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# Assembly speaker unveils bill to resolve problem of bedoons

## Citizenship for some stateless people, 'premium' residency for others

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday revealed his long-awaited draft law that promises to provide a lasting and just solution for the decades-old problem of some 120,000 stateless people in the country, which involves granting citizenship to some. Ghanem told reporters that the bill was submitted to the Assembly on Thursday and will be up for debate and discussion to provide the necessary solution for bedoons in Kuwait.

Basically, the draft law suggests granting Kuwaiti citizenship to some of the bedoons, "premium" 15-year renewable residency for others, provided they produce their original nationality, and punishment for those who refuse to reveal their original citizenship.

Bedeons or their forefathers have been living in the country for several decades and claim the right to Kuwaiti citizenship. The government counters by insisting that a majority of the bedoons or their ancestors have other nationalities which they have hidden in order

to get Kuwaiti citizenship and its generous benefits.

The bill stipulates that the government's central body for bedoons will prepare a list of the names of stateless people who fulfill all requirements to obtain Kuwaiti citizenship, and then the necessary Amiri decrees will be issued granting them nationality. Bedoons who do not qualify for direct consideration for citizenship will be given one year to reveal their actual identity. They will also be given the right to apply for Kuwaiti citizenship and will be accorded priority for this.

Bedeons who reveal their actual nationality will be given a premium residency of 15 years which can be renewed. Wives and minor children of this category will be given the same residency. The premium residency includes a variety of services that include free medical and educational services, including benefits for handicapped people. Benefits also include getting ration cards like Kuwaitis, driving licenses and jobs in private and public sectors like expatriates, and the ability to carry out commercial activities, obtaining all necessary documents and doing all government transactions.

Bedeons under this category are allowed to apply for Kuwaiti citizenship based on rules and regulations.

The bill states that bedoons who refuse to reveal their actual citizenship will be treated as violators of the residency law and penalized in accordance with the relevant laws. They will not enjoy any of the benefits that others enjoy and will be deprived of the right to apply for Kuwaiti citizenship in the future.

A committee for petitions will be established with at least two judges, which will have the right to review petitions submitted by bedoons related to citizenship or premium residency issues. Bedoons are allowed to file the petitions within 30 days, to be reviewed by the committee within 60 more days.

The committee will send its decision to the higher citizenship committee, which will make the final decision within 60 days.

The initial reaction to the bill has been negative, especially from bedoon activists and their Kuwaiti supporters, with some alleging the bill is an election campaign gimmick by Ghanem.



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks at a press conference yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

### News in brief



#### Three killed in blaze

KUWAIT: Three workers were killed in a fire that broke out in an oil refining workshop and a number of garages and auto parts stores in Shuwaikh industrial area yesterday. Five fire brigades from different centers fought the fire and managed to control it within an hour. The fire was in an industrial plot of an area of approximately 2,000 sq m. — Hanan Al-Saadoun

#### Schoolboy killed

KUWAIT: A 6-year-old schoolboy was instantly killed yesterday morning when a vehicle ran him over outside his school in Salam, said security sources. The sources added that the vehicle that killed the boy was driven by a 68-year-old Kuwaiti, who after dropping off his grandson to school, suffered a diabetic coma and lost control over his vehicle. The man was detained and further investigations are in progress. — A Saleh

#### Hajraf new GCC chief?

KUWAIT: Well informed sources said Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf will resign from office today, as Kuwait has nominated him for the position of GCC Secretary General to succeed Abdullah Al-Zayani of Bahrain. Hajraf holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Kuwait University, a Master of Science in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a PhD in Accounting and Finance from the University of Hull. He has overseen several portfolios at the education, oil and finance ministries, and was the head of the Capital Markets Authority from 2014 to 2017. — A Saleh



#### New Facebook logo arrives

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook yesterday unveiled a new logo to represent the Silicon Valley company, distinct from its core social network. The move aims to highlight the Facebook "brand" which operates a range of apps and services including messaging, photo-sharing, virtual reality and is developing wallets for digital currency. — AFP



## SMA patients in Kuwait provided with world's most expensive drug



KUWAIT: (Left) Doctors prepare to inject a patient suffering from spinal muscular atrophy with Zolgensma, the world's most expensive drug (right).

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Central Circle Company added a milestone in the modern medical history of Kuwait through its contribution in the delivery of the world's most expensive drug used to treat spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Zolgensma, valued at \$2.1 million, was delivered to four patients and their medical teams with the highest degree of efficiency.

This contribution is an additional value that increases the speed of response of the health system in Kuwait to face the burden of SMA in children. Spinal muscular atrophy is one of the rarest genetic diseases in the world. Kuwait has registered at least

10 cases so far, which are handled by the concerned medical team at the health ministry efficiently and with distinctive efforts.

Dr Mohammed Ziad Al-Alyan, Chief Executive Officer of Central Circle Company, declared that this initiative is an important step in strengthening the partnership between the private and government sectors represented by the health ministry towards promoting a healthy community and improving the health status of all its members, including patients with rare diseases such as SMA.

He also expressed pride that Central Circle Company is the first institution in the region that was able to bring the first gene medication in the world -



Zolgensma - which has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Central Circle Company exerted a lot of technical and logistic efforts to transport and deliver this drug, with special technical requirements such as keeping the drug under the temperature of - 60°C during its period of validity of only up to 14 days.

Head of Sabah Hospital's neurology department Dr Asma Al-Tawari announced two patients diagnosed with SMA were injected with Zolgensma, adding the procedure was held in the presence of hospital director Dr Nayef Al-Harbi and doctors Iman Al-Enezi and Najeeb Al-Othman.

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## Iraq forces fire on protesters

BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces fired live rounds yesterday at anti-government protesters in Baghdad, hours after four demonstrators were shot dead outside the Iranian consulate in the holy city of Karbala. It was the latest bloodshed in a wave of ongoing protests, road blocks and a campaign of civil disobedience waged by

protesters accusing the Iraqi government of rampant corruption and clientelism.

On a day of unrest, activists also hurled stones at security forces firing tear gas grenades in clashes on the capital's streets leading to the Iranian embassy, the seat of government and the foreign and justice ministries, an AFP photographer reported. About 20 people were wounded in Baghdad, medical and security sources said, when security forces opened fire on protesters massing near the state television headquarters, according to witnesses.

Continued on Page 24



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi woman walks along a wall painted with a mural during an anti-government demonstration in Tahrir Square yesterday. — AFP

## UAE announces new oil, gas finds, overtakes Kuwait

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates, a leading OPEC producer, yesterday announced "significant" oil and gas discoveries and launched a new pricing mechanism for Abu Dhabi flagship Murban crude. The Gulf state's highest energy decision-making body, the Supreme Petroleum Council (SPC), said the new discoveries included seven billion barrels of crude oil and 58 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

That raised UAE crude oil reserves to 105 billion barrels, overtaking neighbor Kuwait for the world's sixth largest oil deposits. Abu Dhabi National Oil Co said in a statement. Natural gas reserves were also boosted to 273 trillion cubic feet (7.7 billion cubic meters), ADNOC said. In addition, the UAE discovered about 160 trillion cubic feet of unconventional natural gas. UAE pumps about three million barrels of oil per day (bpd) and produces some 10.5 billion cubic feet of raw natural gas, according to ADNOC.

"We are very pleased and honored to have enabled the UAE to move from the seventh to the sixth-largest oil and gas reserves in both global rankings," said ADNOC CEO Sultan Al-Jaber. The SPC also gave its approval to list ADNOC's Murban crude oil on an internationally recognized exchange, with the goal of boosting the UAE's position as an

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## Local

# Amir receives Kuwaiti political figures at Bayan Palace



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Mohammad Abdullah Al-Olaime, Musaed Adel Al-Saieedi and Dr Bader Ahmad Al-Nashi. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ahmad Yaqoub Al-Abdullah, Dr Mubarak Humoud Al-Tasha and Dr Saleh Al-Omar.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a number of Kuwaiti political figures at Bayan Palace yesterday, including Mohammad Abdullah Al-Olaime, Musaed Adel Al-Saieedi, Dr Bader Ahmad Al-Nashi, Ahmad Yaqoub Al-Abdullah, Dr Saleh Al-Omar, and Dr Mubarak Humoud Al-Tasha.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received congratulatory cables from Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives Ali Abdel-Aal and Sudan's Deputy Chairman of the Sovereignty Council General Mohammad Hamdan Dagalo on his return home following successful medical checkups, in which they wished His Highness good health and wellness. In

response, His Highness the Amir sent cables to Speaker Abdel-Aal and General Dagalo, thanking them for their kind words and sentiments and wished them long healthy life.

Separately, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulation to President of Mozambique Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, on his re-election as President. His Highness the Amir wished the Mozambican President success in his new presidential term, and further progress and prosperity of bilateral ties between the two nations. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere congratulations on Sheikh Salman's recommendation as Asian Shooting Confederation President for the next four years. His Highness the Amir also sent a cable of congratulations to the President of the Kuwaiti Shooting Federation Engineer Duaij Al-Otaibi on his election to the post of Secretary-General of the Asian Shooting Confederation. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Sheikh Salman and Engineer Al-Otaibi.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also praised a quintet of his compatriot gymnasts on picking up gold medals at a recent Tunisia-hosted Arab championship. Noor Al-Rzaihan, Sheikha Al-Awadhi, Saud Al-Hasawi, Mohammad Hatem and Abdullah Abdulkarim all received cables from His Highness the Amir, who wished them well and hoped they would keep piling up such stellar achievements that help catapult Kuwait into international glory. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar messages to the Kuwaiti gymnasts. — KUNA

## Singapore President leaves Kuwait after official visit

KUWAIT: President of Singapore Halimah Yacob and her accompanying delegation left Kuwait yesterday following an official visit, during which she held officials talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. She was seen off at the airport by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Prior to her departure, President Yacob visited the Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center, where she toured its historical and cultural departments that reflected Kuwaiti civilization. During the tour, she was accompanied by head of the mission of honor Amiri Diwan Advisor Dr Youssef Hamad Al-Ibrahim. Later yesterday, President Yacob attended a luncheon banquet hosted by Dr Ibrahim at the Amiri Diwan. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah bids farewell to President of Singapore Halimah Yacob. — Amiri Diwan photo

## Estonia President arrives in Kuwait on official visit



KUWAIT: Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid is welcomed by Minister of Amiri Diwan affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah upon her arrival at the Amiri Terminal yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photo

KUWAIT: Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid and her accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait yesterday on an official visit for talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. She was received at the Amiri Terminal by Minister of Amiri Diwan affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. The mission of honor accompanying the guest was headed by Amiri Diwan Advisor Ali Fahad Al-

Rashid. The President's accompanying delegation included Estonian Foreign Ministry Undersecretary of Political Affairs Paul Teesalu, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Andres Rund, Director of the Office of Estonia President Tiit Riisalo, Chairman of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Toomas Luman and several Estonian officials. — KUNA

## PM receives ICAO Secretary General, Arab Airlines Directors



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf and Chairmen of the Board of Directors of Arab airlines.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace, with the attendance of President of the General Directorate of Kuwait Civil Aviation Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Dr Fang Liu and her accompanying delegation, participating in the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Arab Air Carriers' Organization (AACO) currently held in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister received Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf accompanied by Chairmen of the Board of Directors of Arab airlines participating in the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Arab Air Carriers' Organization (AACO) currently held in Kuwait. Director of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikha Etamad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended the meetings. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Dr Fang Liu. — KUNA photos

## Kuwait expects 'meteoric growth' in passenger traffic

KUWAIT: Kuwait should witness rapid growth in its air cargo and passenger traffic in the next ten years, which will generate an annual revenue worth \$800 million, the country's Directorate General of Civil Aviation predicted. According to recent indications, some 42 million travelers will converge on Kuwait International Airport by the year 2037, subsequently sparking a potential job boom, the Kuwaiti aviation regulator's chief Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said during talks with his counterparts from across the region. He spoke of how Kuwait's civil aviation authority has gone back to the drawing board as part of efforts to push the country's national development plan, which aims to transform Kuwait into a regional hub. The talks revolve around matters of

mutual concern and issues germane to the aviation sector, which run the gamut from safety and security to procedures and regulations, added the Kuwaiti official. Kuwait's aviation regulator, in close collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which celebrates 75 years since its inception, is in the process of drawing up new legislation to make sure procedures meet international standards, he revealed. ICAO's Secretary General Dr Fang Liu said she was glad Kuwait is hosting the latest round of talks, saying the country has always supported the region's thriving aviation sector. On the Gulf country's aviation industry, she said tangible growth has been seen as of late, hoping that such progress would remain on an upward trajectory. — KUNA

## Zain strategic partner of Kuwait Public Relations and Customer Service Prize

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its Strategic Partnership of the Kuwait Public Relations and Customer Service Prize 2018-2019. The prize, organized by the Kuwait Public Relations Association for the fourth time, comes under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Zain took part in the prize's exhibition opening ceremony, which was held in Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC) with the presence of His Highness the Amir's representative, Al-Asimah Governor Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait Public Relations Association Chairman Jamal Al-Nasrullah, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti, as well as a number of officials from both the private and public sectors.

Zain's Strategic Partnership of the Kuwait Public Relations and Customer Service Prize since its inception and for the fourth consecutive year showcases the company's distinguished public relations and



KUWAIT: Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with Waleed Al-Khashti and a number of officials in Zain's booth.

media involvement, and further strengthens its role as a leading private sector company launching unique public relations and marketing campaigns all year round. The company is keen on supporting this very important field which carries significant and informative messaging to the public at large and the commu-

nications world as a whole, whether through traditional or modern media tools.

The Kuwait Public Relations Association dedicates this prize - to be hosted in January 2020 - to shed light on the distinguished efforts and achievements of companies and organizations in the fields of public

relations and customer service across all industries from both the public and private sectors. The event also features a number of workshops about the strategies of public relations, customer service, and marketing targeted at employees of ministries and organizations.

The judging committee - responsible for selecting the winners - will consist of local and international public relations and customer service experts who will evaluate the participating entities as per the highest international standards. The standards include serving customers while meeting their needs, distinguished social contributions, excellent media presence, and more.

Zain affirms its commitment in being present at the various activities that contribute to pushing the national economy wheel and achieving the various developmental objectives of the country, further reflecting its role as a leading national private sector company that engages with initiatives that achieve Kuwait's prosperity on all levels.



# Central Circle, Ethicon continue to invest in colorectal cancer



Dr Mubarak Al-Kandari, consultant surgeon, with Dr Ziad Al-Alyan, CEO of Central Circle Company, and J&J representatives.



Dr Manish Chand, guest speaker from the UK, during his presentation.

KUWAIT: Dr Manish Chand, a specialist surgeon and global key opinion leader in the field of colorectal surgery and colorectal cancer, came from the UK to Kuwait to address and discuss the colorectal cancer disease state. Many topics were discussed throughout the evening, including: management approaches for colorectal cancer, complications in colorectal surgery, the role of new technologies in complex colorectal surgeries and the importance of standardization and a multi-disciplinary team approach. Many of the top surgeons in Kuwait attended the evening, along with the CEO of Central Circle Company Dr Ziad Al-Alyan, and J&J's partner in Kuwait.



Peter Lane, Ethicon country manager, Kuwait, gives his opening speech.



A general view of the audience.

## Society concludes organ transplant testing workshop



KUWAIT: Participants at the workshop pose for a group photo.

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The Arab Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics concluded its workshop that was held in cooperation with Kuwait Organ Transplant Society on the most modern techniques used for histocompatibility and immunogenetic testing for organ and stem cell transplant patients. The society recommended that a database be established for patients with renal failure, which may give dialysis patients a quicker chance for a transplant, in addition to establishing a special database to make it easier to find donors for stem cell transplants.

The society recommended the paired kidney exchange program between various centers, which may reduce the waiting time for renal failure patients to have a transplant, as well as the necessity to make virtual histocompatibility before starting with the actual

one, in addition to starting a program for stem cell donations.

Head of the immunology and histocompatibility unit of Yacoub Behbehani Center Dr Nada Jassim Al-Shatti said this program will start in Kuwait to reduce the suffering of renal failure patients, and work is underway to gain international accreditation and cooperation with recognized transplant centers to be at par with the most modern standards of histocompatibility. Shatti said use of the second generation technique to test immunogenes is now a necessity for stem cell transplant patients.

She said that 3,500 immunogene tests are being done annually at the immunology and histocompatibility unit for kidney and bone marrow transplants as well as immunological diseases using state-of-the-art techniques. Shatti said the next generation sequencing technique has been added for immunogenetic testing, which avoids sending samples abroad.

## VIVA launches prostate cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT: VIVA, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and a subsidiary of STC Group, launched its prostate cancer awareness campaign 'Movember' awareness campaign under the 'Because We Care' umbrella to run during the month of November in line with the international health campaign.

In support of this cause, VIVA has changed the profile picture of its social media platforms by adding the blue ribbon to its logo, representing the international symbol of prostate cancer awareness month. In addition, tips from specialized consultants will be displayed during the month of November and activities to raise awareness about the importance of prevention and early screening for men.

Danah Faisal Al-Jasem, General

Manager of Corporate Communications at VIVA commented: "We will take the extra mile and utilize our resources in providing our employees and the society with valuable information and lifestyle tips that will encourage early detection and hopefully mitigate the likeliness of being diagnosed with the disease. This campaign falls in line with VIVA's corporate social responsibility agenda at VIVA which strives to support different initiatives in the fields of health, education, sports, environment and entrepreneurship, all in benefit of our society."

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancer among men, yet it's also one of the most treatable, and early detection can be a game-changer. Risk factors for prostate cancer include family history, genetic factors, race, lifestyle and dietary habit.

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## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The beautiful design of Essa Yousef Al-Othman mosque in Funaitees. — Photo by Fahad Al-Otaibi (KUNA)

# Kuwait's FM chairs Al-Sumait Prize Board of Trustees meeting

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KUWAIT: Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs Al-Sumait Prize Board of Trustees meeting. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Al-Sumait Prize for African Development Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has chaired the fifth meeting of the Al-Sumait Prize's board of trustees. The meeting, held Sunday at the headquarters of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), reviewed reports of prize jury about nominees for this year's edition. Also present at the meeting were other board members: Director General and Chairman of Board of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development Abdulatif Al-Hamad; Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates; World Bank's Vice President for Africa Makhtar Diop; Former Deputy Director General and Head of the Department, International Atomic Energy Agency Kwaku Aning; Executive Member of the Board of Public Gathering Charity Committee and Director General and Chairman of Board of Sadeer Tareq Al-Mutawa; and Director General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin.

It was also attended by Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Daniel Gustafson; The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Assistant Director-General for Education Stefania Giannini; and several senior officials of the Foreign Ministry of Kuwait and the KFAS. The annual Al-Sumait Prize is an initiative announced by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the Third Africa-Arab Summit in Kuwait in November 2013 to shine a light on those making a positive difference to sustainable development in Africa. The awards celebrate the work and accomplishments of Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sumait, a Kuwaiti physician who spent his lifetime helping the poor in Africa in the field of health and education. The prize is awarded annually within one of three fields: Food Security, Health and Education and has a value of \$1 million.

This year's edition of the prize will be awarded to individuals or institutions who through their research projects or initiatives have made significant advancement within one or more of the following areas: developing new varieties of seeds, crops or livestock which can improve the food security of the poor population in Africa by increasing the calorific and nutritional value of food produced and consumed domestically. Improving farmers' access to agricultural inputs, techniques, technologies and markets so as to increase the availability of staple products which form a core part of the diet of the poorest people in Africa; improving farmers' resilience to climate change and extreme weather conditions; boosting water resources especially in the desert areas; and providing skilled labor for those sectors. The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and our international Board of Trustees, comprising of respected philanthropists and experts in the field, oversee the prize. — KUNA

## Discover America: How to sell in US military bases in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: As part of the 11-day Discover America event, the US Embassy along with the American Business Council Kuwait (ABCK) hosted a business consulting event on 'How to supply US military bases' at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Fahaheel. Around 300 attendees interacted with speakers, mostly from the Regional Contracting Center - Army Contracting Command and 386th Air Expeditionary Wing - US Air Forces Central Command, Ali Al-Salem Air Base. The event covered base access, contracting opportunities, proposal requirements, payment processes, among other topics.

According to US Embassy Senior Commercial Officer Shari Stout, local companies in Kuwait desiring to sell to the US military need some knowhow to enter the process, since contracting with the military base is an admittedly complicated subject. "In US military camps in Kuwait alone, we have around 10,000-16,000 US servicemen. The number is huge and it's an opportunity for local businessmen to transact with us, as we need supplies, literally from 'soups to nuts' - almost everything. So we can share techniques for the greater benefit of both sides," she said.



Ross Lindsey, Commander 408th Contracting Support Brigade, Regional Contracting Center-Kuwait, addresses the audience.



US Embassy Senior Commercial Officer Shari Stout speaks during the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

US military camps normally outsource their products and needs from various local companies. Ross Lindsey, Commander 408th Contracting Support Brigade, Regional Contracting Center-Kuwait, said it is necessary for companies to know the requirements to secure contracts with US military bases. "Suppliers should know the regulatory and federal requirements in the US army when securing supply contracts from a US military base. The three main areas are commodities, services and logistics. There are more, like construction," he said. The event was part of 'Discover America' which highlights US culture, tradition, music, food, restaurants, cars, education and more.



## Local

# Concerts can still be held in Kuwait, but organizers must take precautions

## Concertgoers should not leave their seats and dance, or risk being escorted out

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Despite the recent stricter procedures and decisions by the ministry of information regarding musical concerts, shows are still being held, although organizers are more careful to avoid any problems or violations by taking more precautions during the event. Khaled Al-Mutairi, head of the media and organizing committee, said some individual behaviors during a concert held two weeks ago led to an "overreaction" by the information minister, who suspended the license of the organizer for three months.

"Iraqi singers usually enjoy great popularity in Kuwait, and people love to dance when listening to their songs. But inspectors are watching the audience to warn them or even escort them out of the theatre. But we have hired our own security staff for this concert to ensure rules are respected without depending on the ministry's inspectors," Mutairi said during a

press conference on Sunday.

"Other reasons were also behind the minister's decision, including a video that spread on social media showing women dancing in their seats during the concert. The video caused family problems for these women. But these were individual behaviors, as the rest of the attendees respected our traditions. The organizer should not be punished for these small violations. Sometimes the media exaggerates in describing the situation, and this was the case," he added.

Violating concertgoers will be warned. "Our security staff will be watching the audience and will warn violators once or twice before forcing them to leave the concert. After all, this is a musical concert and the audi-

ence will interact, but they should not leave their seats and dance," Mutairi explained.

The organizers have been preparing for this concert for two months. The organizer Khaled Al-Ruwaidhan

insisted to hold this concert despite the fact that organizers of concerts face pressure and even sanctions by the ministry of information.

Mutairi also mentioned a concert by a South Korean band. "People suggested holding a concert of the BTS South

Korean band that performed in Saudi Arabia, but I heard many negative reactions, so we refused to hold this concert as the society rejected it, although we would make money out of it. After that I heard from

some teenagers that this band positively affected their lives including improving their school performance. So we may change our decision," he noted.

During the conference, they announced that a concert by two young singers - Iraqi singer Oras Sattar and the Kuwaiti singer Mishari Al-Awadhi - will be held on Friday at the Duaij Al-Khalifa Theatre. Sattar said he is performing in this concert although the situation in his home country is not stable, as he already signed the contract long before the events took place. "I have to respect my obligations and I love my fans in Kuwait, so I decided to participate in this concert. I believe Iraqis will understand my situation. This is my second performance in Kuwait and I'm very excited," he said.

Awadhi expressed his happiness to participate in this concert and his sadness at the same time on the death of his friend, Kuwait singer Hmoud Nasser, who passed away two months back, as he was preparing some songs with him for this concert.

## Govt to increase Kuwaitis' percentage in private sector

**KUWAIT:** Well-informed sources said that Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel is expected to make a decision by the beginning of December on amending the percentage of hiring Kuwaitis in the private sector and increasing it at the expense of expats. The sources added that

the decision is being currently reviewed to increase the percentages of citizens from the current 40-50 percent to at least 60-75 percent.

"The percentages were set after consultation with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the banking sector and telecom and insurance companies. Banks already have Kuwaitis close to over 90 percent of their staff," the sources stressed. In other news, and responding to an inquiry by MP Khalil Al-Saleh, Minister of Social Affairs Saad Al-Kharraz said that 196 of his ministry's employees and 94 at the disabled affairs authority had voluntarily resigned between 2016 and 2018.

## Kuwait, Philippines disagree on maids' contracts

**KUWAIT:** The dispute between the Philippines Embassy and the Public Authority of Manpower could be heading towards more complications, as the embassy insists on using the domestic help contract authenticated by authorities in Manila, while the manpower authority does not honor any contract it does not issue and refuses to deal with any external contracts or papers that are attached to its approved contract.

An official source at the manpower authority said the recognized contract is the Kuwaiti one which does

not differentiate between nationalities in rights and duties, and the law applies to all without exception. He said the authority will not allow dealing with any contracts or papers attached to its approved contract that commits sponsors to conditions contrary to the signed agreement, including giving Philippines the authority to prosecute sponsors in international courts.

The source said the signed agreement with the Philippine side calls for bringing in domestic help and returning them to their country according to the rules of the agreement. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said the text of the Philippines contract for domestic help has been in use all over the world for years, adding that talks with regards to the model contract continue between officials of both countries. A meeting of the bilateral committee will be held during the last week of this month to discuss final details of the contract. — Al-Rai



**KUWAIT:** The firefighting sector at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate opened a training course in cooperation with a local company on how to operate the 'electronic control panel' for facemasks worn by firefighters. The course is being conducted on the instructions of Deputy Director General Maj Gen Jamal Al-Bulaihees as part of the directorate's training plan. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



**DUBAI:** Kuwaiti physicians Sheikhha Al-Othman (left) and Dr Ahmad Nabil. — KUNA

## US tech magazine hails Kuwaiti physicians

**DUBAI:** A renowned American tech periodical honored a pair of Kuwaiti physicians yesterday for their success in parlaying their tech knowhow into clinical success stories. In a lavish ceremony organized by MIT Technology Review's Arabic version, Kuwaiti surgeon Dr Ahmad Nabil and healthcare specialist Sheikhha Al-Othman were feted for their outstanding medical inventions. Nabil, who was honored for inventing an unforeseen endoscopic surgical technique, said the new method eliminates an outdated approach of the "manual cleansing of an endoscopic lens." The tubular apparatus consists of "compartments that release calculated batches of cleaning fluid along the body of the telescope down to the lens directly," the physician explained, dedicating his accomplishment to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Othman's success came in the form of using the most unconventional resources to develop an effective elderly care system, describing this healthcare field as among the "most challenging." She revealed that her new approach helps bring elderly care providers closer together through grouping them into various categories, including age and the severity of their patients' conditions, which allows the physicians to remain in contact with one another. MIT Technology Review routinely acknowledges tech innovations that have helped change daily life, in fields running the gamut from healthcare and energy to climate change. — KUNA

## Kuwait labs achieve perfect score in polio virus isolation

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah received a letter of praise and congratulations from regional WHO director Dr Ahmad bin Salem Al-Mandhari for the achievements made by Ministry of Health (MoH) labs, namely the poliomyelitis lab, which scored 100 percent in a test to isolate the polio virus. Notably, WHO recently conducted lab efficiency tests and Kuwait's polio lab got full marks in detecting the virus and isolating it.

### Unaccredited certificates

Kuwait Medical Association (KMS), Kuwait Dental Association (KDA), Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association (KPA), Union of Owners of Private Medical Professions and the hospitals union expressed gratitude for the government's decision to suspend banning the hiring of candidates with certificates and degrees unaccredited by the Ministry of Higher Education, noting that hiring medical

staff with the best skills in both public and private medical facilities is currently being done after candidates' certificates are accredited by the Ministry of Health. "Resuming appointments and license issuance is a step in the right direction until fully studied regulations are passed," said a statement issued jointly by these associations.

### Rainwater reservoir

Municipal Councilmember Hmoud Oqlah Al-Enezi stressed the council's and Kuwait Municipality's support to all government efforts in preparation for the rainy season, adding that the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) and Kuwait Municipality are cooperating in this regard. Enezi added that the council approved allocating a location to build a rainwater reservoir in Nahda over a total area of 5,655 sq m and another in Andalus.

### Illegal warehouse

The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) said that a video seen on social media networks of someone storing eggs in a private residence in Khaitan showed an illegal warehouse that was discovered by accident while fighting a fire. The person responsible for the violation, an expatriate man, was detained and is facing two charges - unlicensed storage of food products and dealing in food products unfit for human consumption, PAFN said in a statement.

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US and Iran: From allies to enemies

## India Muslims anxious as court prepares to rule on destroyed mosque

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AGRA: Foreign tourists wearing face masks visit the Taj Mahal under heavy smog conditions yesterday. — AFP

# Taj Mahal gets air purifier as Delhi chokes

## Indian capital banishes some cars in hope of clearing the air

**NEW DELHI:** New Delhi banned half the Indian capital's private cars from its roads yesterday as the megacity's 20 million people spluttered with stinging eyes in the worst pollution in three years. As smog levels exceeded those of Beijing by more than three times, authorities also parked a van with an air purifier near the Taj Mahal - the iconic 17th-century marble mausoleum 250 km south of Delhi - in a bid to clean the air in its surrounds.

With the pollution causing a rush of respiratory complaints at hospitals and the diversion of 37 flights on Sunday, a new law came into effect restricting cars from the capital's roads to alternative days, depending on if their number plate ends in an odd or even number. More than 600 police teams were deployed at road intersections in the capital with the power to hand out fines of 4,000 rupees (nearly \$60) to transgressors.

Exempt from the restrictions were Delhi's seven million motorbikes and scooters, public transport and cars carrying only women, stoking criticism that the measures were ineffective. "There is smoke everywhere and people, including youngsters, kids, elderly are finding it difficult to breathe," Delhi's chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a Twitter video. "Eyes are burning. Pollution is that bad."

Construction was banned temporarily late last week in the world's most polluted capital city, while schools have been closed until

tomorrow, with the city government handing out free pollution masks to children. "I have a headache every day I wake up. It's suffocating to breathe sometimes. And inflammation in the nostrils and all. And eyes also. Like it kind of burns," Ankusha Kushi, a student, told AFP.

As Delhiites woke up yesterday, levels of particulates measuring less than 2.5 microns - so tiny they enter deep into the respiratory tract - were at 613 micrograms per cubic meter of air, according to the US embassy in Delhi. The World Health Organization's recommended safe daily maximum is a reading of 25. In central Delhi, the state air quality institute rated levels of the tiny particulates - which can be deadly over the long term - as "severe".

Bollywood megastar Priyanka Chopra Jonas posted a selfie in pollution mask on Instagram and said it was "hard to shoot" in Delhi. "I can't even imagine what it must be like to live here under these conditions. We r blessed with air purifiers and masks. Pray for the homeless," she posted. Fourteen Indian cities including the capital are among the world's top 15 most polluted cities, according to the World Health Organization. One study last year said that a million Indians died prematurely every year as a result.

With local elections due in Delhi in early 2020, the crisis has also become a casualty of political bickering, with each side blaming the

other. Kejriwal, who likened Delhi to a "gas chamber" on Friday, said the city had done its part to curb pollution and that the burning of wheat stubble residue on farms outside the capital had to be stopped. India's supreme court too stepped-in, slamming the authorities for failing to curb pollution and asked them to tighten rules against violators. But national environment minister Prakash Javadekar accused Kejriwal of politicizing the issue, while an MP from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) violated the odd-even car rule as a "symbolic protest" by driving a car that was barred under the scheme.

Experts warned that both state and national governments needed to go beyond short-term remedies. Stop-gap solutions "can't be a substitute for addressing the major long-term chronic sources of air pollution", Daniel Cass, from global non-profit Vital Strategies, told AFP. Changing agricultural practices, switching electricity generation sources and accelerating the conversion of home heating from charcoal to natural gas were also key measures in the pollution fight, Cass said. Siddharth Singh, a climate policy expert, said the traffic restrictions are "ineffective". "If air pollution was solely due to the vehicular traffic, then this would be a solution. Right now it cannot be a solution because motorized private transport has a very small share in the whole pie," Singh said. — AFP



NEW DELHI: A man wearing protective face mask rides a bicycle along a street in smoggy conditions in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

## November 9, 1989: A day that changed the world

**BERLIN:** Guenter Schabowski scratches his head, puts on his glasses, hesitates, then fumbles with his handwritten notes. He seems to be trying to understand what he is reading and haltingly responds to a question about when a measure giving East Germans more freedom to travel would take effect: "As far as I know... as of now."

History's train has left the station. It is around 7:00 pm on November 9, 1989. A member of the Politburo of East Germany's communist party, and its spokesman, this member of the inner ruling circle of the "workers' and peasants' state", as the German Democratic Republic was known, just announced to a few flabbergasted journalists the fall of the Berlin Wall.

He seems to do it by accident, at the end of a press conference and in response to questions about the new rules for East German citizens leaving the country. There was no going back. But 30 years after the fact, the debate is still raging: was the sudden demise of the Berlin Wall, a prelude to that of the entire communist bloc, an accident of history, a slip of the tongue? Was it the result of a misunderstanding in the communist hierarchy, caught flat-footed by events, or a calculated gesture by the East German dictatorship which had reached the end of the line?

### 'We want to leave!'

In the corridors of power in East Berlin, inside the opulent villas in the leafy northern suburb of Wandlitz which the apparatchiks called home, the mood has been on a knife-edge for weeks. How to salvage the situa-

tion? The East German population, trapped behind the Iron Curtain since 1961, is "voting with its feet". Since August 1989, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have been turning a blind eye to a flood of refugees escaping the east for West Germany. Meanwhile since early September, hundreds of thousands of East Germans have taken to city streets to protest each week, chanting against the regime "We are the people!" and "We want to leave!". The crisis has reached the tipping point. And the GDR can no longer count on the Soviet big brother to intervene.

### Gorbachev's warning

In Moscow, the tone has changed and Mikhail Gorbachev is speaking of "perestroika" (change or reform) and "glasnost" (openness, transparency). The Soviet leader had only just warned East German strongman Erich Honecker in early October that "life punishes those who are too late". A few days later, on October 18, Honecker, who had applauded China for "crushing the counter-revolutionary uprising" in Tiananmen Square, was gone, making way for Egon Krenz. Presented as a relative moderate, Krenz intends to shore up the GDR with a few reforms, notably a liberalization of travel with the granting of an exit visa without any preconditions.

### A mistake?

Against this backdrop, Guenter Schabowski is entrusted on the evening of November 9, 1989 with the mission of announcing live on television the measures



BERLIN: In this file photo, West Berliners crowd in front of the Berlin Wall as they watch East German border guards demolishing a section of the wall in order to open a new crossing point between East and West Berlin, near the Potsdamer Square in Berlin. — AFP

decided the same day by a small committee. From there, the versions of events vary. Krenz still resents Schabowski, whom he accuses of having plunged the GDR "into a difficult situation" by proclaiming the immediate entry into force of the chance to leave the country. The fall of the Berlin Wall "was the worst night of my life," Krenz told the BBC in an interview, something he "wouldn't want to experience ever again".

Schabowski should have, according to Krenz, stuck to a press release drawn up announcing the liberalisation of travel starting the next morning. The idea was to allow controlled departures with a mandatory visa and

to maintain border infrastructure, not to rip down the Wall overnight, and with it the GDR. So was it an error of judgement in the line of fire? Or an audacious, intentional move? Until his death in 2015 at 86, Schabowski never clearly answered the question.

"No one could have stopped the movement that was touched off by my announcement," he would say later, casting himself as an ardent reformer. According to his version of events, the opening of the borders was pushed through by a vanguard of proponents of change against the wishes of the party's central committee, dominated by Stalinist die-hards. — AFP



## International

# In Lebanon's sweeping protests, hard-hit Tripoli sets the tempo

## 'Capital of the north' dogged by chronic poverty, unemployment

**TRIPOLI:** Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri's resignation has failed to quell nationwide protests but nowhere have they proven more determined and more energetic than in the second biggest city, Tripoli, whose residents complain of decades of neglect. Yesterday, after a period of relative calm, protesters blocked roads in Beirut and elsewhere to press their demands against the ruling elite that have plunged Lebanon into political turmoil at a time of economic crisis.

But the protesters in Tripoli, a port city some 80 km north of Beirut and long dogged by chronic poverty and unemployment, have stood out for their determination and fury. "We're continuing (the protests) in order to topple the president and the parliament," declared a defiant banner hoisted in Tripoli's Nour Square after Hariri's resignation. Despite Hariri's resignation last week, formal consultations over the formation of a new cabinet have yet to begin. Hariri, who is aligned with Western and Gulf Arab states, continues in a caretaker capacity until the formation of a new government.

Tripoli's nightly rallies, which resemble an electronic music festival, have become a ritual for the roughly 500,000 residents of the mainly Sunni Muslim city. Images of swaying cell phone torches lighting up the hard-scrabble city's Nour Square as a rotating set of DJs mix nationalistic tunes have become iconic since Lebanon's protests kicked off on Oct 17. "Tripoli is the area that is hurting the most," said Ayman Haddad, 33, who said his job

selling medical equipment paid too little to afford to get married. "In Beirut people have money for the month ahead, but in Tripoli we live day to day."

Sunni politicians from Tripoli have been a focal point of protest anger, including Najib Mikati, a former prime minister and wealthy businessman. Residents point to under-utilized state resources such as a nearby airport used only by the military as emblematic of a government attitude they say has allowed a city dubbed the "capital of the north" to fall deep into disrepair. A 2016 United Nations report found that about 50% of people in Tripoli live below a poverty line of \$4 a day.



### Protests persist despite Hariri resignation

have groups like Amal and Hezbollah protecting them. But in Tripoli we have no one backing us," said Bilal Al-Dahan, referring to the country's powerful Shiite groups. Residents say the lively demonstrations have refashioned the city's image, long tarnished by sectarian violence between rival Sunni Muslim and Alawite Muslim neighborhoods.

"A lot of people are telling me they see Tripoli in a different light," said Mohammed Yaghi, a 36-year-old actor. The city's residents say their ability to draw big, charged crowds without respite has encouraged others across the country to keep up the momentum. "When the pressure in the streets in other areas seemed to die down, Tripoli's stayed very strong. This actually brought peo-

#### 'No one backing us'

"There is interest in the capital Beirut, and in the south they have groups like Amal and Hezbollah protecting them. But in Tripoli we have no one backing us," said Bilal Al-Dahan, referring to the country's powerful Shiite groups. Residents say the lively demonstrations have refashioned the city's image, long tarnished by sectarian violence between rival Sunni Muslim and Alawite Muslim neighborhoods.



**TRIPOLI:** Lebanese protesters wave flags and shout slogans during an anti-government demonstration at Al-Nour Square in the northern port city of Tripoli. — AFP

ple back out in other areas," said Marwa Otham, 36. Tripoli's resilience has challenged what critics see as a government attempt to co-opt the protest movement by positioning itself as the guarantor of an anti-corruption crusade. "We are going by one principle right now: that

we have just started," said Haddad. "We are continuing until the whole regime is toppled, even the president." Lebanon, one of the world's most heavily indebted states, is grappling with the worst economic crisis since the 1975-90 civil war. — Reuters

## Vietnam arrests eight over UK truck deaths

**HANOI:** Vietnam has arrested eight more people in connection with the deaths of 39 people found in a truck in Britain who are believed to be Vietnamese, police said yesterday. Eight women and 31 men were found in a refrigerated lorry in an industrial park in Essex, east of London last month, in a case that has shaken Britain and exposed the deadly risks of illegal migration from Vietnam into Europe. British police initially said the victims were Chinese, but several Vietnamese families came forward to say they feared their relatives were on the truck. None has been officially identified so far.

Many of the suspected victims came from just two provinces in central Vietnam, including Nghe An province where eight people have been arrested in connection with the deaths, police said yesterday, according to media reports. "This was a very painful incident, a humanitarian accident," said Nguyen Huu Cau, director of Nghe An police, confirming the arrests in video

comments carried by the state-run Tuoi Tre newspaper. The official Vietnam News Agency also confirmed the arrests, saying the suspects were detained for "organizing (and) brokering people to go abroad and stay abroad illegally".

Two other suspects were arrested in Ha Tinh province last week in relation to the Essex incident. Brokers are rife in remote towns in central Vietnam, a hotspot for illegal migration into Europe. DNA samples and fingerprints have been taken from several families in the area as officials in Vietnam and Britain work to identify the victims. Families of the missing have told AFP that their children had gone overseas to find work, hoping to earn money to send back home.

Britain is a popular destination for Vietnamese illegal migrants, many of whom end up working in cannabis farms or nail bars. Those without enough money to afford so called "VIP packages" to fly to European countries before embarking on treacherous routes into Britain - usually in trucks - often travel westward via Russia or China. The routes can be dangerous, with some people exploited for labour in factories or brothels along the way, NGOs and experts say.

The 25-year-old Northern Irish driver of the refrigerated truck found on October 23 has been charged with



**GRAYS:** Police forensic officers work on a lorry, found to be containing 39 dead bodies, at Waterglade Industrial Park in Grays, east of London. Vietnam has arrested eight more people in connection with the deaths of 39 people found in a truck in Britain who are believed to be Vietnamese. — AFP

manslaughter, money laundering and conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration. In Dublin, another Northern Irishman is facing extradition proceedings to bring him to Britain in connection with the incident. British police

have also said they want to speak to Ronan and Christopher Hughes, two brothers in the haulage business from Northern Ireland. Three other people have been arrested and released on police bail. — AFP

## Iraqis arrested for backing protests on Facebook

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi security forces in a western province unaffected by anti-government protests are detaining people for posting messages of solidarity with the rallies, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. At least two people have been arrested and a third interrogated in Anbar province, a Sunni-majority desert region in the country's west, after Facebook posts. Protests demanding an overhaul of the political system have rocked Baghdad and southern Iraq, both mainly Shiite, but have not reached the west or Kurdish-majority north.

Residents of western Iraq have told AFP and HRW they were remaining quiet out of fear of being accused of being "terrorists" or backers of ex-dictator Saddam Hussein. But security forces there appear to be monitoring social media accounts, HRW said yesterday. "Despite years of terrible conflict, many Iraqis have felt free to speak out on political issues," said HRW's Middle East director Sarah Leah Whitson.

"But these cases mark a disturbing change, if you contrast these men's entirely peaceful political statements with the completely inappropriate response by the Anbar authorities." The watchdog said Anbar's security forces had detained three men within hours of their posts in support of the protests, which erupted on October 1. Two of them were later released, while a fourth man had gone into hiding after being warned he was wanted for his Facebook posts. Shortly after protests first broke out, Iraqi authorities imposed a total internet blackout for about two weeks.

They later banned social media sites including Facebook and popular messaging app WhatsApp, but Iraqis are widely using virtual private networks (VPN) to continue accessing them. Security forces and unidentified assailants have also arrested hundreds of demonstrators in Baghdad and the south including from hospitals, according to the Iraqi Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International. Most were later released but some remain missing, including medic Saba al-Mahdawi, who was abducted on Saturday night after returning from a protest. — AFP



**KARBALA:** Iraqi men carry the coffin of a demonstrator reportedly killed earlier outside the Iranian consulate, during his funeral in the Shiite shrine city of Karbala, south of Iraq's capital Baghdad yesterday. — AFP

## As Mideast protests flare, Iran clings to hard-earned sway

**BAGHDAD:** Iran has worked to turn sweeping anti-government protests in Iraq from a threat to its hard-earned influence over its neighbor into an opportunity for political gains, analysts say. In Lebanon too, where similar rallies against corruption and government inefficiency have broken out, Iran's main ally Hezbollah has managed to maintain its influence. "Very clearly, Iran in both Lebanon and Iraq wants to protect the system and not allow it to fall apart," said Renad Mansour, researcher at London-based Chatham House. In both countries "it considers the demands of protesters potentially destabilizing," he told AFP.

In Iraq, many demonstrators calling for an overhaul to the political system over the past month have pointed at Tehran as its primary sponsor - a worrying accusation for Iranian officials. The leaders in Iran "are probably at peak influence and don't want anything to change, because it's exactly where they want to be," said Michael Knights, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute. For decades, Iran has carefully crafted ties to a vast range of Iraq political and military actors, from Shiite opponents of ex-dictator Saddam Hussein to Kurdish factions in the north and even Sunni tribes in the west.

It therefore can play a crucial mediating role in Iraq's political crises, and Qasem Soleimani, who heads the

Iranian Revolutionary Guards' elite Quds Force, often visits Baghdad during such times. Tehran also backs many of the factions in Iraq's Hashed Al-Shaabi paramilitary force, which was formed in 2014 to fight the Islamic State group. And it sells crucial electricity and natural gas to supplement Iraq's gutted power sector and is Baghdad's second-biggest source of other imports, from fruit to carpets and cars.

The political and economic sway is perhaps more valuable than ever amid Washington's efforts to isolate and economically handicap Iran. The leaders in Tehran "have absolutely everything to lose and will do anything to defend it," said Knights. "In the course of that, they are exposing their hand and their allies, and building even greater anger towards them."

Since protests erupted on October 1 in Iraq, many demonstrators have accused Iran of propping up the corrupt, inefficient system they want to overthrow. One in five Iraqis live below the poverty line and youth unemployment stands at 25 percent, despite the vast oil wealth of OPEC's second-largest crude producer. "All our leaders are in the palm of Iran's hand," said Azhar, a 21-year-old protester in Baghdad's Tahrir Square. In unprecedented displays of anti-Iran sentiment, demonstrators chanted "Out, out, Iran! Baghdad will stay free!"

Online footage showed Iraqis hitting pictures of Soleimani with their shoes, a severe insult in the region. The criticism caught Iran's attention, and Soleimani has visited Iraq multiple times over the past five weeks to "advise" factions on how to respond, sources said. "He's running the show," said a government official. "They agreed on a way to deal with protesters that allows the current political leadership to stay," another source with knowledge of Soleimani's visits said. — AFP

### News in brief

#### 2 journalists stabbed to death

**MEDAN:** Two Indonesian journalists mediating a land dispute between a palm oil company and residents have been found dead with multiple stab wounds near a plantation in Sumatra, police said. The body of Maraden Sianipar was found Wednesday in a ditch near a palm plantation in Labuhan Batu district, an eight-hour drive from the capital of North Sumatra province. Police found the remains of Maratua Siregar in the same area a day later. Both bodies were covered in stab wounds. Six people have been questioned but no suspect named, local police chief Agus Darajat said. The pair worked together for a local news portal before going freelance in 2017. A friend of Siregar said the victims had recently become known for their activism in land dispute issues. Prior to their deaths, Siregar and Sianipar were working on a campaign to convince the government to allow locals to work on disputed land. — AFP

#### Islamists kill 4 in Mozambique

**MAPUTO:** Four people were killed in northern Mozambique, witnesses said yesterday, in an attack they attributed to Islamic extremists operating in the region for the last two years. The attackers staged the ambush on a lorry near the village of Mumu, in the province of Cabo Delgado, on Saturday, killing the driver and three passengers, said several witnesses contacted by AFP. Several other people were injured in the attack. The authorities, who rarely make statements on the unrest in the north of the country, neither confirmed nor denied the attack. Villagers say a separate attack in the same region Thursday killed 10 people. Since 2017 Cabo Delgado has suffered a wave of deadly attacks that has killed at least 300 civilians and forced tens of thousands to flee their homes. The violence has been blamed on a jihadist organization apparently intent on imposing Islamic Sharia law. — AFP

#### 17 killed in Nepal accident

**KATHMANDU:** At least 17 people, including seven children, died when a crowded bus swerved off the road and plunged into a river in central Nepal on Sunday, officials said. The bus skidded off the road in Sindhupalchowk district, northwest of the capital Kathmandu, and plunged 50 meters down into the Sunkosi River. "So far, 17 people have been confirmed dead and another 50 are injured," district official Goma Devi Chemjong said, adding that 48 others, including the driver, were injured and undergoing treatment. Local rafters assisted the police and the army to scour the river and rescue any survivors, but some passengers are still feared missing. "The number of missing is unknown as the bus had no record of the total number of passengers," Chemjong said. Authorities have not yet confirmed the cause of the crash. — AFP

#### Palestinian shot in back

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli police said an enquiry had been opened and officers suspended after a video emerged online apparently showing a border guard shooting a Palestinian in the back with a sponge-tipped bullet. Israel's Channel 13 had broadcast the video on Saturday evening, showing border guards-part of the Israeli police-telling a Palestinian to turn back at a West Bank checkpoint on the edge of Jerusalem. As the man walks away, his arms raised, one of the officers fires a sponge-tipped bullet, ammunition generally used for crowd control but which can be lethal at short distances. The man instantly falls to the ground, shouting in pain. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the justice ministry had opened an investigation into the incident, which he said took place a year and a half ago. "As soon as the incident became known the female border police officer was removed from duty," he said. — AFP



# Three decades on, Germans remember fall of Berlin Wall

## Sauna and oysters: Merkel recalls Berlin Wall fall

**BERLIN:** Sascha Moellering witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall at the Brandenburg Gate on Nov 9, 1989. But it took about another 10 years for the border between the communist East and capitalist West to come down in his mind. His mother was watching television at home and saw images of people shaking fences at the border after Guenter Schabowski, a senior East German communist official, accidentally announced the opening of the wall at a news conference.

"At some point my mother looked at me and asked: 'What are you doing here? Go! This is history! And you have to go'," Moellering recalled ahead of the 30th anniversary of the event which ultimately led to German reunification. "There were a few thousand people standing on the wall singing and dancing to Beatles songs, 'Give peace a chance', of course, and the mood was really great," he said.

Pressure had been building on the East German government for months to let its citizens travel freely when Riccardo Ehrman, a journalist at ANSA news agency, asked a clearly underprepared Schabowski about current travel rules. Stumbling over his words, Schabowski said the East German government had decided to let citizens leave through any of the border crossings - and he believed the new rule would take effect immediately.

Dumbfounded and euphoric East Germans rushed to the border to get a glimpse of the West. "I am not sure that I really contributed but maybe, if I did help it a very, very little bit, I am incredibly proud," Ehrman said. It later turned out that the announcement was not supposed to be made until 4 a.m. the following day. Schabowski had also meant to say East Germans could apply for visas in an orderly manner.

### 'A different world'

Hans Modrow, the last Communist premier of East Germany, was taken by surprise. "I was walking when a young man came to me and said 'Have you heard? The

border is open!'" (And I asked) 'Where does that come from?' (And he said) 'Yes, the border is open, should I go?' And I said: 'Why would you go?'," he said.

Susanne Roebisch, who was from East Berlin but was one of the few who managed to get permission to move to West Berlin with her family in 1985, remembers saying goodbye to everyone she knew as a 14-year-old, never expecting to see them again. They got a shock when they heard the wall had been breached. "We all sat there, thinking: 'What? The wall is open now? Was that a clear statement? Did he say everyone can go from East to West and West to East? What?'," she said.

Her father, who kept a detailed diary, made a note in the page for Nov 9, 1989 reading: "The border is open". The entries for the following days show they received a steady stream of visits from family and friends who lived in the East. But while the physical wall came down quickly, it has taken much longer for Germans to feel like East and West have really become one country. A majority of Germans in the former communist East still feel like second-class citizens, even though they are catching up economically with western regions, a government report showed in September.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor who united Germany, pushed through political union. But factors including outdated economic structures and a way of life imposed on citizens by communist rule, have hampered integration. Moellering said it took him a long time to see East Berlin as part of Berlin. "The feeling - as a young boy who grew up sheltered in Lichterfelde, on the other side of the town - was that it (the East) was a completely different world." "It took me about ten years to erase the border in my head."

### Sauna and oysters

Like every Thursday night back then, Angela Merkel was relaxing in an East Berlin sauna on the night of November 9, 1989 as the Berlin Wall fell, dreaming of tasting oysters in the West. The future chancellor of



**BERLIN:** Photo shows the Boesebrücke (Boese bridge) which used to straddle the border between east and west Berlin. The Bornholmer Strasse border crossing, leading to the Boesebrücke, played the historic role of being the first border crossing to be opened during the fall of the Berlin Wall. — AFP

Germany was indulging in a favorite German winter pastime on the night that led to German reunification.

"Every Thursday, I would go to the sauna with a friend," Merkel, in power since 2005, recounted to Berlin schoolchildren a few years ago. At the time Merkel was a 35-year-old physicist at the East Berlin Academy of Sciences. Born in Hamburg but raised in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), she was already divorced from the first husband whose name she still uses.

She lived then in a two-room flat in Prenzlauer Berg, these days a favorite haunt of trendy young professionals. Before her sauna session on November 9, Merkel called her mother Herlind Kasner, who lived around 80 kilometers north of the capital. She had just heard that East German citizens were free to cross the border. But in those confusing first hours as the barriers opened, no-one could quite believe it was really happening. "I didn't really understand what I was hearing," Merkel has said. — Agencies

## Trump calls for whistleblower's unmasking

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump called Sunday for the unmasking of the anonymous whistleblower whose complaint launched the House impeachment investigation, attacking the process against him as a "scam." Trump's demand comes amid an intensifying effort by Republicans to expose the whistleblower and attack his or her credibility as public impeachment hearings loom and support for the president erodes.

Described only as an intelligence official who once worked at the White House, the whistleblower was the first to raise concerns about Trump's attempt to pressure Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden. On Twitter and in comments to reporters at the White House, Trump sought to give fuel to speculation in conservative media about the whistleblower's identity, urging it be revealed.

"What they said is he's an Obama person, he was involved with Brennan, Susan Rice - which means Obama. But he was like a big, a big anti-Trump person, hated Trump," the president told reporters, adding that he didn't know if the reports were true or not. He also dismissed other officials who defied the White House by testifying about the Ukraine episode as "never Trumpers." "So, you know, it's a whole scam. It's an



**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump speaks to the press before departing the White House. — AFP

impeachment scam," he said. "The Whistleblower got it sooo wrong that HE must come forward," Trump said earlier on Twitter. "Reveal the Whistleblower and end the Impeachment Hoax!"

Trump's escalating attacks on the whistleblower comes as new polls underscore his growing vulnerability as the inquiry gains momentum. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll out Sunday found that 49 percent of Americans believe he should be impeached and removed from office, and 53 percent approve the impeachment inquiry. A Fox News poll also found that 49 percent wanted Trump impeached and removed from office, and 60 percent believe he asked foreign leaders to investigate his opponents, with two-thirds saying that would be inappropriate. — AFP

## 'Everyone started running': Berliner remembers Wall

**BERLIN:** "Suddenly they opened the gate!" recalled Berliner Andreas Falge, one of the first to cross the East German border into the West on November 9, 1989. Still in wonder 30 years after the epochal event, Falge told AFP: "Everyone started running! And so did I." A smile on his face, the 61-year-old is back on Berlin's Bornholmer Strasse, once a sealed border point in the long-impenetrable Iron Curtain, recalling that "incredible night". When the Berlin Wall cracked open here after 28 years, Falge was part of the roaring, jubilant crowd of East Berliners who were first to head west.

The masses were shouting "Open the gate! Open the gate!" said Falge, a technician at East Berlin's storied Babylon cinema at the time. The roadblocks of the Cold War era have long since disappeared, and a discount supermarket and train station now dominate the nearby square, renamed November 9, 1989 Square. "I came here, to the end of this bridge," said Falge, now with salt and pepper hair, revisiting the scene with AFP. "There was a human tide moving and people said: 'Did you hear the news? Did you hear the news?'"

## 'Order!' Parliament to elect new Speaker for Brexit hot seat

**LONDON:** British lawmakers will elect a new Speaker to take on the role of refereeing the next parliamentary installment of the country's protracted struggle over Brexit. In the three years since Britain voted to leave the European Union, the Speaker has played an increasingly influential role in the process of debating the rights and wrongs of Brexit and passing the laws needed to implement it. The Speaker is the arbiter of procedural disputes in the House of Commons, parliament's lower chamber, and has the power to decide which challenges to the government's plans are allowed to proceed.

Former Speaker John Bercow was accused of breaking convention and favoring those who wanted to stop the government's exit plans. But he was feted by others who saw him as empowering them to challenge and scrutinize the executive. "The Speaker who succeeds John Bercow, whoever they are, is



**LONDON:** Britain's Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow makes some personal remarks to thank staff, members and family members in the House of Commons in London ahead of his retirement on October 31. — AFP

going to face quite a unique set of challenges," said Alice Lilly, senior researcher at the Institute for Government think tank.

Foremost among those challenges will be Brexit, but the Speaker will also have to handle criticism that parliament's antiquated setup has allowed bullying and harassment. Bercow's replacement will be chosen

by a series of secret ballots - a process that could take several hours, with candidates dropping out after each round of voting until one has majority support. Eight candidates are currently declared in the race, and each will have a chance to make their pitch with a short speech starting at around 1430 GMT. — Reuters

## Iran and US: From allies to enemies

**PARIS:** Key dates in the relationship between Iran and the United States:

### The shah returns

In 1953, London and Washington organize a coup to oust Iran's Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh who had nationalized the oil sector that had been under British control. This allows the return from exile of the pro-Western Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Iran under the shah becomes one of the most important clients of the US defense industry and a bulwark against the influence of the Soviet Union. At the end of the 1950s, the foundations of the Iranian nuclear program are in place under US auspices. The two countries sign a program of civil nuclear cooperation in 1957.

### Hostage crisis

In 1979, radical students demanding the extradition of the shah from the United States, where he is undergoing medical treatment, take hostage more than 60 US diplomats and staff at the American embassy in Tehran. This comes seven months after the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After some hostage are released in the following months, the final 52 captives are freed after 444 days in a crisis that results in the first US economic sanctions against Iran. In 1980, Washington breaks off diplomatic relations with Tehran and imposes restrictions on commerce and travel. In 1988, a US guided missile cruiser shoots down an Iran Air Airbus over the Gulf, resulting in 290 deaths. Washington says it was a tragic mistake.

### 'Axis of evil'

In 1995, US President Bill Clinton launches a ban on trade and investment with Iran over its seeking nuclear weapons. Sanctions are subsequently expanded. In 2002, President George W Bush labels Iran part of an "axis of evil" of countries he says support terrorism. Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, starts in 2005 a push for uranium enrichment for nuclear purposes.

### Nuclear deal

In 2009, US President Barack Obama calls for dialogue with Iran but months later condemns the violent repression of demonstrations and raises questions about Ahmadinejad's reelection. In 2013, Washington says it is ready to work directly with President Hassan Rouhani. Obama and Rouhani speak by phone in September, the first direct communication between leaders of the two nations since 1979. Tehran and major world powers reach a hard-won accord on Iran's nuclear program in 2015. It

gives Iran relief from crippling economic sanctions in exchange for guarantees that it will not make an atom bomb. Washington suspends nuclear-linked sanctions but imposes others related to human rights, alleged support for "terrorism" and Iran's ballistic missile program.

### Detente ends

Washington pulls out of the nuclear pact in May 2018 under President Donald Trump, and reinstates sanctions. In May 2019, Iran begins to disengage from its commitments under the deal, such as limiting enriched uranium and heavy water stocks. Trump announces new measures against Iran's steel and mining sectors. Tensions soar when Iran's Revolutionary Guard says in June that it shot down a US drone because it was in Iranian airspace, which Washington denies. Trump approves a retaliatory strike, but cancels it at the last minute. In July, Iran says it has enriched uranium to 4.5 percent, breaching the 2015 accord's enrichment cap. — AFP



**TEHRAN:** Iranian women pose for a selfie around an anti-US banner during a rally outside the former US embassy in the Iranian capital Tehran yesterday to mark the 40th anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis. — AFP



## International

# SE Asian leaders snub US meeting after Trump skips ASEAN summit

## Moon, Abe hold 'friendly' talks on ASEAN sidelines

**BANGKOK:** Several Southeast Asian leaders snubbed a meeting with US officials yesterday after President Donald Trump decided not to attend a regional summit in Bangkok. Just three leaders from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) showed up to the session, along with a host of foreign ministers. Trump has been accused of turning his back on Asian allies for pulling out of a major trade pact, as fellow super-power China pursues its own deals and investment projects in the region.

Washington did not send top officials to the weekend ASEAN summit, instead dispatching commerce secretary Wilbur Ross and national security advisor Robert O'Brien. Yesterday's sparsely attended address from O'Brien stood in contrast to earlier ASEAN meetings, which had all been attended by most heads of state. "It's not appropriate for ASEAN to send leaders when the US representation is not on parity," one diplomat in Bangkok said.

Another diplomat said: "It's not a boycott, it's just that other leaders have other meetings to attend to." In lieu of Trump's physical presence, O'Brien read a letter from the president inviting "the leaders of ASEAN to join me in the United States for a special summit" in the first three months of next year. In attendance were the prime minister of Thailand, which is hosting the summit, along with the leaders of Laos and Vietnam, next year's ASEAN chair.

At other events during the summit, members have rallied against protectionism amid fears of dragging global growth made worse by the US-China trade war. Trump, who attended the 2017 ASEAN meeting in Singapore-Vice President Mike Pence went to the one in Manila last year-could not come this year because he was busy with campaign events back home, a senior White House official said. China's premier and the leaders of India, South Korea and Japan all made an appearance over the weekend, although none of them were expected at yesterday's US-ASEAN meeting.

### Chinese dominance

One of Trump's first moves after assuming office was to

withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a massive free-trade pact that was billed to be the world's biggest before Washington pulled the plug. The US withdrawal "was a very strong symbolic act and the trend is continuing," said analyst Alex Holmes from Capital Economics. "It's allowing China to advance its influence in the region," he said. The TPP has since been reborn as a watered-down version without the US, eclipsed by a China-backed agreement that is slated to be the world's biggest when finalised.

The 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) — which could be signed next year—includes 30 percent of global GDP and loops in half of the world's population. It includes all 10 ASEAN states plus China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand—notably excluding the US. The deal has gained new momentum as the US-China trade war rumbles on, with the IMF warning that global growth could slow to its lowest rate in 10 years thanks to the tit-for-tat-trade spat between the world's two biggest economies.

RCEP negotiators yesterday were hammering out final details of the deal, with the aim to sign it in February 2020 according to a draft seen by AFP. An official announcement was expected later. The 11th-hour talks were being held as the ASEAN bloc and its allies espoused open trade in the region. "We are once again faced with the high winds of trade protectionism," South Korean leader Moon Jae-in said yesterday. "We need to protect the free-trade order... and bring the global economy back on track."

### Moon, Abe hold talks

In another development, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday held their first talks for more than a year on the sidelines of a regional summit in Thailand, Moon's office said, with the neighbors' relationship in dire straits. Ties between Seoul and Tokyo—both of them US allies facing the twin challenges of nuclear-armed North Korea and an increasingly assertive China—are at rock-bottom over a dispute related to Japan's use of forced labour during World War II, with



**BANGKOK:** (From left to right) Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, Laos' Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China's Premier Li Keqiang, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-cha, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pose for a group photo during the 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit yesterday. — AFP

the countries trading retaliatory sanctions. Moon and Abe held a "very friendly and serious" dialogue that lasted 11 minutes on the sidelines of the ASEAN Plus Three summit

in Bangkok, Ko Min-jung, the South's presidential spokeswoman, told reporters. But she gave no indication of any concrete outcomes. — Agencies



**NEW DELHI:** This combination of images shows tourists visiting the India Gate under heavy smog conditions (top) in New Delhi on November 3, 2019 and tourists visiting India Gate yesterday - the day after skies cleared. — AFP

## Facts behind Indian capital's toxic smog

**NEW DELHI:** Millions of people in New Delhi are suffering in what the Indian capital's chief minister has called a "gas chamber" of poisonous smog that has prompted authorities to declare a public health emergency. Here are some key facts on the crisis in the world's most polluted capital city:

### Worst pollution in years

New Delhi has seen a growing pollution problem each winter for the past decade but despite efforts to control the annual onslaught, current levels are the worst in three years. Yesterday morning, the concentration of PM2.5 - fine particles of less than 2.5 microns that can enter the bloodstream and penetrate the lungs and heart - was at 613, nearly 25 times the safe limit set by the World Health Organization, according to the US embassy in Delhi. On Sunday it approached 1,000. High levels of PM2.5 are linked to chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease. Greenpeace says more than 1.2 million Indians died prematurely in 2017 due to air pollution.

### Toxic cocktail

New Delhi is hit each year by a near perfect storm of pollution that takes hold immediately after the Hindu festival of Diwali in late October, when millions of revellers let off firecrackers. On top of the firework hangover, the city of 20 million people is threatened by the widespread burning of wheat and rice stubble in neighbouring farm-

lands, along with traffic fumes, factory emissions and smoke from fires used in poor neighborhoods for heating and cooking. Pollutants from this toxic cocktail get trapped over Delhi by cooler winter temperatures and the usually slow-moving winds that prevail at this time of year.

### New laws

Authorities have ordered schools to remain shut and banned construction work across the city until at least Tuesday. Diesel-spewing trucks that rumble into Delhi each night have been stopped, except those carrying essential commodities. A new law came into effect on Sunday restricting cars from the capital's roads to alternative days, depending on if their number plate ends in an odd or even number. Hundreds of police tried to enforce the car rationing order but many owners ignored the restrictions despite the threat of a \$55 fine. The local government has started handing out millions of pollution masks, while calling on people to restrict outdoor activities.

### 'Lives at stake'

The Indian capital is one of 14 Indian cities listed in the World Health Organization's top 15 most polluted cities globally. New Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal says that "lives are at stake" in the mega-city's pollution crisis. But residents complain that no-one is taking the emergency seriously, and experts say neither the national nor city government are taking the required long-term action to control the deadly smog. With a state election due in Delhi in early 2020, the crisis has also become a casualty of political bickering, with each side blaming the other. "I can't even imagine what it must be like to live here under these conditions," Indian actress Priyanka Chopra, in town to shoot a movie, said in an Instagram post. — AFP

## Pakistan's embassy in Kabul closes visa section amid tensions

**KABUL:** Pakistan's embassy in Kabul said it was indefinitely closing its consular office in the Afghan capital due to security reasons, amid mounting tensions between the neighboring countries. Closure of the visa section will come as a huge blow for many Afghans, hundreds of whom apply daily for permits to travel to Pakistan where they seek medical treatment, goods and university educations.

A message shared on WhatsApp by an embassy spokesman said the consular section would be closed "until further intimation". The spokesman said that the consular section typically processes about 1,500 visa applications a day. In Islamabad, Pakistan's foreign ministry said the Afghan charge d'affaires had been summoned to "convey serious concerns over the safety and security of the diplomatic personnel of the embassy of Pakistan, Kabul, and its sub-missions." In a statement, the ministry said embassy staff were being harassed.

"They were obstructed on the road and the embassy vehicles were also hit by motorcycles while going towards the embassy," the statement read. Protests outside the Pakistani embassy are common, sometimes triggered by people unhappy about visa wait times or security while standing in long queues. Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, both Islamic republics, have long been fraught, with Afghans blaming Islamabad for any number of woes including allegedly supporting the Taliban. Pakistan denies it helps the insurgent group.

Tensions have soured further in recent days amid clashes along the border in Afghanistan's eastern province of Kunar. Both sides have accused each other's troops of cross-border shelling. The Pakistani foreign ministry has said six Pakistani troops were wounded October 27 and 28 in "unprovoked mortar and heavy weapon firing" by Afghan soldiers. Pakistani consular services remain open in Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif, according to the embassy spokesman, who recommended that applicants travel to Jalalabad if they needed a visa urgently. — AFP



**SRINAGAR:** People gather at the site of a grenade blast at a market in Srinagar yesterday. — AFP

## Grenade blast at Kashmir market

**SRINAGAR:** At least one person was killed and 17 wounded yesterday in a grenade blast at a crowded market in Indian-administered Kashmir's main city Srinagar, police and doctors said. Kashmir has been on a knife-edge since August 5 when the Indian government moved to strip the region of its autonomy, imposed a lockdown, cut telecommunications and detained thousands. No one claimed yesterday's blast but authorities have in the past accused militants backed by Pakistan of intimidating people into resisting Indian attempts to return life to normal.

Doctors at the main hospital said that the deceased was

a resident of northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. "Two people are critical," a doctor said on condition of anonymity. Srinagar police chief Haseeb Mughal said that 18 people were injured out of whom one died at the hospital. Kashmir is divided between India and its arch-foe Pakistan, and both claim it in full. Militants seeking independence or a merger with Pakistan have waged an armed rebellion against New Delhi since 1989.

Around half of mobile phones remain cut off, as does the internet, while hundreds of local political leaders are still in detention, mostly without charge. Markets, schools and public areas remain closed with government forces still patrolling the streets, with periodic security lockdowns imposed on many parts of the region. A dozen non-locals have been killed by suspected militants, including six migrant workers last week, that police said were aimed at driving them away and create fear. — AFP

## India Muslims anxious; court prepares to rule on destroyed mosque

**AYODHYA:** In the Indian town of Ayodhya, minority Muslims are feeling under siege as they await a Supreme Court ruling on a centuries-old religious dispute that has cast a shadow over their relations with the majority Hindu community. After a tangle of legal cases, the Supreme Court in August decided to hear arguments every day in an effort to resolve the dispute over what should be built on the ruins of the 16th-century Babri Masjid, destroyed by a Hindu mob in 1992.

The uproar over the mosque triggered some of India's deadliest riots, in which nearly 2,000 people, most of them Muslim, were killed. The bloody controversy raised lingering questions about the role of religion in the officially secular country, and the place of Muslims in it. Last month, Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi finished the hearings and is expected to pronounce his verdict in the next couple of weeks.

Whichever way it goes, the decision is likely to have a significant impact on the fraught relationship between India's Hindus and Muslims, who constitute 14% of its 1.3 billion people. While most Muslim religious leaders want the mosque to be rebuilt, Hindus say there is evidence there was a temple on the site before the mosque was built in 1528 by a commander of Babur, the founder of the Mughal dynasty. Construction of a "grand temple" in Ayodhya has long been an election promise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which won a second term with a landslide this year.

Fearing tension after the court decision, Mohammed Shahid, 48, the grandson of the mosque's last Imam, or prayer leader, has decided to move his family away. He has reason to be afraid. Shahid's father, Mohammed Shabir, was killed by a mob of Hindus who rampaged through Ayodhya before tearing down the mosque on Dec 6, 1992. "In 1992, we decided to stay put - a decision that we live to regret," Shahid said, sitting in the courtyard of his run-down, two-storied house. "Other than killing my father, they set ablaze our house and a sawmill, our only source of income."

### 'Bad elements'

Shahid said he was glad that his grandfather, who had died in 1990, did not see the destruction of the mosque. Unlike Shahid, Haji Mahboob Ahmad, a 66-year-old Muslim community leader who lives near the site, doesn't plan to leave. But he shares Shahid's anxiety. "We're conscious of the fact that some bad elements can try to foment trouble by taking advantage of the situation and that's why I've requested authorities to ensure the safety of Ayodhya's Muslims," Ahmad said. Ahmad said India's founding fathers established it as a secular democracy, and it must remain that.

The day Shahid's father was killed, Hindu Hajari Lal, 57, escaped death. Lal was among the hundreds of Hindus who destroyed the mosque with shovels, hammers and their bare hands, bringing down its domes before the whole structure collapsed. Unfortunately for Lal, part of the building fell on him, trapping him in the rubble with broken bones. "Since that fateful day of 1992, the only objective of my life is to see a permanent temple on the site. I can die in peace if I get to see the temple," Lal said.

For Hindus, Lal said, the site in Ayodhya was as sacred as Makkah is in Islam. That's because Lal and millions of other Hindus believe the mosque was built at the birthplace of Lord Ram, one of their most revered deities. Lal helps to guide a steady stream of pilgrims who come to see a model of what they hope will become a new temple. Visitors can also look at an open field of masonry, in pink sandstone, including piles of ornately carved columns. Concrete pillars and blocks for foundations are also ready. — Reuters







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12 Trade deal hopes boost global stocks as recession fears recede



12 Franchising and consulting firm, Francorp woos local investors



14 Tijari declares a net profit of KD 16.6 million in 2019



DHAHRAN: A handout picture provided by Saudi Aramco, dated December 2, 2015, shows two visitors at Aramco's Upstream Learning Development Center (UPDC). — AFP

# Investors still in the dark on Aramco

## Valuations of oil giant range from \$1.2 to \$2.3 trillion

**RIYADH:** Saudi Aramco's blockbuster listing remained shrouded in mystery yesterday, a day after the company finally announced its plans, with scant details disclosed and expert valuations varying wildly from around \$1.2 to \$2.3 trillion. The state oil giant, the world's most profitable company, fired the starting gun on a domestic initial public offering (IPO) on Sunday after a series of false starts that had kept the investment world guessing.

However potential investors, rattled by a damaging attack on Aramco's facilities in September, were not given key details usually included in "intention to float" notices - such as how much of the company will be sold, and when the sale will happen. Now fund managers are poring over bank research about the famously secretive company, but little certainty has been provided even by analysts from the Wall Street giants with roles in the IPO, five investment and banking sources told Reuters.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said he wants a \$2 trillion valuation, seeking to raise billions of dollars in the IPO to diversify the Saudi economy away from oil by investing in non-energy industries. That valuation figure is almost twice that of Microsoft, currently the world's most valuable listed company and seven times that of Exxon Mobil Corp, the biggest listed oil major by market cap.

Analysts from banks working on the Riyadh bourse listing have met with Aramco's management in Dhahran

over the past month to get more information on the company, but their valuations of the company still vary by around \$1 trillion. Bank of America Merrill Lynch has a range of \$1.2 trillion to \$2.3 trillion while EFG Hermes says \$1.55 trillion to \$2.1 trillion, according to two fund managers who have seen the research reports.

Goldman Sachs - one of the IPO coordinators - has put the company's valuation between \$1.6 trillion and \$2.3 trillion, two separate sources said. Credit Suisse's research offers a similarly wide range in value, one of the fund managers said. A major factor in the wide range is the various assumptions analysts are making for the future direction of oil prices, said a source familiar with the deal. The banks were not immediately available for comment. Sources have told Reuters that Aramco could offer 1%-2% of its shares, raising as much as \$20 billion to \$40 billion. A deal over \$25 billion would top the record-breaking IPO of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba in 2014. Aramco Chairman Yasir al-Rumayyan said a decision on an international listing would be made in the future.

**Roadshows and risk**

Two bankers working on the deal estimated around 80% of shares would be sold to local retail and institutional investors, with about 20% likely to go to international buyers. Having a large domestic investor base is expected to make it easier to achieve a higher valuation.

Three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters that a government committee had been securing pre-sale commitments from wealthy Saudis, while retail investors were being offered cheap credit.

Aramco did provide investors with some extra financial information on Sunday and Monday, including its detailed nine-month earnings, which showed net income fell to \$68.2 billion by the end of September 30, down from \$83.1 billion a year earlier. The Saudi Arabian Oil Company, to give its full name, did not give any reason for the fall in earnings, but it likely reflects lower oil prices.

In 2016, when the oil price hit 13-year lows, Aramco's net income was only \$13 billion, according to a company bond prospectus this year, compared to \$111 billion in 2018. Its net income for the third quarter of 2019 amounted to \$21.1 billion, according to Reuters calculations. By contrast, Exxon Mobil's income for the same period was just over \$3 billion.

Aramco said it did not expect the Sept. 14 attacks on its facilities, which initially halved its production, would have a material impact on its business. However the attacks underlined the potential political risk associated with the state company. Saudi Arabia blamed regional arch-rival Iran, a charge rejected by Tehran. The analysts' roadshow for Aramco, where analysts from banks working on the IPO speak to investors, began in the Middle East on Sunday and will run for a fortnight and

will involve 26 to 27 analysts across the world, a source familiar with the deal said. Roadshows involving senior management will begin after analysts' meetings while pricing is likely to be announced around Nov. 28, the source added.

**Asset manager undecided**

Legal & General Investment Management, one of Britain's biggest asset managers, has not yet decided whether to invest in Aramco, its chief investment officer Sonja Laud told the Reuters Global Investment Outlook Summit on Monday. She added "concerns from a corporate governance viewpoint are well-flagged".

The close relationship between the crown prince and new Aramco chairman Rumayyan, who also heads the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, was a governance concern for some investors, sources have previously said. The wealth fund will use the proceeds of the IPO to deliver on the prince's ambitious domestic and economic reforms. Among other expert valuations for Aramco, Bernstein analysts estimate "a fair value range" is \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion. Others were more conservative.

A more reasonable valuation is around \$1 trillion, said Anish Kapadia, head of London-based independent oil and mining advisory Palissy Advisors. "Our view is that an aspirational \$2 trillion valuation is extremely high from a fundamentals perspective," Kapadia said. — Reuters

## Apple pledges \$2.5bn to fight California housing crisis

**CALIFORNIA:** Apple Inc yesterday said it would commit \$2.5 billion to easing a housing shortage that has driven up prices across California, with most of the money dedicated to funds that will be run either with or by the state government. One billion dollars will go to a jointly run fund with state officials aimed at jumpstarting delayed or stalled affordable housing projects. Another \$1 billion will go to a state-run fund to provide first-time home buyer financial assistance to teachers, nurses and first responders such as police and firefighters, among others.

In an interview with Reuters, Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook said the company felt a "profound responsibility" to improve California's housing crisis. Apple's current headquarters - a ring of gleaming metal and glass nicknamed the "spaceship" in Cupertino, California - sits less than five

miles from the suburban family home where co-founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak assembled the first Apple computers in the 1970s.

"We want to make sure that it is a vibrant place where people can live and also raise a family," Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook told Reuters in an interview. "And there's no question that today that isn't possible for many people, that the region suffers from an affordability crisis that is existential." The move comes after Facebook Inc and Alphabet Inc-owned Google both committed \$1 billion toward California housing initiatives while Microsoft Corp committed \$500 million in the Seattle, Washington area.

Apple said the project-financing fund was the first of its kind. Real estate developers often secure bonds for affordable housing development but must service the debt during

construction until the houses are built and start to generate revenue. Apple and state officials hope to provide bridge financing during construction at rates below those from commercial lenders. Apple said the funding could take two years to deploy but that it hopes to recycle the funding for future projects over five years.

"This unparalleled financial commitment to affordable housing, and the innovative strategies at the heart of this initiative, are proof that Apple is serious about solving this issue," California Governor Gavin Newsom said in a statement. The \$2 billion in funding will be deployable across California, while the remaining \$500 million will go toward efforts specific to Apple's home region in Northern California, where fast-growing tech companies have drawn protests from residents who blame them for rising housing costs. — Reuters



LOS ANGELES: Tim Cook speaks onstage at the GLSEN Respect Awards Los Angeles at the Beverly Wilshire Four Seasons Hotel. — AFP



Business

# Trade deal hopes boost global stocks as recession fears recede

## China yuan hits 12-week high

**LONDON:** World shares touched a 21-month high yesterday on signs that the United States and China could soon put an end to a damaging trade war as well as indications that the world may yet dodge an economic recession. Beijing and Washington spoke on Friday of progress in talks aimed at settling a trade dispute that has bruised the global economy and repeatedly shaken financial markets, with US officials saying a deal could be signed this month.

The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, climbed 0.2% to its highest since February 2018, with major European indexes following Asia upwards. The broader Euro STOXX 600 rose 0.6%, with Frankfurt's main index, seen as highly exposed to the trade war, climbing 0.8% to reach its highest since June last year. Wall Street futures gained 0.4%. The optimistic tone reached currency markets, too, as the Chinese yuan rose to a 12-week high versus the dollar.

Investors expect the world's two biggest economies to reach a "phase one" trade deal, with US President Donald Trump hoping to sign an agreement with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The key date in focus

is Dec 15, when new US tariffs on Chinese imports from toys to electronics are due to kick in. Both sides have an interest in averting those tariffs, with Trump in particular seen as aiming to reap political benefits from sealing a deal ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

"It will be a convenient decision for President Trump to let phase one be signed," said Alessia Berardi, senior economist at Amundi. "This is a kind of low-hanging fruit to collect and is very much possible." Still, Berardi warned that intellectual property would be a thornier issue and could yet complicate talks next year. Earlier, the positive mood on trade had sent Asian stocks surging, with MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan up 1.2%. Indexes in Hong Kong and Seoul gained 1.7% and 1.5% respectively, while mainland Chinese blue chips added 0.7%.

Also emboldening investors was a sense that a global recession, predicted by many economists and investors to hit next year, was a diminishing risk. On Friday, a better-than-expected US jobs report added to signs of economic resilience. Job growth slowed less than expected in October, with hiring in the two months before that better

than previously estimated. "The macro environment is still resilient, stabilized and maybe even showing signs of improvement - and that is a net positive for risky assets," said Olivier Marciot, senior portfolio manager at Unigestion.

Bond markets, too, suggested that the United States may have dodged a slowdown. The three-month to 10-year Treasury yield curve - a key warning sign of US recession when inverted - is rising again after staying in negative territory for long periods since May. And on the earnings front, US results are for the third straight quarter defying expectations for an annual aggregate contraction. "Expectations were low going into earnings, and things are getting better than expected," Marciot said.

**Waiting for Lagarde**

As the Chinese yuan strengthened, the euro trod water. Investors were waiting for Christine Lagarde's first speech as European Central Bank president. Markets are assuming that Lagarde, due to talk at 1800 GMT, will stick with the easy policy script of her predecessor, Mario Draghi. Lagarde has struck a balanced tone in recent comments, saying an accommodative



NEW YORK: Traders and financial professionals work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) at the closing bell. — AFP

monetary policy was needed but also had side effects that needed monitoring. The euro was last flat at \$1.1165, close to the \$1.1180 high reached last month. The dollar against a basket of six major currencies was

flat at 97.222. In commodities, oil prices slipped as investors locked in profits ahead of European and US manufacturing data. Brent crude futures fell 2 cents to \$61.67 a barrel shortly after 0930 GMT. — Reuters

## Franchising and consulting firm, Francorp woos local investors

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The US Embassy along with the Francorp, a leading franchising and consulting firm in the US answered queries from local entrepreneurs who attended the franchising activities held at the Al-Shaheed Park. The event was part of a 11-day 'Discover America event' which is showcasing products and services from the US ranging from culture, tradition, music, food, restaurants, business, cars, education and more.

Francorp meanwhile provides a one stop solution for all franchising needs, with clients from 45 countries around the world. Their experience is unmatched. "Today's event is franchising and Investment in the United States opportunities,"



said Shari Stout, US Embassy Senior Commercial Officer speaking with the reporters before the event. "We want to help educate Kuwaiti companies on how to invest in the US and help Kuwaitis who are interested in purchasing US franchises, we are expecting attendees to learn and interact with us and be able to help them on their desire to franchise companies," she said.

Asked on her opinion about Kuwaiti market, she noted that Kuwaiti market is a very open market. "It's an open environment for companies to operate, right now we have over 75 US companies who are

here and mostly are in food sector. The market is growing as Kuwait's economy grows" she said. But she admitted that there are still some challenges.

"Just like in many other markets, there are some rough areas such as in government contacting, I think some companies are having some payment issues - most of which are derived from budgetary constraints of the Kuwaiti economy based on oil prices. But moving forward though what we are looking to is another productive strategic dialogue at least by next year. We will try to tackle issues to make those negative experiences positive ones," she emphasized.

## VIVA launches the 'Joker' campaign with valuable prizes

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and a subsidiary of STC Group, launched the new 'Joker' draw, for both postpaid and prepaid customers. This draw gives VIVA customers the amazing opportunity to win valuable prizes with the new and fun trivia SMS service. VIVA gives its customers a wonderful chance to win their favorite devices and much more daily, as well as exclusive mega prizes of 2 GS4 cars from GAC Motor and one VIVA vanity number 55556666 at the end of the draw. To subscribe and start receiving questions, customers have to send an SMS 1 to 5555 for KD 1, with free trial. If all their answers are correct, they will be eligible to enter the draw. Mrs Haneen Al-Fulaij, Chief Consumer Officer at VIVA said: "As part of our commitment to provide the most innovative and flexible offerings for both post-paid and prepaid customers, we are really thrilled at VIVA to design this exciting draw that gets them involved and creates excitement and anticipation."

## McDonald's president and CEO 'forced out'

**NEW YORK:** McDonald's announced Sunday that its president and CEO Steve Easterbrook was forced out after showing "poor judgment" by engaging in a "consensual relationship" with an employee. He was replaced by Chris Kempczinski, the president of McDonald's USA. Kempczinski was also elected to the board of directors. "Easterbrook... has separated from the company following the board's determination that he violated company policy and demonstrated poor judgment involving a recent

consensual relationship with an employee," the company said in a statement. "The company confirms that this leadership transition is unrelated to the company's operational or financial performance."

In an email to McDonald's employees, Easterbrook said his relationship was "a mistake" that violated company policy. "Given the values of the company, I agree with the board that it is time for me to move on," the email said. Joe Erlinger, president of international operated markets, will take over as head of McDonald's USA, the company said. In its most recent earnings report, on October 22, McDonald's said profits dipped 1.8 percent in the third quarter from the year-ago period to \$1.6 billion.

Revenues at the company, which has 38,000 restaurants in more than 100 countries, edged up 1.1 percent to \$5.4 billion. The fast-food giant notched a healthy 5.9 percent increase in global compa-



CHICAGO: In this file photo taken on June 4, 2018 McDonald's CEO Steve Easterbrook (C) chats with guests at the unveiling of the company's new corporate headquarters. — AFP

table sales, including a solid rise in the United States. But profits were pressured by increased spending on technology and research and development. McDonald's has

invested heavily in home delivery and mobile pay initiatives in recent years, and in 2019 has unveiled a number of acquisitions to boost its drive-through operation. — AFP

## Explore Europe, N Africa with Turkish Airlines

**KUWAIT:** Turkish Airlines is giving Kuwaiti jetsetters an unmissable opportunity to travel to major European and North African cities with its unrivalled global network and pocket a satisfying saving when they book. Passengers departing from Kuwait International Airport can benefit from generous discounts on Economy Class tickets to Barcelona, Birmingham, Casablanca, Frankfurt, Geneva, Lyon, Marseille, Milan, Munich, Nice, Paris, Rome, Tbilisi, Toulouse, Tunis, Valencia, and Venice and on Business Class tickets to Berlin, Bologna, Brussels, Edinburgh, Geneva, Hamburg, Helsinki, London, Lyon, Marseille, Naples, Nice, Paris, Tbilisi, Toulouse, Valencia, and Zagreb. The offer is valid for travelers booking a flight any time from now until 25th November 2019, valid for a travel period until 15th May 2020.

Turkish Airlines, one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, has been providing excellent services to its passengers through its Business Class offering, its flagship new lounges in the Istanbul Airport and its strong reputation for amazing Turkish hospitality and convenience on all levels. There are currently three Turkish Airlines lounges available in the Istanbul Airport- the Turkish Airlines Business Lounge, Miles & Smiles Lounge and Domestic Lounge, with 2 more scheduled to be open before the end of the year.

### EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.100
Euro	341.200
Sterling Pound	395.030
Canadian dollar	232.490
Turkish lira	53.820
Swiss Franc	309.990
US Dollar Buying	296.650
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.811
Indian Rupees	4.298
Pakistani Rupees	1.974
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.673
Nepali Rupees	2.687
Singapore Dollar	225.010
Hongkong Dollar	38.801
Bangladesh Taka	3.560
Philippine Peso	6.020
Thai Baht	10.115
Malaysian ringgit	77.775
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.147
Qatari Riyal	83.578
Omani Riyal	790.383
Bahraini Dinar	808.020
UAE Dirham	82.850
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.400

Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.860
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	111.390
Jordanian Dinar	429.250
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.146
DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD	
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.740
Canadian Dollar	231.895
Sterling Pound	394.430
Euro	340.785
Swiss Frank	302.280
Bahrain Dinar	807.755
UAE Dirhams	83.100
Qatari Riyals	84.335
Saudi Riyals	81.895
Jordanian Dinar	429.690
Egyptian Pound	18.861
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.679
Indian Rupees	4.300
Pakistani Rupees	1.949
Bangladesh Taka	3.533
Philippines Peso	6.030
Cyprus pound	18.070
Japanese Yen	3.805
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.686
Malaysian Ringgit	74.095
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	43.590

Thai Bhat	11.055	
Turkish Lira	53.625	
Singapore dollars	223.044	
BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
	Europe	
British Pound	0.386009	0.399909
Czech Korune	0.005280	0.014580
Danish Krone	0.041350	0.046350
Euro	0.331867	0.345567
Georgian Lari	0.102155	0.102155
Hungarian 0.000943	0.001133	
Norwegian Krone	0.029383	0.034583
Romanian Leu	0.054426	0.071276
Russian ruble	0.004785	0.004785
Slovakia	0.009085	0.019085
Swedish Krona	0.027724	0.032724
Swiss Franc	0.301474	0.312474
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.201953	0.213953
New Zealand Dollar	0.189905	0.199405
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.225942	0.234942
US Dollars	0.300000	0.305300
US Dollars Mint	0.300500	0.305300
	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.002958	0.003759

Chinese Yuan	0.041781	0.045281
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036712	0.039462
Indian Rupee	0.003686	0.004458
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002723	0.002903
Korean Won	0.000252	0.000267
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069507	0.075507
Nepalese Rupee	0.002622	0.002962
Pakistan Rupee	0.001315	0.002085
Philippine Peso	0.005724	0.006024
Singapore Dollar	0.218608	0.228606
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001317	0.001897
Taiwan	0.009864	0.010044
Thai Baht	0.009749	0.010299
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.800486	0.808532
Egyptian Pound	0.018616	0.021357
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000214	0.000274
Jordanian Dinar	0.424008	0.433008
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020978	0.044978
Omani Riyal	0.784745	0.792632
Qatar Riyal	0.082874	0.083706
Saudi Riyal	0.080007	0.081307
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.103551	0.111551
Turkish Lira	0.046604	0.056449
UAE Dirhams	0.082163	0.082989
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068



## Business

# Asia-wide trade pact on course despite India doubts: Thailand

## China said 15 countries to move ahead without India initially

**BANGKOK:** Asian countries held conclusive talks on what could be the world's biggest trade pact and there will be an announcement of success at a summit in Bangkok, despite doubts raised by India, the Thai hosts said yesterday. But China, a champion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), said 15 members had agreed to move ahead without India, while leaving the door open for it to join a deal that has been given new impetus by the United States-China trade war.

Despite a message of support from US President Donald Trump to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), regional countries noted that Washington had downgraded its delegation for the annual Asian gathering. Southeast Asian countries hoped to announce at least provisional agreement on the 16-nation trade bloc, which would account for a third of global gross domestic product and nearly half the world's population.

But demands raised recently by India meant negotiations among ministers went late into the night. The bloc includes the 10 ASEAN members plus China, South Korea, Japan, India, Australia and New Zealand. Thai Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit told reporters that the 16 countries had reached agreement and would make a state-

ment later on - while acknowledging that some details still needed to be sorted out.

He said the plan was to sign the deal next year, under Vietnam's chairmanship of ASEAN. But Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said 15 countries had decided to move ahead first. "The text based negotiations have been completed and issues of market access have been essentially concluded," he said. "Whenever India is ready they are welcome to come on board." An Indian official with close knowledge of talks said not everything had been resolved and discussions were still going on.

### Trade war impetus

New impetus to complete the deal has come from the trade war, which has knocked regional growth, but India fears a potential flood of Chinese imports and officials with knowledge of the negotiations said India had raised late demands. One advantage for Southeast Asian countries of including relative heavyweight India in the trade pact would be less domination by China. Diplomatic and security calculations in Southeast Asia have shifted under the Trump administration. And the US decision to send a lower level delegation to the back-to-back East Asian Summit and US-ASEAN Summit this year

has raised regional concerns that it can no longer be relied on as a counterweight to China's increasing might.

Because of the downgrade in the US delegation, officials from only three of the 10 regional countries joined the usual US-ASEAN meeting. US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told a business meeting on the sidelines of the summit that the administration of US President Donald Trump was "extremely engaged and fully committed" to the region. White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien brought a personal message from Trump offering to host a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders in the United States.

He also condemned Chinese "intimidation" in the South China Sea, where several regional states reject China's sweeping maritime claims and complain that Beijing is illegally stopping them from exploiting their energy resources and fishing grounds. But diplomats and analysts said the message from Washington was clear. "Doubts have been raised in a more serious way about the Trump administration engaging and this may also play into the hands of other superpowers in pushing their own agendas," said Panitan Wattanayagorn, a former Thai national security adviser. — Reuters



**BANGKOK:** Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-cha (L) hands over the gavel for ASEAN chairmanship to Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc during the closing ceremony of the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit. — AFP



**MANILA:** This file photo taken on July 17, 2018 shows a Cebu Pacific Airbus A320 (top) preparing to land past a Philippine Airlines aircraft (R) at Manila International Airport. — AFP

## Philippines' Cebu Pacific places \$4.8 billion Airbus order

**MANILA:** The Philippines' largest budget airline Cebu Air Inc has ordered 16 Airbus planes worth \$4.8 billion, the company said yesterday, as it aims to expand carrying capacity with larger, more fuel-efficient jets. Cebu Air, commonly referred to as Cebu Pacific, said it sees the long-range A330neo jetliner as key to lowering per-seat costs and maximizing its existing airport slots.

The carrier will use the new planes for both domestic routes and Asian destinations, as well as long-haul flights to Australia and the Middle East where millions of Filipinos work overseas. The new aircraft are scheduled to arrive between 2021 and 2024. Once fully delivered, the jets will replace the current A330neos in the airline's roster.

"The A330neo aircraft is integral to our fleet modernization program," Cebu Air president and chief executive Lance Gokongwei said in a statement. "With this purchase we aim to reduce our fuel emission and build a more sustainable operation," he added. The Philippine

carrier has a fleet of 74 planes, most from Airbus, and has received eight new aircraft this year, the majority of them also Airbus planes. The airline flies to 37 domestic routes and 26 international destinations. It claims to have "one of the youngest fleets in the world", with an average age of five years.

The order comes as the budget airline flew more than 20 million people in 2018, up three percent year-on-year. Air travel in the Philippines has significantly grown, but the nation's airports have struggled to keep up. Cebu Air's larger aircraft will allow the carrier to cope with Manila's congested airport and limited slots. Airbus has announced a series of Asia deals in recent months, including a \$33.2 billion order with Indian airline IndiGo that was one of the manufacturer's largest-ever from a single firm.

The streak stands in contrast to the situation faced by the Boeing's 737 MAX airliner, a direct rival, which has been grounded since March following two crashes that killed a total of 346 people. However Airbus has hit some turbulence of its own, with Canadian and European air safety regulators saying the A220 model should no longer use full power at high altitudes. During one Swiss flight in July parts of an A220 engine fell over France, and following incidents in September and October the airline halted all flights with the aircraft until they could be inspected. — AFP



**ZWICKAU, Germany:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers a speech as she attends a ceremony for the launch of the production of the new Volkswagen electric car yesterday at VW's car factory. — AFP

## German car sales jump as emissions problems ease

**FRANKFURT:** German car sales climbed in October, official data showed yesterday, as last year's production bottlenecks caused by new pollution rules faded into the rearview mirror. A total of 284,593 new cars hit the road last month, up 12.7 percent year-on-year, the KBA transport authority said in a statement.

Car sales in Europe's powerhouse economy took a hit in Sept 2018 when the European Union introduced air pollution tests known as WLTP in response to the "dieselgate" emissions cheating scandal. Several automakers scrambled to get their vehicles certified in time, leading to bottlenecks that squeezed sales for

months. "Following the bottlenecks caused by WLTP regulations last year, the current full availability of models is having a positive impact on the market," the VDA industry federation said in a statement.

Sales in high-end carmakers Porsche and Audi, which were among the brands worst-hit by the backlog, soared by 498 percent and 118 percent respectively in October. The Volkswagen brand saw a jump of 39 percent, while rivals Mercedes and BMW booked single-digit sales increases.

The VDA noted that demand for German cars from abroad dipped four percent year-on-year, adding to a picture of weaker global growth and fuelling fears of a German slowdown. The fallout from the 2015 dieselgate crisis meanwhile seems to have stabilized in recent months, with the share of new cars powered by the fuel continuing to hover at around 30 percent - far below pre-scandal levels. Electric vehicles also enjoyed a surge in sales but still accounted for less than two percent of new car registrations in October, and hybrids for just over nine percent. — AFP

## Britain set for 1970s public spending levels as parties woo voters

**LONDON:** Britain's state spending will head back to levels not seen since the 1970s if the two main political parties in the Dec 12 election make good on their promises, a think-tank said yesterday, warning that taxes will have to rise too. After a decade of tight controls on the budget to fix the damage wrought by the financial crisis, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ruling Conservative Party and the opposition Labor Party are both wooing voters with spending plans.

"The shared commitments to ending austerity, reversing elements of it, and big infrastructure plans mean Britain could be heading back to a 1970s-sized state," Matt Whittaker, deputy chief executive at the Resolution Foundation, said in a report. Finance minister Sajid Javid announced in September the biggest funding increases for public services in 15 years, and says he wants to spend more on infrastructure too, echoing the plans of left-wing Labor.

"The fact is that whatever promises are made over the course of this election campaign, taxes are going to have to rise over the coming decade," Whittaker said. Johnson has said he wants to lower taxes as well as raise spending. Labor would increase income tax for the top 5% of earners and raise corporate taxes to help fund its spending plans, the party's would-be finance minister John McDonnell said on Sunday. Under the Conservatives, Britain has cut its

budget deficit from 10% of gross domestic product in 2010 to about 2% now.

But the deficit has started to widen again after former prime minister Theresa May began to relax her government's grip on public pay in 2017 and promised big increases in health spending. Britain's public debt stands at 1.8 trillion pounds (\$2.3 trillion), or 80% of GDP - more than Germany but less than the United States, Japan and France. Analysts have warned it could rise again as a share of the economy, especially with the outcome of Brexit, and its impact on the economy, so unclear. But there has been little sign of nervousness among investors with government borrowing costs close to record lows.

The Resolution Foundation, a non-partisan think-tank which focuses on issues facing low to middle-income households, said government spending could rise to 41.3% of GDP by 2023 from about 40% now under the Conservatives' existing plans for more infrastructure and day-to-day spending. That would be well above the average of 37.4% in the two decades running up to the financial crisis of 2008-09, and only marginally below the average of 42% between 1966 and 1984. Further health spending on Britain's ageing population would take spending above the 1970s average, the report said.

If Labor repeats its 2017 election promise of 48.6 billion pounds (\$62.85 billion) of extra spending on services, coupled with its new 10-year 250 billion-pound infrastructure plan, public spending would hit 43.3% of GDP, significantly above the 1970s average, the Resolution Foundation said. However, that would still be smaller than government spending in Germany and France which stood at just over 44% and 56% of GDP respectively in 2017, according to figures from the Organization for Economic Co-operation Development. — Reuters



**IMMINGHAM:** In this file photo taken on October 05, 2018 a container ship is unloaded at the Port of Immingham operated by Associated British Ports (ABP) on the south bank of the Humber Estuary, eastern England. - AFP

## Britain airline giant IAG agrees to buy Spain's Air Europa

**LONDON:** British Airways owner IAG agreed yesterday to buy Spain's Air Europa for 1.0 billion euros to expand routes to Latin America and the Caribbean, boosting Madrid as a key hub. The London-listed company said in a statement that it has signed a transaction agreement with Air Europa owner Globalia in a deal worth the equivalent of \$1.2 billion that it aims to complete in the second half of next year.

IAG added that Air Europa will complement existing Spanish divisions Iberia and Vueling - and help Madrid take on the four largest air hubs in Europe, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London Heathrow and Paris Charles De Gaulle. The deal, which is subject to regulatory approvals, will further expand IAG's portfolio that also includes Ireland's Aer Lingus and low-cost European carrier Level. The British company added that it will fund the deal with debt, and anticipates that the transaction will generate significant sav-

ings in terms of costs and sales. "Acquiring Air Europa would add a new competitive, cost effective airline to IAG, consolidating Madrid as a leading European hub and resulting in IAG achieving South Atlantic leadership, therefore generating additional financial value for our shareholders," said IAG Chief Executive Willie Walsh in yesterday's statement. "IAG has a strong track record of successful acquisitions, most recently with the acquisition of Aer Lingus in 2015 and we are convinced Air Europa presents a strong strategic fit for the group."

Iberia boss Luis Gallego added that the move was a boost for Madrid. "This is of strategic importance for the Madrid hub, which in recent years has lagged behind other European hubs," Gallego said. "Following this agreement, Madrid will be able to compete with other European hubs on equal terms with a better position on Europe to Latin America routes and the possibility to become a gateway between Asia and Latin America." Air Europa flies to 69 destinations around the world, including the Caribbean, Latin America, North Africa and the United States. It flew 11.8 million passengers last year, with revenues of 2.1 billion euros and an operating profit of 100 million euros. IAG meanwhile carries about 113 million passengers per year to a total of 268 destinations. — AFP



## Business

# Jazeera Airways launches flights between Middle East and Osh



**KUWAIT:** Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, yesterday announced its has started serving the city of Osh in Kyrgyzstan with two return flights weekly starting from November 3, 2019. The new route is the first direct route between the Middle East and Osh, giving access to connecting flights between the sec-

ond largest city in Kyrgyzstan and its majority Muslim population and other cities in the region, notably Jeddah and Madinah.

Jazeera Airways CEO, Rohit Ramachandran, said: "We are pleased to launch direct flights between the Middle East and Osh. The oldest city in Kyrgyzstan, Osh offers over 3,000 years of history

to explore and will be another new option for leisure travelers. We look forward to serving customers from Kyrgyzstan, especially those going on religious pilgrimage."

Osh is also popular for its unique scenery ideal for trekking, cultural and historical landmarks, as well as rich culinary experiences. The Kuwait-Osh route is

operated by return flights on Sundays and Tuesdays. The departing flight number J9 653 from Kuwait to Osh is scheduled at 8:05 pm local time and arrives the next morning at 2:50 am local time of these days, while the return flight number J9 654 from Osh to Kuwait is scheduled at 4:00 am local time of the next day and arrives at 5:25 am local time.

## Warba Bank launches 'Hassala', the digital money box service

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, the Islamic champion bank in digital services, has recently launched "Hassala/ Money Box", the newest digital service through its app available on smartphones for both Android and IOS systems. Hassala aims to facilitate saving process for customers while guiding them to rely on their own money and savings to achieve their targets, instead of borrowing or using their credit cards which might provide a quick payment's solution but in return, shoulder them with long-term financial burdens.

Today, customers can save money smoothly and quickly; where they can access Hassala through the app's homepage "My Portfolio" icon and choose amongst twelve saving goals including: home, my kids, charity, car, health and treatment, travel and entertainment, shopping, education, jewelry and gifts; should the saving goal is not included in the list then the customer can select the "Others" option.

For financing Hassala, Warba Bank provides two options: either through "Sweep" through which customers can determine the maximum limit of money he/she wishes to save in the main account, where later on extra amounts will be drawn from the account and credited to his/her Hassala; or through "Automated Transfer" option where the customer sets a monthly amount to be



debited from his/her main account to Hassala account at a pre-defined date,

It is noteworthy that at both options, the customer is allowed to pre-define the date when the debit is scheduled to take place. It's possible as well, to select the date in which the customer wishes to stop his/her savings in Hassala. Customers can follow up their savings process through the app's home page which shows the progress and how closer they have become from achieving their goals. To give customers an added value and to encourage them to save more, Warba Bank offers savers the chance to enter Al-Sumbula weekly and quarterly draws; they will get one chance to win for each KD 10 in their Hassala, in addition to 1% returns on the total money saved.

Commenting on the new digital service, Mohamed Atef Al-Shareef, Chief Strategy and Digital Officer at Warba Bank said: "Our Digital factory, Al Wateen, continues to deliver remarkable digital services that cater to customers' needs in their various walks of life.

Al Hassala is the perfect solution to help customers save and achieve their goals and cover their needs easily without accumulating financial burdens considering the tremendous temptations surrounding and easiness in having financing or using credit cards.

Al-Shareef added: "Our team innovates these services according to a deep understanding of customers' needs and aspirations to flexible banking services which would enable them to control their spending and monitor their savings; we promise our customers to keep on innovating digital solutions that enrich their banking experience and make it more joyful, easier and faster while simultaneously cater for all aspects of their lives".

In addition to Al Hassala, Warba Bank has made an array of updates on many services available on its application such as: the financing calculator which enables customer to calculate consumer commodity financing or construction financing by entering the required amount and repayment period; beneficiary account statement service through which the customer can view all transfer transactions to a beneficiary during the set period; activation of fingerprint for operations; updating the personal ID for family account or adding new member and opening Al Sumbula deposit for minors; controlling payment's option from one place such as payment of phone bills, recharging credit or purchasing electronic games voucher or GCC telecom cards easily, follow up on expenses by viewing all expenses under each payment category. As well, the new iOS update features have been applied to Warba Bank app which enable the activation of the Dark Mode to secure a better experience when using the app at night.

from our recent 'Stay Secure' survey conducted across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Pakistan reveal increased consumer confidence and trust in transacting digitally using payment credentials. It is critical we maintain that trust -among consumers, businesses, and governments - to ensure further digitalization of commerce. Collaboration with our partners is how we will be successful in our mission, and that is why platforms like our Security Summit are so important to translate our efforts into tangible outcomes and support the region's commerce ambitions and digital transformation goals."

According to a global report by Forrester Consulting commissioned by Visa, ATM cashout attacks that exploit vulnerabilities among financial institutions and processors to remove fraud controls to withdraw money from cash machines fraudulently, and automated testing of values and credentials to gain unauthorized access to information and functionality called "enumeration attacks" were among the most prevalent account-related fraud types identified by respondents. At the same time, card-not-present fraud that includes ecommerce, phone and mail orders was found to be less frequent but caused more damage to businesses-representing nearly 40% of fraud losses and operational costs. Managing payment fraud holistically is imperative to meet these challenges.

### Protecting the ecosystem from threats

At the center of every Visa transaction is trust. As threats evolve, Visa's payment security capabilities help to holistically protect the core components of the ecosystem-people, data and infrastructure-to maintain trust and connect the world through the most innovative, reliable and secure digital payment network. The new security capabilities add to existing protections and include:

- Visa Vital Signs - Actively monitors

transactions and alerts financial institutions of potential fraudulent activity at ATMs and merchants that may indicate an ATM cashout attack. To limit financial losses for financial institutions, Visa can automatically or in coordination with clients, step in to suspend malicious activity.

- Visa Account Attack Intelligence - Applies deep learning to Visa's vast number of processed card-not-present transactions to identify financial institutions and merchants that hackers may be using to guess account numbers, expiration dates and security codes through automated testing. The machine learning technology detects sophisticated enumeration patterns, eliminates false positives, and alerts affected financial institutions and merchants before fraudulent transactions begin.

- Visa Payment Threats Lab-Creates an environment to test a client's processing, business logic and configuration settings to identify errors leading to potential vulnerabilities. For example, Visa can verify if a financial institution is effectively validating cryptograms-dynamically generated codes unique to each transaction-for EMV(r) chip transactions.

- Visa eCommerce Threat Disruption - A proprietary solution that uses sophisticated technology and investigative techniques to proactively scan the front-end of eCommerce websites for payment data skimming malware. Identifying potential website compromises limits the amount of time malware might be present on a merchant website and significantly reduces exposure of customer and payment data.

These capabilities complement Visa Payment Threat Intelligence, which provides actionable and informational cyber intelligence to clients and merchants worldwide. It offers timely intelligence reporting, technical delivery and educational materials. This includes alerts, analysis, technical indicators, and mitigations for potential cybercrime threats, account compromises and fraud.

## Tijari declares a net profit of KD 16.6 million in 2019

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced its financial results for the 9-month period that ended on September 30th September, 2019. The Bank reported a net profit of KD 16.6million, increased by 9.1% compared to 30 September 2018. The operating profit before provision was KD 85.0 million compared to KD 81.5 million for the same period of last year, a growth of 4.3%.The Bank witnessed a healthy growth in the key areas of business and revenue. Total assets increased by 5.6% to reach KD 4.7 billion. Operating income grew by 7.1%, net interest income by 5.0%, fee income by 6.6% and foreign exchange income by 12.6%.

Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al Sabah, the Bank's Chairman, commented that the Bank continues to focus on asset quality, digitalization, operational efficiency and customer service. The operating profit for the 9-month period of 2019 was KD 85.0 million and the Bank prudently allocated a portion of it to strengthen its pool of available provision. The total provisions held with the Bank against its credit portfolio were KD 184.3 million, as at the end of the 30th September 2019. Sheikh Ahmad added that the Bank will continue its prudent policy of maintaining a portfolio of quality assets during 2019 and beyond, in order to meet the challenges of the volatile economic and geopolitical situation in the region.

Sheikh Ahmad further added that the Bank's capital adequacy ratio at the end of September 2019 was 18.2%, the leverage ratio at 11.2%, net stable funding ratio at 110.2% and liquidity coverage ratio at 138.7%, comfortably exceeded the regulatory requirement set by the Central Bank of Kuwait. He emphasized that the



Bank's strong financial indicators are due to its provident policy of cleaning its loan portfolio by writing off irregular loans, while taking all the necessary steps to protect the interests of the Bank. The NPL ratio at zero is a clear demonstration of this strategy.

Sheikh Ahmad continued that our digitalization initiatives continue at a rapid pace across the Bank, optimizing back and front-end operations and creating a pleasant and seamless experience for customers at various touch points. Investment in technology and human capital will continue to meet the challenges currently faced by the banking industry.

New initiatives were taken during the third quarter of the year with features like, but not limited to, amend card limit through CBK mobile, cheque validation, allow customers to unlock their user I.D's or retrieve user I.D/ATM PIN, view standing instructions, online cheque entry enhancement with scanning ability, selection of multiple salary batches and cheques entry and transfer process with a single touch. Moreover, in a continuous effort towards nationalisation, the Bank's Kuwaitization ratio reached at 75.5% by September 2019. Sheikh Ahmad took the opportunity to thank the Bank's shareholders, valued customers, staff and regulatory authorities, emphasizing and reassuring that the Bank's Management will continue to implement all the required policies for safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders.

## GBK announces winners of the Al Danah Weekly Draw

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 3rd November 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 27 - 31 October 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week. The winners this week are:

- Abdulamir Abdulhadi Alnajjar
- Mariam Tamer Mohammad Zaytoon
- Bader Youssef Mohammed Alnasralla
- Sara Bader Abduljabar Aldalali
- Zahra Seed Mohammed Musawi

Gulf Bank's 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. Furthermore, loyal Al Danah customers are rewarded with loyalty chances.

Loyalty chances are the total chances accumulated from the previous year which are added to the customer's chances the following year. Therefore, the total chances earned by Al Danah customers in 2018, have been added to their 2019 chances, and the same process will take place in 2020, and so on. Terms and conditions apply.

Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 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 KD200 at any given time, a KD2 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.

## Visa introduces suite of security capabilities

**BARCELONA:** Visa launched a suite of innovative security capabilities to help prevent and disrupt payment fraud, breaking new ground in cybersecurity and fraud prevention across Central & Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa (CEMEA) at the Visa CEMEA Security Summit 2019 in Barcelona, Spain. The forum brings together payment industry experts from risk, business and operational departments of financial institutions, merchants, processors and other payment service providers.

The new payment security services and capabilities help protect the integrity of the payments ecosystem by detecting and disrupting fraud threats targeting financial institutions and merchants. The new capabilities are available to Visa clients at no additional cost or sign-up, but through Visa's continued investments in intelligence and technology. These add to the long list of benefits financial institution and merchant clients enjoy as participants in the Visa global payment network.

"Cybercriminals attempt to bypass traditional defenses by stealing credentials, harvesting data, obtaining privileged access, and attacking trusted third-party supply chains," said Hector Rodriguez, Regional Risk Officer, CEMEA, Visa. "Visa's new payment security capabilities combine payment and cyber intelligence, insights and learnings from breach investigations, and law enforcement engagement to help financial institutions and merchants solve the most critical security challenges."

Neil Fernandes, Visa's Head of Risk for Middle East and North Africa: "Findings



## What's On



# Celebrate the Spirit of Oktoberfest at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa

In collaboration with the Embassy of Germany in Kuwait, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa recreates Munich's most iconic festival, Oktoberfest, in style. Guests can experience the fun-filled festival like never before and enjoy the authentic German music straight from the heart of Bavaria with the live band, 'Happy Hour Band', while savouring the mouth-watering

German feast. This year the program highlights include a hearty outdoor Oktoberfest BBQ by the Pool on November 6, 2019 followed by an exciting buffet brunch on November 8, 2019 where guests are invited to try the exotic flavours of German cuisine and traditions. On the menu for the poolside barbecue would be signature favourites like Oktoberfest Strudel, Bavarian Coleslaw,

Oktoberfest Roast Chicken along with sizzling grills and brisquets.

The Friday brunch will feature a wide spread of authentic German mouth-watering flavours including exciting kids' outdoor activities for the children. 'Happy Hour Band' will perform on both days to enliven the atmosphere as guests partake in the festivities of the vibrant Oktoberfest.

Speaking about the celebration Assistant Director of PR & Communications, Yasmine Ismail, said: "We are delighted to collaborate with the Embassy of Germany and bring this fun filled event for our guests to enjoy. We are also pleased to have the Happy Hour Band' to perform and to entertain our guests with authentic German music."

Guests visiting Mint Cafe on November 6, and Garden Cafe on November 8, will be welcomed by waitresses and waiters in authentic Bavarian clothing - from authentic German Dirndl, to Lederhosen for the gentlemen. Experience the true flavours of Bavaria and make it an Oktoberfest to remember with Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait.



## KGL sponsors EPA afforestation campaign

Under the patronage and attendance of H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Board and Director General of the Kuwait Environment Public Authority (EPA) and based on KGL's strategy to support and preserve the environment from pollution, by devoting all efforts and activities to achieve this end, the company sponsored on October 10, the Environment Public Authority's Initiative to plant nearly 3000 Sidra trees (a tree that grows in the harshest of environments) in Al-Jahra Natural Reserve.

In cooperation with government entities, public benefit institutions, environmental activists, students of military colleges and company's employees, KGL provided transportation services for participants to and from the reserve, using state-of-the-art buses as well as a private bus with hospitality services to transport the leaders. In its statement, the company affirmed its unwavering commitment and readiness to support the environmental authorities and institutions by harnessing all of its resources to suit the approach of these entities in preserving the environment of Kuwait.

This KGL initiative comes as part of its social responsibility program, which focuses on an effective contribution to reducing pollution in the country, whether by supporting the initiatives of international organizations for environment conservation or through supporting government and private entities to increase green spaces and protect them from risks. From this perspective, KGL strives to upgrade its services by keeping abreast of the latest global developments in the transportation industry, which would help the company's progressive vision.

In this regards, the company has modernized its fleet of buses with the launch of modern and sophisticated buses of the environmentally friendly Euro 3 type, in line with the level of environmental standards recognized globally and in accordance with the globally agreed-on environmental criteria, to implement ISO quality management & environmental management systems and international quality standard.



It is worth mentioning that the operations of KGL Passenger's Transport Company, a subsidiary of Kuwait and Gulf Transport Company, provides mass transit service for employees and users of the private and public sectors, students and others. The company is currently working to develop its services digitally, which will contribute to save a lot of time and effort for customers including individuals, corporate and governmental employee transportation, in addition to employees of leading companies in the oil & gas and construction sectors. Moreover, the company is keen to expand its bus fleet to increase its capacity, expand the coverage of its network, and make digital developments to

improve the customer's experience while providing mass transit service without damaging the environment.



## Burgan Bank celebrates 'World Diabetes Day'

Burgan Bank, one of the leading contributors to sustainability in society, recently organized an awareness campaign marking 'World Diabetes Day' at its headquarters in collaboration with "Al-Mutawa Pharmacies", a partner of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. annually celebrated worldwide on November 14 as a global awareness campaign, Burgan Bank's initiative was carried out in support of the cause by educating every one of the disease and its risks and complications in order to ensure all receive the opportunity to change their lives for the better and prevent its onset.

On this occasion, a certified pharmacist examined its staff and customers at the Head Office on 03 November, measured their blood pressure and blood sugar levels and inquired about their overall health. The team of experts provided a comprehensive overview of the symptoms of Type

1 and Type 2 diabetes, its treatments, causes and diagnoses. The health practitioners also discussed potential early signs, risk factors and more importantly, how to conduct regular self-help check-ups of blood sugar at home.

A special focus was also dedicated to prevention, healthy living through physical activities and a balanced diet. In 2017, Kuwait currently ranked seventh worldwide in the prevalence of diabetes with over 23 percent of Kuwaitis suffering from the chronic disease. The country also holds the highest rate of sufferers among the top 10 countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) out of which one in five people are reported to have Diabetes.

Burgan Bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural and health driven initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community.



## IWG hosts Indian heritage event

The International Women's Group (IWG) in cooperation with the Indian Embassy in Kuwait organized an Indian culture and heritage event at Crowne Plaza Hotel on November 3, 2019. A large gathering of members, special invitees and guests attended the function. The guests were greeted in a traditional manner according to Indian customs with rose water. The hall and entrance were decorated in traditional Indian heritage style giving a rich Indian heritage look, and musical background to the tunes of Indian instruments.

Addressing the gathering, Anita de Vogel, the current president of IWG, welcomed the members and guests by extending her sincere congratulations to the Government and people of Kuwait on the safe return of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to his homeland. The Indian Ambassador to the state of Kuwait Jeeva Sagar delivered a speech on the occasion and a cake was cut to commemorate the event. Guests were shown a documentary film about tourism in India that showcased the many wonderful sites in various parts of the country, including spectacular scenery, cultural sights, distinctive tourist places

filled with Indian charm and iconic attractions.

As India is well-known for its dance, which is closely tied to the country's customs and tradition, a vibrant dance presentation was made that featured two types of dance, one classical and other folkloric. The artists gave a great performance in their colorful costumes. This was followed by a quiz on the documentary film about tourism in India. Winners were awarded prizes. To highlight the rich flavors and depth of Indian cuisine, a live cooking class was organized where attendees could learn to prepare a

simple Indian dish and sample it.

A presentation was also organized on the various types of Indian spices as each has distinctive flavors to add to dishes in Indian cuisine. It was also noted that there are types of spices used to treat some diseases. At the end of the ceremony, the sponsors were honored with commemorative plaques for their participation and contributions to the success of the event. Guests were treated to sumptuous Indian cuisine prepared by chefs of Crowne Plaza Hotel.





## Health &amp; Science

# Congolese anti-Ebola fighter killed as new vaccine arrives

**DR CONGO:** A radio host who helped spread the word in the fight against Ebola has been stabbed to death at his home in northeast Democratic Republic of Congo, the army said Sunday. The motive for the murder in the town of Lwemba in the troubled Ituri region was unknown, but it came as health authorities were set to introduce a new vaccine against the disease in unaffected areas.

The attackers killed 35-year-old Papy Mumbere Mahamba and wounded his wife before burning down their home late Saturday. General Robert Yav, the commander of Congolese army forces in the Ituri town of Mambasa, told AFP. Professor Steve Ahuka, national coordinator of the fight against Ebola, confirmed a local worker in Lwemba had been killed. A journalist at Radio Lwemba, the local radio station where Mahamba worked, also confirmed the details.

"Our colleague Papy Mumbere Mahamba was killed at his home by unknown attackers" who stabbed him to death, Jacques Kamwina told AFP. The Observatory for Press Freedom in Africa (OLPA), based in the DRC, called on the Ituri authorities to conduct a "serious investigation" into the murder.

DR Congo declared an Ebola epidemic in August 2018 in the conflict-racked eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, bordering Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. The highly contagious haemorrhagic fever has so far killed 2,185 people, according to the latest official figures. Efforts to roll back the epidemic have been hampered not only by fighting but also by resistance within communities to preventative measures, care facilities and safe burials.

It is the DRC's 10th Ebola epidemic and the second deadliest on record after an outbreak that struck West Africa in 2014-16, claiming more than 11,300 lives. Health workers have repeatedly come under attack. A Cameroonian doctor from the

World Health Organization (WHO), Richard Valery Mouzoko Kiboung, was shot dead in April in an attack on a hospital in North Kivu province. A nurse and a police officer were killed in similar circumstances since the start of the epidemic. In September, militiamen torched around 20 homes of health workers fighting Ebola in the area around Mambasa.

## Dangerous burial traditions

The WHO has warned violence undermines the fight against Ebola, notably impeding safe burials of the highly contagious bodies and the administering of vaccines. People often refuse to forgo traditional burial rites involving kissing, washing and touching of the dead body. Funerals can become "super-spreading events" with up to 70 people infected in a single ceremony, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). To prevent contagion, health workers and volunteers form safe burial teams but deep mistrust of outsiders often hinders access to bereaved families. Many people see Ebola as a hoax invented by medical personnel in order to land well-paid jobs.

On Saturday, the authorities said they had received 11,000 doses of a second anti-Ebola vaccine from Belgium, the DRC's former colonial power. The Ad26-ZEBOV-GP vaccine — an experimental product — is to be used to protect those living outside of direct Ebola transmission zones. The vaccine developed by US pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson will be administered only to those who want it, the ministry said. It will complement a first vaccine, rVSV-ZEBOV-GP, manufactured by the US firm Merck Sharpe and Dohme (MSD), used in Ebola-infected areas to protect those who may have come into contact with victims of the disease. Nearly 250,000 people have been vaccinated since the start of the program in August 2018. — AFP

## Aussie researchers mount rescue bid for pygmy possum

**SYDNEY:** Climate change is threatening to wipe out Australia's critically endangered mountain pygmy possum, but researchers are hoping to save the hibernating species by relocating the last remaining mammals to cooler lowlands. The tiny mammal lives in alpine regions but less than 2,500 remain in the wild, according to estimates, with winter snowfall declines and warmer weather threatening extinction. The possums hibernate deep inside humid rock piles that are insulated by snow during winter and provide shelter from high summer temperatures that can prove fatal.

The species — Australia's only hibernating marsupial — needs temperatures to hover just above freezing to hibernate successfully, but without enough snow the cold air outside penetrates the rocks and chills the atmosphere inside, University of New South Wales (UNSW) associate lecturer Hayley Bates said yesterday. "Anything less than 0.6 Celsius will wake them from their hibernation and they can shiver and starve to death," she

added. "You just need two bad winters like this and the species could collapse." Scientists at UNSW have started a breeding program in a lowland area of New South Wales state in an attempt to acclimatize the possums to a new home, with hopes of establishing an initial colony of 25 animals.

More of the marsupials could be moved from their alpine habitat if the project is successful. Based on analysis of ancient fossils dating back 25 million years, they believe the mountain pygmy possum's ancestors lived in a more temperate and less extreme environment than it endures today. Research also showed that other closely related possums had long lived in settings such as lowland rainforests, said UNSW palaeontologist Mike Archer. "What probably happened is that the modern species followed cool rainforest which invaded the alpine areas during a period of relatively warmer, lush conditions," he added.

"After these conditions deteriorated with further climate change, they were stranded in an environment that was at the extreme end of their adaptability." The mountain pygmy possum is also under pressure as numbers of its primary post-hibernation food source — the bogong moth — are dwindling, apparently also due to climate change and drought. If the project is successful, scientists hope other endangered Australian animals could be rescued in a similar way, including the Corroboree frog and the swamp tortoise. — AFP

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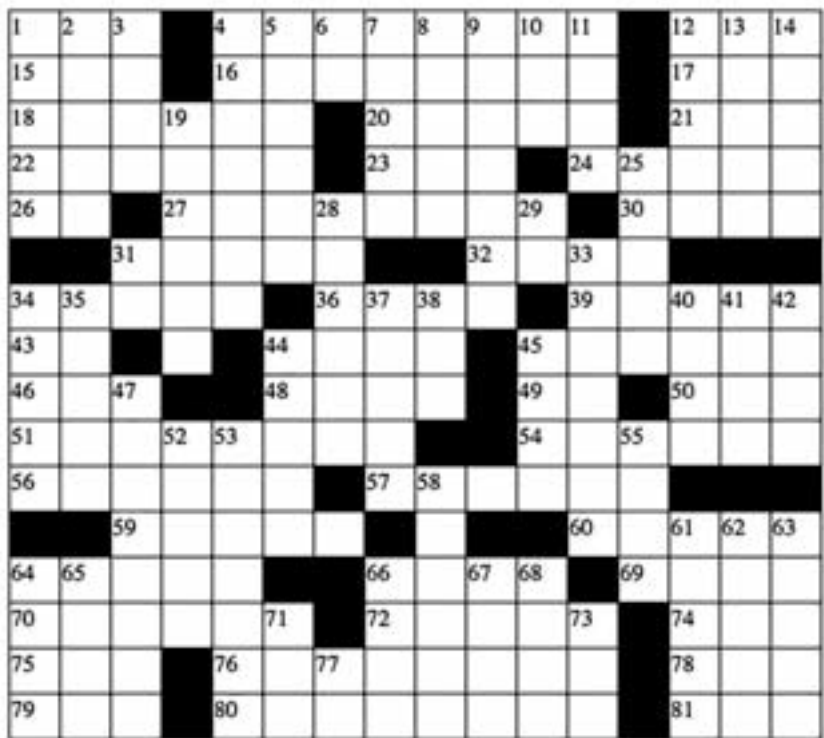
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ACROSS

- Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
- A person who holds no title.
- The syllable naming the fifth (dominant) note of any musical scale in solmization.
- Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
- Conforming exactly or almost exactly to fact or to a standard or performing with total accuracy.
- A Nilotic language.
- A power unit equal to the power dissipated when 1 abampere flows across a potential difference of 1 abvolt (one ten-thousandth of a milliwatt).
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- Of southern Europe.
- Involving the medulla oblongata.
- A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
- The recipient of funds or other benefits.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- Of a cask or barrel.
- Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
- Deeply moved.
- Tannin extract derived from any of several mangrove barks of Pacific areas.
- A French abbot.
- (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- The compass point that is one point west of due south.
- (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- A strong emotion.
- A band worn around or over the head.
- The French-speaking part of the Canadian Maritime Provinces.
- Bright with a steady but subdued shining.
- Spider monkeys.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
- 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
- The lean flesh of a fish similar to cod.
- Take away possessions from someone.
- Living in or characteristic of farming or country life.
- Resonance of protons to radiation in a magnetic field.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- Less than acute.
- Tag the base runner to get him out.
- The month following February and preceding April.
- The state of being everywhere at once (or seeming to be everywhere at once).
- One or some or every or all without specification.
- Inflammation of the nose and throat with increased production of mucus.
- A tax on various goods brought into a town.
- One million periods per second.
- An artistic form of auditory communication incorporating instrumental or vocal tones in a structured and continuous manner.
- Any of various herbaceous plants of the genus Atriplex that thrive in deserts and salt marshes.
- A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
- The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- Having been read.
- Informal language consisting of words and expressions that are not considered appropriate for formal occasions.
- Common black European thrush.
- A populous province in northeastern China.
- The jurisdiction or office of an abbot.
- Be or do something to a greater degree.
- A port city in southwestern Iran.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- A New England state.
- Hypothetical remedy for all ills or diseases.
- A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
- English monk and scholar (672-735).
- An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
- Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
- A beautiful and graceful girl.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- Fastener consisting of a resinous composition that is plastic when warm.
- Backbends combined with handstands.
- United States industrialist who manufactured plows suitable for working the prairie soil (1804-1886).
- Tall feather palm of northern Brazil with hard-shelled nuts yielding valuable oil and a kind of vegetable ivory.
- United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
- Found in warm waters of western Atlantic.
- Wife of Balder.
- Swedish oceanographer who recognized the role of the Coriolis effect on ocean currents (1874-1954).
- A hat that is round and black and hard with a narrow brim.
- A river that rises in western New Mexico and flows westward through southern Arizona to become a tributary of the Colorado River.
- A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- Not reflecting light.
- A relatively large open container that you fill with water and use to wash the body.
- A field covered with grass or herbage and suitable for grazing by livestock.
- A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).

DOWN

- Jordan's port.
- Overthrow by argument, evidence, or proof.
- Shout loudly and without restraint.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself having fun with some of your co-worker friends today. Interactions at a park or a friendly ball game may create just what is needed to get to know your working teammates better. A barbecue after the games may put a pleasant ending to a pleasant day. It is easy to sit and talk with a few of your co-worker friends, and everyone feels relaxed and comfortable in expressing opinions. You always come up with new ideas to organize things better, make things work: practical thoughts. You may be quite pleased at the result of the gathering. People are kind and stay away from the gossip arena.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You could be very much in demand as a counselor this day. Solving problems in a volunteer position becomes second nature and around your home the problems could be about which plants to grow or where the patio may be located. Perhaps you are a volunteer fireman on certain weekends... Whatever the case, people love your company and you enjoy adding to your relationships. This is a good day to get things done. There is good eye-hand coordination and a sustained effort that will make most any task run well. You may feel like exercising or getting out and about this evening. Bicycling with young people, visiting friends or dinner out with a loved one is in order.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You appreciate a caring attitude and this creates that service-oriented mind-set that others often enjoy from you. You just naturally look for ways to be helpful. The people that are your friends will enjoy a little time to laugh and share your time away from your work. Those that refresh others will be refreshed. This afternoon budget subjects come to the surface. If you have teenagers, this is a good time to include them in ways to make their money count. You might want to ask how they would change and improve their money habits. They may have understood budgeting better than you thought. Now however, it is time to dive deeper. Tonight your energies seem to be just right for ordering clothes over the internet-check out the new styles.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great time to work with others in any sort of group situation. There is a chance to be chosen or to choose a team and compete with whatever project is urgent and on the agenda for today. This day should move along very well. Your intuitive side kicks in this afternoon and you find an interest in some subject that is psychological. You may find yourself, not necessarily an advisor, but a gatherer of people's experiences. You will be listening, as usual, to all sorts of information regarding relationships, progress and positive outcomes. Since you are artistic, you might consider the study of different artists.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel understanding and accepting and are easily moved by the problems of others. Psychology in all of its forms is a driving force in your life. There is a goal to expand your knowledge and experiences and your focus is on your special goals. You are connected to farseeing visions, worldviews and group work of all kinds. You may tend to be a bit independent when it comes to working with standard policies. Travel may soon be called for in your workplace, and you could be one of the first representatives for your company. Your sense of discrimination when it comes to practical issues is excellent-be quick to compliment the clearheaded thinking of others. Everything takes on an added value. Do not overspend today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Discovering what you truly believe in-fighting for it, even-is a high personal priority. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this may take place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go. Communicating well is important to you. You make every effort to be patient and make sure you are understood. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most natural and enthusiastic. You would do well in a career in music, poetry, psychology, social work, philosophy-and other realms of the imagination. You can help or teach others by sharing your understanding. Spiritual problems and questions are easy because you always seem to understand.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Things are happening, and your career depends upon your own ambition and drive, which are strong at this time. You are able to take some time this morning for the family and then you might think of some ideas for the workplace. Your suggestions for next week could be written down and presented at an appropriate time later. You could make some monetary rewards for the company in which you work. Give this presentation some careful thought. Your own concentration with this project may appear to separate you from where the rest of the gang is headed. Science projects seem to hold your attention later and you enjoy teaching or experimenting on some projects this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your thoughts and ideas may not mesh with the plans and methods of someone you meet with this day. You have chores to run and projects ongoing-keep moving forward. Soon, you will see the energies calm and a new understanding. You have a fundamental approach to group involvement. Progressive, with insights into uniting humanity, you understand the true meaning of democracy. Things will work out in your favor if you maintain low tones for now. You are always working for the benefit of all. You are very independent when it comes to your own security and family. That could mean an unconventional-style home or furnishings, or a different approach to sentiment, nostalgia and history.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Obtaining and exchanging information with neighbors is fun this day as you may find some common interest. Some performance skill that you are familiar with may become the biggest topic of conversation. A few of your friends may want to get together and create some fun entertainment for each other. One familiar treat would be to take turns in performing skits. Some form of competition is enjoyed and a bit of wit is part of the fun. This time every year is usually reserved for deep consideration regarding vacation time. Perhaps a stay at home time this year will afford you the opportunity to catch up on upkeep of your property or a chance to enhance your home in some way.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are determined to see above this day, despite rain, a mind-numbing phone call, work issues, a new family member, neighbor problems, a marriage connection or your first home. This is life and you feel invigorated and ready to take on whatever is before you. Your attitude is upbeat and positive and anyone around you will probably take on the same attitude. It seems you are scheduled for a raise or some other boost in your workplace and this has you feeling very full of self-esteem. You, however, have worked hard to get into a new place and a new status.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your presence and importance in any group, while perhaps not verbalized, is always acknowledged. You can cause others to act, change or react just by being in their presence-nothing need be said. Yours is the mastery of the physical and the practical. Your energies run effectively toward making yourself felt in the material, tangible outer world. You are an action person who gains the attention of others and seems to get people and things moving. The circumstances of your life suggest extroversion. You may complain of never having any privacy or time to think-your pattern seems to throw you in contact with people and the outer world.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is an ease with your personal project at this time that you may have never known before. Everything is running so smoothly that you may decide to take on another project or adventure. Being a Tuesday, you might also want to just walk at a slow pace. The events of the morning have the makings for a bright and witty day. Your communication skills are at a high energy level. This afternoon you are very out-front and candid with family. You should be able to share your thoughts and ideas with each other and make great headway in deepening your relationships. You enjoy doing research and may involve the whole family in learning about your ancestors. You enjoy discovering your background. Your passionate approach to life is obvious to all.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Movie Actors 1

Find and circle all of the Movie Actors that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Jeremy Irons won an Oscar.

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

BACON, Kevin  
BARDEM, Javier  
BLACK, Jack  
BRIDGES, Jeff  
CAINE, Michael  
CARREY, Jim  
CHAN, Jackie  
CLOONEY, George  
COSTNER, Kevin  
CUSACK, John  
DAMON, Matt  
DANIELS, Jeff  
DEPP, Johnny  
DICAPRIO, Leonardo  
DOUGLAS, Michael  
DUNCAN, Michael Clarke  
FORD, Harrison  
FOX, Jamie  
GIBSON, Mel  
GOLDBLUM, Jeff  
GRANT, Hugh  
GYLLENHAAL, Jake  
HACKMAN, Gene  
HARTNETT, Josh  
IRONS, Jeremy  
JACKMAN, Hugh  
JONES, James Earl  
LAW, Jude  
MCCONAUGHEY, Matthew  
MCKELLEN, Ian  
NEESON, Liam  
PISCI, Joe  
PHOENIX, Joaquin  
REEVES, Keanu  
RUSH, Geoffrey  
RUSSELL, Kurt  
SPACEY, Kevin  
STATHAM, Jason  
TRAVOLTA, John  
VOIGHT, Jon  
WAHLBERG, Mark  
WEAVING, Hugo  
WOOD, Elijah

More 80's Songs

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

AFRICA  
ALWAYS  
AMERICA  
BEAT IT  
BROKEN WINGS  
CALL ME  
CONTROL  
CRUISIN'  
DOWN UNDER  
ENDLESS LOVE  
FAITHFULLY  
FAME  
FAST CAR  
FREEDOM  
GLORIA  
GUILTY  
HEARTBREAKER  
HEAVEN  
HOLD ME  
HUMAN  
HUNGRY HEART  
INFATUATION  
KOKOMO  
LA BAMB  
LET'S DANCE  
MAGIC  
MANIC MONDAY  
MONEY MONY  
NEVER  
NOTORIOUS  
OUR HOUSE  
PASSION  
PATIENCE  
PINK HOUSES  
PURPLE RAIN  
ROCK ON  
SAILING  
SABA  
SATISFIED  
SHOUT  
SONGBIRD  
SUKIYAKI  
SUSSIDED  
THE FLAME  
THE LOOK  
THE ROSE  
THE  
TOO SHY  
TRUE  
TRULY  
TWO HEARTS  
VACATION  
VOICES CARRY  
WE BELONG  
WHIP IT  
YOUR LOVE

The hidden song is: I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE BLUES

Daily Sudoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019



Singaporean electronic music singer and producer Jasmine Sokko poses with her Best South Asia Act award during the MTV Europe Music Awards at the FIBES Conference and Exhibition Centre of Seville.— AFP

## Venice gondoliers dive into murky canals for nocturnal clean-up

Venice's gondoliers have been swapping boating hats for scuba helmets and diving into canals in a clean-up operation of the UNESCO city that has turned up everything from washing machines to bicycles. "It's another world down there", Lorenzo Brunello told AFP TV late Sunday as he prepared to plunge into the murky waters in the first nighttime trawl for garbage cluttering up the famous city's waterways.

It is the sixth time since February that gondoliers have stripped off their trademark stripey tops and donned wet-suits to bring to the surface unwanted belongings, from tires and television sets to vintage radios and telephones. Their efforts have been rewarded, with over 2.5 tons of rubbish collected so far. About six or seven gondoliers show up for each session. Sunday's haul near the famous Rialto bridge brought up a kitchen stove, fan, cassette player, computer monitor and floor lamp.

"It's something we do for the city for free, because the city has given us so much," Brunello said, adding that visi-

bility is particularly poor at night as the tide rises. Water taxi driver Alessandro Pulese joined him at the end of his shift as the pair "want to try to do something, little by little, to make people aware of the problem, but also to do something tangible" to tackle it, Brunello said. "Even if it can seem like a moment of insanity!" he quipped as the moonlight glinted off the cold and uninviting water.

The gondoliers behind the project, Stefano Vio and Alessandro Zuffi, said they would be organising a dive a month until April in the Grand Canal, a major artery that leads to Saint Mark's Square. "That's where we work every day, and where we often have to battle with rubbish floating on the surface," they were quoted as saying in a city council statement, which largely blamed badly behaved Venetians for the garbage problem. — AFP



Men of the Venice Gondolieri association hold a basket full of waste. — AFP photos



Men of the Venice Gondolieri association prepare equipment before diving in the water of Canal Grande, close to the Rialto bridge to collect waste of the canals of Venice.





Brazilian artist Pablo Vittar poses with the Best Brazilian Music award during the MTV Europe Music Awards at the FIBES Conference and Exhibition Centre of Seville. — AFP photos



Swiss artist Loredana



German artist Juju

# Billie Eilish wins best song at MTV Europe, disappointment for Ariana Grande



US singer Ava Max



Canadian actor Johnny Orlando



British singer Liam Gallagher



Spanish singer Rosalia performs onstage.



Spanish singer Rosalia



Dutch artist Snelle



Italian social insider Rosalba Andolfi



US rock band Green Day



Belgian DJ Anouk Matton



US singer Halsey



Mexican social insider Dhasia Wezka

Billie Eilish won best newcomer and best song for “Bad Guy” at the MTV Europe Music Awards Sunday, while Ariana Grande failed to bag any of her seven nominations. Taylor Swift won best video for “ME!” in a show that celebrated “Year of the Woman” with performances from acts including Dua Lipa, and Halsey. “We are about that girl power always, I think that’s what’s happening right now,” host Becky G said on the red carpet.

Canadian singer Shawn Mendes took home best artist at the star-studded evening in Seville, Spain that also gave a special “Rock Icon” award to Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher who closed the show with his new single “Once” and a singalong rendition of Oasis anthem “Wonderwall”, complete with string instruments and band. “I want to thank MTV for recognizing my brilliance,” Gallagher said when receiving the award. Korean superstars BTS, who have led the wave of K-pop music sweeping the global scene, won “Best Live” and “Biggest Fans”.

“Hi MTV EMA, I want to say thank you so much for winning the best song, I love you,” 17-year old Eilish said in a pre-recorded video. The American singer became the first artist born in the 2000s to top the Billboard 200 in the US last August with her breakout album “When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?”. Ahead of the glitzy bash, football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo paraded on the red carpet in a red suit and white trainers with his girlfriend, model Georgina Rodriguez.

NCT 127 became the first ever K-pop group to perform on stage at the EMAs. “Well, it makes us very nervous to know that we are the first K-pop group to be here but that much more we think it’s important,” said band

member Johnny. “We want to show our fans in Europe our great performance.” The show at Seville’s FIBES Conference and Exhibition centre also saw the first global performance of “Como No”, the reggaeton hit by Akon and Becky G. She later performed a medley of her hits including “24/7”, “Sin Pijama” and “Mayores”.

American rockers Green Day played for thousands of fans in Seville’s iconic Plaza de Espana, performing their new single “Father of All” and fan favourite “Basket Case”. Other notable performances included Halsey, who won “Best Pop”, lighting up the stage for an intimate performance of “Graveyard” during which she set fire to a carousel horse.

Local girl and international sensation Rosalia gave a powerful performance of “Di Mi Nombre” backed by 52 dancers against a pyramid of red chairs. She won “Best Collaboration” along with J Balvin for their hit “Con Altura ft. El Guincho”. Dua Lipa opened the show with the first global stage performance of her new song “Don’t Start Now” along with a yellow wall of dancers. An all-female orchestra accompanied “Best Push” winner Ava Max, who sang her hits “Torn” and “Sweet but Psycho”. The MTV Europe Awards are one of two mains events organized by the American music channel, alongside the prestigious Video Music Awards in the US that have been held annually since 1984. — Agencies





South Korean boy group NCT 127



US singer Akon



Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo, right, and his wife Georgina Rodriguez



British singer Dua Lipa



Polish singer Roksana Węgiel



Ukrainian singer Maruv



US singer Mabel



US singer Halsey performs onstage.



US singer and host Becky G performs onstage.





Egyptian confectioners prepare sweets at a candy factory in the capital Cairo ahead of celebrations of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed's birthday, known as 'Al Mawlid Al Nabawi.'— AFP photos

# Cairo delights at sweet candies as Muslim festival nears

The sweet smell of candies wafts through downtown Cairo's historic Bab al-Bahr street as the Muslim Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) birthday, known as "Al Mawlid Al Nabawi", draws near. Decorated sugar dolls, horse-shaped candies and nut-filled treats are on display in shops lining the busy street near Islamic Cairo, a historic district filled with mosques, tombs and caravanserais. "We love to share this happy mood," said one stallholder who was adorning a candy doll with glitter and colored paper, drawing intense interest from a group of playful children. "We come to Bab al-Bahr during this time every year to decorate candies," Sunni Muslims

in many parts of the world celebrate Mohammed's (PBUH) birthday on the 12th day of the third month of the Islamic calendar, which this year falls on Saturday, November 9. The Prophet Mohammed was born in Saudi Arabia's arid mountainous city of Mecca, the holiest site in Islam, some 1450 years ago. The Al Mawlid Al Nabawi celebrations are said to have originated in Egypt in the Fatimid dynasty which ruled the country some 1,000 years ago. As the faithful look forward to the celebrations, Cairo's dessert makers are preparing other mouthwatering sweets made of peanuts, sesame seeds, coconuts and pistachios. "I have been coming here annually for the past 35 years

because I love decorating the candies," said 56-year-old Abdou, who is originally a carpenter. "These sweets are available for the poor and the rich alike." Nearby, 25-year-old Sayed stood stirring a boiling sugary mix with a large wooden spatula. "I have been working at this shop since I was 12 years old," he said, adding that his job keeps Egypt's sweet-tooths happy all year. After the festivities, he said, "we go back to making chocolates and regular candies." — AFP



## DAI opens 'al-Fann: Art from the Islamic Civilization' exhibition

As part of the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah's (DAI) 25th cultural season, the "al-Fann: Art from the Islamic Civilization" exhibition opened at the Amricani Cultural Centre on November 5. The opening was held under the auspices of the Minister of Information, Mohammad Nasir Abdullah al-Jabri and in the presence of the Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Kamel Sulaiman Al-Abduljalil, friends of the DAI and members of the Diplomatic Corps in Kuwait. "al-Fann: Art from the Islamic Civilization", which has been shown in Austria, Bahrain, Italy and Korea features objects from The al-Sabah Collection presented in two primary themes. The section displays the objects in chronological order, from the 7th century CE "Origins of Islamic Art" through the 16th century CE "Apogee of the Great Empires," including the Ottomans, the Safavids in Iran and the Mughals in the Indian subcontinent. The second theme shifts the focus to the four dominant motifs in art from the Islamic world: Calligraphy, Arabesque, Figurative and Repeating Geometric Patterns. "This exhibition was created with a view of introducing the public to the great and multi-faceted nature of Islamic culture through one of its finest manifestations" said exhibition curator Giovanni Curatola. "The ultimate goal of presenting a panorama of the variety and wide-ranging forms of Islamic art, the guiding principles of my selections was fairly straightforward: to strike a balance between an array of geographic areas and to display art from historic periods from the eighth to the eighteenth centuries."

With more than 200 objects from the al-Sabah Collection on view, visitors have the opportunity to discover and further explore the richness of the exhibition. Whether enamored with a 10th century CE Qur'an box and a pair of exquisite Mughal earrings, visitors to "al-Fann: Art from the Islamic Civilization" will enjoy discovering the skills and abilities of centuries of artisans working in the Islamic world. "Fann, an Arabic word, is art undescended and unrestricted. It is the effort and the object; the intent and the outcome," noted DAI Director-General Sheikh Hussa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah in her forward in the exhibition's catalog. "The exhibition celebrates the artisan who creates to share his/her passion with an audience. Only when the work is shared and appreciated does it become 'art'."





# Classifieds

Tuesday, November 5, 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:** Relatively hot and Partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate freshening at times north easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

**BY NIGHT:** Cool with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

WEATHER WATCH			Thunder Rain	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	<div>SFC. CHART 04/11/2019 0000 UTC</div>	
KUWAIT CITY	30 °C	22 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31 °C	18 °C		
ABDALY	31 °C	18 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	31 °C	20 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	30 °C	25 °C		
AHMADI	28 °C	24 °C		
NUWAISIB	30 °C	20 °C		
WAFRA	31 °C	16 °C		
SALMY	31 °C	20 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	11/05	Relatively hot	31 °C	16 °C	NW	15 - 38 km/h
Wednesday	11/06	Relatively hot and Partly cloudy with a chance for drizzle	29 °C	17 °C	NW	08 - 32 km/h
Thursday	11/07	Relatively hot and Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain	30 °C	17 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Friday	11/08	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear	30 °C	16 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:43
Sunrise	06:04
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:38
Sunset	17:00
Isha	18:18

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	31 °C
MIN. Temp.	15 °C
MAX. RH	65 %
MIN. RH	19 %
MAX. Wind	SE 21 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

### MATRIMONIAL

32 year old Goan Catholic boy looking for suitable Goan Catholic life partner. He has graduated in industrial engineering from a reputed university in the US. He is currently

employed in Kuwait and looking forward to settle down very soon. He is 5'10" tall, fair and good looking. If you think you are the right match please contact at 96765696 ASAP. Email: if8016037@gmail.com (C 5454) 10-10-2019

## Airlines

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

EMERGENCY ☎ 112



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

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 5/11/2019					Departure Tuesday 5/10/2019				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	QTR 1078	Doha	13:35		JZR	115
AIC	989	Mumbai	00:10	KAC 614	Bahrain	13:50		QTR	1075
JZR	716	Sohag	00:35	FDB 059	Dubai	14:20		MSR	611
JZR	254	Amman	00:45	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:40		GFA	210
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	KAC 774	Riyadh	14:40		KAC	781
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	KAC 672	Dubai	14:40		SAW	702
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC 742	Dammam	14:45		JZR	123
KAC	102	Jeddah	00:55	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:45		KAC	541
DLH	625	London	01:25	KAC 118	New York	14:50		UAE	872
RJA	642	Dammam	01:30	KAC 286	Dhaka	14:55		AXB	394
THY	764	Amman	01:40	KAC 692	Muscat	15:00		TBZ	6606
IGO	1759	Istanbul	01:50	KAC 618	Doha	15:00		QTR	1079
JZR	722	Delhi	01:55	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:10		FDB	060
UAE	853	Alexandria	01:55	JZR 602	Abu Dhabi	15:15		GFA	222
ETH	620	Dubai	02:15	ETD 303	Jeddah	15:25		KAC	775
KLM	446	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC 788	Riyadh	15:30		KAC	673
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR 222	Muscat	15:35		SVA	563
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	OMA 645	Amman	15:40		KNE	530
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	JZR 732	Dubai	15:45		KAC	743
KKK	1268	Istanbul	03:05	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:50		ETD	304
PGT	860	Abu Dhabi	03:05	JZR 152	Mashhad	16:00		KAC	785
ETD	305	Cairo	03:10	JZR 212	Jeddah	16:25		ABY	128
MSR	612	Cairo	04:00	FEG 241	Alexandria	16:35		OMA	646
LMU	510	Doha	04:00	QTR 1072	Doha	16:40		KAC	615
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:00	KAC 502	Beirut	16:45		JZR	103
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC 546	Cairo	16:45		FEG	242
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB 051	Dubai	16:45		KAC	619
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:30	KAC 516	Tehran	16:50		KAC	357
KAC	302	Mumbai	04:40	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:25		FDB	052
JZR	702	Asyut	04:50	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30		UAE	858
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	JZR 214	Jeddah	17:45		ZAV	4131
KAC	358	Kochi	05:10	KAC 158	Istanbul	17:55		KAC	331
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	SYR 342	Damascus	17:55		QTR	1073
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	JZR 302	Istanbul	18:15		KAC	343
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:20	FDB 063	Dubai	18:15		JZR	733
KAC	382	Delhi	05:20	JZR 124	Baku	18:20		SVA	511
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	AZQ 4565	Cairo	18:30		GFA	216
JZR	112	Doha	05:35	MSR 620	Doha	18:30		KAC	301
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:45	QTR 1080	Doha	18:30		JZR	127
KAC	284	Dhaka	05:55	FEG 441	Asyut	18:55		JZR	403
KAC	106	London	06:00	RJA 640	Amman	19:10		KAC	381
FEG	341	Sohag	06:05	KAC 156	Istanbul	19:20		SYR	341
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	RBG 555	Alexandria	19:25		JZR	721
KAC	332	Trivandrum	06:05	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:25		FDB	064
KAC	362	Colombo	06:30	NIA 161	Cairo	19:30		JZR	253
THY	6376	ISL	06:30	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:30		MSR	621
KAC	544	Cairo	07:00	QTR 1090	Doha	19:35		QTR	1081
JZR	120	Dubai	07:00	KAC 744	Dammam	19:45		FEG	342
BAW	157	London	07:05	KAC 782	Jeddah	19:50		ABY	124
KAC	678	Dubai	07:05	JZR 104	Bahrain	19:55		RBG	556
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	FDB 057	Dubai	20:00		JZR	653
KAC	204	Lahore	07:15	OMS 225	Muscat	20:05		RJA	641
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC 776	Riyadh	20:05		GFA	218
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	OMA 647	Bahrain	20:20		NIA	162
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:10	KAC 616	Doha	20:30		KAC	353
THY	6676	ISL	08:25	QTR 1088	Doha	20:30		OMS	226
KAC	622	Doha	08:30	ICV 6752	Luxembourg	20:35		JZR	501
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC 674	Dubai	20:40		FDB	058
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC 674	Dubai	20:55		JZR	401
JZR	102	Bahrain	08:55	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:55		QTR	1091
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC 542	Cairo	21:10		OMA	648
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	ALK 229	Colombo	21:20		DLH	624
KAC	304	Mumbai	09:30	MEA 402	Beirut	21:20		DHX	171
KAC	384	Delhi	09:30	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:20		QTR	1089
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC 172	Frankfurt	21:30		AZQ	4566
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	UAE 859	Dubai	21:30		KAC	205
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:45		MEA	403
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	KLM 445	Amsterdam	21:50		ETD	308
JZR	410	Delhi	10:00	KAC 164	MXF	21:55		ALK	230
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC 564	Amman	22:00		GFA	220
KAC	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC 620	Doha	22:00		ICV	6752
AXB	789	CNN/Bahrain	10:40	KAC 168	Paris	22:00		KLM	445
JZR	714	Sohag	10:50	AGZ 565	Baku	22:05		UAE	860
JZR	122	Dubai	11:15	QTR 1082	Doha	22:05		ETD	310
ZAV	4130	BSR	11:30	ETD 309	Abu Dhabi	22:15		RBG	214
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	AIC 987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25		KAC	783
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	RBG 213	Sohag	22:30		KAC	383
MSR	610	Cairo	12:00	KAC 786	Jeddah	22:50		QTR	1083
GFA	209	Bahrain	12:05	BBC 043	Dhaka	23:00		KAC	411
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	QTR 1092	Doha	23:10		KAC	795
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR 128	Dubai	23:15		KAC	543
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	MSC 405	Sohag	23:15		KAC	303
TBZ	6605	Mashhad	13:30	FDB 071	Dubai	23:40			



# Iran marks 1979 US embassy siege, boosts enriched uranium production

**TEHRAN:** With anti-American slogans and effigies mocking President Donald Trump, thousands rallied outside the former US embassy in Tehran yesterday to mark the 40th anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis. Rallies also took place in several other cities four decades to the day after revolutionary students stormed the complex and seized dozens of American diplomats and embassy staff - an event that still strains ties. Iran also announced yesterday a more than tenfold increase in enriched uranium production. It is expected to unveil the next countermeasure the day after.

“They will continue their enmity against us. They are like a lethal scorpion whose nature is to have a poisonous sting,” the head of the army, General Abdolrahim Mousavi, said in a speech in Tehran. “We are ready to crush this scorpion and will also pay the price.” He slammed the idea of interacting with the United States as a ruse, echoing recent remarks by Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Words like negotiation are a “gift wrapping ... hiding the discourse of submission and defeat,” Mousavi said, adding that the only way forward is “to maintain the revolutionary spirit through prudence and obeying the leader”. Replica missiles and the same type of air defense battery used to shoot down a US drone in June were put on display outside the former embassy turned museum in Tehran.

## ‘Death to America’

Iranians massed in front of the building carrying placards with slogans such as “Down with USA” and “Death to America”, reported AFP journalists at the scene. “We will sacrifice our lives and existence for the leader and this system, and we will not be intimidated by our enemy, which is America,” Sajad Shirazi, a stonecutter, told AFP at the rally. Rallies were also reported in the cities of Mashhad, Shiraz and Esfahan, among

others, with the Mehr news agency estimating “millions of people” attended across the country, though this could not be verified.

State TV aired segments of a Canadian documentary titled “The Fire Breather” showing Trump’s controversial 2016 campaign trail highlights and biting comments about his past alongside images of the rallies. On Nov 4, 1979, less than nine months after the toppling of Iran’s American-backed shah, students overran the embassy complex to demand the United States hand over the ousted ruler after he was admitted to a US hospital.

It took 444 days for the crisis to end with the release of the last 52 Americans, but the US broke off diplomatic relations with Iran in 1980 and ties have been frozen ever since. The 40th anniversary comes at a time of escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington and also the region. “This may be the best time to say ‘Down with the US’,” said a state TV reporter at the rally.

## American ‘plot’

Trump withdrew the United States from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers last year and reimposed punishing sanctions. Tehran has hit back with three countermeasures since May reducing parts of its compliance with the deal. Iran announced yesterday a more than tenfold increase in enriched uranium production. Iran has also developed two new advanced centrifuges, one of which is undergoing testing, said Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. Enriched uranium production has reached five kilograms per day, Salehi told reporters at the Natanz facility in central Iran in remarks broadcast by state TV.

That compares with the level of 450 gm two months ago when it abandoned a number of commitments made under the landmark 2015 nuclear deal. Salehi said Iranian engineers “have successfully built a proto-



**TEHRAN:** Iranian protesters hold anti-US placards during a rally outside the former US embassy in the Iranian capital to mark the 40th anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis. — AFP

type of IR-9, which is our newest machine, and also a model of a new machine called IR-s ... all these in two months”.

Iran has removed all of its nuclear deal-approved IR-1 centrifuges and is only using advanced machines, leading to the sharp increase in enriched uranium production, he added. “We must thank the enemy for bringing about this opportunity to show the might of the Islamic republic of Iran, especially in the nuclear industry,” Salehi said. “This is while some say (Iran’s) nuclear industry was destroyed!” he said, laughing.

“Americans, at the time (of the embassy takeover) believed they were an exceptional nation, able to commit any injustice anywhere,” government spokesman Ali Rabiei told the press yesterday. “America’s problem is still this sense of exceptionalism. It allows itself to trample international law and commit the worst crimes against nations with no fear of an international backlash,” he added.

The arch-foes came to the brink of a military confrontation in June when Iran downed a US Global Hawk drone and

Trump ordered retaliatory strikes before cancelling them at the last minute. Iran unveiled new anti-American murals on the walls of the former embassy on Saturday with stark images of a crumbling Statue of Liberty, a downed US drone and skulls floating in a sea of blood. American academic Gary Sick, who was on the US National Security Council at the time of the hostage crisis, told AFP in Washington that it is “probably the single best explanation for why we’re in the sort of impasse we are right now.” — Agencies

## Lebanon protests rage on as politicians stall

**BEIRUT:** Demonstrators in Lebanon blocked key roads and prevented some public institutions from opening yesterday after mass rallies showed political promises had failed to extinguish the unprecedented protest movement. Nationwide cross-sectarian rallies have gripped Lebanon since Oct 17, demanding a complete overhaul of a political system deemed inefficient and corrupt. The movement forced the government to resign last week and has spurred a raft of promises from political leaders, who have vowed to enact serious reforms to combat corruption.

But yesterday demonstrators battled on, vowing to keep up their street movement until all their demands are met, including the formation of a technocratic government. “The people in power are not serious” about forming a new government, said Aadi, a 30-year-old demonstrator blocking a road that connects the capital to the southern city of Sidon. “They think we are playing here.”

In Sidon, protesters gathered in front of public institutions and banks to prevent them from opening, an AFP reporter said. Another reporter saw similar scenes in the northern city of Tripoli. In a now almost daily game of cat-and-mouse with riot police, increasingly organized protesters erected temporary road blocks using dumpsters and parked vehicles.

In the capital Beirut, they sat cross-legged on a key flyover and gathered near the Central Bank, which protesters blame for fuelling Lebanon’s economic crisis. Schools had been due to reopen yesterday after weeks of sporadic closures, but some remained shuttered as much of the country was on partial lockdown for a third Monday.

Lebanon’s on-fire political class has repeatedly warned against the chaos a government resignation would cause, but they have yet to make progress on appointing a replacement. President Michel Aoun has asked the outgoing government to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new one is formed, but Lebanon has entered a phase of acute political uncertainty, even by

its own dysfunctional standards.

With a power-sharing system organized along sectarian lines, the allocation of ministerial posts can typically take months, a delay demonstrators say the country can ill afford. “The people and the politicians are living on two different clouds,” said Steven, a 34-year-old from the Bekaa Valley who was blocking a key flyover in Beirut. “The president hasn’t even called on parliament to discuss the formation of a new government,” he added. “Nobody is listening to us.”

One week after the government’s resignation, there had still been no consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs. These are to look into who would lead the next government, as well as the distribution of cabinet posts among established parties and independents. Yusef Fadel, a demonstrator in central Beirut, ruled out the possibility that the next government would include members of established parties. “I reiterate, we are demanding a technocratic government and not a techno-partisan one,” said the 25-year-old who holds a master’s degree in finance but remains unemployed. “We need new blood.”

Yesterday, Aoun called for dialogue with “protesters to reach an understanding”, and said fighting corruption was a priority. “The investigation will include all officials, of all ranks, in all administrations,” he said on Twitter. Lebanon’s largely sectarian political parties have been flat-footed by the cross-communal nature of the demonstrations. Waving Lebanese national flags rather than the partisan colors normally paraded at demonstrations, protesters have been demanding the resignation of all of Lebanon’s political leaders.

Such was the scene on Sunday, when tens of thousands took to the streets across the country. “All of them means all of them,” they chanted, calling for political leaders from all sectarian stripes to step down. Draped in white sheets, three demonstrators staged a mock execution of the grievances that pushed them down into the street. Nooses around their limp necks, they bore signs referring to corruption, sectarianism, and the 1975-1990 civil war.

Sunday’s mobilization followed a large rally organized by Aoun supporters in front of the presidential palace. Aoun’s supporters said they backed the overall demands of anti-graft protesters, but insisted the president was the only man able to bring about reforms. The president has said the members of the next government

markets. “The initiative will enable our customers and other market participants to better price, manage and trade their purchases of Murban,” which pumps some 1.7 million bpd, Jaber said.

Last year, ADNOC granted concession rights in existing and new oilfields and earmarked some \$132 billion to invest in the oil sector over the next five years. ADNOC plans to boost crude output capacity to four million bpd in 2020 and to five million bpd a decade later. — AFP

diseases center manager Dr Laila Bastaki and doctors Tawari and Sara Al-Enezi.

Enezi explained that the new medicine targets the genes involved in SMA and replaces those that are damaged without any side effects to enable the patient to start producing the protein responsible for motor genes needed for respiratory, heart and general movement, in addition to putting an end to patients’ need for artificial breathing devices. “This medicine is a once-in-a-lifetime injection,” he added. Enezi added that the medicine was delivered by a specialized transport company to maintain perfect storage conditions and that the medicine was provided for four patients - two at Adan Hospital and two at Sabah Hospital.



**BYBLOS, Lebanon:** A Lebanese protester flashes the victory sign as he stands in front of burning tyres blocking a highway in this northern port city during ongoing anti-government demonstrations yesterday. — AFP

should be picked on merit, not political affiliation, seemingly endorsing protester demands for a technocratic government.

On Sunday, he urged the Lebanese to rally behind a roadmap to tackle corruption, redress the economy,

and put together a civil government. But he is also thought to be insisting on keeping his son-in-law Gebran Bassil, who is Lebanon’s foreign minister and one of the most reviled figures among protesters, in government. — AFP

## Iraq forces fire on protesters...

Continued from Page 1

It was the first time live ammunition was fired at Baghdad demonstrators since protests resumed on October 24, following a period in which riot police had switched to use tear gas amid accusations of “excessive force”. Some 270 people have lost their lives since the anti-government rallies broke out on Oct 1, according to an AFP count, but officials have stopped providing precise casualty numbers.

Overnight, a crowd of protesters had gathered in Karbala, about 100 km south of Baghdad, at the consulate of neighboring Iran, which they accuse of propping up the government they are trying to overthrow. They scaled the blast walls and aimed fireworks at the building and, as the crowd grew, heavy gunfire and volleys of tear gas rang out. “They intend to kill, not disperse,” said one young protester about Iraqi forces guarding the mission.

The forensic medicine department later confirmed four protesters died after being shot. “My son went out to protest with the rest of the young Iraqi men and got shot once in the shoulder and a second time in the head. He was 20,” said Wissam Shaker. Another relative of a casualty, who declined to give his name, said the protesters had been unarmed. “If the governor comes out and says these protesters had grenades or weapons, he’s lying! They had nothing but stones while security forces fired bullets,” he said.

Iraq has close but complicated ties with its eastern neighbor Iran, with whom it fought a deadly war in the 1980s but which now has significant political and economic sway in Iraq. Tehran has sought to reduce the protests next door, with sources reporting top commander Qassem

Soleimani making several visits to “advise” Iraqi authorities on coping with the rallies. Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has also slammed the protests in Iraq and Lebanon, labelling them conspiracies by the US and others.

Undeterred by the latest violence, protesters pushed yesterday with civil disobedience tactics they have increasingly adopted over the past week, including sit-ins, road closures and strikes. The national teachers’ syndicate shut down schools across the country, and other trade unions later joined in.

Government offices in more than a half-dozen southern cities have been either stormed or closed for lack of staff, with demonstrators hanging banners reading “Closed by order of the people” in front of the buildings. Others have erected checkpoints to stop security forces or imposed curfews on officials and police, with roads cut in Samawa and protests in Nasiriyah and Hillah on Monday.

Protesters have also shut the highway to the Umm Qasr port, one of the main conduits for food, medicine and other imports into Iraq. In Amara, sit-ins were underway yesterday at the Halfaya and Buzurgan oil fields, blocking employees from accessing the site but not interrupting production. The spreading non-violent actions defied a plea the previous evening by embattled premier Adel Abdel Mahdi for protesters to end their campaign.

“Now is the time for life to go back to normal,” Abdel Mahdi, 77, said in a statement, insisting that many of the protesters’ demands “have already been satisfied”. Abdel Mahdi has announced hiring drives and increased social welfare, while President Barham Saleh has proposed early elections after a new voting law is agreed.

But protesters have demanded an overhaul of the entrenched political class and deep-rooted change to end rampant corruption they charge is holding the country back. Despite Iraq being OPEC’s second-largest crude producer, one in five Iraqis live below the poverty line and youth unemployment stands at 25 percent. — AFP

## UAE announces new oil, gas finds...

Continued from Page 1

energy provider, particularly to fast-growing Asian

## SMA patients in Kuwait provided...

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Adan Hospital’s pharmaceutical department’s pharmacist Hussein Al-Enezi also announced the arrival of the world’s most expensive medicine, adding that Kuwait is the first country to use it after the US and Europe. Enezi said the medicine was procured to treat two other SMA cases under supervision of the genetic



## Sports

# Hamilton pays tribute to late Lauda in sixth title celebrations

## ‘I miss him so much and I know he would take his cap off here today’

**AUSTIN:** Lewis Hamilton paid tribute to the late Niki Lauda after wrapping up his sixth world title on Sunday, claiming the Mercedes team mentor was with him “in spirit”. Triple world champion Lauda passed away in May at the age of 70 and the Austrian legend was very much in the mind of 34-year-old Hamilton after he secured the 2019 title.

“I miss him so much and I know he would take his cap off here today,” said Hamilton. “I am sure he is here in spirit.” Hamilton added he felt this season had been his hardest year to date in fighting to win the championship.

“Behind the scenes, we have worked so hard and it is so challenging to us all,” he said after finishing second at the United States Grand Prix to teammate Valtteri Bottas. “And every message of support is important from everyone, so much that people don’t believe. That is why I try to put out messages that are positive. We all struggle and if it helps just one person then it is worth it.”

Earlier, he admitted: “It’s overwhelming if I’m honest. It was a tough race today and yesterday was a difficult day for us. “I didn’t know if it would be possible, but I worked as hard as I could here and with my team back at

the factory.” Speaking in the dramatic aftermath of the race, Hamilton expressed his feelings quietly and paid tribute to his father Anthony and family. “Right now, honestly, it is hard to understand what I have done today, but I feel very happy,” he said. “It is just pure, pure happiness. I am happier than ever, but this has been harder than ever.

“Just now, I saw my parents, my family, as I came in and I saw my dad’s smile and that means it all to me. From day one, he has been there all the way. Cloud Nine doesn’t get close to this.” He added: “My mum, my dad, step-mum and step-dad, and all my family are here and it’s an honour to be here (with six titles) with those greats,” said Hamilton who is one title ahead of Juan Manuel Fangio and just one behind the all-time record of seven held by Michael Schumacher.

### ‘HAD NO MONEY’

“My dad told me, when I was like six or seven, never to give up and that’s kind of the family motto.” Asked how many more titles he can win, he said: “I don’t know about championships, but as an athlete I feel as fresh as I can be and these next races we will keep

pushing.” Anthony Hamilton, who worked at three jobs to pay for his son’s karting career in their early days, said his son had matured impressively, but without losing the approach they had cultivated in their time together.

He revealed also that they had repaired their relationship and put behind them the anguish of 2010 after Lewis had dismissed his father as his manager. “He’s pulled together a really good team of friends over the last few years and all the major players of the family are here today,” said Hamilton senior.

“We’ve had loads of family dinners and barbecues this year.” He added Lewis had not changed his approach since they started out karting together. “At eight, when we had no money, we said ‘if you’re going to do this, you are going to do it properly’ and his mentality hasn’t changed since.

“I keep saying to Lewis, you are 34 years young, not 34-years-old, and as long as you feel fit you can keep going for as long as you want and you can. “This championship means the world to him, but I think it also feels like they are all the same. This feels like it did in 2007, the first opportunity he had to win.” — AFP



**AUSTIN:** Formula One World Drivers Champion Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain and Mercedes GP celebrates in parc ferme during the F1 Grand Prix of USA at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas. — AFP

## Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem elected ASC president

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Asia once again placed its confidence in Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah when he was elected President of Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC), unopposed in recognition of his major role in developing the sport of shooting in the continent.

ASC General Assembly was held on Saturday November 2, at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex in the presence of presidents and rep-

resentatives of Asian Shooting Federations, and elected Sheikh Salman as President for the next four years (2019-2023), while Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations President Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi was elected Secretary General.

Five candidates were elected as vice presidents, they are Chung Hsing Kuo from Taipei, Fares Al-Saady from Saudi Arabia, M Kashamiro from Japan, Ali Mohammad Al-Kawari from Qatar, Javaid S Lodhi from Pakistan.

The executive committee also elected Abdallah Salem bin Yaqoub from UAE, Pushpa Das Shrestha from Nepal, Yo Haijuan from China, Mohammad Zahir from the Maldives, Boutoos Jalkh from Lebanon, Oleg Pochivalov from Kazakhstan, Firtian Judiswandarta from Indonesia and Boutros Jalkh from Lebanon.

Meanwhile the general assembly gave South Korea to host the comprehensive Asian Shooting Championship in 2023, as Korea received 40 votes following a fierce contest with China which received 33 votes.



## Birdie barrage earns Todd first win in five years

**BERMUDA:** Brendon Todd ended five years of frustration as the American shot a career best nine-under 62 to win the inaugural Bermuda Championship by four strokes on Sunday.

Defying his world number 525 ranking, Todd rolled in 10 birdies, seven of them in a row, against one bogey for the second PGA Tour victory of his up-and-down career and first since 2014.

His 24-under 260 made him a comfortable winner over third round leader Harry Higgs, who closed with a 68 at Port Royal in Southampton. Fellow Americans Hank Lebioda (63), Aaron Wise (65), Brian Gay (67) and Scottie Scheffler (66) tied for third at 18 under.

“A year ago I wasn’t sure if I was going to keep playing, so it’s really special to get this win this soon,” the 34-year-old Todd told Golf Channel. “I’m just overcome with emotion.” Winner of the 2014 Byron Nelson, he climbed to 42nd in the world rankings before losing his PGA Tour card in the 2016.

“Ball-striking yips. Hitting a 4-iron like 50 yards right out of play every round and I did that for like two years,” Todd told Global Golf Post in May. He missed 37 of 41 cuts from 2016-18 before regaining his PGA Tour card this year by the minor league Korn Ferry Tour this year.

Along the way he read a book by golfer Bradley Hughes and began working with the Australian-born writer. “I went and saw him and it’s just kind of been a home run ever since,” Todd said in the May interview.

Still, Sunday’s sparking performance was not expected by a golfer who missed a pair of cuts before tying for 28th at October’s Houston Open. After rounds of 68, 63 and 67, Todd began the final day two strokes behind Higgs.

Following a par at his opening hole, the American made seven birdies in a row, completing the turn in 29 strokes after a par at the ninth. Birdies at the 10th, 11th and 15th added to dream round before a bogey at the last.

“We had nice weather today,” the American said. “The golf course we had been playing under heavy winds felt easy to me today. “I just felt like I was going to play a good round, and when I got the lead, I was able to kind of relax and hit shots.” — Reuters

## Ooredoo Kuwait successfully concludes Battle Fitness Festival

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait concluded the Battle Fitness Festival activities last Saturday. As a reflection of Ooredoo’s strategy enabling youth and supporting them in reaching their potential, Ooredoo was the main sponsor for this unique sporting event. This sponsorship goes in tandem with Ooredoo’s belief in supporting youth initiatives and athletes in Kuwait, which is one of the biggest pillars of the company’s CSR strategy. Whereby Ooredoo is continuously working with the different entities in both private and public sectors to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields. The company’s commitment to supporting youth is deep-rooted within the core values in Ooredoo Kuwait.

The activities took place on November 1 and 2 at the Green Island. The first day of the Battle included a 5K obstacle challenge that pushed the boundaries of all the participating athletes, named the Saracen Race. The second day of the battle included a CrossFit competition that had athletes competing from different countries. The Battle is a community driven initiative started by Circuit Plus, a leading local fitness brand. The Festival hosted over 450 athletes in the CrossFit competition, as well as over 1000 participants in the Saracen Race and over 2000 spectators.

Commenting on this, Corporate Communications Senior Director at Ooredoo Kuwait Mijbil AlAyoub said: Ooredoo and the Battle Fitness both believe in enabling youth and supporting them in reaching their potential, which is one of the biggest pillars of the company’s CSR strategy. Whereby this sponsorship goes in tandem with our belief in supporting youth initiatives and athletes in Kuwait.

Supporting youth and empowering women is among Ooredoo’s top priorities through its CSR strategy. Ooredoo is continuously working with the different enti-



ties in both private and public sectors to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields. The company’s commitment to supporting youth is deep-rooted within the core values in Ooredoo Kuwait.

## Verstappen stirs up Ferrari over engine comments

**AUSTIN:** Ferrari have responded angrily after Red Bull driver Max Verstappen suggested the Italian team’s poor performance at the US Grand Prix was linked to Formula One’s governing body closing a potential engine loophole.

Ferrari had racked up six straight pole positions, and

shown impressive straight line speed, before Mercedes were back on top in the race in Austin with Valtteri Bottas winning from the front of the grid.

Ferrari were off the pace on Sunday while Bottas led team mate Lewis Hamilton, who clinched his sixth world title, in a one-two with Verstappen third.

Formula One’s governing body issued a technical directive before the race in response to a Red Bull query, ruling out a sophisticated way of increasing the fuel flow to boost performance.

Asked afterwards in a news conference whether he was surprised by Ferrari’s lack of performance and could offer an explanation, third-placed Verstappen suggested they had been bending the rules. — Reuters

## Future bright for Japan rugby after ‘fairytale’ WCup

**TOKYO:** Once mere cannon fodder for rugby’s big guns, Japan have staked their place as serious global players after their dream run to the World Cup quarter-finals — and are now looking to capitalise on their success. The tournament hosts defied odds of 50/1 to top Pool A with a perfect four wins, including explosive victories over Six Nations powers Ireland and Scotland, to reach the knockout stage for the first time. Not even a 26-3 thrashing by eventual champions South Africa could diminish the remarkable achievement of Jamie Joseph’s Brave Blossoms in becoming the first Asian side to reach the last eight — and the first Tier Two team since Fiji in 2007.

Japan failed to build on the feel-good factor generated four years ago when Eddie Jones led a side he had once described as a World Cup “joke team” to three victories, including an astonishing 34-32 upset over the Springboks. But Japanese officials are determined not to repeat that mistake after the team’s breathless performances swept the hosts past Russia, Ireland, Samoa and Scotland, sparking rugby-mania across a nation infatuated with baseball.

“People said stadiums would be empty, Japan would get heavily beaten — there was no point having the World Cup here,” Koji Tokumasu, senior director of the World Cup organising committee, told AFP. “But these miraculous things happened, one after another — now there’s a lot of talk Japan will get more games against Tri-Nations or Six Nations teams.”

The cult of celebrity plays big in Japan, where a life-size chocolate statue of former England footballer David Beckham once popped up outside a Tokyo confectionary store at the height of his stardom. Japanese rugby fans adopted New Zealand as their second team at the World Cup, largely because the All Blacks were already famous in the country, appearing on billboards and television commercials. But the fever pitch at Japan’s games was next-level stuff.

Pictures of Japan’s history-making heroes were splashed all over the country’s newspapers, with jet-heeled wingers Kenki Fukuoka and Kotaro Matsushima — who Joseph calls his “Ferraris” — grabbing many of the headlines.

“It’s scary to think how far this team can grow,” said talismanic captain Michael Leitch. “Japan are only going to get stronger.” This from a team smashed 145-17 by New Zealand at the 1995 World Cup.

“It’s been brilliant to see the rise of Japanese rugby,” said Springboks legend Bryan Habana.

“In this tournament the fairytale was really special. Not only them winning games but the manner in which they did,” added the 2007 World Cup winner. “I wanted to take all the emotion and atmosphere that I was feeling and put it in a bottle.”

With a population of 126 million — more than 26 times that of New Zealand — Japan has fewer than 100,000 registered rugby players, and less than two percent of teenagers play the sport. Japan’s Top League has lured the likes of Sonny Bill Williams, Dan Carter and George Gregan with monster pay cheques, while just-retired All Blacks captain Keiran Read and Australian scrum-half Will Genia are among those on their way. Despite the regular arrival of big names, last season crowds averaged just 2,500 — but that could be set to change.

Tokumasu noted that “lots of kids are knocking at the door” of the rugby school in Tokyo after being bewitched by the Blossoms. Japan’s World Cup success briefly took them to sixth in the world rankings and even led to calls to bring them into the Rugby Championship alongside the All Blacks, South Africa, Australia and Argentina. “Their rugby has been of such a high standard, such high quality, I’m not sure going back to playing in the Pacific Cup is going to really cut it,” said former England captain Lawrence Dallaglio, who proposed Japan be involved in the Rugby Championship or Six Nations in the future. “What they have done in the last eight years has been phenomenal. It’s not about the national team — it’s about the grass-roots of the game as well. Hopefully the next generation will have been inspired by their heroes.” But World Cup tournament director Alan Gilpin sounded a note of caution. “They need to move quickly because this audience will move on,” he told AFP. “Rugby sevens next year in Tokyo 2020 is a massive opportunity to keep rugby on the national agenda. But we need to work fast with them and with other stakeholders to get those opportunities in place.” — AFP



Sports

# Heat lead by as many as 41, throttle Rockets in Miami

## Leonard comes up big in second half as Clippers defeat Jazz

**MIAMI:** The Miami Heat scored a franchise-record 46 first-quarter points and routed the Houston Rockets 129-100 on Sunday night in Miami. The Heat led by as many as 41 points in the first half. Miami's 5-1 start is its best since it last won an NBA title in the 2012-2013 season. Jimmy Butler, Miami's biggest offseason acquisition, had one of the game's best stal lines with 18 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and four steals. The Heat, who never trailed in the game, also got a team-high 23 points from Duncan Robinson and 21 points from Meyers Leonard. Robinson hit a career-high seven 3-pointers. He made 8 of 12 shots from the floor and went 7-for-11 on 3-pointers.

### LAKERS 103, SPURS 96

LeBron James produced his second straight triple-double, and Anthony Davis scored 25 points and took 11 rebounds as visiting Los Angeles defeated San Antonio to win its fifth straight game. James finished with 21 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists. The Lakers went the entire 2018-19 season, James' first with the team, without winning five straight games. Dejounte Murray single-handedly kept the Spurs in the game, scoring 16 straight San Antonio points over a seven-and-a-half minute stretch of the fourth quarter. Avery Bradley added 16 points for Los Angeles (5-1), while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Dwight Howard had 14 points each. Howard also grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds.

### CLIPPERS 105, JAZZ 94

Kawhi Leonard shook off a slow start and scored 25 of his 30 points in the second half to spark host Los Angeles past Utah. Leonard scored 18 points in the fourth quarter to help the Clippers hold off the Jazz. He made just 9 of 26 shots from the floor and only 2 of 8 of his 3-pointers, but his solid performance in the second half lifted Los Angeles. Montrezl Harrell scored 19 points and pulled down eight rebounds, including six offensive boards, for the Clippers (5-2). Lou Williams added 17 points, while Ivica Zubac chipped in 11 points and nine rebounds. Donovan Mitchell

led the Jazz (4-3) with 36 points. Bojan Bogdanovic finished with 19 points. Rudy Gobert had 12 points and 14 rebounds.

### PACERS 108, BULLS 95

T.J. Warren scored a game-high 26 points and TJ Leaf posted a double-double of 13 points and 15 rebounds to lead the host Indiana past Chicago in Indianapolis. Malcolm Brogdon added 22 points and Jeremy Lamb chipped in 11 to help Indiana to its third straight victory. Playing with a lineup missing numerous leaders due to injury — including Victor Oladipo, Myles Turner and Domantas Sabonis — the Pacers shot 40-for-85 (47.1 percent) and maintained control for much of the night. Despite enjoying a size advantage, Chicago struggled to capitalize inside, only attempting six free throws in the first half. While the Bulls made an adjustment after the break, a poor showing from the line kept them from challenging Indiana down the stretch. Chicago made just 14 of 25 free throws (56.0 percent) while the Pacers won the rebounding battle 49-43.

### MAVERICKS 131, CAVALIERS 111

Luka Doncic recorded his second consecutive triple-double and contributed seven points to a key run late in the third quarter as Dallas broke free from host Cleveland. Doncic finished with 29 points, 14 rebounds and 15 assists for the Mavericks, who trailed 73-69 with 4:52 remaining in the third period before dominating the rest of the game. The Mavericks outshot the Cavaliers in the game 53.2 percent to 40.6. Kristaps Porzingis chipped in with 18 points, Jalen Brunson 14, Seth Curry 13, Boban Marjanovic and Tim Hardaway Jr. 12 apiece, and Finney-Smith 10 for the Mavericks, who have alternated wins and losses in their last five games.

### KINGS 113, KNICKS 92

De'Aaron Fox scored 24 points and visiting Sacramento cruised to victory over New York. Fox made 8 of 18 shots



**MIAMI:** Chris Clemons #3 of the Houston Rockets handles the ball against the Miami Heat at American Airlines Arena in Miami, Florida. — AFP

and posted his fourth 20-point game of the season while also adding six assists. He capped his big night with a breakaway windmill dunk with 3:22 remaining and a deflected no-look pass for a 3-pointer by Harrison Barnes a little over a minute later. Buddy Hield added 22, hitting

five 3-pointers as the Kings shot 48.2 percent and made 15 3-pointers. The Kings improved to 2-5 and won their second straight game after starting off with five straight losses. They beat the Knicks for the fourth straight time and led for the final 43:51. — Reuters

## Australia’s Cooley tops with a high score in Open Bowling tournament

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The lead change kept occurring during the 13th Kuwait International Open Bowling Tournament continued, as the 2018 World Champion Australia's Sam Cooley ended on top during the day before the last one of the preliminaries, as the decisive rounds will start today.

Cooley who had one more than 10 titles in the world league rounds, had a very high score in the 10th to the 15th games collecting 1,409 points out of 1,500, a rate of 281.8 points in each game.

Kuwait's Khalid Al-Dubayyan was in second place with 1,319 points ahead of Thailand's Napat Buspanikonkul who scored 1,290, Saudi Arabia's Sari Jazaeri 1,278, and Kuwait's Yaqoub Al-Shatti 1,232.

Kuwait's Mustafa Al-Mousawi led the third day of competition following the 10th round.

Meanwhile, Sam Cooley said he was happy with his performance and the score he made, particularly in the 10th round with a full score of 300.

Cooley said he visited Abu Dhabi before and participated in championships there, and that was good because the culture there and here in Kuwait is similar. This is my first visit to Kuwait, and made it easier to adapt to the atmosphere and competition.

Cooley added that being on top in the preliminaries does not mean anything because the Open is very hard competition and of high caliber, and one should exert



double efforts to maintain results. Cooley said Kuwait Bowling Center is great and matches many of bowling facilities around the world and contains all that is



needed by any players be it professional or amateur, even including the cafeteria, which is the largest facility I see so far.

other controls). It's a lottery. "You can suspend an individual who tests positive but that has no effect on the outcome of the competition. The match isn't lost which is what happens with a relay team in athletics."

With a positive worldwide rate of less than two percent, anti-doping controls are often considered ineffective, a view that Pound appears to endorse. "That shows that the monitoring of anti-doping programmes is not good because we know that more than two percent of athletes are doping.

"WADA lacks the means of controlling the way in which these programmes are carried out.

"You can have thousands of tests in a sport and come out with no positives because you select the athletes who don't dope, you avoid testing the high risk athletes. "The investigations yield far more results than controls.

"The simple fact WADA exists and can set up investigations is at least a partial deterrent. "The results obtained are good. The work that was done on the Russian 'lab' is remarkable. And we passed on information to the Austrian police about the biathlon scandal. "These are good examples. It is a work in progress."

In spite of the problems that Pound sees in cleaning up sport, the Canadian is genuinely proud of the work and achievements of WADA over the last 20 years, especially the World Anti-Doping Code which was implemented just before the Athens Olympics in 2004.

"It signifies that every sport in every country is subject to the same rules. "It was one of our first missions. There were 200 countries, 40 Olympic federations and each one had its own rules with different list of (banned) products, different sanctions, procedures, it was chaos.

"Then there is the UNESCO International Convention Against Doping, through which governments agree to apply the World Anti-Doping Code — 188 states have acceded to it. "It is the most effective convention of UNESCO."

The third great success, according to Pound, is the creation of an independent committee within WADA that verifies whether a signatory organisation (a federation of national anti-doping agency) is compliant with the code. "It virtually eliminates any political consideration of its decisions." — AFP

## Pound calls for ‘tougher’ action on doping

**KATOWICE:** The first president of the World Anti-Doping Agency Dick Pound has called for "tougher" treatment of athletes and nations who are found to be doping but remains optimistic about the fight against cheating.

"Many sports now know that someone is looking over their shoulder," the 77-year-old Canadian told AFP ahead of the 20th anniversary WADA meeting in Katowice. Pound, a former Olympic swimmer, has long beaten a vocal and often controversial path in the bid to uncover the drugs cheats.

He led WADA from its inception in 1999 to 2007 and remains an Olympic Movement representative on the WADA Foundation Board. He is proud of what WADA has achieved but regrets missed opportunities to take the fight deeper.

"What I find the most disappointing is the reticence in going in really hard against the those who sign up to the World Anti-Doping Code but only go halfway in implementing it," he says. "After 20 years, everyone knows the code, everyone knows the rules and they aren't always applied. We must be more persuasive."

Pound cites the ongoing suspension of the Russian athletics federation by the International Association of Athletics Federations over state-organised doping as an example of how to tackle the problem. "That's been going on five years now and they are still not allowed to compete, that is the way things need to be done.

"We must be tougher. You know the rules, you fail to apply them, then sorry, you are suspended. "If you do that three or four times then people will get the message." Pound is frustrated by the inconsistency between sports, especially the way team sports have negotiated certain arrangements.

"In a football match, for example, two players are randomly selected for testing. And it is only if both players are positive that we can target the team (with

## Victory over India in T20 brings back Bangladesh smiles

**NEW DELHI:** Bangladesh's stunning first-ever Twenty20 win over India brought back smiles to a team left in turmoil by weeks of scandal, according to man of the match Mushfiqur Rahim. The veteran wicketkeeper-batsman scored an unbeaten 60 on Sunday to anchor Bangladesh's chase of 149 in pollution-hit New Delhi.

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad hit the winning six in the final over to give Bangladesh their first T20 win over India in nine attempts and a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The Bangladesh players danced in the Delhi smog, having eased what Mushfiqur called the "toughest" weeks of his career following a two-year ban on star player and captain Shakib Al Hasan for failing to disclose corrupt approaches.

The past month also saw a player revolt against the Bangladesh board over pay. "In my 15 years, these last two or three weeks were the toughest that I have faced," Mushfiqur said after the seven-wicket win. "Before I left Bangladesh, I said the only thing that can put us on the right track is if we can win a couple of matches or play really well. "So this brings smiles and calmness in our team and the whole nation. That's what we have done and we will try continue this form."

Bangladesh were also without Tamim Iqbal, who took leave for family reasons, when Mahmudullah won the toss and elected to field first. Their bowlers restricted India to 148 for six and then Mushfiqur took charge after Bangladesh lost opener Liton Das, for seven, in the first over.

Mushfiqur put on 60 for the third wicket with Soumya Sarkar, who made 39, and hit eight fours and a six in his 43-ball knock. "It is a great moment for Bangladesh," said Mushfiqur. "We are missing a couple of key players but the way the young players stuck together and the way bowlers bowled on this track, especially against India, it's outstanding." — AFP

## Papua New Guinea ready to be cricket’s next fairytale story

**NEW DELHI:** Papua New Guinea believe they could be cricket's next rags-to-riches story after securing a place among the sport's elite in next year's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia. After three near-misses in the last six years, the 'Barramundis' under Assad Vala punched their tickets to Australia where they will join 15 other teams in Twenty20 cricket's biggest stage.

"Definitely the greatest moment for every cricketer in the country," Vala told Reuters from Dubai where they finished runners-up in the Twenty20 World Cup qualifiers. "We came so close on so many occasions. To get the job done this time, a lot of hard work has been put in behind the scenes to get where we are.

"It will open more doors for cricket. More people will come and support cricket, the sponsors and all those stuff," said the 32-year-old all-rounder. Cricket PNG chief executive Greg Campbell said the team had a few "quiet drinks" but proper celebration will be once they return home.

"I don't think players will know the enormity of it until they go home," the former Australia player told Reuters. "Once they land home, they will understand and take it all in. They might do a few more celebrations in the next few weeks."

As he predicted, Vala and his men returned to a hero's welcome yesterday. PNG, should they make the Super 12 stage in Australia, will clash against the traditional powerhouses but Campbell said that will not unnerve a bunch chasing bigger dreams.

"The long-term goal is to make the 50-overs World Cup. We want to perform at this stage consistently and we want to be the next rising cricket associate powerhouse in the world."The players know they got a lot of work to do. They are laying a legacy, a foundation for the young boys. It's not a one-off, we want to play consistently on this stage."

### SPIRITUAL HOME

Cricket has come a long way in PNG since British missionaries introduced the game in the early 1900s. They secured ODI status in 2014 and draw most of their players from the coastal village of Hanuabada, considered the game's spiritual home in the country. "You can't put finger on it, but they just love it," Campbell said of the "cricket-mad" village on the outskirts of Port Moresby. The massively popular Liklik cricket competition could be one of the reasons, he said.

"The village closes down on weekends...with so many kids playing on the street with houses on one side and the ocean on the other." PNG has engaged nearly 250,00 school students and 48% of them are girls, Campbell said.

Their women's team were one match away from reaching the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia but lost to Bangladesh in the semi-finals of the qualifier. Cricket PNG has introduced contracts to their elite men, women and rookie players though cricketers are encouraged to find other means of livelihood.

Campbell is grateful to the International Cricket Council for its help but wished there was more help from the governing body.

"ICC are really good to the associate world, but I'm not the only associate CEO sitting here and saying we need more money," he said. "We're very lucky in PNG that we do quite a bit of money outside of ICC with our sponsors.

"I think there's a big gap between full members and associate world. I'm not having a go at the ICC about that but I think that gap could be closed a little bit." — Reuters



# Barca’s fragility casts doubts on Champions League credentials

## Barcelona play Slavia Prague today in the Champions League

**MADRID:** They may be one of Europe’s most devastating teams at their best but another collapse in La Liga last weekend has shown Barcelona can be a soft touch. Their 3-1 defeat by Levante on Saturday reopened old wounds from Anfield and Rome and suggests they have not learned from either of those collapses.

Levante scored three times in seven minutes after half-time exposing Barcelona’s inability to regroup during a spell of intense pressure — a familiar weakness since coach Ernesto Valverde came to the helm in 2017.

Most clubs in Europe would gladly take winning two league titles and a Copa del Rey in that time but Barcelona are a team concerned with details, the small margins that could define a good season or a great one.

Barca play Slavia Prague today in the Champions League, when victory at Camp Nou against Group F’s weakest team will ensure the frustration and failings from Levante swiftly fade. But fragility persists that can be exposed by elite opponents when it matters most, as Roma and then Liverpool so emphatically proved in the last two Champions League campaigns, when three-goal first-leg leads were squandered by the Catalan giants.

Barcelona have shown they lack steel when they are uncomfortable, not least away from home, where their record under Valverde has been disappointing. In Valverde’s three seasons, they have won only 25 out of 44 league matches on the road. By comparison, Manchester City have won 35 out of 44. In the Champions League Barca have only won five out of 13 away games.

“It is true we are not getting the same results away as we are at home but after the first few games we have

managed to put together a good run,” Valverde said on Saturday. “We have lost a match and that’s it, it’s true that we must analyse it but we know when we lose that criticism is strong. We always respond and this time it will not be different.”

A habit of conceding in streaks, which resurfaced at the City of Valencia Stadium, is also nothing new. Since the start of last season, Barcelona have shipped two goals within 15 minutes on seven occasions, six of them away from the Camp Nou. This after they threw away a 4-1 lead in 2018 to lose to Roma in the Champions League quarter-finals, and 3-0 lead to Liverpool in the semi-finals earlier this year. “It might be down to a lack of concentration,” said Antoine Griezmann on Saturday.

Asked if the problem was due to their football or their attitude, he said: “It is a bit of everything. We must make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

Some have suggested Barcelona lack leaders although few could argue the likes of Lionel Messi, Gerard Pique, Luis Suarez and Sergio Busquets do not command respect. There is a vulnerability in midfield, where Barca have struggled against teams on the counter-attack, particularly when players pour through directly and at pace. “In the first half I didn’t like us very much,” said Levante coach Paco Lopez. “But at half-time we said we had to be more adventurous, more direct and we did it.”

Prague are unlikely to pull off a similar trick on Tuesday but if Barcelona are seen as having a soft underbelly, it will only enhance the belief of rivals in Spain and Europe. “Every team plays us like it’s one of the biggest games of the season,” said Valverde. “We have to find an answer.” — AFP



VALENCIA: Barcelona’s Chilean midfielder Arturo Vidal controls the ball during the Spanish League football match between Levante UD and FC Barcelona at the Ciutat de Valencia stadium in Valencia. — AFP

## Balotelli thanks support after being racially abused

**ROME:** Mario Balotelli on Sunday thanked his fellow players and supporters for their support after he was racially abused by Hellas Verona fans, the latest in a series of ugly incidents that have blighted the early weeks of the Serie A season.

Brescia striker Balotelli scored in a 2-1 Serie A defeat at Verona that leaves his hometown side in the relegation zone, but his performance was overshadowed by his fury at Verona’s notorious supporters, who have a long track record of far-right politics and open racism.

Despite denials of abuse from Verona, a video published on Twitter by a fan showed a number of supporters clearly directing monkey chants at Balotelli before the Italy international booted the ball at them in the stands.

The 29-year-old, who was born in Palermo to Ghanaian parents but was raised just outside Brescia, then had to be held back by players from both teams to stop him from leaving the field of play. “Thanks to all the colleagues on and off the field for the solidarity expressed toward me and all of the messages received from you fans,” Balotelli wrote in a message on Instagram alongside a video of the incident.

“A heartfelt thanks. You’re real men, not like those who deny the evidence.” Verona coach Ivan Juric had



Mario Balotelli

earlier told Sky Sport that he heard “no racists chants, nothing at all” after a win that lifts his side to ninth, adding that “to say otherwise is a lie”.

The club’s president Maurizio Setti then said that his club’s supporters were “light-hearted, not racist” and were a crowd with “real sport in its DNA”. “We are the first to condemn racism but it is wrong to generalise... Maybe two or three people among 20,000 fans might have said something,” he said to Sky.

The match was suspended for a few minutes around the hour mark as Balotelli tried to force himself from the field before a message was read out on the stadium loudspeaker threatening that both teams

would leave the field if there was a repeat of any abuse, a message that was whistled loudly by a large number of the home fans.

Balotelli’s agent Mino Raiola told AFP he was backing his player, saying that he was “against all forms of racism.” Italy coach Roberto Mancini, who managed Balotelli at Inter Milan and Manchester City, said that Italy “needs to work together to ensure that this sort of intolerance doesn’t repeat itself”.

A number of black players have been racially abused by supporters in Italy in the opening weeks of the season, with Milan midfielder Franck Kessie targeted by Verona fans in September and Inter Milan striker Romelu Lukaku abused at Cagliari, also serial offenders.

Later Sunday, Brescia said they had sacked their 49-year-old coach Eugenio Corini. “Brescia Calcio club announce the dismissal of coach Eugenio Corini,” said a club statement. Elsewhere Balotelli’s former club AC Milan continued their mediocre season with a 2-1 defeat to Lazio that left the seven-time European champions languishing in 11th, level on 13 points with Udinese.

Ciro Immobile’s 100th Lazio goal and Joaquin Correa’s strike seven minutes from the end gave Lazio their first win away at Milan in 30 years, which puts them fourth. Serie A top scorer Immobile’s bullet header in the first half takes him to an astonishing 13 goals in 11 appearances.

Simone Inzaghi’s side are level on 21 points with surprise package Cagliari and Atalanta after the Sardinian side saw off the 10-man Bergamo-based outfit 2-0 earlier. Both sides are a point behind Roma, who stayed third following their 2-1 win over Napoli on Saturday which extends their unbeaten run in the league to six games despite a weeks-long injury crisis. — AFP

## Bayern Munich sack coach Niko Kovac

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich on Sunday sacked coach Niko Kovac, a day after the German champions suffered a historic 5-1 loss against Eintracht Frankfurt — their worst Bundesliga defeat in a decade.

“FC Bayern Munich have relieved head coach Niko Kovac of his duties,” the club said in a statement. The “mutual decision” was taken following talks with club president Uli Hoeness, chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic and Kovac himself.

“The performances of our team in recent weeks and the results have shown us that there was a need for action,” said Rummenigge.

“We all regret this development. I would like to thank Niko Kovac on behalf of FC Bayern for his work, particularly for last season’s double win.”

Assistant coach Hansi Flick will take charge of the team “until further notice”, the statement added. The 48-year-old former Croatia international said it was the right move for the side who sit in fourth place in the table after a series of disappointing matches.

“I think this is the correct decision for the club at this time,” Kovac said.

“I would like to thank FC Bayern for these past 18 months. During that time our team won the Bundesliga, the DFB Cup and the Supercup. It was a good time. I wish the club and the team all the very best.”

Bayern will play a Champions League match against Olympiakos on Wednesday before facing their biggest rivals Borussia Dortmund in the German top-flight on Saturday.

Saturday’s hammering by Eintracht was the club’s worst league defeat since a humiliating drubbing at Wolfsburg by the same scoreline in April 2009.

A 10-man Bayern was shredded by Eintracht after defender Jerome Boateng was sent off in the ninth minute, and leaving Kovac’s future at the club hanging in the balance.

“I know how this business works — I am not naive,” Kovac told reporters after the match. Bayern have won only five of their last 10 Bundesliga matches, leaving them with 18 points — four points behind leaders Borussia Muenchengladbach.

Even their few victories have been lacklustre, with few goals to brag about and a shaky defence that has struggled to gain momentum.

“I don’t think the performance we produced will bring us serious success if we don’t get a handle on things,” Rummenigge bluntly told the squad after a hard-won 3-2 victory at Olympiakos in late October.

Germany’s top-selling Bild newspaper on Sunday reported Kovac’s men had started to lose faith in him. “The players are criticising him more often and more openly, allowing them to shift attention away from their own shortcomings,” the daily wrote.

With Kovac’s departure, Bayern will be hoping to turn a page on the stuttering start to the season. “I’m now expecting a positive development from our players and an absolute desire to perform so we can achieve our goals for the season,” said Salihamidzic. After defeating the Bavarians in the German Cup final in his last match in charge of Eintracht in 2018, Kovac went on to win the Bundesliga and the German Cup in his first year in charge at Bayern. — AFP

## Dortmund to sustain ‘feel-good’ factor against Inter Milan

**BERLIN:** Borussia Dortmund and their under-fire coach Lucien Favre hope to maintain the ‘feel-good’ factor from back-to-back wins as they chase Champions League revenge at home to Inter Milan today. A below-par performance saw Dortmund crash to a 2-0 defeat in Milan nearly a fortnight ago, sparking reports Jose Mourinho was waiting in the wings to replace Favre unless results improved, which the club subsequently denied.

The German media piled into Favre after forward Lautaro Martinez give Inter a first-half lead, then had a late penalty saved, before winger Antonio Candreva raced clear to seal Dortmund’s defeat at the San Siro.

Dortmund were short of ideas against a water-tight defence and only Roman Burki’s fine save from Martinez’s penalty attempt prevented a rout. However,

Dortmund have since improved. A goalless draw at Schalke last weekend was backed-up by dumping Bundesliga leaders Borussia Muenchengladbach out of the German Cup in midweek before trouncing Wolfsburg 3-0 on Saturday in the league.

With one eye on Inter, Favre said it was “nice to see” his side has broken their habit of conceding late goals amidst nervous defending.

“In the end, there was almost an element of joy back in our game again,” enthused sports director Michael Zorc. Now Favre needs a win over Antonio Conte’s Inter to get Dortmund’s Group F campaign back on track and maintain confidence with a crunch Bundesliga tie at Bayern Munich looming on Saturday.

Both Inter and Dortmund come into today’s tie level on four points from three games, each with a win, a defeat and draw. Dortmund must repeat the rock-solid defending in their goalless draw at home to Barcelona in September to contain Inter’s attack and Saturday’s win over Wolfsburg suggests confidence is high.

“We played at a higher tempo, were better between the lines. The combinations worked better and we created a lot of goals,” insisted Favre. For once, there were no whistles of displeasure from home fans, no awkward post-match questions and no frustrated out-bursts

from players, as in previous weeks due to Dortmund’s habit of leaking late goals.

“The fun is back again”, stated midfielder Julian Weigl. Saturday’s home win was also a timely confidence booster for goal-scorers Thorgan Hazard, who bagged his first goal since joining from Gladbach, and Mario Goetze, who converted a late penalty after starting most games this season on the bench.

“I could have scored two or three goals, my first goal at home is a good feeling for the head,” beamed Hazard. However, the news is not all good for Favre.

Chief playmaker and Germany star Marco Reus, who also missed the away defeat in Milan, limped off in the first-half on Saturday and is doubtful with a knock to the foot. Both clubs meet at Signal Iduna Park second in their respective league’s after Inter’s burly Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku scored twice in Saturday’s 2-1 win at Bologna to leave his side a point behind Juventus in Serie A.

Despite two wins inside a week, Dortmund must take three points at home to Inter to calm fears of a group stage exit. “Now Favre has to win,” demanded Germany’s top-selling daily Bild, especially with group leaders Barcelona at home to bottom side Slavia Prague today. — AFP

Rebekah’s public falling-out with former friend Coleen Rooney, wife of former England captain Wayne.

“Jamie is so thick-skinned and is just one of those boys — that makes him better,” said Rodgers. “He knows he has taken a wee bit of stick over a couple of games but he is very concentrated on his game and very focused in the game.”

Rodgers, who left Celtic after a successful spell to take over at Leicester after Claude Puel was sacked last season, said Vardy’s form had improved due to minor changes. “Firstly from a defensive perspective he is not having to press the whole back four,” said Rodgers.

“He is a guy who will run all day for you. Now it is a lot more synchronised in how we want him to press and he is doing short bursts of pressing, which he is very good at. “He is so clever at setting traps to press so he is a real focal point in that aspect.”

“He is a really top striker at this level and we have done some little adjustments which have helped him, but he is playing with a smile and really enjoying his football and that is always important as a player.” — AFP

## Vardy playing with a smile, says Leicester boss Rodgers

**LONDON:** Jamie Vardy is playing with a smile on his face after “little adjustments” helped him rocket to the top of the Premier League goalscoring charts, according to Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers.

The 32-year-old former England marksman took his tally to 10 league goals with the Foxes’ second goal in their 2-0 win over Crystal Palace on Sunday which took them back into third place in the Premier League.

Leicester are ahead of Chelsea on goal difference and six points clear of fifth-placed Arsenal, whom they host next weekend, in the early battle for a place in next season’s Champions League. Vardy’s goal was an ideal response to taunts from the Palace fans over his wife



# Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FC Barcelona v SK Slavia Prague	20:55
beIN SPORTS	
Zenit St. Petersburg v RB Leipzig	20:55
beIN SPORTS	
BV Borussia Dortmund v Internazionale Milano	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Olympique Lyonnais v SL Benfica	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
SSC Napoli v Red Bull Salzburg	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
Valencia C.F v LOSC Lille	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
Chelsea FC v Ajax Amsterdam	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Liverpool v KRC Genk	23:00
beIN SPORTS	



**25** Hamilton pays tribute to late Lauda in sixth title celebrations



**26** Heat lead by as many as 41, throttle Rockets in Miami



**27** Balotelli thanks support after being racially abused



KUALA LUMPUR: Al Ahed's players and coaching staff celebrate with the trophy after winning the 2019 AFC Cup Final between North Korea's April 25 Sports Club and Lebanon's Al Ahed FC at Kuala Lumpur Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

## Lebanon's Al Ahed clinch AFC Cup

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Lebanon's Al Ahed clinched the AFC Cup yesterday with a dominant 1-0 win over 10-man 4.25 SC from North Korea, a game shifted to Malaysia from Pyongyang following a blacked-out World Cup qualifier.

The final of Asia's second-tier club tournament was moved following last month's surreal showdown between North and South Korea, which took place with no live broadcast and no foreign media in attendance.

Issah Yakubu scored the winner in the 74th minute,

heading in a cross from Hussein Dakik, as the Lebanese finally broke through the North Koreans' resolute defence. The game started off looking fairly evenly matched, but the turning point came midway through the first half when North Korea's goalkeeper An Tae Song was sent off.

He had appeared to trip up an Al Ahed player on the edge of the box as he charged towards the goal. Al Ahed then became totally dominant, launching attack after attack, but the first half ended 0-0.

The Lebanese side missed some good chances — just before half time, Ahmed Akaichi managed to miss an easy shot on goal, firing the ball over the crossbar from a short distance out. After losing a player, the North Koreans never looked like a threat — barely getting near their opponents' goal — but they put up a strong defence and Al Ahed only broke through towards the end.

Al Ahed are the first Lebanese side to win the AFC Cup since it started in 2004. Iraq's Air Force Club won

the previous three editions.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had said the decision to move the final from Pyongyang was taken to ensure the game could be broadcast throughout Asia and the Middle East.

Last month, North and South Korea played a World Cup qualifier to empty stands after Pyongyang refused to broadcast the game live and barred fans and the media from attending. The match ended in a goalless draw. — Agencies

## Jackson, Ravens hand Patriots first loss

**BALTIMORE:** Lamar Jackson rushed for two touchdowns and passed for one to help the Baltimore Ravens end New England's bid for an undefeated season with a resounding 37-20 victory over the visiting Patriots on Sunday night. Jackson completed 17 of 23 passes for 163 yards and rushed for 61 more, while Mark Ingram rushed for a season-high 115 yards as Baltimore (6-2) won its fourth consecutive game. Marlon Humphrey scored on a fumble return for the second straight game, and Earl Thomas had an interception. Tom Brady completed 30 of 46 passes for 285 yards, one touchdown and one interception for the Patriots (8-1), who had outscored their first eight opponents by a combined 189 points. Julian Edelman (89 yards) and Mohamed Sanu (81, one touchdown) each caught 10 passes. The loss leaves the San Francisco 49ers (8-0) as the NFL's lone unbeaten team.

### CHIEFS 26, VIKINGS 23

Harrison Butker booted a 44-yard field goal as time expired, giving Kansas City a victory over Minnesota at Kansas City, Mo. Quarterback Matt Moore, making his second start in place of injured Patrick Mahomes, passed for 275 yards, including strikes of 17 and 13 yards to Travis Kelce and Tyreek Hill, respectively, to put Butker in position for his game-winner. The Chiefs (6-3) used two

straight three-and-outs from their defense in the fourth quarter to first set up a 54-yard field goal with 2:30 left for a 23-23 tie, and then the decisive boot. The win ended a three-game home losing streak for the Chiefs, as Moore went 25 of 35 with one touchdown.

### SEAHAWKS 40, BUCCANEERS 34 (OT)

Russell Wilson matched a career-high with five touchdown passes, the last a 10-yarder to tight end Jacob Hollister in overtime, as Seattle rallied from a 14-point deficit to defeat visiting Tampa Bay. Bucs running back Dare Ogunbowale scored on a 1-yard run with 46 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter to tie it at 34. Seattle's Jason Myers pushed a 40-yard field goal wide right at the end of regulation. It was the third missed kick of the day for Myers, who pulled a 47-yarder wide left and hit the right upright on an extra point. Wilson completed 29 of 43 passes for 378 yards as the Seahawks (7-2) pulled within 1 1/2 games of the first-place San Francisco 49ers in the NFC West. Chris Carson rushed for 105 yards on 16 carries, and Tyler Lockett caught 13 passes for 152 yards and two touchdowns. Hollister caught two TD passes, and DK Metcalf had the other.

### CHARGERS 26, PACKERS 11

Philip Rivers passed for 294 yards, and Los Angeles jump-started its running game in rolling over visiting Green Bay. The Chargers — who entered the day with less than 40 rushing yards in four consecutive games, a dubious first since the Detroit Lions in 1947 — ran for 159 yards in their first game under interim offensive coordinator Shane Steichen. Rivers completed 21 of 28 passes for the

Chargers (4-5), who have won two consecutive games. Melvin Gordon, who had averaged only 2.5 yards per carry following a holdout that ran into the regular season, had his best game with 20 carries for 80 yards and two touchdowns.

### DOLPHINS 26, JETS 18

Ryan Fitzpatrick threw three touchdown passes — including two to rookie Preston Williams — to lead Miami to its first win of the season, beating visiting New York. Fitzpatrick, a former Jets quarterback, completed 24 of 36 passes for 288 yards and no interceptions. His tight end, Mike Gesicki, caught six passes for 95 yards. Williams caught five passes for 72 yards but was carted off the field in the fourth quarter due to a knee injury. Miami (1-7) snapped a 10-game losing streak that dated to last December. It was the first win for rookie coach Brian Flores. Each team scored on a safety, a rarity in the same game.

### RAIDERS 31, LIONS 24

Derek Carr threw for 289 yards and two touchdowns, and Josh Jacobs rushed for 120 yards and two scores as Oakland held off visiting Detroit with a late fourth-and-goal stop. Raiders safety Karl Joseph broke up Matthew Stafford's pass to tight end Logan Thomas in the end zone on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with two seconds remaining. The Lions had marched 76 yards to get there. Hunter Renfrow had six receptions for 54 yards, including the 9-yard go-ahead score with 2:04 to play to cap a 75-yard drive, for Oakland (4-4). Stafford threw for 406 yards and three scores for the Lions (3-4-1). — Reuters

## Nadal returns to number one

**PARIS:** Rafael Nadal's return to the world number one position for the eighth time in his career was confirmed when the ATP rankings were released yesterday. The Spaniard leapfrogs Novak Djokovic even though the Serb sealed his fifth Paris Masters title on Sunday with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Canadian Denis Shapovalov.

Nadal, whose last stint at the top ended a year ago on November 4, 2018, withdrew from his semi-final against Shapovalov in Paris with an abdominal muscle strain. Djokovic slips down the rankings because he loses the points that he won a year ago in London when Nadal was absent. The 2019 battle between Nadal, winner of the French and US Opens, and Djokovic who triumphed in Australia and Wimbledon, is set to go to the wire as either could still finish the year at number one.

If the Spaniard does not play or fails to win a round-robin match at the World Tour Finals, Djokovic must claim two group-stage victories and make the final to pass him. Djokovic would also be sure of the year-end top

ranking should he win the tournament and Nadal does not reach the semis.

Nadal first reached number one on August 18, 2008 when he was just 22. He has spent 197 weeks at the top, the sixth highest in ATP history behind Roger Federer (310), Pete Sampras (286), Djokovic (275), Ivan Lendl (270) and Jimmy Connors (268).

Gael Monfils returns to the top 10 for the first time since February 2017 after reaching the semi-finals in Paris while 20-year-old Shapovalov climbs 13 places to a career-high 15.

### ATP rankings as of November 4

1. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 9,585 pts (+1)
2. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 8,945 (-1)
3. Roger Federer (SUI) 6,190
4. Daniil Medvedev (RUS) 5,705
5. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 5,025
6. Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE) 4,000 (+1)
7. Alexander Zverev (GER) 2,945 (-1)
8. Matteo Berrettini (ITA) 2,670 (+1)
9. Roberto Bautista (ESP) 2,540 (+1)
10. Gaël Monfils (FRA) 2,530 (+3)
11. David Goffin (BEL) 2,335 (+3)
12. Fabio Fognini (ITA) 2,290
13. Kei Nishikori (JPN) 2,180 (-2)
14. Diego Schwartzman (ARG) 2,125 (+1)
15. Denis Shapovalov (CAN) 2,050 (+13)
16. Stan Wawrinka (SUI) 2,000
17. Karen Khachanov (RUS) 1,840 (-9)
18. Alex De Minaur (AUS) 1,775
19. John Isner (USA) 1,770 (-2)
20. Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) 1,747 (+7). — AFP