimed.



**FARMINGDALE:** Brooks Koepka of the United States poses with girlfriend Jena Sims, his mother Denise Jakows, father Bob Koepka and stepmother Sherri Koepka with the Wanamaker Trophy during the Trophy Presentation Ceremony after winning the final round of the 2019 PGA Championship at the Bethpage Black course on May 19, 2019 in Farmingdale, New York. —AFP

“I never thought about failing. I was trying my butt off,” he said. “If I would have bogeyed all the way in, I still would have looked at it as I tried my hardest. Sometimes that’s all you’ve got.

“Even if I would have lost, I guess you could say choked it away. I tried my tail off just to even make par and kind of right the ship. But I never once thought about it.” — AFP

## Atalanta grab crucial point at Allegri’s Juventus farewell party

**ROME:** Departing Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri bid farewell to the Turin fans in the team’s final home game this season on Sunday, a 1-1 stalemate against Atalanta that kept the visitors’ hopes of a first-ever Champions League qualification alive.

The Juventus fans paid tribute to Allegri, who the club’s management have decided will not be their coach next season, despite winning 11 trophies in five years, but missing out on winning the Champions League.

Juventus have already wrapped up their record eighth consecutive title, which was Allegri’s fifth. The team were officially presented with this year’s Serie A trophy—the first for Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

Former World Cup winner Andrea Barzagli played his final home game after eight years in Turin, and received an resounding ovation when he came off after an hour. On the pitch, forward Mario Mandzukic struck ten minutes from time to cancel out Josip Ilicic’s 33rd-minute goal for Atalanta.

The point keeps Atalanta’s hopes of a first Champions League campaign alive, which they can seal if they beat Sassuolo in their final game next weekend. Atalanta moved third ahead of Inter Milan on head-to-head after Luciano Spalletti’s side lost 4-1 at Napoli.

Juventus and second-placed Napoli are already through to the Champions League next season. AC Milan are just one point behind Inter and Atalanta in



**TURIN:** Juventus team players celebrate with the Italian Champion’s trophy at the end of the Italian Serie A football match Juventus vs Atalanta at the Allianz stadium in Turin. —AFP

fifth after Krzysztof Piatek and Suso struck in a 2-0 win over Frosinone.

Inter will play their final match against Empoli, who are trying to avoid relegation. Polish striker Piatek got back scoring on 57 minutes at the San Siro, with Spanish winger Suso adding a second nine minutes later.

Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved a Camillo Ciano penalty before Piatek broke his five-match scoring drought with his 22nd goal of the season.

Milan are at least assured of a place in next season’s Europa League, along with Roma, who were held to a

goalless draw at Sassuolo on Saturday.

The two teams benefited from seventh-placed Torino’s shock 4-1 defeat at Empoli, which ended the northerners’ European hopes. Lazio, in eighth, are sure of playing in the Europa League group stage thanks to their Coppa Italia victory.

Empoli moved out of the relegation zone at the expense of Genoa, who were held 1-1 by Cagliari, and are now 18th ahead of next week’s clash with Fiorentina, themselves just three points off the drop zone. — AFP

## Late goal gives Moroccan club victory

**JOHANNESBURG:** Leading scorer Kodjo Fo-Doh Laba netted on 94 minutes to give Renaissance Berkane of Morocco a 1-0 first-leg victory over Zamalek of Egypt Sunday in the CAF Confederation Cup final. Togolese Laba, the leading goalscorer in the African second-tier club competition with eight, was the architect and executioner as the hosts made a stoppage-time breakthrough.

The tall striker, who had been generally well policed by the Zamalek defence, ran on to a long pass out of defence and darted toward the goalmouth. With two defenders in hot pursuit, Laba passed to Hamdi Laachir, who pushed the ball back into the path of the west African and he hammered the ball into the roof of the net.

The goal was a massive relief for the dominant home side, who were foiled twice by the woodwork in the first half before a near-capacity crowd in the 15,000-seat Stade Municipal. Zamalek were frequently guilty of time wasting and seemed more intent on not losing than winning as they seek a first African trophy since 2003. — AFP

## Mahrez eyes CAN after City treble

**PARIS:** Manchester City winger Riyad Mahrez hopes he can continue a successful streak by helping Algeria win the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) in Egypt during July. The 28-year-old started in the FA Cup final at the weekend as City completed an English treble by trouncing Watford 6-0 after winning the Premier League and League Cup. “It is 29 years since Algeria won the Cup of Nations and I want to be part of the team that repeats that feat,” he said after collecting his third winners’ medal of the season.

**ENGLAND**

**RIYAD MAHREZ (Manchester City)**

He played 55 minutes of the FA Cup final at Wembley and gave a solid performance before being replaced by Belgium star Kevin De Bruyne. Mahrez scored 12 goals this season for City in 44 appearances across all competitions.

**SPAIN**

**MUBARAK WAKASO (Alaves)**

Wakaso’s thundering volley helped Alaves beat Girona 2-1, a victory that confirmed their opponents’ relegation from La Liga. Wakaso scored his first goal of the season on its final weekend, the Ghanaian’s drive shortly before half-time teeing up a win that saw Alaves finish 11th.

**ITALY**

**AFRIYIE ACQUAH (Empoli)/OLA AINA (Torino)**

Ghanaian midfielder Acquah scored the opening goal that sparked a stunning 4-1 Serie A win for struggling Empoli over Torino. He pounced on an error by on-loan Chelsea and Nigeria defender Aina to finish off on 27 minutes. The triumph pulled Empoli out of the relegation zone going into the final round of league matches while defeat ended Torino’s slim hopes of European football next season.

**GERMANY**

**ISHAK BELFODIL (Hoffenheim)**

The Algerian forward crowned a successful season with his 16th goal to give Hoffenheim an early lead over Mainz. However, the afternoon ended in disappointment as Mainz fought back to win 4-2 and shatter Hoffenheim’s hopes of Europa League qualification. — AFP

## Five things we learned in European football this weekend

**PARIS:** Bayern Munich clinched a seventh successive Bundesliga title, Benfica completed a remarkable run to reclaim the Portuguese crown, while Gareth Bale was denied a farewell appearance for Real Madrid. Here, AFP Sport takes a look at five main talking points from the weekend in European football:

**BALE OUT?**

Six seasons after arriving to fanfare and a blockbuster transfer fee, Gareth Bale was left on the bench for what is likely to prove his final game for Real Madrid with coach Zinedine Zidane wanting rid of the Welsh winger. Bale watched on as three substitutes came on ahead of him in the 2-0 home loss to Betis, denied a farewell appearance by Zidane ahead of an expected departure this summer. They finish a full 19 points behind bitter rivals Barcelona and delivered a suitably miserable end to a poor season, with Zidane admitting afterwards “the best thing for us is that it’s over”. Zidane insists the 29-year-old forward does not fit in his team, and while he would be welcome at a host of top clubs, his superstar salary may prove an obstacle for all but the richest.

**KOVAC ON THE BRINK AFTER STRUGGLE**

Bayern Munich staggered to a seventh straight Bundesliga title after a season-long struggle with Dortmund ended Sunday with a 5-1 win over Eintracht Frankfurt, and coach Niko Kovac is far from secure in his job. Kovac, 47, has been plagued by rumours of dressing room disharmony and a lack of trust from the boardroom since taking the reins at the beginning of the season. Reports in German media earlier in the week suggested that he would be sacked even if he were to win the league and cup double this season. Tellingly, Bayern president Uli Hoeness, one of Kovac’s strongest advocates on the Bayern board, avoided confirming that the Croatian would stay next season. “I have never been involved in this discussion,” he told Sky.

**MBAPPE SPARKS DOUBTS OVER FUTURE**

France’s World Cup winning line-up was full of stars, but the most glittering among them was teenage striker Kylian Mbappe, who dropped a bombshell Sunday by suggesting he may look to leave Paris Saint-Germain. After a season when he scored 38 times for PSG, Mbappe fuelled speculation surrounding his future on Sunday, saying that he wants “responsibilities, maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere”. Named Ligue 1 player of the season on Sunday, he refused to deny a potential move away from France could be in the offing. “It (the award) is an important moment for me, a turning point in my career... The moment of having more responsibilities, maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere,” he told BeIN Sports. —AFP





25Blues whip Sharks to take 3-2 series lead



26Dodgers' Hyun-Jin Ryu runs scoreless streak to 31 innings to defeat Reds



27Atalanta grab crucial point at Allegri's Juventus farewell party





TORONTO: Eric Bledsoe #6 of the Milwaukee Bucks looks to pass the ball against the Toronto Raptors during Game Three of the Eastern Conference Finals of the 2019 NBA Playoffs at the Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. —AFP

# Raptors earn pivotal double-OT win

## Bucks lead the best-of-seven series 2-1 with Game 4 today in Toronto

**TORONTO:** The Toronto Raptors knew they needed to play tougher than they had in losing the first two games to the Milwaukee Bucks in the Eastern Conference finals. They played tough and they played long as well, needing two overtimes to outlast the Bucks 118-112 Sunday night with Kawhi Leonard leading all scorers with 36 points.

The Bucks lead the best-of-seven series 2-1 with Game 4 today in Toronto. Raptors coach Nick Nurse said that he was also considering changes to his lineup, although he went with the same starting lineup he had been using.

"I said lineup changes, I didn't say starting lineup changes," Nurse said. "We played a lot of different line-ups tonight, and we changed at least three if not four of the matchups to start the game. Some of those changes were pretty good to us, but again I thought we just played a lot tougher, man. We were up guarding, we were physical, we were ready to play."

Leonard had eight points in the second overtime on 3-for-3 shooting from the field and making both free

throws. But Nurse said the difference was his defense. "His defense was probably the biggest key of the game," Nurse said. "He made some huge plays with some steals and ripaways and breakaways."

The Raptors defense was good enough to hold Giannis Antetokounmpo to 12 points before he fouled out in the second overtime with 4:24 remaining, but he did grab 23 rebounds. "They were double-teaming him a lot, a lot of bodies on him," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "He's sharing the ball. He's making the right read, making the pass. But we've probably got to shoot it a little bit better, we've got to drive a little bit better."

The Bucks shot 37.3 percent from the field while the Raptors shot 39.2 percent. "Obviously, they changed their matchup," Antetokounmpo said. "I tried not to think about it too much. Every time I tried to make a play, I saw that they were showing bodies, they were sending a second guy in there."

Pascal Siakam added 25 points and 11 rebounds for Toronto and Marc Gasol had 16 points, 12 rebounds,

seven assists and five blocked shots. Gasol had blamed his own performance for the Raptors' poor Game 2. He said his performance made him "feel sick for 48 hours."

Toronto's Kyle Lowry had 11 points before fouling out in the fourth quarter. Norman Powell had 19 points off the bench before fouling out late in the fourth. George Hill had 24 points for Milwaukee. Malcolm Brogdon had 20 points, Brook Lopez added 16, Eric Bledsoe tallied 11, and Nikola Mirotic 10.

"I think all of us have a bigger role to play and more to do," Brogdon said. The Raptors led by as many as 11 points but had only a two-point advantage entering the fourth quarter.

Toronto moved out to an eight-point lead when Leonard made a 3-pointer with 9:05 to play, but Hill's hook shot tied the game at 88 with 4:11 to play. Leonard's 16-footer put Toronto into a 93-91 lead, which grew to three when Siakam made one of two free throws with 1:41 remaining and five when Leonard made two free throws with 1:13 left.

Brogdon's reverse layup had the Bucks back to with-

in two with 38.7 seconds to go. After a Bucks miss, Siakam missed two free throws with 7.1 seconds left. Khris Middleton's layup tied the game with 2.2 seconds left, forcing overtime.

"Those are shots that you practice and think about every day," Siakam said of the missed free throws. "At that moment, you're kind of mad at yourself." Siakam's layup put Toronto ahead by two in the first overtime and Leonard's jumper made the lead four. Brogdon hit a five-footer with 43.2 seconds to play and Hill tied the game with two free throws with 14.5 seconds left in the first overtime. Leonard missed a shot, forcing the second overtime.

Leonard's dunk after a steal had Toronto leading by three in the second overtime. Two free throws by Lopez trimmed the lead to one. Leonard's steal and dunk again had the Raptors ahead by three with 1:52 left in the second overtime. The Raptors led by four on Leonard's hook with 32.4 seconds to go.

The Raptors led 30-21 after the first quarter and 58-51 at halftime. — Reuters

## Pliskova climbs to second in rankings, Williams back in top 10

**PARIS:** Karolina Pliskova climbed five places in the WTA rankings yesterday to second after her Italian Open triumph at the weekend, with Naomi Osaka's world number one spot now in the Czech's sights.

The 27-year-old saw off Briton Johanna Konta to win her 13th WTA title in Rome. She will be the second seed at the French Open, which starts on Sunday, as she looks to improve on her previous best Roland Garros performance—a semi-final run in 2017.

Osaka's lead in the rankings remains in peril, although reigning French Open champion Simona Halep dropped down to third. Pliskova's rise has seen three-time Grand Slam winner Angelique Kerber and Petra Kvitova slip two places and one spot respectively. Serena Williams

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| returned to the top 10 after playing her first match since March in Italy, despite pulling out before her scheduled second-round match with sister Venus. |            |
| <b>WTA top 20</b>   |            |
| 1. Naomi Osaka (JPN)  | 6,486 pts  |
| 2. Karolina Pliskova (CZE)  | 5,685 (+5) |
| 3. Simona Halep (ROU)   | 5,533 (-1) |
| 4. Kiki Bertens (NED)   | 5,405      |
| 5. Angelique Kerber (GER)   | 5,095 (-2) |
| 6. Petra Kvitova (CZE)  | 5,055 (-1) |
| 7. Sloane Stephens (USA)  | 4,552 (+1) |
| 8. Ashleigh Barty (AUS)   | 4,430 (+1) |
| 9. Elina Svitolina (UKR)  | 3,967 (-3) |
| 10. Serena Williams (USA)   | 3,521 (+1) |
| 11. Aryna Sabalenka (BLR)   | 3,500 (-1) |
| 12. Anastasija Sevastova (LAT)  | 3,136 (+1) |
| 13. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN)  | 3,063 (-1) |
| 14. Madison Keys (USA)  | 2,965      |
| 15. Belinda Bencic (SUI)  | 2,893      |
| 16. Wang Qiang (CHN)  | 2,815 (+1) |
| 17. Anett Kontaveit (EST)   | 2,565 (-1) |

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 18. Julia Goerges (GER)    | 2,520  |
| 19. Garbine Muguruza (ESP) | 2,465  |
| 20. Elise Mertens (BEL)    | 2,305. |

Meanwhile, defending French Open champion Rafael Nadal said Sunday he can't wait to hit the clay courts of Roland Garros after claiming his first title this season and ninth Italian Open trophy. Nadal defeated world number one Novak Djokovic 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 for a record 34rd Masters, leaving his vanquished foe to label the Spaniard as "the number one favourite for Roland Garros".

"I am going to be there with time enough, as always," said 32-year-old Nadal, who wants to capture a 12th trophy in Paris. "I'm going to repeat my normal routines. For sure I can't wait to be there and have the feeling, see the stadium, watch all the new great things that Roland Garros is doing," the 17-time Grand Slam winner said of the rebuilt Philippe Chatrier Centre Court. "I saw a picture. Looks great. Still open, still not closed. Is a different stadium, but the feeling probably will not be very different. "This year, I don't see a big difference. The wind is going to be the same as always. Court is still big."

His first title this season, and particularly on his favourite clay surface, is a huge boost for the Spaniard. "Happy to reach that level in the last tournament before a Grand Slam," said Nadal. "But, as I said, for me I don't want to talk about Grand Slams now. I never did in the past. Important title, now's the moment to keep going."

Djokovic-winner at the Madrid Open last week-gave an error-strewn display in his 54th meeting with second-ranked Nadal, having spent six hours on court in his previous two matches. "For me, the most important thing is to feel myself playing well and feel myself healthy, with the energy that I need," said Nadal.

"If that happens, experience is that I am going to fight for titles sooner or later." The 32-year-old had not dropped a set all week before the final taking a 6-0 set from four his five rivals.

"During the last couple of weeks, every day and every week have been better. And here we are finally with this great trophy, an important victory."

Nadal pulled out of Indian Wells with a knee injury, and had not gotten past the semi-finals in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid. — AFP