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# Hashem to push for taxes on remittances by expats

Finance minister Hajraf resigns • Ex-MP Khannah released from jail after Amiri pardon



KUWAIT: Curator of the Al-Sabah Collection Salam Kaoukji and Head of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Kamel Al-Abduljalil look at a large gold Mughal coin during the opening of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah's "Al-Fann: Art from the Islamic Civilization" exhibition at the Amricani Cultural Centre yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The new head of the National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee MP Safa Al-Hashem said yesterday lawmakers will push to approve a draft law to impose taxes on expat remittances. The bill was approved by the committee in the previous term even though the legal and legislative panel said the law was not in line with the constitution and following objections from the ministry of finance and the Central Bank.

The law calls for imposing a progressive percentage of up to five percent on all remittances by expatriates after a number of lawmakers complained that expatriates were sending most of their money to their home countries. Expatriates in Kuwait are not allowed to buy property or launch small businesses, as these activities are restricted to citizens and big foreign investors. This is one of the reasons most expatriates prefer to send their money back home. Hashem also said that the committee has decided to press the government for the long-awaited new pay scale for civil servants in a bid to unify wages in various government departments.

In other Assembly news, Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf resigned from the Cabinet apparently after MP Mohammad Hayef filed to grill the minister over charging interest on cash payouts to Kuwaiti pensioners. Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel was appointed as acting finance

minister until a new minister is appointed. MP Riyadh Al-Adasani said that a grilling he planned against the minister will remain effective even after the minister's resignation, because grillings are filed against issues and not persons. The lawmaker said he will take up the issues with the next minister.

Meanwhile, former opposition Islamist MP Fahd Al-Khannah was released yesterday from jail following an Amiri pardon days after he decided to return to the country and hand himself over to prison authorities. Khannah, along with a dozen former opposition MPs and activists, had been living in Turkey since the summer of last year after leaving Kuwait to avoid going to jail.

The group was sentenced by the court of cassation to three and a half years in jail for breaking into the National Assembly building in Nov 2011 following a protest against corruption. The protest was organized by the opposition against the government and 13 pro-government MPs accused of accepting millions of dinars in bribes to change their votes in the Assembly.

Ironically, one of the 13 MPs who were interrogated by the public prosecution over the charges but then cleared over loopholes in the law - MP Askar Al-Enezi - was elected yesterday as head of the Assembly's public funds protection committee. MP Abdullah Al-Kandari on Sunday resigned from the committee because some MPs who were accused of taking bribes were elected as members.

## News in brief

### Mawlid holiday on Saturday

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) yesterday announced that Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birthday will fall on Saturday, Nov 9, which will be an official day off. The CSC stressed that the following day, Sunday, Nov 10, will be an official working day. — A Saleh

### 18,000 deported this year

KUWAIT: An informed police source said statistics of the deportation prison showed 18,000 expats were deported since the start of 2019 until the end of September for various reasons, including violation of residency law, suffering from infectious diseases and being involved in felonies, in addition to traffic violations and other issues. The deportees include 12,000 men and 6,000 women. Indians made up 5,000 deportees of both genders, Bangladeshis were second with 2,500, Egyptians third with 2,200 deportees, Nepalese fourth with 2,100, Ethiopians fifth with 1,700, Sri Lankans sixth with 1,400 and Filipinos seventh with 1,200 deportees, with the rest of various nationalities. — Al-Qabas

### Prince William to visit Kuwait

LONDON: Britain's Prince William will visit Kuwait and Oman in December at the request of the Foreign Office, Kensington Palace said in a statement yesterday. The visit will take place between Dec 1 and Dec 4, the palace said, adding that further details would be announced in due course. — KUNA

## Qatar eyes polls, hails economy despite boycott

DOHA: Qatar's ruler said yesterday his gas-rich Gulf state has overcome the economic impact of a regional embargo and will be ready to hold its first national elections within two years. In a speech to the Shura Council, Qatar's consultative policy reviewing chamber, Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said preparations for the vote would be completed by 2022. He did not say when polls would actually be held but the timetable for preparations suggested they could be staged ahead of the Qatar World Cup in Nov-Dec 2022.

The prime minister will "propose a timetable for the election of members of the Council and the date of elections will be announced once the (planning) committee

Continued on Page 24

## Yemen govt, separatists sign accord

RIYADH: Yemen's internationally recognized government signed a power-sharing deal with southern separatists yesterday, in a Saudi-brokered initiative to end a conflict simmering within the country's civil war. Unrest in the south, which saw secessionist forces seize control of Yemen's interim capital Aden, distracted the Saudi-led coalition from its battle against Houthi rebels and raised fears the country could fall apart entirely.

"This agreement will open a new period of stability in Yemen. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands with you," Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin

Salman said at a signing ceremony in Riyadh aired on state television. The deal will reportedly see the secessionist Southern Transitional Council (STC) handed a number of ministries, and the government return to Aden, according to officials and reports in Saudi media.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday congratulated Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on inking the "Riyadh Accord". The Amir in a cable to the king expressed hope that the agreement would lead to unifying ranks and tackle differences for the sake of boosting the stability of Yemen.

Sheikh Sabah hailed Saudi efforts to end conflict between the two sides and the signing of the accord, which will bring peace and security to the war-torn country.

Continued on Page 24



RIYADH: (Rear, from left) Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi applaud as (front, from left) Yemeni Southern Transitional Council member and former Aden governor Nasser Al-Khabiji shakes hands and kisses Yemen's deputy prime minister Salem Al-Khanbashi during a peace-signing ceremony yesterday. — AFP

## Mounting toll in Iraq protests as Internet cut again

BAGHDAD: A mounting death toll in Baghdad and across southern Iraq coupled with reimposed Internet restrictions sparked concerns yesterday that anti-government protests would once again trigger chaos. A first wave of protests that erupted on Oct 1 met with brutal violence, with at least 157 people killed over six days, most of them protesters in Baghdad, according to an official investigation. Many were shot dead from rooftops by "unidentified snipers", the probe found.

Continued on Page 24



BAGHDAD: Iraqi protesters sit atop an abandoned building overlooking Tahrir Square amid ongoing anti-government demonstrations yesterday. — AFP

## Disinformation, surveillance threats to democracy

WASHINGTON: Governments around the world are increasingly using social media to manipulate elections and monitor their citizens, in a worrisome trend for democracy, a human rights watchdog said yesterday. An annual report on online freedom by the nonprofit group Freedom House found evidence of "advanced social media surveillance programs" in at least 40 of 65 countries analyzed.

The report said global Internet freedom declined for a ninth consecutive year, as authorities in some countries simply cut off internet access as part of their manipulation efforts, while others employed propaganda armies to distort information on social platforms. "Many governments are finding that on social media, propaganda works better than censorship," said Mike Abramowitz, president of Freedom House.

"Authoritarians and populists around the globe are exploiting both human nature and computer algorithms to conquer the ballot box, running roughshod over rules designed to ensure free and fair elections." Disinformation was the most commonly used tactic to undermine elections, according to the group. "Populists and far-right leaders have grown adept not only at creating viral disinformation, but also at harnessing net-

works that disseminate it," said the watchdog's 2019 "Freedom on the Net" report.

The researchers said that in 47 out of the 65 countries, individuals were arrested for political, social, or religious speech online and people were subjected to physical violence for their online activities in at least 31 countries.

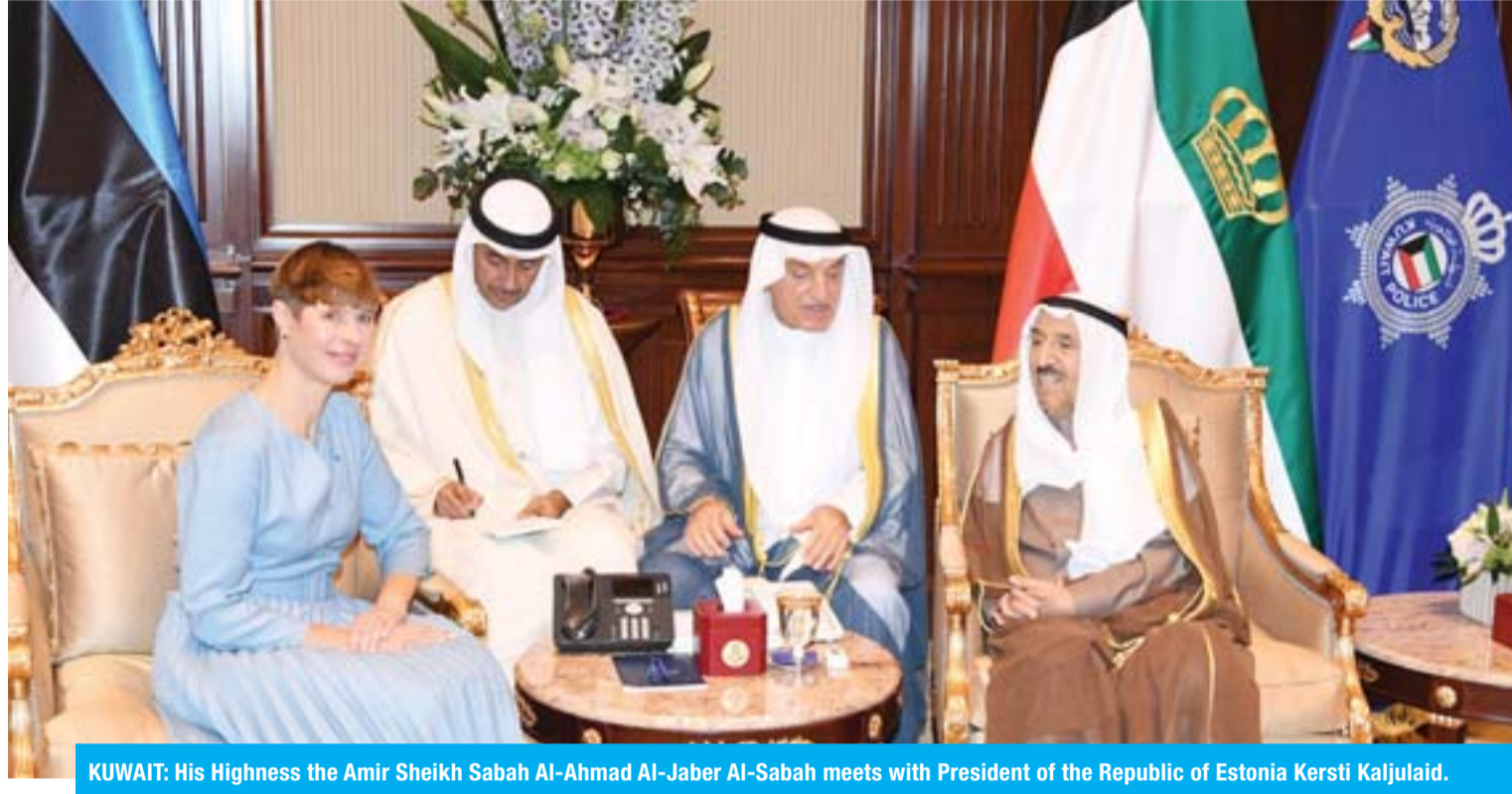
Online freedom declined in 33 of the 65 countries assessed, including the United States, the survey found. In the US, "law enforcement and immigration agencies expanded their surveillance of the public, eschewing oversight, transparency, and accountability mechanisms that might restrain their actions," Freedom House said. "Officials increasingly monitored social media platforms and conducted warrantless searches of travelers"

Continued on Page 24



# Amir meets Estonian President; Kuwait, Estonia hold official talks

Leaders discuss enhancing cooperation between two countries in all fields



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with President of the Republic of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes President of the Republic of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid.— Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held official talks at Bayan Palace yesterday with the visiting President of the Republic of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid. The talks were attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials from both countries. During the talks, both sides discussed issues of mutual concern, bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation in all fields, said Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir then organized a lunch banquet at

Bayan Palace honoring the President of Estonia and her official accompanying delegation, on the occasion of her official visit to the country.

Meanwhile, President Kaljulaid received at her residence in Bayan Palace yesterday National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. President Kaljulaid also

received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The receptions were attended by head of the mission of honor, Amiri Diwan Advisor Ali Al-Rashed.— KUNA



President of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



President of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



President of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



Bilal Eksi, CEO of Turkish Airlines, speaks to Kuwait Times.



KUWAIT: Senior officials attend the meeting yesterday.— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Arab airlines look forward to 'greater horizons'

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO) held its 52nd annual general meeting yesterday at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The meeting was hosted by Kuwait Airways. "In light of the rapid developments taking place in the world, we look forward to opening greater horizons for the future that will contribute to the drawing of a historical map of Arab airlines to promote the sustainable development of the Arab world more fully," Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf said in his opening speech. "We, as government officials and Arab society, should cooperate to achieve success and economic security for our peoples by confronting challenges, overcoming difficulties and promoting the concept of the common Arab market," he added.

Chairman of Kuwait Airways Yousef Al-Jassem said Kuwait Airways is in line with the Arab Air Transport Association since 1965, adding that the Arab air transport sector is playing its part as a major engine for the economies of Arab countries and also for the economies of the countries that Arab airlines operate in. Jassem noted the air transport sector and Arab air transport in particular deal with vital issues,

as there are many geopolitical events in the Arab world and around the world, along with weak economic growth.

"Let me list some of the pivotal issues that we think are important to deal with, such as operational restrictions in air transport services agreements and the ability of airlines to fully play their economic role. Also, the infrastructure of airports and air capacity, which is in urgent need of expansion and development to meet the expected growth in travel and air freight traffic. This is in addition to protectionist policies by some countries around the world that spoil the competitive balance between airlines, high fees to use airports around the world, high taxes imposed on the air transport sector, environmental obligations of airlines and visa restrictions in most countries," Jassem said.

"In the aviation sector, we have witnessed significant growth on the global level since 2010, averaging at 6 percent annually in passenger numbers, which resulted in the global number of passengers to reach 4.4 billion last year. This has allowed airlines, especially in the United States, to achieve for the first time returns on investment that are equal to or greater than normal returns on investment in other sectors," Secretary-General of the Arab Air Carriers Organization Abdul Wahab Tefhaha said. "Now we see that the global air transport industry, through a limited number of big players, has been able to enhance and optimize its operations, where its average load factor reached 82 percent last year, which translates into better ability to protect yields compared to a situation with additional excessive capacity over demand," he said. On the Arab level, he added the Arab air transport has been growing well since 2010, with Arab airlines' RPKs increasing between

2010 and 2018 by an annual average of 10.1 percent, where during that same period, traffic at Arab airports also increased by an annual average of 6.8 percent. AACO members' traffic share of transit passengers from their total passengers also increased from 10.5 percent in 2010 to 14.3 percent in 2018, putting Arab airlines on the global aviation map.

For Alexandre de Juniac, Director General and CEO of International Air Transport Association (IATA), said: "Aviation has been driving climate action for over a decade. We committed to improving fuel efficiency by an average of 1.5 percent annually between 2009 and 2020. We are achieving 2.3 percent. We also committed to carbon-neutral growth from 2020. The ICAO Assembly confirmed its resolve to make a success of CORSIA - the carbon reduction and offsetting scheme for international aviation. It is the global measure that will enable us to cap net emissions and it will generate some \$40 billion in climate funding over the lifetime of the scheme."

On the sidelines of the meeting, Bilal Eksi, CEO of Turkish Airlines, told Kuwait Times that passenger demand in Kuwait is increasing by 10 percent yearly because many Kuwaitis are visiting Turkey as tourists and to check on their properties there. "We have more than 10 flights weekly between Turkey and Kuwait, where it is the strength of the relationship between both sides. And it's easier now with the new airport that has a huge capacity," he said.

He said Turkish Airlines recently signed a new codeshare agreement with Kuwait Airways, adding that this codeshare agreement is expected to provide great opportunity for passengers from Kuwait and Turkey, where both companies will work closely to offer the best services to passengers and improve customer experience.

## KCCI works for partnerships with Estonia

KUWAIT: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) board member Omran Hayat said yesterday that the chamber should exert further efforts for investments' strategic partnerships with Estonia and increasing commercial exchange with it to anticipated level. He added on the sidelines of receiving an economic delegation from Estonia at KCCI headquarters yesterday that the visit of the President of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid and her accompanying delegation reflects the great care offered to boost the economic ties. He expressed hope that this visit would form a launching point towards boosting bilateral ties and enhancing cooperation. He endorsed the Estonian President's keenness on meeting the representatives of Kuwaiti business sector.

The Estonian Deputy Foreign Minister for economic and developmental affairs Andres Rundu said in press remarks that his country is keen on bolstering economic ties with all of the world nations, expressing hope that this meeting would result in establishing strategic economic partnerships between both nations. Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI) member Oliver Vaartnou said in a speech that his country is cherished with a strategic geographical location between its neighbors in northern Europe. He added that Estonia is working to further open to the world's market by following a number of reform measures to improve the business environment. He also stressed on the importance of establishing investments' partnerships between businessmen from both nations. Assistant Director General for Business Development at Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Mohammed Mulla Yaqoub offered during the meeting an explanation of the investments' atmosphere in Kuwait and the advantages and incentives offered by Kuwait to the foreign investor.— KUNA



## Local

# Kuwait's Amir receives senior state officials at Bayan Palace

## Sheikh Sabah receives cables from Yemeni, Greek President



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir then received His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad at Bayan Palace as well.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to the President of Dominican Danilo Medina, expressing his deepest and sincere condolences on the loss of his father. 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.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday congratulatory cables from Yemeni President Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi and Greek



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

President Prokopis Pavlopoulos on his return home following successful medical checkups. In the cables, they wished His Highness good health and wellness. In response, His Highness the Amir sent cables to the Yemeni and Greek presidents, thanking them for their kind

words and sentiments and wished them long healthy life.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent congratulatory cable to Chairperson of the Kuwait Women's Sports Federation and head of the organ-



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

izing committee for women sports of sixth GCC Women's Games Sheikhha Naeema Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere congratulations on the success of the sixth GCC session of Women Sports hosted by Kuwait on October 20-30, 2019.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem sent similar cables to Sheikhha Naeema. — KUNA

## Kuwaiti Cabinet approves former MP's pardon

KUWAIT: Implementing the order of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Cabinet approved a draft regarding dropping the rest of the punishment against former MP Fahad Al-Khanna in the criminal case No. 1541/17. This came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting held on Monday at Bayan Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

At the outset of their meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said the Cabinet discussed the insinuations of His Highness the Amir's speech at the opening of the fourth session of the 15th legislative term of the National Assembly last week, as well as advice and directives in which His Highness the Prime Minister pointed to the difficult circumstances of the region, including escalation and instability that requires overcoming differences and put the country's national interest above all considerations. Saleh added such measures also requires the consolidation of national unity and rejection to causes of strife and division, as His Highness the Amir pointed in his speech to entrust the National Assembly Speaker and His Highness the Prime Minister in this regard and for their fruitful role in embodying the desired cooperation between the two authorities to achieve national goals.

The Cabinet also discussed the contents of His Highness Amir speech which was delivered by His Highness the Prime Minister, in which it highlighted the government's keenness to enhance relationship with the National Assembly within the framework of an approach that allows the development of a consensus formula, and to rise to the level of responsibility in achieving the desired goals and aspirations. In all government sectors, Saleh stressed that all efforts should be exerted to consolidate unity and word behind the wise leadership to protect the security and stability of the State of Kuwait and promote development and prosperity. The Council of Ministers expressed its deep pride and appreciation for the directives of His Highness the Amir, which reflects His Highness's keenness to ensure the best interests of Kuwait and its people, affirming commitment to work hard to translate these directives and serve as a guiding light for the Government in its work.

Later, His Highness the Prime Minister



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's weekly meeting. — KUNA

Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet on the results of the recent visit of King Abdullah II of Jordan to the country, and the talks he held with His Highness the Amir which focused on bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. The Council also welcomed the visit by President of Singapore Halimah Yacob and her accompanying delegation and wished her Excellency and the accompanying delegation a good stay in the country. The cabinet also welcomed the visit by Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid, wishing the guest and the accompanying delegation a pleasant stay in the country.

Afterwards, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah informed the cabinet about the report of US Secretary of State on terrorism in combating this phenomenon. The report pointed to Kuwait's participation in the international coalition to defeat the so-called Islamic State (IS). Therefore, the Cabinet expressed satisfaction over the report which embodies Kuwait's firm stance rejecting terrorism in all its forms and manifestation, and whatever its justifications. This also reflects Kuwait's serious commitment to the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on exerting efforts to eliminate this destructive scourge in collaboration with international organizations and countries.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh briefed the Cabinet on the results of his participation, on behalf of Minister of Defense, in the sixth session of GCC Ministers of Defense held in Oman last week. The session discussed the regional developments and their impacts on the safety and

security of GCC member states. It also focused on the freedom of international navigation into the Arabian Gulf, denouncing the attack on the oil facilities of Saudi Aramco, he said. In addition, the conferees adopted some decisions aiming to contribute to enhancing defense integration amongst GCC states, he noted.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet reviewed the legal affairs committee's recommendation on the minimum terms of the posts of members of the Fatwa and Legislation Department. The Cabinet approved the recommendation and referred it to His Highness the Amir. The Cabinet was briefed on the parliament's decision on nominating Faisal Fahad Al-Shaya to head the State Audit Bureau's (SAB), endorsing the draft and referring it to His Highness the Amir. The conferees expressed appreciation to late head of the SAB Abdulaziz Al-Adsani and his key role in the bureau.

The conferees discussed the political affairs in light of the reports on the current political developments on both Arab and international levels. Furthermore, they expressed sincere condolences to Pakistan over the victims of the fire erupted into a travelling train in Karachi city. The Cabinet congratulated Filipe Jacinto Nyusi on being re-elected as president of Mozambique, expressing its confidence in continuing developing the friendly ties between Kuwait and Mozambique. The ministers, during the meeting, condemned the terrorist assault on Mali last Friday that killed and wounded a number of security personnel and civilians. They stressed Kuwait's stance rejecting such terrorist acts, which run counter to religions and humanitarian norms, renewing the call to the international community to counter terrorism and its organizations in its forms and manifestations. — KUNA



## Kuwait Airways celebrates 65th anniversary

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways celebrated its 65th anniversary in a ceremony it hosted Monday night at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. The visiting President of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid, Kuwait's Minister of Finance Nayef Al-Hajraf, Chief of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil

Aviation Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Dr Fang Liu, Kuwait Airways Chairman Yousef Al-Jassem, chairmen of Arab airlines, and other distinguished guests attended the event.





## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The sunset captured from Dajeej area. — Photo by Islam Al-Sharaa

## Boubyan Bank holds 'Portfolio Management Skillsets for Private Bankers' training program

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**KUWAIT:** In collaboration with Euromoney International, Boubyan Bank has organized a special training program recently, covering a range of topics related to the business of private bankers, wherein Euromoney's international expert, Bernard Duffy lectured.

In this context, Adel Al-Hammad, the General Manager of Boubyan Bank's Human Resources Group, said: "Boubyan Bank spares no effort in supporting and developing its human resources across all sectors by recruiting international experts accredited by prestigious international institutions."

"Having completed the first phase of this program, which extended over five days back in April, we have organized the second phase which has been held over seven days in October. The program was customized for our private bankers as a part of our constant efforts towards providing our special customers with a leading banking experience," Hammad added.

The training program included various topics related to customers as well as the significance of understanding customers' goals and objectives in the first place, and whether the customer's primary objective is to merely protect the wealth from instability and maintain its value, or to increase the wealth and maximize its returns.

In addition, the program tackled various types of investment portfolios, and how to determine suitable ones for customers in view of their objectives all the way to factors which may influence their investment decisions and the strategies that best fit each segment of customers.

### Islamic Sukuk Markets

Talal Al-Nesf, Deputy General Manager of the Private Banking Department at Boubyan Bank, said:

"The rapidly accelerating developments in capital markets around the world necessitate that private banking staff constantly develop their skillsets and expertise and to stay updated with such latest developments to better serve customers' interests."

"Boubyan Bank Training Department will be organizing further sets of advanced specialized programs following this integrated program with the aim of boosting the experience of all private banking staff in order to provide special and unique services to customers," Nesf added.

During the training program, the international lecturer, Bernard Duffy talked about Islamic sukuk markets being the fastest growing markets in recent years. Duffy also focused on the nature of such markets and the growing customer demand for them. He also explained some Islamic funding structures, their advantages, and the types of murabaha and fundamental differences between them and the transactions in conventional banks.

Furthermore, Duffy lectured about the importance of the ongoing review of investment portfolios and objective risk and performance analysis of the same. He highlighted the role of private banking relationship managers in this system, their significance for Boubyan Bank, what they should realize concerning potential risks and how to manage them in order to maximize their customers' profits.

Duffy is one of Euromoney International's senior lecturers with over 20 years of training experience in many international financial institutions specialized in wealth-management and investment funds. He also has considerable experience in designing and implementing this type of specialized financial training programs, which he has already conducted in many countries around the globe.



**In collaboration  
with Euromoney**



# Court adjourns case calling for blocking Twitter in Kuwait

## Increasing Kuwaiti private sector workers on panel's agenda

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A local court yesterday adjourned hearing a case filed by a lawyer who demanded blocking Twitter in Kuwait, and decided to set a later hearing. A local lawyer had filed a case demanding closing access to Twitter in Kuwait in order to "protect the Kuwaiti society from manipulation and rumors, especially in view of the many fake Twitter accounts in use." The lawyer also demanded questioning the Minister of Information, his undersecretary and the chairman of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) for their alleged responsibility over the government's

"weak control over fake accounts."

**Parliament's agenda**  
Following discussing the grilling motions on its agenda, today's parliamentary session is scheduled to witness forming temporary committees including the human resources panel, said informed parliamentary sources, noting that the committee will be formed again under the leadership of MP Khalil Al-Saleh to resume its unfinished work, namely appointing citizens in the private sector and higher rates of replacing expats with citizens. The sources added that the government initially agreed to ask foreign companies to hire Kuwaitis. "However, they will not be

mandated to hire 100 percent Kuwaiti staff," they said.

**Electricity and water authority**  
The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is scheduled to offer a practice to hire an international consultant to study a draft bill on establishing the Public Authority for Electricity and Water. Notably, the finance ministry had approved offering the practice for six months with a total cost of KD 350,000 to be deducted from the 2019-2020 budget. The aim of this practice is to accelerate the foundation of an organization that will help cut the cost of producing electricity and water.



**Bedoons' expired IDs**  
Ministry of Health (MoH) announced a grace period for bedoons with expired security IDs until Jan 2020 to renew their IDs and resume getting free health-care. They will still get these services for free during the grace period.

### News in brief

#### Man arrested for posting strangers' pictures

**KUWAIT:** Criminal detectives arrested an Asian man for taking pictures of women and posting them on social media without their knowledge. The suspect works as a driver and uploaded the pictures on his personal account, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department said in a statement to the press yesterday. The man was sent to concerned authorities for further action. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

#### Woman found dead

**KUWAIT:** An Asian woman was found dead in a swimming pool in Bneid Al-Gar, said security sources. Further investigations are in progress. — By A Saleh

#### 'Unapproved' engineers

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Engineers Society Faisal Al-Atal said there are 10,000 non-Kuwaiti engineers of both genders in the local market who are not approved by the society. He said 5,000 of them did not refer to the society because they do not meet the approval conditions. — Al-Anbaa

#### Cucumber 'expensive'

**KUWAIT:** The price of a box of cucumber has risen to nearly KD 1.5 after it was 250 fils last year. Chairman of the Farmers Union Abdullah Al-Dammak said climatic factors such as humidity and heavy rain in Wafra caused the collapse of greenhouses and affected the harvest. He expected prices to fall, but could not give a time frame for that. — Al-Rai

## Kuwait continues bids to end GCC rifts: Official

**KUWAIT:** A senior Kuwaiti official yesterday affirmed that Kuwait would certainly pursue mediation efforts to resolve the inter-GCC dispute and maintain the council member States' solidarity. Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, the assistant foreign minister for the affairs of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister's bureau, hoped that the aspired "detente" would materialize in the near future. He was speaking at a training session for the Kuwaiti military attaches at Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute. Developments that have taken place in the region underline and bring into the spotlight necessity of solidarity among the GCC states in the face of plentiful hazards affecting the region, he said. He asserted Kuwait's keenness on pushing forward peace solutions and adhering to UN resolutions and international conventions. — KUNA

## KGL provides KFSD with advanced winter machineries

**KUWAIT:** KGL announced that it has participated at Kuwait Fire Station Department's (KFSD) inaugural ceremony of machines' workshop, which was held in presence of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, General Manager of KFSD Lt Gen Khaled Al-Mekrad and Engineer Suha Ashkanani, General Manager of Public Authority for Roads and Transportation, in addition to elite representation from Kuwait National Guards and Ministry of Interior leaderships as well as KGL managers. KGL asserted in a statement its full support to KFSD, whereas it has allocated an elite expert and professional team to maintain KFSD machines while making sure they are fully ready to respond to emergencies during winter.

KGL further elaborated that all necessary precautions have been taken in consideration to avoid the

difficulties KFSD has faced last year; whereas necessary arrangements have been applied in providing the latest advanced and exclusive machines on Kuwait and regional levels. These new machines are highly equipped with developed pumps to withdraw excess water, the matter that would facilitate KFSD's prime goal to maintain public safety while simultaneously contributing in minimizing traffic jams which resulted from roads' flooding.

From his end, Engineer Mohamed Mirza, Executive Manager for Technical Services at KGL said: "we take pride in unifying efforts with KFSD and to play a pivotal role in implementing safety measures to avoid incidents which resulted from winter rain." Mirza further elaborated by confirming KGL's appreciation to the devotion of KFSD team's members and their esteemed efforts in prioritizing people's safety during incidents. He said: "we are fully aware of dangers facing our heroes while dealing with difficulties and disasters with determination and courage; it adds to our responsibility to support KFSD as well as all the national institutions, by employing our expertise and resources at their service so we can contribute in facilitating their jobs, while catering to their needs to fully equipped machines that are tailor-made according to the latest technologies."

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India lawyers and police clash over parking spot

US president sued by a woman who claims he raped her

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This aerial view taken on July 5, 2019 shows the destroyed Fulani village of Bare, near Sadia Peulh. — AFP

# A digital war unfolding in Mali

## WhatsApp becomes battleground in jihad conflict

**BAMAKO:** A digital war is unfolding in Mali alongside a jihadist conflict that has claimed thousands of lives: the battle to sway young minds is being waged on the mobile phone. "Jihadists today are recruiting on WhatsApp. We have to stop the bloodshed," said Hama Cisse, a moderate imam.

He says fiery sermons relayed through the mobile phone application by jihadist leader Amadou Koufa are luring young men from the Fulani ethnic community to join his ranks. "Our children are leaving and getting themselves killed with Koufa, and there's more and more of them every day," Cisse said. In the 1980s, then a Koranic student, Koufa was a roving storyteller—a deep-rooted oral tradition in Mali — reciting love poems in exchange for a few coins.

Much later, after completing his religious education abroad, Koufa re-invented himself as radical, preaching a hardline form of Islam. Using his honed oratorical skills and stirring ancient resentments against elites, his message went straight to the heart of many young Fulani, also called Peuls, whose herding community has long battled poverty and stigma. His means for channeling this message have kept in lockstep with technology.

Sermons that were once broadcast on the radio and then distributed by audiocassette are now transmitted by WhatsApp — the messaging app of choice in a country that currently boasts 150 cell phone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, but little internet coverage. Many in the Fulani community have direct knowledge of a

young man drawn into the ranks of the Katiba Macina, the biggest of the militias wreaking carnage in central Mali and stirring up fighting between ethnic groups. In addition to the mounting death toll, hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes and hundreds of schools have closed as teachers flee the jihadists.

In other communities, many point the finger of blame at the Fulani people as a whole, for there are longstanding frictions between this herder group and sedentary farmers. Today, tit-for-tat violence has become a tragic, near-daily act. The jihadists' strategy of division and provocation is timeless — but the tactics are relentlessly modern. Digital technology is being used as a recruiting sergeant. Pictures of butchered corpses or torched villages or footage of clashes with the army are the weapons, aimed at both enraging and persuading.

### Moderates fight back

But the radicals are not the only voice. Moderates, too, are taking their message of Islamic tolerance to young Fulani, seeking to counter distortion and propaganda. One of them is Cisse, who said he "closely knew" Koufa in the 1980s when he too was a religious student. Cisse, 55, regularly makes radio broadcasts from the capital Bamako, on the Fulani radio station Tabital Pulaaku, which are immediately retransmitted via WhatsApp.

In one notable intervention this year, during

Ramadan, Cisse directly targeted Koufa and those who "lap up his words". "He said that before he came, the Macina (a region in central Mali) wasn't Islamic, that before he came along, it was dark. I told him he didn't bring Islam to the Macina, he brought the Wahhabis, and it's not the same," Cisse said, referring to the Saudi-inspired puritanical strand of Islam.

"A few days later, Koufa gave a nasty reply — he was angry," Cisse said from the Mopti region, but he has been unable to go back since he started receiving death threats in 2016. Others who have joined the fight do not claim to have a religious rank, but simply wish to end a taboo of silence that swelled as the jihadists ascended. One of them is Ousmane Bocoum, 36, who sells cloth skirts at a market in Mopti.

The flamboyantly dressed trader spends his spare moments combing the internet for sermons that distort Islam, and pointing them out to his contacts who then counter the propaganda on their WhatsApp and Facebook groups. "I explain what the Koran really says," Bocoum said. "Every person is in at least a dozen different WhatsApp groups, people forward the messages and usually I have a reaction within half an hour." Many of those reactions are insults or threats, but there are often useful exchanges. "It's my faith which prompted me to act," said Bocoum, who met with US lawmakers during a visit to Washington in July.

"I don't fight them, I simply want to bring them back to reason." Last year, he said, he set up a "debate" with

Koufa's men in Mopti. "They accepted but then at the last moment, Koufa issued a message forbidding them to come. He was worried about their safety." That failure illustrates one of the problems of finding common ground through dialogue — an approach espoused in June by the International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank but rejected by the government in Bamako.

### Back to the plough?

Bocoum is also exploring an innovative path aimed at "deconstructing" the rhetoric of the jihadists to make it less alluring to the young. In March he set up a group in Mopti called the Association of Preachers for the Preservation of Unity and Social Peace. The goal is to draw on traditional doctors or teachers in villages who are not tempted by the idea of collaborating with Koufa and are willing to give children an enlightened Quranic education.

In exchange, the association would provide agricultural help for the poor and for Quranic schools — each participating village would set aside five hectares of land for this purpose. This way, families living in rural areas that have been abandoned de facto by the state would regain trust in their future, and a vicious circle would become a virtuous one, Bocoum hopes. Thanks to word of mouth, recruits to the jihad would return home. "Fathers would speak to their sons, uncles would speak to their nephews, persuading them to come home and cultivate their fields," he said. — AFP

## Expert warns against 'Fulani jihad' notion

**BAMAKO:** As central Mali spirals into conflict, the spotlight has turned on the Fulani ethnic group, which has been accused of carrying out jihadist massacres against other communities. According to this narrative, the bloodshed stems from radicalization of the Fulani — nomadic herders with a long history of rivalry over land use with farmers from other ethnic groups. But Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim, chief Sahel expert for the International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank, says the situation is far more complex.

In an interview with AFP, he made these points: — Jihadists have been key to stirring up ethnic violence in central Mali. Even though individual Fulani may be prominent in the violence, the Fulani community itself is highly diverse. "You have to be extremely careful when addressing this question of the 'Fulani jihad'... Sedentary, urbanized Fulani have not followed the jihadists and have themselves also been victims of murder, accused of collaborating with the

Malian authorities... Those who have joined them (the jihadists) are nomads in particular, mostly herders with pent-up resentment against the state and the elites."

— The jihadist revolt in Mali began in the north in 2012. By recruiting "black" Fulani, the leaders of the insurgency have broadened across ethnic lines to become more than a purely Arab and Tuareg movement. "Recruiting Fulani in the centre has clearly been advantageous for the groups in northern Mali... This strategy has also helped to displace the focal point of the jihad... heightening problems for the international forces ranged against them, requiring them to deploy over vast areas of territory."

— Jihadism has found a fertile ground for recruitment in neighboring Niger and Burkina Faso for similar reasons: a weak state, armed forces that are almost powerless yet guilty of atrocities, and the proliferation of village militias, jihadist groups and common-law criminals. "Fulani (there) who are receptive to radical talk are those who have sought to conserve a certain (nomadic) way of life and feel that they have lost their place and are out of sync with the current system of governance in these states... It's not just a religious ideology." — AFP

## Factfile: Mali jihadists and militants

**BAMAKO:** Following are the main armed groups in Mali, where authorities are battling a jihadist insurgency and conflict rages between ethnic communities. Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM) — The GSIM has claimed responsibility for the biggest attacks in the Sahel since its official launch in 2017. It was placed on a US blacklist of terrorist organizations in September 2018.

Comprising several jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the GSIM alliance is led by a Tuareg Malian, Iyad Ag Ghaly, an Islamist with a 29-year record of revolt. GSIM's components include Ag Ghaly's Ansar Dine, a group that in 2012 seized control over northern Mali before being expelled by a French-led international force. Others are the so-called Katiba Macina, led by a radical Fulani preacher, Amadou Koufa, and the self-described Sahara Emirate of one-eyed Algerian jihadist Mokhtar Belmokhtar, a former AQIM leader.

A local branch of the self-described Islamic State group, the ISGS is mainly active in the northeastern Malian region of Menaka and across the border in Niger. The group leapt to world prominence after an ambush near the village of Tongo Tongo in Niger in 2017 that claimed the lives of four US special forces and four Nigerian troops.

Its leader is Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahraoui, whose nom de guerre derives from his birthplace in the Western Sahara. Al-Sahraoui's history of militancy dates back to fighting in the Polisario Front, which aims to end



SEVARE: A group of Fulani militiamen pose for a picture with their weapons at an informal demobilization camp in Sevare. — AFP

Moroccan control over the Western Sahara. He became a leader of the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which then merged with a Belmokhtar group forming Al-Mourabitoun. In 2015, he broke with Belmokhtar to declare allegiance to the Islamic State group.

So-called self-defense groups, ostensibly set up to protect beleaguered communities, have proliferated in the ethnic mosaic of central Mali, with bloody consequences. Their origins date back to 2015 with the emergence of an armed group inspired by Amadou Koufa, a radical preacher and veteran jihadist.

The group recruited mainly among the Fulani, an ethnic group consisting mainly of semi-nomadic herders.

Attacks on the Bambara and Dogon communities, who are mostly sedentary farmers and hunters, led to these groups setting up "self-defense" organizations. In apparent tit-for-tat raids, about 160 Fulani were killed last March in Ogossagou, near the border with Burkina Faso, while in June some 75 Dogons were killed in Sobane Da, Gangafani and Yoro. A dozen armed groups signed agreements to end hostilities in the Mopti and Segou regions in early August. — AFP



International

# Workplace romance - It is very complicated in the #MeToo era

## 1 out of 3 American adults is in workplace relationship

WASHINGTON: Workplace romances are fairly common, but they are becoming more regulated in the United States amid the #MeToo movement. US companies, particularly the larger ones, have had codes of conduct for their employees for years, and more firms have been adopting them recently. At McDonald's, for example, "employees who have a direct or indirect reporting relationship to each other are prohibited from dating or having a sexual relationship."

As McDonald's CEO, Steve Easterbrook was in charge of enforcing what were known as the "Standards of Business Conduct" at the fast food giant. Easterbrook fell afoul of those rules and was forced out on Sunday for demonstrating "poor judgment involving a recent consensual relationship with an employee."

Easterbrook is just the latest in a long line of top executives who have resigned or been dismissed for violating company guidelines surrounding relationships. Brian Dunn quit as the CEO of consumer electronics chain Best Buy in 2012 following the revelation of his "close personal relationship" with a 29-year-old female subordinate. Brian Krzanich, the CEO

of semiconductor giant Intel, stepped down last year for violating the company's non-fraternization policy.

The list goes on - and it is not limited to corporate boardrooms, or to men. Katie Hill, a Democratic member of the US House of Representatives from California, resigned last week after acknowledging she had a relationship with a staffer on her election campaign. According to the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), 42 percent of US workers in 2013 were employed by companies that had written or verbal policies in place regarding workplace romances. The goal of such policies is not only to prevent sexual harassment but also favoritism or conflicts of interest.

### 'Breeding ground for harassment'

Julie Moore, an employment lawyer, said the rules have been applied more scrupulously since the #MeToo movement spawned by the alleged serial sexual harassment and assault of young actresses by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. "The #MeToo movement has certainly furthered scrutiny of relationships in the workplace," Moore said.

"Whether it's a consensual, personal romantic relationship or otherwise, there could be a breeding ground for sexual harassment," she said. This particularly comes into play when the relationship involves a supervisor and a subordinate. "The CEO is the most powerful person in the organization," Moore said. "When there is power, can someone really consent to a relationship? "Because of the power disparity, one is going to look at whether there was true consent," Moore said. "If not, (the subordinate) could easily say at some point that it was a violation of sexual harassment policy."

Johnny Taylor, president of SHRM, said there will always be workplace romances. According to a poll released by SHRM, one out of three American adults is currently in a workplace romance or has been involved in one. "Because so much of our waking time is spent at work, it's no surprise that romances develop in the workplace," Taylor said in a statement. "It makes little sense to forbid them," Taylor said. "Instead, employees should be encouraged to disclose relationships. "This is the most effective way to limit the potential for favoritism, retaliation and sexual harassment claims." — AFP



SEOUL: A South Korean demonstrator holds a banner during a rally to mark International Women's Day as part of the country's #MeToo movement in Seoul. — AFP

## A view from the bridge: Protesters under fire in Iraq

BAGHDAD: Ali says he has seen more than 50 people killed in front of him since anti-government protests began in Iraq last month. "The first one was shocking - he was someone I knew, and they shot him in the chest," said Ali, in his early 20s and from Baghdad's low-income Sadr City district.

"But you quickly get used to death ... I've seen people, some of them friends, choke, drown, have their skulls split open by tear gas and stun grenades," Ali, who declined to give his last name, said as he played a mobile phone video of the shooting victim in his final moments in the capital's Tahrir Square last month. "We can't even cry over their bodies any more." Since the start of October, more than 250 Iraqis have been killed protesting against

a government they see as corrupt and beholden to foreign interests, according to eyewitnesses and medical and security sources.

There was no immediate comment from the interior ministry, which oversees many of the security forces, but a government report said nearly 150 people were killed in the first week of the unrest, 70% from bullets to the head or chest. Recounting stories of his fallen comrades, Ali leaned against a mound of dirty blankets on the Tigris river bank under the Jumhuriya - or Republic - Bridge.

For the past 10 days, hundreds of young men and boys - some as young as 12 - have been camped out on the bridge, and under it. Wearing construction hats, gas masks, and chanting for the downfall of the government, they call themselves "the front line of the revolution". The bridge, which leads from the square to Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, where government buildings and foreign embassies are located, has seen fierce clashes between protesters and security forces.

Protesters, armed with slingshots, have erected barricades of iron sheets and concrete blocks. Security forces have used rubber bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas against them, killing scores on the adjacent Jumhuriya and

Sinak bridges. Both sides have settled into an uneasy stalemate. "We throw rocks at them, and they respond by killing us," said Ali, as several tear gas canisters were lobbed by security forces.

### Boys under the bridge

A group of medical volunteers have set up camp to help the wounded. They say the expired tear gas - Reuters saw used canisters with an expiry date of 2014 - is making people choke. One young man, barefoot and wearing a dirty tank top and trousers, passed out after choking on the gas. A Reuters correspondent saw medics lower him off the bridge and put him in a tuk-tuk headed for a nearby hospital. Ali is surrounded by a tight-knit group of 10, who have been camped under the Jumhuriya bridge since Oct 24.

Reminiscent of Peter Pan's Lost Boys, the group radiated an intensity forged by bloodshed. Many come from Baghdad's poorest neighborhoods, where they work as tuk-tuk drivers or day laborers. Despite Iraq's oil wealth, many live in poverty with limited access to clean water, electricity, healthcare or education. Protesters blame corruption. "For 16 years we've been told that our lives would be better," said Abbas, who declined to give his last name.

"But I'm 19 and I've worked most days since I was 10 and still I don't have more than 5,000 dinars (\$4) in my pocket."

### Dangerous nights

Abbas was arrested in the first wave of protests, along with Ali and others in the group. They said their phones were scanned to identify fellow protesters. Released on bail, they were told to stay away from the demonstrations. "But the very next day I went back to the protests," said Ali. "We have to stay here to keep the revolution going." Nearly all those Reuters spoke to had bandages on their arms, torsos and legs. They said many of their injuries came from security forces who fire tear gas, stun grenades and rubber bullets, sometimes from boats on the river.

It is most dangerous at night, they said. A few nights ago at 3 am, security forces threw gasoline at their camp, followed by burning rags, Ali said. The rags landed near a group of sleeping boys, according to a video seen by Reuters. The boys now stand guard in shifts. "The second we leave this bridge, the government will storm Tahrir Square and finish off the protests," Ali said. "They can throw whatever they want at us. But we're not going anywhere." — Reuters

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## International

# First impeachment transcripts go public as White House stonewalls

## Democrats enter an open phase of a congressional probe

**WASHINGTON:** Witness transcripts in the impeachment probe into Donald Trump were made public for the first time Monday, with the former US ambassador to Kiev telling investigators she felt threatened by the president in his call to Ukraine's leader. Democrats are entering an open phase of a congressional probe into potential abuse of power by Trump that has divided Washington as Republicans seek to defend him and his opponents pursue his removal from office.

The release of Marie Yovanovitch's deposition came as the White House hardened its opposition to the inquiry, with Trump's top national security lawyer defying a subpoena to testify early Monday. The probe is examining how Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate his Democratic rival Joe Biden, including by withholding \$391 million in military aid that had been approved by Congress to help the US ally defend itself against Russian aggression.

Yovanovitch, who had urged Ukraine to do more to fight corruption, testified last month that she was ousted in May over "false claims" spread by questionable actors allied to Trump. According to her deposition, she was alarmed by the deepening involvement of Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani in Ukrainian affairs, and in particular his efforts to get Kiev to investigate Biden. She said she was "shocked" when she read the summary of Trump's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in which Trump said the ambassador was "going to go through some things."

"I was very concerned. I still am," Yovanovitch says. "Did you feel threatened?" an investigator asks Yovanovitch in the transcript. "Yes," she replies. "I really don't know her." Trump told reporters of Yovanovitch on Monday, adding that he was "sure she's a very fine woman." In fact, Yovanovitch came up repeatedly in Trump's phone call with Zelensky, with the US president

describing her as "bad news," according to a White House summary of the conversation. The release is the first of what House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff said would be several key depositions.

He also released testimony from Michael McKinley, a former senior advisor to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who resigned in September after concluding that the department was not defending top diplomats. He said he asked Pompeo three times to defend Yovanovitch, eventually telling him that "this situation isn't acceptable." But the secretary was essentially non-responsive. In his 37 years as a diplomat he had "never seen" efforts to use the State Department and its missions "to procure negative political information for domestic purposes," McKinley told investigators.

### 'Irregular back channel'

The depositions demonstrate "the contamination of US foreign policy by an irregular back channel that sought to advance the president's personal and political interests, and the serious concerns that this activity elicited across our government," Schiff and the chairs of two other panels leading the investigation said in a statement.

Schiff said testimony would be released Tuesday from two more key witnesses, then-special representative on Ukraine Kurt Volker and US Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland. They were in text message chains in which diplomats expressed misgivings about the prospective quid pro quo of political investigations for military aid. Prior to the release of the first transcripts, Trump sought to attack their credibility by suggesting, without evidence, that Schiff would "change the words that were said to suit the Dems' purposes."

Meanwhile John Eisenberg, Trump's deputy counsel for national security affairs, defied a congressional subpoena, a sign of renewed White House stonewalling. Eisenberg is



**WASHINGTON:** US Representative Jamie Raskin from Maryland speaks with reporters after witnesses failed to arrive for testimony before the House Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight committees at the US Capitol yesterday. — AFP

reported to have been on the July 25 call. But Trump said Monday there was "no reason" for witnesses to answer questions by investigators. "This is just another Democrat Hoax that I have had to live with from the day I got elected," the president said. Robert Blair, an assistant to the president and senior advisor to the acting chief of staff,

also refused to testify. Trump senior associate counsel Michael Ellis and White House budget office associate director for energy Brian McCormack were due for depositions too. But Schiff said the White House instructed them not to appear, a clear signal that "their testimony would be further incriminating of the president." — AFP

## Snowden warns of Internet giants' 'irresistible power'

**LISBON:** Technology has given internet giants "irresistible power" when they work in concert with governments, whistleblower Ed Snowden told the Web Summit that opened in Lisbon on Monday. "When we see government and corporations working in concert... they become the left and right hands of the same body. What we see is the concentration of power," he told the European celebration of startups and new technologies gathering high-tech entrepreneurs and investors.

"If you create an irresistible power... how do you police the expression of that power when it is used against the public rather than for it?" he asked, speaking by video link from Russia where he has lived since 2013. The US government last month urged tech giants to allow police to read encrypted messages, saying access was essential to prevent serious crime despite privacy concerns. Snowden has just published a book that lays out his reasons for passing tens of thousands of secret documents to major news organizations in 2013.

The files were compiled while he worked for the US National Security Agency and revealed a dense network of communications and internet scrutiny by the NSA and partner agencies around the world. Snowden recognized



**LISBON:** US whistleblower Edward Snowden holds a video-conference during the Web Summit in Lisbon. — AFP

that public awareness is growing over the abuses he has denounced, and he lauded efforts to protect privacy, especially in Europe. But he told the gathering of some 70,000: "The problem is not data protection, it's data collection" and the blind faith that internet users must have in the internet's masters.

### 'Hyper-political'

The four-day summit is expected to focus on politics and tax issues, as well as new mobilities, medical applications, robotics and crypto currencies, organizers said. "Tech has become hyper-political," said Paddy Cosgrave, the Irish founder and boss of Europe's biggest tech gathering. "Increasingly, the front page of newspapers around

the world are dominated by issues relating to technology," he said. Among the main events are discussions on the future of money, cars, medicine, housing, advertising, medias and humans' presence in outer space. But what has emerged as the leading topic is how high tech has become a crucial factor in the Chinese-US trade war, the monetary power of sovereign governments and the radicalization of social media.

As sector giants continue to face calls for fair taxation or even dismantlement, regulators such as the EU Commission's vice president and competition chief, Margrethe Vestager, are expected to draw a crowd. Vestager is to close the summit on Thursday, speaking just after Michael Kratsios, who is being sent from the White House to present the US viewpoint on internet taxation and regulation.

Vestager has spearheaded European efforts to get companies like Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google to pay more in taxes in countries where they earn large amounts of their profits. In addition to her post as EU competition chief, the Dane has also now been tasked with overseeing digital activities across the 28-member bloc. Vestager "is incredibly popular... because she's trying to create a level playing field for innovators in particular in Europe," Cosgrave told AFP.

At another event, former Cambridge Analytica executive Brittany Kaiser is expected to outline risks to personal data in the run-up to the 2020 US presidential election. The now defunct data consultancy allegedly hijacked personal data on Facebook users ahead of the 2016 US vote. Huawei's rotating chairman Guo Ping is another headliner. — AFP

## President Trump sued by a woman who alleges rape

**NEW YORK:** A woman who accuses Donald Trump of raping her more than 23 years ago in a New York department store sued the US president on Monday over statements he made in June denying that the attack occurred and criticizing her for coming forward. E. Jean Carroll, a longtime Elle magazine advice columnist, said in a complaint filed in a New York state court in Manhattan that Trump lied about attacking her, and "smeared her integrity, honesty, and dignity" by concocting a "swarm of related lies" to explain why she would make the incident up.

Carroll's account of the alleged rape at Bergdorf Goodman on Fifth Avenue, which she said occurred between the autumn of 1995 and spring of 1996, had been published in New York magazine in June, excerpted from her memoir released the following month. "The lawsuit is frivolous and the story is a fraud - just like the author," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement. "The story she used to try and sell her trash book never happened, period."

Carroll's lawsuit followed statements that Trump made after her account was published, including that he did not rape Carroll and had never met her, and that she was "totally lying" as part of an effort to boost book sales. "I'll say it with great respect: Number one, she's not my type. Number two, it never happened. It never happened, OK?" he told The Hill newspaper in Washington. In her complaint, Carroll said the attack lasted two to three minutes, before she ran out of the dressing room and onto Fifth Avenue.

Carroll said in the lawsuit she soon confided in two friends, author Lisa Bimback and former WCBS news anchor Carol Martin, about the alleged attack, but did not report Trump to authorities because she feared retribution. She said she went public after accounts in 2017 of alleged sexual misconduct by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, which he has denied, spawned the #MeToo movement. "No person in this country should be above the law -including the President," Carroll said in a statement provided by her lawyers.

Trump has denied accusations by more than one dozen women who said he made unwanted sexual advances against them years before he entered politics. He also faces a defamation lawsuit by Summer Zervos, a former contestant on his television show "The Apprentice," who claimed he kissed her against her will in 2007 in New York and later groped her at a Beverly Hills hotel. Zervos sued after Trump republished on Twitter a post calling her accusations a "hoax." — Reuters



**E. Jean Carroll**

## At least nine Mormon community members killed in north Mexico

**MEXICO CITY:** At least three women and six children from an American Mormon community in northern Mexico have been killed in an ambush in an area notorious for drug traffickers and bandits, a relative said. The government deployed the army to fight drug trafficking in 2006, but experts blame the so-called "drug war" for the spiraling violence between fragmented cartels and the military, which has led to more than 250,000 murders.

Julian Lebaron said his cousin was traveling with her four children to the airport when she was attacked and shot in Rancho de la Mora, an area near the US border. "It was a massacre," Lebaron, an activist who has denounced criminal groups in the area, told Formula Radio. His cousin's van had been set on fire with the victims inside, he said. Two other vehicles were found several hours later, containing the bodies of two women and a boy and a girl of about ten years.

At least five other children — one of whom was shot and wounded — managed to escape and walk home, and a girl was reported missing after having run into the woods to hide, Lebaron added. The Chihuahua state prosecutor, Cesar Augusto Peniche, said the number of victims remains "confused". The attack took place between Chihuahua and Sonora states. Communication with the area - which is mountainous and forested - is also difficult, Peniche said.

When asked who might be responsible, Lebaron said the attack took place in a "war zone", home to drug cartels and "thugs". His family "may have been caught in crossfire or targeted by mistake, we don't know the cause," he said, but said that the Mormon community had recently been the target of threats.

The community are descendants of Mormons who fled the US in the nineteenth century after being persecuted for their traditions, including polygamy. One former member is George Romney, father of 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who was born in 1907 in Colonia Dublin in Chihuahua state, according to an NBC report Monday.

Many Mormons in Mexico enjoy dual Mexican and American citizenship and - according to Mexican media - the Lebaron family asked for the help of the US embassy. — AFP



**CALIFORNIA:** A woman takes photos of downtown Los Angeles from the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, California. The Trump administration has officially filed to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement. — AFP

## Dismay as US formally pulls out from Paris climate accord

**WASHINGTON:** The United States has formally notified the United Nations that it is withdrawing from the Paris climate accord, triggering expressions of concern and regret from other major powers yesterday. President Donald Trump went ahead with the pullout despite mounting evidence of the reality and impact of climate change, with September the fourth month in a row with near- or record-breaking temperatures.

Washington presented its withdrawal letter to the UN on the first possible date under the accord negotiated by Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, making the world's largest economy the sole outlier from the agreement. The US will be officially out on November 4, 2020, one day after the presidential election in which Trump is seeking a second term on appeals to the white working class.

Announcing the move, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated Trump's rationale in 2017 that the accord would disadvantage US businesses. "It was America that would suffer the straitjacket," Pompeo told the Fox Business network. "It would be quintessentially unfair to the American

people and to the American workers," Pompeo said in a statement that the United States would advocate a "realistic and pragmatic model" that included renewable energy but preserved a role for fossil fuels.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who unsuccessfully tried to persuade Trump to stay in the accord named for his nation's capital, lamented the decision. "We regret this and it makes the Franco-Chinese partnership on climate and biodiversity even more necessary," the French presidency said as Macron visited China, the world's largest emitter of the greenhouse gases blamed for climate change. Beijing also expressed "regret" over Washington's decision ahead of the planned signing Wednesday of a joint document on climate by President Xi Jinping and Macron.

"We hope the US can take more responsibility, and do more to contribute a driving force to the multilateral cooperation process, instead of adding negative energy," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang. Russia warned that the US withdrawal seriously undermined the Paris accord. "Without the largest economy in the world, it's very, very hard to talk about any kind of climate agreement," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. The United States, the number-two emitter, is still planning to attend this month's COP climate negotiations in Spain, according to a State Department official. Pompeo in his statement pointed to a 13 percent US reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 to 2017 even as the economy grew. But Trump, who took office in 2017, has pledged to turn back environmental regulations as states such as California and New York try to take stronger action on their own. — AFP



## International

# Philippines' president picks top drug war critic as 'drugs tsar'

## UN to conduct report into killings; Critics say Duterte's approach ineffective

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has appointed his main political rival, Leni Robredo, his "drugs tsar", after the opposition leader expressed alarm about the high death toll in his anti-narcotics campaign and said it needed a fresh approach. The appointment follows critical remarks by Robredo during an interview with Reuters, and in subsequent media appearances, which angered the volatile Duterte and led to a torrent of social media fury at Robredo, who is his vice president but has no role in his administration.

Duterte's spokesman announced Robredo's appointment yesterday as co-chair of an inter-agency panel on drugs, which he said was genuine and not a cynical political play to discredit her, as her camp believed. The president has ordered all agencies to give her their full support. "If she has been criticizing the drug war as ineffective, then there must be ideas on her mind to make it effective," Panelo said on television.

Robredo, 54, was elected separately to Duterte and is among a growing number of critics who say his approach has boosted his tough image but had little impact on the drugs trade or addiction rates. She did not immediately confirm if she would take the job. Her spokesman has said she would not be a scapegoat for the shortcomings of Duterte's war on drugs.

He remains hugely popular because of his defiance of the international outcry caused by his signature crackdown, which human rights groups say involves systematic executions and police cover-ups. Police reject that and

say the nearly 7,000 people they killed were armed drug suspects who resisted arrest. Duterte is furious that the UN Human Rights Council wants to investigate the killings, adding to an ongoing preliminary examination by the International Criminal Court (ICC), of which Duterte has cancelled the Philippines' membership.

### Government says offer is genuine, not cynical

sought for help, you will," he said. Duterte has openly insulted Robredo, who leads a party with diminished power and influence. She advocates tackling drugs from a health, social and community perspective, including prevention and treatment rather than a largely police-centred approach.

Activists say police are operating with impunity, with the implied support of a president who once vowed to kill 100,000 dealers, and he would be happy to slaughter millions of addicts. He has since said he uses hyperbole to stress a point and denies inciting murder. Estimates of the number killed during the drugs war vary significantly, but thousands of users and alleged dealers have wound up dead outside of official police operations, many in mysterious circumstances.

Robredo on Oct 23 told Reuters that international

**Obligated to accept**  
Allies of the president urged Robredo to take the post while the Dangerous Drugs Board and police said they welcomed her experience, ideas and new perspective. Political analyst Ramon Casiple said that politics aside, Robredo was not in a position to decline. "There's the obligation, not just a personal decision. If you were elected and the president



MANILA: The sun rises over the skyline of the financial district in Manila yesterday. — AFP

help, including from the United Nations and ICC, should be sought if the government refused to change tack and stop abusive police. On Duterte's approach, she said: "Obviously, it's not working." Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana

of the Commission on Human Rights was hopeful Robredo could stop the killings. "Are we going to look at addicts as victims?" she said. "The approach would not be to kill them but to rehabilitate them." — Reuters

### News in brief

#### Neo-Nazis' political 'kill list'

**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel's government has strongly condemned death threats against two leading Green party politicians by a neo-Nazi group, as concern mounts over a rise in right-wing extremism. Greens lawmaker Cem Ozdemir, who has Turkish roots, revealed at the weekend that police were investigating an email he had received from a neo-Nazi group saying he was at the top of their kill list. "We are currently planning how and when to execute you. At the next rally? Or will we get you outside your home?" the email read, according to the Funke newspaper group. Fellow Greens MP Claudia Roth received a message saying she was second in line to be killed. Both emails were sent on October 27 and signed with "Nuclear Weapons Division Germany" (AWD), apparently a German offshoot of a notorious US-based neo-Nazi group. — AFP

#### Jordan government resigns

**AMMAN:** Jordan's government resigned Monday ahead of a second cabinet reshuffle in six months, state media reported, as the cash-strapped kingdom remains mired in economic woes. Prime Minister Omar al-Razzaz last reshuffled his cabinet in May. The latest will be his fourth since taking office last year. Razzaz "asked his ministers to submit their resignations on Monday to pave the way for a government reshuffle in the next few days", state news agency Petra reported. It quoted Razzaz, a Harvard-educated economist, as saying the reshuffle was "necessary to meet the challenges of the coming period". An official source told AFP that King Abdullah II had given the government "until the end of the year to come up with economic reforms". Jordan, whose stability is seen as vital for the volatile Middle East, hosts some 1.3 million refugees from neighboring war-torn Syria. — AFP

#### Smuggling gold in shoes

**MOSCOW:** Russian customs officers have detained a woman at the Chinese border with nearly two kilograms of gold in her shoes after she appeared to be walking strangely, authorities said yesterday. The Russian woman was detained at a customs post in eastern Siberia after officials noticed that she "was nervous and acted in a suspicious manner," said Marina Boiko, a spokeswoman for the regional customs authorities. "The young woman unnaturally placed one foot in front of the other," she said in a statement. A search led to the discovery of eight pieces of gold weighing a total of nearly 1.9 kilograms. "The ingots had been attached to the insoles of her shoes with duct tape," the statement said, adding that the value of the find is estimated at more than 5 million rubles (\$79,000, 71,000 euros). The bars have been made illegally and lacked the necessary documents. — AFP

#### Deadly fentanyl-laced pills

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexican drug cartels are making "mass quantities" of fake prescription pills containing the synthetic opioid fentanyl with the intention of selling them to users throughout North America, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said yesterday. Mexico's cartels have for years diversified into a wide variety of illicit activity, helped by porous domestic law enforcement agencies as well as long-standing trafficking routes into the United States, their biggest market. Meanwhile, opioid deaths in the United States have soared over the last two decades, driving a wave of government-backed efforts to disrupt illegal distribution and treat addicts. The DEA said that 27% of a sample of counterfeit pills tested in the United States during the first three months of this year contained potentially lethal doses of fentanyl. — Reuters

## Fear grips Kashmiri village; five migrant workers shot dead

**KATRASOO:** Locals in the Kashmiri village where five Indian migrant laborers were killed by gunmen last week say they are living in fear of militant groups as well as the subsequent crackdown by security forces. The five migrants, from India's eastern state of West Bengal, were shot dead by militants in southern Kashmir's Kulgam district on October 28, the latest casualties in a conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives over the last three decades.

A sixth migrant, who survived the attack and is recovering in hospital in Kashmir's capital Srinagar, told Reuters that the assailants were men who barged into a rented room he and the five other migrants had been living in, above a shop in the Katrasoo village of Kulgam. Tensions in Muslim-majority Kashmir, claimed by India and Pakistan, have been especially elevated since New Delhi stripped its portion on the region of autonomy and statehood on August 5.

Indian authorities restricted communications to the region and arrested thousands of people in a bid to prevent unrest. Some have since been released. Indian police say militant groups have targeted migrant laborers, a new tactic aimed at driving away the thousands of non-Kashmiris who work in its orchards, paddy fields and construction sites.

Including the most recent attack, at least 11 people from outside Kashmir have been killed in recent weeks, and many of the thousands of migrant laborers who come to the valley to work each year have fled. But interviews with a dozen villagers said they also feared a heavy-handed response from security services investigating the killings. "It's only the forces or militants who have guns here," said Ghulam Nabi, an elderly man who owns a meat shop on the street where the men were shot. "Us civilians are not the ones carrying guns, but we are still suffering."

#### Evening execution

The lone survivor, Zahoor Din, lying covered with a green sheet on a hospital bed, said he and the other migrant laborers had been preparing to have dinner on Tuesday evening when the gunmen came in and took them outside. They were wearing cloaks concealing their weapons, said Din, speaking slowly and with effort, as he readjusted his heavily bandaged

## India lawyers and police clash over parking spot

**NEW DELHI:** Hundreds of Indian police staged a rare and angry protest yesterday after a row with lawyers that initially started over a parking space degenerated into ugly clashes. The two groups - who usually rub along in India's vast court system - have been at loggerheads since the weekend. The original dispute - over who had rights to a particular Delhi parking spot - escalated on Saturday with barristers setting fire to a police van and other vehicles as officers ransacked lawyers' chambers.

Three advocates were shot, media reports said, as baton-wielding police charged gangs of learned men and women. In total at least 30 people were hurt. Video footage later emerged showing a fully-robed advocate punching and slapping a policeman as he attempted to flee on a motorbike, prompting yesterday's protest.

"We want justice. We also have human rights, the guilty lawyers must be punished severely," one of the protesting policemen told reporters. Delhi Police commissioner Amulya Patnaik urged demonstrators to resume work and promised to address their concerns. "The government and the people expect us to uphold the law, it is our big responsibility," Patnaik said. Lawyers, for their part, have also been protesting, with some threatening to go an indefinite strike.

Social media users mocked the showdown between

arm. "It was dark and I couldn't see very well. But we were scared, so we went along with them downstairs," he added.

The gunmen made the migrants walk a few hundred meters across the road toward a bakery shop, and then fired multiple shots at them in the dark, Din said. Their bodies fell on the dirt track. Din was shot in four places, including on his arm and legs, and some villagers helped him up upon hearing his cries for help. He did not recognize the assailants, he added. Dilbag Singh, the director general of police for the Jammu and Kashmir territory, told reporters after the killings that the militants involved had been identified and would soon be "neutralized." He did not elaborate.

#### Crackdown

The killings in Katrasoo have been followed by a crackdown by the army and police that locals say has spooked them. Army officers arrived shortly after the

killings and rounded up the shopkeepers and residents living near the site, said Nayeema Khatun, a resident. More than a dozen people have been detained by security forces since the killings, villagers said, adding that some had also been released. Despite attacks that police have blamed militant groups for, many people in Kashmir support them, and strongly resent Indian rule. In turn, Indian security forces suspect people of assisting militant groups, many of which are based in neighboring Pakistan.

Arbitrary detentions and abuses by security forces in Kashmir are commonplace, rights groups say. "We are living in fear," shopkeeper Nabi said, adding he had been detained at a police station for four nights for questioning before being let go on Saturday. Indian army spokesmen in Srinagar and New Delhi did not respond to written requests for comment. The Kashmir police and district police of Kulgam did not respond to calls and emails seeking comment. — Reuters



KASHMIR: An Indian security personnel stands guard as pedestrians walk past during a lockdown in Srinagar yesterday. — AFP

those tasked with upholding the law. "What times we are witness to! Agents of law and order - lawyers and police - are up against each other. This would go down in history," tweeted a former radio presenter. "I thought if police unnecessarily beat up someone, lawyers are there to demand justice. Now, lawyers are doing the beating up, and police are demanding justice," tweeted Ramesh Srivats. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Delhi police officers take part in a protest in New Delhi yesterday following a confrontation with lawyers that left dozens injured. — AFP

### CONDOLENCES

The Management, Faculty, and Staff of Kuwait Technical College offers their heartfelt condolences to

**Dr. Michael John Armstrong**

Chairman of English & General Studies Department  
On the sad demise of his



**Grandfather**

May his soul rest in peace and god grant comfort and strength to the bereaved family members during this time



## Analysis

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## Indonesia surfer girls turn the tide on sexism

Standing on her surfboard as it was lifted by a wave, Zahwa Ardika Utami is one of a small but growing number of girls breaking with Indonesian tradition to take up the macho sport. Not only is surfing one of the world's most dangerous sports, it is also frowned upon for women in the world's most populous Muslim country to bare their bodies and allow their skin to tan. Women in rural areas are expected to stay at home.

"I love surfing because I can chase the waves," 12-year-old Utami told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on a traditional wooden outrigger boat after surfing on a sunny morning. "When I don't surf, I help my parents with cooking or looking after my younger sister," she said as the boat returned to Lombok island, one of Indonesia's best-known surf spots.

Few local women surf in the Southeast Asian archipelago of 17,000 islands, which has some of the world's best beaches, dive and surf spots, including Bali and Raja Ampat, attracting millions of visitors each year. With surfing set to debut at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020, the sport's enthusiasts hope that young girls like Utami will help to turn the tide on sexism in Indonesia and emulate pioneering professional women surfers like Bali's Diah Rahayu.

Utami is a student at XX Surf, a surf school and social enterprise - a business with a social mission - on Lombok seeking to empower girls through the sport while also tackling issues such as child marriage and teen pregnancy. Indonesia has the world's eighth-highest number of child brides, according to the United Nations, with one in nine girls marrying before they turn 18 due to poverty and tradition.

### Naughty

On Lombok, just east of the resort island of Bali, rampant underage marriage has been linked to social ills ranging from high rates of divorce to unplanned pregnancies, maternal deaths and stunting among children. XX Surf was set up with a mission to change that. Although local women rarely defy social expectations by jumping on a surfboard, Indonesia's Bali island has women-exclusive "surf retreats" and is a top spot that attracts female surfers from around the world.

Enthusiasm is growing slowly in the country, with 17-year-old Kailani Johnson making history in May as the first Indonesian woman to compete in the professional World Surf League Women's Championship Tour. Founded in June, XX Surf - which takes its name from the female chromosomes - offers lessons to tourists at a fee but it is also training local girls for free to give them a taste of life outside marriage.

"We want to empower them so they know more about the outside world," said XX Surf's co-founder Dedi Susandra, a 27-year-old former hotel manager-turned-coach. Susandra, himself from Lombok, said local girls are often discouraged from surfing due to religious taboos about figure-hugging attire like wetsuits, pressure to do housework and fears that it will lead to wayward behavior, like casual sex. "Most parents think surfers lead a free lifestyle and if their daughter surfs, they will become 'naughty,'" he said.

### Freedom

Women and girls are at greater risk of drowning in cultures where beliefs about modesty deter them from learning to swim. Women accounted for 77 percent of deaths from the devastating 2004 tsunami in Indonesia's conservative province of Aceh, a study by aid group Oxfam found, partly because more men could swim or climb trees. Bangladesh and China both have high rates of children dying by drowning, with girls especially vulnerable, according to campaign group Teach a Girl to Swim, which says the skill is important for responding to flooding linked to climate change.

XX Surf, which donates a third of its profits to a local charity supporting girls' education, said girls should be given the right to enjoy sports which help build higher self-esteem. "They have a lot of potentials," said co-founder Alice Stanbury, a keen surfer who was an earth scientist in native Britain before she moved to Indonesia in 2014 to be with her husband Susandra. "We hope to bring more girls out so they can enjoy themselves, empower them and allow them a bit more freedom and to experience life just like the boys do," she added.

Baiq Zulhiatina, from the Lombok-based charity Child and Youth Protection Institution, which campaigns against early marriage, said sports can inspire girls to see another future. "What is important is that they are taught to dream big, have ambitions and open their mind to something other than marriage," said the spokeswoman. — Reuters

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



A Yemeni youth looks behind him as he sits on a chair at a garbage dump in the third-largest city Tazeh in southwestern Yemen on Oct 26, 2019. — AFP

## Garbage crisis brings cholera to historic Tazeh

Mounds of stinking garbage line the streets of Yemen's historic city of Tazeh, once renowned as one of the most beautiful places in the country, but now torn apart by war. The city in the highlands of southwestern Yemen has become a breeding ground for mosquitos as well as deadly outbreaks of diseases like cholera, as decaying refuse leaches into waterways. Yemen, long the poorest country in the Arabian Peninsula, has been mired in conflict since the Iran-aligned Houthis rebels swept into the capital Sanaa in a 2014 offensive, sparking a military intervention by a Saudi-led coalition.

While Tazeh is controlled by pro-government forces, it is under siege from the Houthis who control the mountains that surround the city, from where they have launched repeated bombardments. While all of Yemen has suffered from the war, Tazeh is particularly hard-hit. Barely any schools are able to function, fresh water is scarce, and it is difficult to bring in supplies including essentials like food.

Trapped within the city limits, Tazeh's more than 600,000 people are suffering as garbage mounts up, choking roads and canals. Mounds of brightly colored plastic, old tyres, boxes and shredded plastic lie in smol-

dering piles or heaped in dumpsters - a far cry from the days as far back as medieval times when Tazeh was lauded for its beauty and scale.

### Wards are full

Cholera, which can kill within hours if left untreated, reappeared in Yemen in April after an initial outbreak in Oct 2016. The World Health Organization said that 304 people died of the disease between April 2017 and Aug 2019 in Tazeh, with cases fluctuating from week to week. Staff at the shabby and ill-equipped hospitals that are still functional amid the continued violence are at their wits' end, unable to cope with the rising number of patients. "I was sleeping when all of a sudden I woke up to severe stomach pain and diarrhea, and my children rushed me here," said Arwa Hmeid as she lay on a bed at the city's general hospital. "The hospital is full of cholera patients and three women have already died since I've been here," she said. Cholera, which causes potentially deadly diarrhea, is contracted by ingesting food or water contaminated with a bacterium carried in human feces and spread through poor sanitation and dirty drinking water. Damage to sewage systems, the electricity grid and piping have left Yemen's water supplies vulnerable to contamination.

Mohammed Mkhareh, deputy director of the general hospital, said the accumulation of garbage on the streets of Tazeh and other nearby cities has had a direct impact on people's health. "This is paving the way for cholera, dengue and malaria," he told AFP, adding that hospitals are "under pressure with the increase of cases and lack of resources". The Yemen conflict, which the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian situation, has displaced millions and left 24.1 million people - more than two-thirds of the population - in need of aid.

### Help us

Mohammed Jassar, the beleaguered head of Tazeh's department of sanitation, said civil servants are doing their best to clean the city. "The department is now working two shifts, one in the morning, and one in the evening... but the garbage keeps piling up and the department lack tools and resources," he said despondently. "You also see people who just throw garbage on the street even if it is right in front of their home, and then they complain about the mounds of garbage accumulating?" He urged the international community to come to the aid of the Yemeni people, saying that only "if the city is cleaned will the spread of illnesses decrease". — AFP

## Crippling student loans contribute to Chile protests

Spiralling student debt, with some loans the size of a mortgage, pricey tuition fees and a troubled education system have helped fan the flames of Chile's deadly protests. "I don't know anymore how much I owe at this stage," said Paulina Gomez, 34, who graduated over a decade ago. Two weeks on from the start of Chile's deadly social protests, Gomez and others gathered at one of the daily citizens' meetings taking place in Santiago to discuss crippling student debt that they say is crushing the hopes of many young people. "With interest I owe more than the total cost of the course now. It's going up every day and I had to take out a loan to pay the interest on my first loan," said Gomez, a journalist.

### State guarantee

"At the end of the 90s, state resources proved insufficient to finance higher education," said Gonzalo Munoz, an education specialist at Santiago's Diego Portales University. A loan program known as CAE emerged, with

bank loans to students guaranteed by the state, a financial device that has fuelled student anger against Chile's "neoliberalism". Guillermo Jobia, a 24-year old law student who has just graduated, said he paid "the price of a house, and that was being on a scholarship". "I still have to pay 20 million (pesos)," equivalent to around \$27,000. I think I'll never see the end of it, unless I get a job that pays, I don't know, a salary that would be impossible here."

Most young Chileans work during their studies in low-paid jobs which don't provide enough income to pay off their debts. Chile's minimum monthly wage amounts to \$420. Gunther Birchmeier, 30, worked as "a waiter, or in a supermarket at night or at weekends" to earn his \$550 monthly tuition fees. But he couldn't keep it up. Eventually, "the university blocked me and I couldn't continue studying".

Birchmeier says he has been repaying student debt for the past five years, "and I still have 15 left". "You have to take the whole issue of interest into account," said Birchmeier. "They lent me 10 million (pesos), around \$13,300 and I'm paying back about 20 million, 100 percent more." Birchmeier, who works in a cybersecurity company, has no savings. "I'm stuck. If I get fired, I have nothing."

### 'Anguish'

Gomez says she feels harassed by a constant stream

of letters and phone calls from debt collectors, "even at work". "I'm not paying currently. I don't have the cash." The interest alone "is now 5 million pesos" - around \$6,700. "The politicians of this country must give us a definitive solution to end this anguish, because it is anguish to have to deprive yourself of other things in order to pay for this. It's never-ending."

The next generation is what worries Gomez now, particularly the challenges facing her 10-year-old son. "Public education in Chile is horrible. There are 40 per class. Only one teacher. We'll have to tighten our belts to send him to a private school." The sense of crisis around Chile's education system has emerged during every social conflict since the end of the Pinochet regime in 1990. Chile's largest student demonstrations for decades, the "Penguin Revolution" - so called because of the students' dark blue and white uniforms - took place in 2006.

"The difficulties we see now mainly affect young people who have finished their studies in the last 15 years," said Munoz, the education expert. "The youngsters of today will have different conditions" he said. "The Bachelet system has changed the situation." In 2015, during her second term, then-president Michelle Bachelet allowed Chile's poorest to have free access to university with a landmark education reform, though the high postgraduate debt burden still remains for many Chileans. — AFP

## 42 years on, Voyager 2 charts interstellar space

A probe launched by NASA four days after Elvis died has delivered a treasure trove of data from beyond the "solar bubble" that envelops Earth and our neighboring planets, scientists reported Monday. But for every mystery Voyager 2 has solved about the solar winds, magnetic fields and cosmic rays that buffet the boundary between interstellar space and the Sun's sphere of influence, a new one has cropped up.

Voyager 2 left Earth's orbit in 1977 a month before its twin Voyager 1, but took seven years longer to reach the heliosphere's outer limit some 18 billion km away. Shaped something like a windsock in a stiff breeze, the heliosphere is formed by the Sun's magnetic field and solar winds that can reach speeds of three million kilometres per hour. It can be compared to a cosmic supertanker ploughing through space, said Edward Stone, a professor at the California Institute of Technology and lead author of one of five articles published in Nature Astronomy.

"As it moves through the interstellar medium" - the vast expanses of space between stellar fiefdoms - "there's a wave in front, just as with the bow of a ship," Stone told journalists by phone. Scientists hoped to answer a number of questions by comparing data sent back by the two probes, which pierced the Sun's protective bubble at different angles and locations.

### Particle 'leakage'

"We didn't have any good quantitative data of how big

this bubble is that the Sun creates around itself with supersonic solar wind and ionized plasma speeding away in all directions," Stone said. Voyager 2 confirmed, for example, the existence of a "magnetic barrier" at the outer edge of the heliosphere that had been predicted by theory and observed by Voyager 1. "But contrary to all expectations and predictions, the magnetic field direction did not change when Voyager 2 crossed the heliopause," Leonard Burlaga, a scientist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and lead researcher for one of the studies, told AFP.

The so-called heliopause is the relatively thin contact boundary where solar wind of charged particles and interstellar wind collide. Scientists were also surprised that it took 80 days for Voyager 2 to cross this magnetic barrier, while its sister probe did so in less than a day. And then there's the leakage enigma. As Voyager 1 crossed the heliosphere threshold, it detected particles from outer space - notably cosmic rays - racing the other way. "On Voyager 2, it was just the opposite," said Stone. "Once we left the heliosphere, we continued to see particles leaking from the inside out." In at least one case, it was a similarity between the two missions that was perplexing.

### Johnny B Goode

"This is very strange," said Tom Krimigis, a scientist in the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University and senior author of a study reporting on measurements of charged particles. "One crossing (of the heliopause) occurred at the solar minimum, when solar activity is the least, and the other at the solar maximum," he told journalists. "If we take our models at face value, we expect that there would be a bigger difference."

The Sun's activity waxes and wanes in 11-year cycles. The missions also measured incoming cosmic rays that grew stronger as the probes approached heliopause, with direct implications for the health of manned space



This NASA file handout image obtained on Aug 9, 2002 shows one of the twin Voyager spacecraft. — AFP

missions into deep space. "If an astronaut moves closer to the source [of cosmic rays], it is going to be important to understand how much intensity there is," Stone said. "A factor of three is big when we're talking about the effect of radiation on life."

Built to last five years, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 set out to explore the solar system's outer planets. After 42 years in action, they are still going strong, although both will run out of power and fall silent within five years. But that does not mean they will disappear, said Bill Kurth, a researcher at the University of Iowa and co-author of the study focusing on plasma waves. "They will outlast Earth," he said. "They are in their own orbits around the galaxy for five billion years or longer, and the probability of them running into anything is almost zero." If intelligent life in a far corner of the Milky Way finds either probe one day, a "golden record" including drawings of a naked man and woman, bird and whale songs, and "Johnny B Goode" by Chuck Berry will be on board. — AFP



## Business

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VIENNA: OPEC's Mohammad Barkindo said he was optimistic about the market outlook for next year. —AFP

## OPEC eyes upside potential for oil in 2020

## Oil cartel, allies to meet on Dec 5-6 to set output policy

VIENNA: The oil market outlook for next year may have upside potential, the secretary-general of producer group OPEC said yesterday, appearing to downplay any need to cut output more deeply.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies led by Russia meet in December. The so-called OPEC+ alliance, seeking to boost oil prices, has since January implemented a deal to cut output by 1.2 million barrels per day until March 2020. OPEC's Mohammad Barkindo said he was more optimistic about the market outlook for next year than he had been in October, when he had said all options were open including a deeper cut to oil output amid forecasts of oversupply.

"Based on the preliminary numbers, 2020 looks like

it will have upside potential," he told a briefing yesterday. "There are definitely brighter spots. The numbers are looking more refined and the picture is looking brighter." "The other non-fundamental factors like trade issues that have been impacting negatively on the global economy, the news coming out is more optimistic. We have seen the biggest economy in the world, the United States, continuing to defy projections, racing ahead."

OPEC's figures suggest there will be excess supply next year due to rising production outside the group. This prospect and issues such as the US-China trade dispute have weighed on oil prices, which at around \$62.70 a barrel are down from a 2019 high above \$75. On whether the market looked oversupplied for next

year, Barkindo said: "We are not there yet. We will not be able to at this point pre-empt all the steps that we are working through."

Those steps, he said, include upcoming meetings of OPEC technical committees, such as its Economic Commission Board, and the next OPEC monthly oil market report, which looks at global demand and supply, due on Nov. 14. Earlier, Barkindo also said Brazil would be welcome to join the 14-country oil producer group but had not yet made an official request to do so.

"They would be most welcome to join," he told reporters, adding that consultations had taken place in Riyadh. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said last month that he wants his country to join OPEC, a move that would add the most significant new producer to

the oil cartel for years but met with scepticism in Brazil's energy industry.

The oil industry will need about \$10.6 billion up until 2040 to keep up with global demand, according to a report released yesterday by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The annual report - the World Oil Outlook (WOO) - delves into medium and long-term forecasts. Its findings were based on the anticipated growth of the world's population - by 1.6 billion people in just over two decades, from 7.6 billion in 2018 to 9.2 billion in 2040 - and on the expected doubling of the world's economy, among other factors. The report, in which the producer group said it would supply a diminishing amount of oil in the next five years as output of US shale and other rival sources expanded. — Reuters

## Boeing tests space crew capsule Starliner

WASHINGTON: Boeing said yesterday it carried out a successful test of its Starliner crew capsule that is supposed to take US astronauts to the International Space Station, even though one of three main parachutes designed to ease it back to earth failed to deploy. The test took place in the New Mexico desert at the White Sands Missile Range and lasted around 95 seconds.

The Starliner was set on a small launch pad with four engines to simulate an emergency in which the capsule-attached to the top of a rocket-would need to quickly separate to bring the astronauts safely back to Earth. Its four engines ignited and blasted the Starliner at full speed to the sky. After 20 seconds, only two of its three main parachutes deployed. The spacecraft gently drifted to the ground, landing on the desert floor cushioned by large air bags.

NASA said in a statement that two out of three parachutes "is acceptable for the test parameters and crew safety." Boeing put out a statement saying there had been a "deployment anomaly, not a parachute failure." In the aerospace industry, anomaly is the euphemism of choice for an incident, even if there has been a serious accident.

"It's too early to determine why all three main parachutes did not deploy," Boeing said. In his first assessment, Starliner program manager John Mulholland said that "the test team and spacecraft performed flawlessly." "Emergency scenario testing is very complex, and today our team validated that the space-



This NASA handout photo released on Monday shows Boeing's CST-100 Starliner launch abort engines and several orbital maneuvering and attitude control thrusters as they ignite in the company's Pad Abort Test. — AFP

craft will keep our crew safe in the unlikely event of an abort."

Boeing is one of the companies, along with SpaceX, that NASA has chosen to build spacecraft to shuttle astronauts to the ISS.

**Confidence**

Meanwhile, Boeing's chairman yesterday gave a forceful vote of confidence in CEO Dennis Muilenburg amid calls in Congress for the embattled Boeing chief executive to resign after two deadly crashes. "Dennis has done everything right," Boeing Chairman David Calhoun told CNBC, praising Muilenburg for keeping the board closely abreast of efforts to return the 737 MAX back to service.

"To date he has our confidence," Calhoun said. Last month, Boeing stripped Muilenburg of his title of chairman but kept him on as CEO, while naming Calhoun to replace him as chairman of the board.

Muilenburg last week endured two days of bruising criticism from lawmakers from both parties probing the two accidents that killed

346 people and led to the global grounding of Boeing's top-selling jet. Lawmakers depicted the crashes as evidence Boeing had cut corners on safety to rush the MAX into service to compete with a plane from rival Airbus.

But Calhoun said criticism of Boeing's corporate culture missed the mark. "I do not believe that this instance is indicative of culture," Calhoun said. "I don't believe it." Calhoun said the company's fundamental assumption behind a key flight handling system implicated in both crashes "was flawed." But he said the company was fixing the problem and will ensure the MAX is safe once its returned to service.

Calhoun said Muilenburg had asked not to receive a bonus for 2019 after lawmakers lambasted Muilenburg over pay at a Capitol Hill hearing last week. In 2018, Muilenburg's total compensation package was \$23.4 million, according to a securities filing.

Calhoun said the company was not considering clawing back Muilenburg's pay from earlier years because there was "no culpability." — AFP

## India farmers and firms hail Modi move to reject RCEP deal

MUMBAI: Indian farmers and businesses yesterday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to opt out of a sprawling Asian trade pact, with the country's largest dairy producer Amul thanking the premier for "supporting livelihoods".

New Delhi's 11th-hour rejection of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) — which was meant to account for 30 percent of global GDP and loop in half the world's population — comes as India battles slowing manufacturing and consumption. The pact would have increased India's access to other Asian markets, but New Delhi feared its domestic industries would be hit hard if the country was flooded with cheap Made-in-China goods, particularly in key employment sectors such as agriculture and textiles. In a tweet late Monday, Amul applauded Modi's "exemplary leadership and support" to dairy farmers, who would have been exposed to more competition under the RCEP. "Your vision of supporting their livelihood will help doubling their incomes and make India stronger," it said.

Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general of the leading lobby group, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), released a statement to AFP warning the deal would have allowed

Chinese manufacturers to overwhelm "the Indian market with Made In China products at very low prices... thereby creating a disequilibrium". B. M. Singh, convener of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, said the rejection of the deal was "a huge victory for farmers".

"We should not go for an open agreement like the RCEP simply because we can't compete with other big countries," Singh said. "It's like throwing someone who is 25 kilograms (55 pounds) into a boxing ring and asking him to compete with an opponent weighing 100 kilograms."

But experts cautioned that New Delhi, which has a long history of protectionism, may lose out as it tries to become a more globally competitive economy. "In an era in which manufacturing requires the ability to become more-not less-integrated into global supply chains, this decision appears for the moment to make it harder to boost manufacturing in India," the Council on Foreign Relations senior fellow Alyssa Ayres wrote.

"The central issue for the Indian government isn't in the wording of a trade deal, but in the competitiveness of the Indian economy," Ayres added in a blog post underlining the need for New Delhi to undertake further reforms to kickstart growth.

India's decision is nevertheless seen as a blow to the deal, which now includes all 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations states plus China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand-but not the United States. The remaining members are aiming to sign it next year after reviewing an agreed draft text. —AFP



Business

# Commercial Bank of Kuwait signs contract with Peacock Concierge

## Prime cardholders to get personalized concierge services

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait signed a contract with Peacock Concierge Group with a view to offer its prime cardholders with personalized concierge services out of the Bank's ongoing endeavors to provide its diverse customer base with state-of-the-art banking services and products.

In this context, the General Manager Retail Banking Division Hameed Salman said "In Commercial Bank we do care about our cardholders' efforts and time and we seek to professionally and instantly cater for their banking needs by cooperating with qualified partners such as Peacock Concierge, so our premier customers can enjoy peace of mind with such high-end services". Al-Salman said that Commercial Bank of Kuwait communicates with all customers' segmentation to identify customers' needs and requirements with a view to provide customers with tailored-made services and products that match their lifestyle, explaining that CBK cards, inclusive of Mastercard World, Visa Infinite, Platinum Visa and Mastercard and Visa Signature are featured with exclusive free of charge privileges such complimentary access to over 600 global airport



lounges, free travel insurance and personalized concierge services.

The personalized concierge services are among the customized services that aim at providing assistance to customers through trained agents who endeavor to meet customers' requirements. Through the high-

end concierge services, CBK cardholders can enjoy wide array of service such as the limo services from and to the airport, reservation services (hotels, tickets and restaurants), processing government services, gift and flowers ordering, car rental, organizing exhibitions, road assistance and any other

service as may be required by CBK customers. CBK customer may contact 22969920, the number which was designated by Peacock Concierge Group to cater, around the clock, for CBK customers' requirements and needs. From his part Hasssan Al-Swedi, CEO of Peacock

Concierge Group said that the partnership with Commercial Bank of Kuwait is a source of pride for the Group, confirming that Peacock shall endeavor to provide CBK cardholders with bespoke services that are infused with sophistication, discretion and professionalism.

## Indonesia Q3 GDP growth weakest in over two years

JAKARTA: Indonesia's economic growth slipped to its weakest in over two years, broadly meeting expectations, data showed yesterday, signaling more monetary and fiscal stimulus is on the cards over coming months to spur demand knocked by a global slowdown.

Gross domestic product rose 5.02 percent in the three months ended September from the year-ago quarter, the weakest pace since the second quarter of 2017, the statistics bureau reported.

The figure was close to the 5.01 percent growth expected in a Reuters poll and compared with the 5.05 percent expansion in the second quarter. Though Indonesia - Southeast Asia's largest economy - relies more on domestic demand, its growth has also been hurt by slowing global trade as the US-China tariff dispute shattered its exports. That in turn has dented consumer sentiment and overall domestic consumption.

Some economists said the data pointed to a need for further fiscal and monetary stimulus. "We think policymakers will want to utilize all possible instruments at hand to support growth," said Bank Danamon economist Wisnu Wardana, noting that all "productive engines" in the economy decelerated. The fiscal policy imperatives would be under scrutiny given the central bank had already been cutting rates, he said.

Bank Indonesia (BI) has cut interest rates four times by a total of 100 basis points since July and is expected to ease again in coming months. ANZ analysts said while the data backed its expectation of further monetary easing, GDP growth was likely to stay stuck around 5 percent without a rebound in commodity prices or global growth. The rupiah firmed up slightly after the data from 14,020 a dollar to 14,005 by 0600 GMT.



JAKARTA: Traffic travel past a light rapid transit (LRT) construction site in Jakarta yesterday. Indonesia posted another quarter of slowing growth, the weakest pace in two years, as Southeast Asia's biggest economy feels the sting of slumping commodity prices. — AFP

The main stock index climbed to 6,219 before the midday break, from 6,201 ahead of the announcement.

### Widodo under pressure

President Joko Widodo, who won reelection in April promising more investment opportunities, is under pressure to avoid a sharp downturn. However, Widodo, who has been warning his cabinet members of the risks of a global recession, has little headroom to open the fiscal spigot as government income has been hit by weak corporate earnings and the broader slowdown.

In the third quarter, growth in household consumption, which makes up over half of Indonesia's GDP, eased slightly to 5 percent, from 5.2 percent. Government spending and investment also slowed.

Exports were flat, while imports plunged. At his inauguration last month, Widodo reiterated his ambitious plans of making Indonesia one of the world's top five economies by 2045 with a GDP worth \$7 trillion. "To do that, investment must play a

much bigger role. Data suggests a long way to go, with contribution to growth at its lowest in three years," said OCBC economist Wellian Wiranto.

Reflecting lowered expectations, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati in August cut the 2019 GDP growth outlook to 5.08 percent, compared to a target of 5.3 percent. On Monday, Indrawati said the fiscal deficit would be allowed to widen to 2 percent of GDP this year, up from 1.84 percent originally planned, due to revenue pressures. BI Governor Perry Warjiyo has already flagged room to make policy more accommodative, while a Reuters poll conducted before BI's last meeting on Oct. 24 forecast one more 25-bp rate cut by the end of the first half of 2020.

After the data, ING's senior economist Nicholas Mapa said the central bank will probably "reserve ammunition for further stimulus if growth momentum sags further." The government aims to lift GDP growth to 5.3 percent in 2020, a target some economists say is too optimistic. —Reuters

## Japan's ageing construction industry gives economy a boost

TOKYO: As Japan's construction firms are squeezed by the tightest labor market since the 1970s and a rapidly ageing population, they are pouring investment into technology - and providing unexpected support to an economy reeling from the bitter US-China trade war.

The industry sees artificial intelligence and robots - which can that scurry around building sites day and night, preparing equipment and moving materials for the next day's construction - as a way to future-proof and close the labor gap. But a side effect is that one of Japan's least-productive sectors is bolstering capital expenditure even as the world's third-largest economy flirts with recession amid a global growth slowdown.

Construction company Shimizu Corp, which spent about 3 billion yen (\$27.7 million) for robots over three years, is a case in point. Equipped with state-of-the-art AI, cameras and sensors, the machines handle everything from transporting building materials and welding steel to installing ceilings.

For now, Shimizu estimates the labor savings from the robots in its construction work to be 1.1 percent, far off the land ministry's goal of a 20 percent productivity boost for the sector by the middle of next decade. But the company hopes to eventually automate three-fourths of its work as it expands the range of tasks robots perform, said Masahiro Indo, general manager of its construction technology division.

"When it's hot, workers need to take breaks and drink water. Robots don't need that as they don't get tired, so that's good," he said. "Once the robots become smarter, we are looking to increase the range of work."



TOKYO: Governor of the Bank of Japan (BoJ), Haruhiko Kuroda speaks during his regular press conference at the BoJ headquarters in Tokyo.

### More projects

Construction work has blossomed in Japan under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" stimulus and an infrastructure boom ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. The government is also spending heavily on disaster relief as the country recovers from a slew of typhoons and flooding.

Capital expenditure in the sector rose 7.7 percent in the April-June quarter - far above the 1.9 percent gain for all industries - after a 15.3 percent jump in the previous quarter, government data showed.

That has moderated the pain of a 6.9 percent fall in manufacturers' spending. Construction firms plan to boost research and development spending by 15.5 percent in the fiscal year ending in March 2020, faster than the previous year's 13.8 percent gain and 7.7 percent rise in the year before that.

It was the highest among all sectors, which overall plans to increase such spending by just 3.3 percent, the Bank of Japan's quarterly "tankan" survey for September showed. Year-on-year, total capital expenditure in Japan rose for the 10th straight quarter in the April-June period, helping gross domestic product (GDP) expand an annualized 1.3 percent. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.250
Euro	340.150
Sterling Pound	393.550
Canadian dollar	232.250
Turkish Lira	53.570
Swiss Franc	309.200
US Dollar Buying	296.800

### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.796
Indian Rupees	4.300
Pakistani Rupees	1.975
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.677
Nepali Rupees	2.684
Singapore Dollar	224.790
Hongkong Dollar	38.817
Bangladesh Taka	3.561
Philippine Peso	6.020
Thai Baht	10.120
Malaysian ringgit	77.813

### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.187
Qatari Riyal	83.620
Omani Riyal	790.773
Bahraini Dinar	808.420
UAE Dirham	82.891

### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.400
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### Egyptian Pound - Transfer

Yemen Riyal/for 1000	18.869
Tunisian Dinar	1.222
Jordanian Dinar	111.450
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	429.460
Syrian Lira	0.203
Morocco Dirham	0.000
	32.162

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfer

	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.890
Canadian Dollar	231.765
Sterling Pound	392.910
Euro	339.610
Swiss Frank	303.010
Bahraini Dinar	808.155
UAE Dirhams	83.140
Qatari Riyals	84.380
Saudi Riyals	81.935
Jordanian Dinar	429.905
Egyptian Pound	18.870
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.688
Indian Rupees	4.297
Pakistani Rupees	1.951
Bangladesh Taka	3.535
Philippines Peso	6.026
Cyprus pound	18.080
Japanese Yen	3.790
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.688
Malaysian Ringgit	74.130
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	43.735

### Thai Bhat

Turkish Lira	11.050
Singapore dollars	53.375
	223.154

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

#### CURRENCY

	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.384503	0.398403
Czech Korune	0.005228	0.014528
Danish Krone	0.041205	0.046205
Euro	0.330730	0.344430
Georgian Lari	0.101965	0.101965
Hungarian	0.000935	0.001125
Norwegian Krone	0.029218	0.034418
Romanian Leu	0.054188	0.071038
Russian ruble	0.004783	0.004783
Slovakia	0.009092	0.019092
Swedish Krona	0.027566	0.032566
Swiss Franc	0.300911	0.311911

#### Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.201571	0.213571
New Zealand Dollar	0.188591	0.198091

#### America

Canadian Dollar	0.225872	0.234872
US Dollars	0.300150	0.305450
US Dollars Mint	0.300650	0.305450

#### Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.002960	0.003761
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### Chinese Yuan

Hong Kong Dollar	0.041864	0.045364
Indian Rupee	0.036735	0.039485
Indonesian Rupiah	0.003688	0.004460
Japanese Yen	0.000017	0.000023
Korean Won	0.002711	0.002891
Malaysian Ringgit	0.000252	0.000267
Nepalese Rupee	0.069499	0.075499
Pakistan Rupee	0.002623	0.002963
Philippine Peso	0.001309	0.002079
Singapore Dollar	0.005734	0.006034
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.218503	0.228503
Taiwan	0.001318	0.001898
Thai Baht	0.009871	0.010051
Vietnamese Dong	0.0009731	0.010281
	0.000013	0.000013

#### Arab

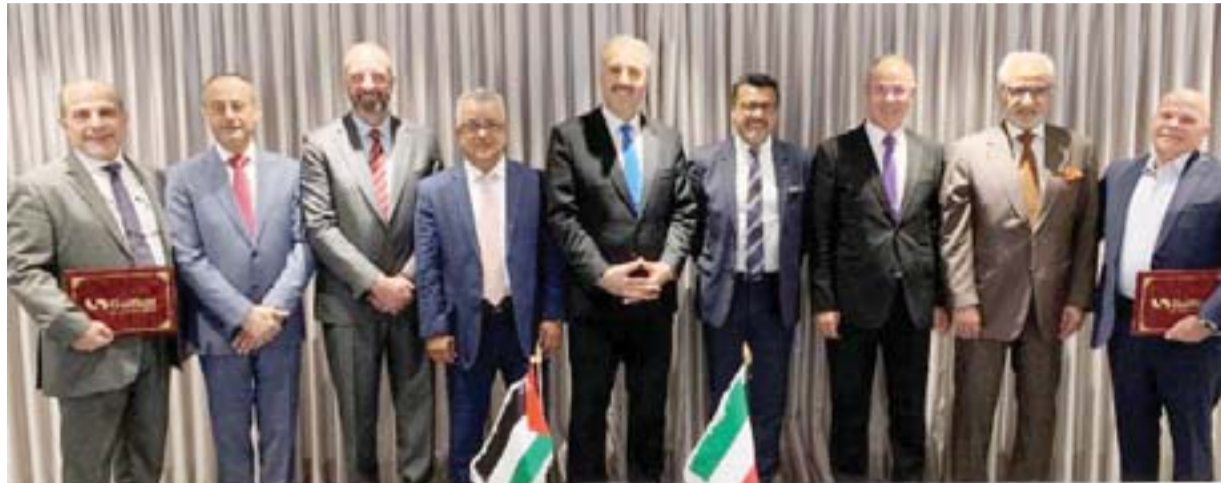
Bahraini Dinar	0.800884	0.808930
Egyptian Pound	0.018626	0.021367
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000214	0.000274
Jordanian Dinar	0.424220	0.433220
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020995	0.044995
Omani Riyal	0.785135	0.793022
Qatar Riyal	0.082915	0.083747
Saudi Riyal	0.080047	0.081347
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.103605	0.111605
Turkish Lira	0.046348	0.056193
UAE Dirhams	0.082204	0.083030
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069



## Business

# GulfSat and PALSAT renew agreement for broadcasting Palestinian channels

## Signing ceremony takes place in Istanbul



Group photo after signing the cooperation agreement.



Trophy of appreciation from GulfSat to Palsat.

**KUWAIT:** GulfSat Communications Co (GulfSat), a leading specialized provider of satellite communications solutions, telecommunications services and TV broadcast announced the renewal of the cooperation agreement with Palsat, first Palestinian company specialized in Satellite TV Broadcasting, also a subsidiary of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC).

The agreement renewal took place during a signing ceremony in Istanbul in the presence of high-caliber representatives from both companies. GulfSat communications was presented by Mohammed Alhaj, CEO and Board Member, and the Commercial and Sales Director Dr Reyad Doughlas, in addition to their guest of honor Ambassador of Kuwait to Turkey, Ghassan Al-Zawawi. On the Palestinian side the ceremony was

attended by Minister Ahmed Assaf- Chairman, Mazen Hamarsheh - CEO and Board Member, Palestinian Ambassador in Turkey, Dr Fayed Mustafa and other members of Palsat team.

Commenting on the agreement renewal, Minister Ahmed Assaf said: "we anticipate that this agreement will play a pivotal role in reinforcing the Palestinian media platform, which comes in-line with our commitment to offer our compatriots the best media mediums to keep them connected to the latest updates worldwide through TV channels". He added: "our cooperation with GulfSat proved to be very rewarding and a reliable platform to fulfill our prime objective; GulfSat is renowned to be one of the best companies in the industry throughout the region, offering services

marked with high definition while preventing anti-jamming on Palestinian channels. Our trust in GulfSat capabilities stems from our initial cooperation over the past five years, therefore we are proud to renew our agreement".

From his end, GulfSat's CEO, Mohammed Al-Haj pointed out that the renewal of the agreement reaffirms the long-built trust between the two companies and provides an opportunity to outline future development milestones to boost the Palestinian TV channels. He said: "The agreement's renewal with Palsat includes a capacity expansion for Palsat high-definition channels (SD/HD) on our DVB-S and DVB-S2 platforms, as well we will continue to provide a secured frequency to prevent intentional or non-intentional jamming; that is

in addition to providing an exclusive platform for Palestinian TV channels through internet (OTT) which will allow to watch the channels through PALSAT application with high quality via computers and smart phones anytime and anywhere".

Al-Haj asserted that GulfSat's prime objective is to keep the offerings of its platform for satellite communication solutions, satellite broadcasting and managed telecommunications innovative and enhanced: "The Core of our trust and cooperation with Palsat lies in the commitment to dedicated service and continuous development". Al-Haj ended by confirming that GulfSat will continue to provide its unique service offering: anti-jamming and no interfere service over Middle East to North Africa footprint.

## UIC holds workshop on innovation in financial sector

**KUWAIT:** The Investment Studies Center of the Union of Investment Companies (UIC), in cooperation with Franklin Covey Middle East, and with the support of Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences, organized a workshop for executive and supervisory leaderships in financial establishments and investment companies operating in Kuwait under the slogan "Creating a Culture of Innovation" on November 4, 2019 at the Chairman's Club. The center hosted lecturer Kory Kogon to present the workshop. Kogon is the vice president of Franklin Covey, USA. She has over 25 years of experience in the field of business management and projects.

The workshop was opened by UIC Chairman Saleh Al-Selmi, who welcomed those in attendance and pointed out the importance of this workshop to the leaders of financial and investment companies. Kogon began the workshop by saying innovation has become necessary for establishments and individuals, which establishes a culture of innovation. She said successful innovation does not need to be left to hope and chance - rather it is the result of research to gauge the extent of this innovation's success to serve customers. She said innovation is not only in finding creative ideas; rather it is the process of coming out with solutions accepted by customers and embracing it in their lives.

Kogon said that Franklin Covey discovered "why" is the key to successful innovation and helps individuals and establishments understand the reason customers take the options they use. Armed with this knowledge, solutions are presented. Kory displayed scenes and videos to help them understand to think differently and search for solutions. She said



it is important to listen attentively to customers to know the reason why they selected a particular product or service, then establish a summary of jobs to be done or give solutions to them. She also spoke on why the innovation process fails sometimes.

Saleh Al-Selmi said this workshop gives participants an opportunity to take a close look at intellectual talents. It helps employee innovation which will help in turn help them deal with all situations in total satisfaction of the customers. It also helps them implement their executive and supervisory strategies

using innovative means to carry out missions. "Kuwait's economy like the rest of GCC economies is moving away from reliance on oil revenues, and the Kuwaiti government is working on increasing its efforts to modernize its economic framework and employing in a future of knowledge and innovation," Selmi added. Selmi honored KFAS for its efforts in supporting training programs and spreading the scientific culture for a sustainable Kuwait. He also recognized Franklin Covey Middle East for its constructive efforts in spreading knowledge and means of innovation.

96% of transactions in South Korea and 66% in China are cashless, data by an industry lobby Payments Japan Association shows.

The transition to digital transactions will help Japan cope with a shrinking population and a tight labour market. Cashless payments will also allow stores to automate sales estimates and banks to cut back on costly automated teller machine networks. Shoppers were recently encouraged to ditch cash for e-money after the government sweetened the deal by introducing a rebate programme to ease the pain of a sales tax hike on Oct. 1.

Funded by \$2.57 billion earmarked for subsidies, shoppers get a refund in the form of points if they use cashless payments at small shops and convenience stores.

### Jumping on the bandwagon

Big tech firms have responded with aggressive campaigns to promote their e-money payment systems including SoftBank Group Corp, Yahoo Japan Corp, e-commerce company Mercari and messaging app operator LINE Corp.

Some have met with initial success. QR code payment app PayPay-owned jointly by SoftBank and Yahoo Japan-saw memberships

jump 5 million since August to 15 million, thanks in part to the government's campaign.

East Japan Railway Co also saw membership for the railway's electronic settlement system hit 11 million, up more than one million since September.

"Customers benefit from the convenience of electronic payment, while we receive fees and reduce costs by going ticketless," said Tomoyuki Soyama, deputy general manager tasked with IT business development at East Japan Railway. "It's a win-win situation."

The direct cost involving cash transactions, including labour at checkout counters, amounts to about \$73.60 billion a year, Mizuho Financial Group estimates, suggesting that going cashless will dramatically reduce such costs.

Satoshi Kumagai, senior vice president in charge of financial services and digital business at convenience store chain operator Lawson Inc, said the ratio of cashless payments of sales have increased to 25% from October versus 20% previously.

"It would be ideal to see all the transactions go cashless given labour shortages and the need to boost convenience for our customers," Kumagai told Reuters. —Reuters

## US trade deficit falls in September to \$52.5 billion

**WASHINGTON:** The US trade deficit fell 4.7 percent to \$52.5 billion in September as the country recorded its first petroleum surplus, but overall imports and exports otherwise fell under the weight of rising global tariffs and a slowing world economy. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the trade gap would fall slightly to \$52.5 billion in September.

The United States imported fewer cars but sold fewer overseas in September. It also imported fewer cell-phones, toys and games, but sold less food, feed and beverages abroad. The August trade deficit was revised to a slightly wider \$55.04 billion. While the petroleum surplus of \$252 million was the first since 1978, it reflected both a drop in exports of US oil and a larger decline in imports of foreign oil, a possible outgrowth of the recent weakness in manufacturing. The goods trade gap with China narrowed by \$100 million to

\$31.6 billion, with exports to the country falling \$800 million in September and imports from China falling \$1.0 billion.

The United States and China have been embroiled in a 16-month trade war, but the two parties have edged towards an initial agreement. Washington last month announced tariffs on aircraft, other industrial products and agricultural products from the European Union as part of a World Trade Organization penalty award in a long-running aircraft subsidy case. Trade experts expect the EU will impose tariffs on US goods next year over subsidies for Boeing.

In September, overall US exports fell 0.9 percent to \$206 billion, including a \$1 billion drop in exports of soybeans, one of the political bargaining chips China has used to pressure the US side in trade discussions. Exports of autos fell \$1 billion. Exports of capital goods ticked up by \$800 million, including a \$700 million rise in exports of civilian aircraft. There was an overall decline in goods imports, including a \$800 million drop in cell phones and a \$600 million decline in toys, games and sporting equipment. Imports of capital goods fell \$1.1 billion, including a \$600 million drop in imports of semiconductors. Imports of automobiles fell \$1.1 billion. When adjusted for inflation, the goods trade deficit fell \$3.1 billion to \$82.6 billion in September. — Reuters

## Malaysia OKs Gojek's entry, ride-hailing firm says talks still on

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia will allow motorcycle-hailing firms such as Indonesia's Gojek to start limited operations from January, a minister said yesterday, which could help end Grab's near-monopoly in Malaysia's broader ride-hailing market. Gojek - whose investors include Alphabet's Google and Chinese tech companies Tencent and JD.com - told Reuters it has yet to decide how or when it will enter the Malaysian market, pending clarity on the regulatory framework being drafted by the country's transport ministry. "We will now reach out to the ministry to understand the framework and to work through the detail of how we might approach a launch (in) Malaysia," a Gojek spokesman said.

"Ultimately, we want to support governments as they develop the digital economy in ways that are inclusive, foster innovation and drive competition."

Malaysia's ride-hailing segment is expected to earn revenue of \$558 million this year, growing at about 16 percent annually to hit \$1 billion by 2023, according to German database company Statista. At 12.7 percent, ride-hailing user-penetration in Malaysia, Southeast Asia's third-biggest economy with 32

million people, is nearly double that of the region overall. Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook told parliament firms such as Gojek and local start-up Dego Ride would be able to start operating based on a proof-of-concept basis, to measure demand for the service over six months.

"Bike-hailing will be an important component in providing a comprehensive public transport system, as a mode for first- and last-mile connectivity," Loke said. The pilot project would be initially limited to the Klang Valley, Malaysia's most developed region and where the capital Kuala Lumpur is located. The six-month program would allow the government and participating firms to gather data and evaluate demand, while the government worked on drafting legislation to govern bike-hailing.

"Bike-hailing will be subject to similar regulations as laid out for e-hailing," the minister said, referring to existing ride-hailing operations by companies such as Grab. Gojek's co-chief executive, Andre Soelistyo, told reporters on Saturday that the company was preparing expansion into Malaysia and the Philippines. Gojek's Malaysia entry would likely pose the biggest challenge to Grab, which dominates its e-hailing market after it bought Uber Technology Inc's operations in Southeast Asia last year.

Malaysia last month proposed a \$20.5 million fine for Grab, which is backed by Japan's SoftBank, for allegedly violating competition law by imposing restrictive clauses on its drivers. "Bring it on!" Grab Malaysia said on Twitter after Loke's announcement. "It is indeed healthy competition." — Reuters

## Japan wants to go cashless, but elderly aren't so keen

**TOKYO:** Cash is king in Japan, and more so for the country's fast-ageing population who are still deeply reluctant to give it up.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to make more Japanese - the world's most dedicated cash-hoarders - switch to using cashless payments is producing some success, but not nearly as much as desired. A growing rank of the nation's elderly pensioners are resisting change, which could see Japan fall further behind its peers in adopting mobile app payments and electronic money.

Tokyo wants to double the ratio of cashless settlements to 40% by 2025 and to 80% eventually to spur labour productivity. Japan pales in comparison with other countries -



## Business

# NBK, KFH arrange KD 350 million 5-year syndicated facility for KPC

Facility comprises a conventional tranche at KD 210m and a Murabaha tranche at KD 140m

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait ("NBK") and Kuwait Finance House ("KFH") have co-arranged a five-year syndicated revolving loan and Murabaha facility at KD 350 million (\$1.2 billion) for the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation ("KPC").

NBK and KFH are acting as the initial mandated lead arrangers and book runners ("MLABs") for the respective conventional and Islamic facilities on behalf of KPC. The facility comprised a conventional tranche at KD 210 million and a Murabaha tranche at KD 140 million. Signed on Oct 1, 2019, the facilities were fully underwritten by NBK and KFH and will be directed towards financing KPC's day-to-day general corporate purposes.

A consortium comprising Burgan Bank, Gulf Bank, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait ("ABK"), and Commercial Bank of Kuwait ("CBK") has joined the MLABs in arranging the conventional facility. Meanwhile, Boubyan Bank, Warba Bank, and Kuwait International Bank ("KIB") joined the syndication of the Murabaha facility. The facility comes in line with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's 2040 strategy, which will enable KPC to become a global integrated, full-fledged oil and gas hub.

Commenting on the successful closure of the transaction, Salah Al-Fulaij, NBK - Kuwait Chief Executive Officer, said: "NBK continues to play a key role in arranging credit facilities for the oil sector companies, given its strong commitment to KPC and its subsidiaries." "I am thankful for KPC's continued trust in the local banking sector. I am equally thankful for the participating banks in supporting and arranging the facility, which mirrored the Kuwaiti banking system's recognition of KPC's solid financial position together with its strong management expertise, prudent risk management and overall growth strategy," Al-Fulaij indicated.

"This deal also underscores NBK's well-established presence, backed by its healthy balance sheet as well as its domestic dominance especially in the oil industry," Al-Fulaij noted. Mazin Al-Nahedh, KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, commented: "KFH remains a key partner to KPC and its subsidiaries' strategic plans to bolster the importance of the oil and gas sector. The sector represents Kuwait's main resource and an important pillar of the State's initiative in its 2035 vision. The successful close of KPC's transaction reflects KFH's prominent position in the Islamic



Salah Al-Fulaij



Mazin Al-Nahedh

finance space and its ability to lead, arrange, and finance mega transactions and developmental projects as well as its pioneering role in developing Sharia compliant financing products in conjunction with conventional financing tools."

Al-Nahedh also extends his gratitude to all Islamic banks who participated in the Islamic tranche noting his confidence in the Kuwaiti banking sector and KPC's strategies whilst stating KFH's numerous participations in the same field.

## KFH signs cooperation agreement with Al-Yousifi & Sons Company

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has signed a cooperation agreement with "Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company", offering financial benefits and solutions to its participating customers who wish to obtain financing for building materials. This comes as part of KFH's efforts to serve its customers and support the capabilities of national companies operating in the market, expanding its role in the field of housing and consumer finance, along with enhancing its market share as one of the largest and most important supporters in this field. Executive Manager Personal Finance Products at KFH Adel Ahmed Al-Rashood said in a press release after signing the

agreement with Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company. Under the agreement, KFH will provide appropriate financial services and solutions for those wishing to purchase materials and supply services from Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company which has a long history in this field. This will be carried out in accordance with the bank's credit controls and special sales policy through the system of installments without profits, that allows customers zero interest for the duration of the transaction.

Vice Chairman and Managing Director at Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company, Dr. Adel Easa Al-Yousifi praised the cooperation with "KFH", saying that it confirms the bank's impor-



During signing of agreement

tant role in stimulating the market and supporting the sales of traders.

He added also that the collaboration with KFH serves the national economy, various segments of customers and meets their needs. Al-Yousifi pointed

out that Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company is happy with this cooperation, which will be the first step in a much broader cooperation in new fields and products to serve customers of KFH and Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company.

## Ooredoo Kuwait launches New 5G plans with Shamel Internet

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, the first in providing the best digital services in Kuwait, launched new 5G plans with Shamel Internet starting from KD 15 for a limited time period. Customers can avail from a superior 5G experience by getting 500GB of 5G internet for KD 15 and 1TB of 5G internet for KD20. Customers can also enjoy an unsurpassed experience with Ooredoo's 5G routers for KD 2.5 per month, with a 24

month commitment period. The 5G network includes an array of benefits such as a superior experience in download and upload speeds, streaming HD videos in a matter of seconds and provides high speed internet access with no delays and interruptions. Customers can also connect multiple devices using the same internet access even during peak hours.

It is worth mentioning that Ooredoo Kuwait made the first trial International 5G call in the region between Ooredoo Kuwait and Ooredoo Qatar, demonstrating the phenomenal capabilities of its 5G networks in Qatar and Kuwait. Ooredoo Kuwait is constantly working to expand 5G coverage nationwide. Please follow our website and social media channels to stay informed or visit the nearest Ooredoo branch to check for coverage and device availability.

## Burgan Bank announces winner of Al-Thuraya draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, announced yesterday Islam Mohammed Al-Kareem as the lucky winner of the draw prize of Al-Thuraya Salary Accounts monthly draw. The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win KD 10,000 every month. Each account holder has one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services

such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year.

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

## AUB launches initiative for recycling old, used car batteries

KUWAIT: As part of its corporate social responsibility program, which makes the environmental issues a top priority, Ahli United Bank announced the launch of a distinct environmental initiative in cooperation with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and BattRE Company specializing in batteries recycling, owned by Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi, for collecting old and used batteries and recycling them.

This initiative aims to provide special containers for collecting used car batteries in order to store and collect them in a safe manner and move them to a specialized recycling factory. The objective of this initiative is to create a database on the quantity of this type of waste, how to dispose thereof and benefit from recycling in cooperation with members of the society and their producers such as car service centers in residential areas, car agencies ... etc.

Commenting on this initiative, Sahar Dashti, General Manager Customer Social Responsibility Team (CSR) said: "We pursue our initiative to preserve the environment to make it safe and free of pollution, in order to achieve the vision of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah "New Kuwait 2035" to be an example for all countries through a safe and healthy environment. In this spirit, this



Tareq Muhmood and Sahar Dashti with CSR team receiving Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi

initiative aims to collect and recycle old and used car batteries to reduce their harmful effects, which are classified as hazardous waste according to recognized international standards and under Kuwait Environmental Law because of the highly toxic heavy metals contained in these batteries which make them pose a serious threat to human health and the environment as a result of their wrong handling.

Dashti added: "Through this initiative, we aim to spread and enhance community awareness of the danger of this waste to human health and the environment, and to prove that disposal of them properly protects human from many diseases and preserves the environment from pollution, particularly, that car batteries are one of the few

products that can achieve recycling rates of about 99 percent.

Dashti expressed her pride in the leading role played by Ahli United Bank in the field of e-waste recycling, which began through its environmental partnership with Enviroserve Company in a move aimed at reducing the harmful impact of e-waste on the environment. Moreover, AUB has been in a community environmental partnership in the field of plastic recycling with Omniya Recycling Factory. Through this partnership, the Bank placed bins for collecting different type of plastic waste in different areas to facilitate collecting plastic waste. Through this partnership, 8000 KG; about 8 tons of plastic waste were successfully recycled.

giant closed its offices every Friday in August, giving all 2,300 full-time workers special leave. It also restricted meetings to a maximum of 30 minutes, and encouraged online chats as an alternative to face-to-face communications.

The number of participants at meetings was limited to five, and workers were also encouraged to use online communication instead of emails, it said. The results were positive, with sales per employee rising almost 40 percent in August from a year earlier, electricity consumption down by a quarter and paper usage being cut in half.

The firm said the trial showed "employees want to have a variety of ways of working"

and that adopting the model more broadly could boost efficiency. It plans to launch a similar program this winter-but won't offer special leave. Instead, employees will be encouraged to use their existing holiday days, it said. The program comes as Japan's government pushes for more "flexible work styles," urging business to accept telecommuting, different part-time schedules and off-peak commuting.

The effort is part of an attempt to address the issue of "karoshi"-death from overwork-and to encourage overworked and overburdened couples to have children in a country that is struggling with a shrinking population. —AFP

## Shorter hours boost sales in overworked Japan: Microsoft

TOKYO: In a country notorious for overwork, Microsoft Japan trialed a radical idea: working less. And it found that four-day weeks and other reforms both boosted sales and cut costs. The Japanese unit of the US IT

## UK car sales resume slide as Brexit hits buffers

LONDON: New car sales in Britain dropped in October after a brief rise, as consumers slammed the brakes on purchases once more with Brexit hitting the buffers, industry data showed yesterday.

Sales slid 6.7 percent last month compared with October 2018, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said in a statement. Car sales had edged up 1.3 percent year-on-year in September, a month when purchases of UK vehicles traditionally gain traction owing to the release of new license plates. The renewed drop in new car sales in October "reflects continued uncertainty over diesel and clean air zones, stunted economic growth and uncertainty over Brexit", the SMMT said yesterday.

Sales of high-polluting diesel cars have fallen sharply in recent times, also as buyers switch to cleaner electric and hybrid vehicles. "The growth in alternatively-fuelled cars is very welcome, showing increasing buyer appetite for these new tech-

nologies," SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes said in the statement. "The overall market remains tough, however, with October now the year's eighth month of decline and in need of an injection of confidence. "Whether the general election delivers a 'bounce' to the economy remains to be seen," he added. Britain's parliament failed to approve the country's exit from the European Union by a deadline of October 31.

With MPs unwilling to back the government's divorce deal struck with Brussels, and with Prime Minister Boris Johnson deciding against a 'no-deal' Brexit, Britain will now go to the polls on December 12 in a general election. And it is hoped that a new government will finally be able to resolve the Brexit deadlock and hand a boost to Britain's key car sector. The country's car manufacturing industry is dominated by foreign companies exporting the bulk of new vehicles to Europe.

Since January, total new car sales have dropped 2.9 percent, the SMMT added yesterday. "New car sales have been driven down by a number of roadblocks-business and consumer caution over making major purchases, sharply reduced demand for diesel cars amid environmental concerns and stricter emission regulations," said Howard Archer, chief economic advisor to the EY ITEM Club research group. —AFP



What's On



# 'America's Musical Journey': Music is America's greatest gift to the world

By Ben Garcia

Music is America's greatest gift to the world. People from all walks of life would probably agree and we are grateful to America on that. On Monday night, in a bid to promote America in Kuwait, the movie entitled 'America's Musical Journey' (AMJ) was shown at the Avenues Vox's Cinema. The movie was particularly selected to educate the public on the cultural values of music and how it is being used to unify and understand diversity.

'America's Musical Journey' claimed electrifying and artistic sounds like jazz, the blues, country, soul, rock and roll were all born in the US. In fact, Jazz icon Louis Armstrong once said "Music is life itself, what would this world be without good music?". In the film, singer/song-writer Aloe Blacc traces the roots of American music and explores the great musical cities like New Orleans, Chicago, Nashville, Miami and New York City with legendary actor Morgan Freeman providing the narration.

Speaking just before the start of the screening, Charge d'Affaires Larry L. Memmott said "America's Musical Journey" is the feature film for Discover America 2019 as it showcases the history and cultural background of USA's most famous musical genres. "Discover America is the US Embassy's showcase of US culture, including food, tourism, education, music, and as we'll see tonight, film. I would like to thank all of our Discover America partners, especially the American Business Council of Kuwait, our Exclusive Business Partner. We also appreciate the outstanding support from Vox Cinemas, including Cinema Manager Ali Toufaily," he mentioned. "The film traces the



roots of American music through the locales and cultures where it was born. In the end, we hope it will help you better understand the collision of cultures that gave birth to America's diverse musical heritage," he added.

He mentioned some points like the importance of copyright protection and how tangible steps are being taken to improve its system. "A few months ago, the Kuwaiti National Assembly passed a new copyright law that improves the protection for creators of all types. Now,

copyright violators can be fined between 500 to 50,000KD. This is an important legal improvement, because when there is confidence in the copyright system, artists, film makers, designers and software developers will not be worried their work will be copied or stolen, content will be more readily available, and new creative industries will flourish," he said.

According to Memmott, the musical heritage which they showcased in the movie, can only exist if artists are

rewarded for their work and intellectual property. "When artists create and perform their work, they have the right to decide how their creations can be used," he said.

Speaking on innovative programs, Discover America will continue through the end of the week. There are several opportunities to join up, including a musical performance by the AFCENT Band at the Marina Crescent on Thursday. Visit the Embassy's website and their social media accounts to view the full schedule.



## South African Embassy notice

On the occasion of the Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday, the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa will be closed on Sunday, 10th November 2019 and will reopen on Monday, 11th November 2019 with its official office hours from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM and the Consular Section operation hours will be from 8:30 to 12:30. For emergency calls please contact 94924895.

## gig Battle Fitness Festival to lead Middle East fitness events

gig Battle Fitness Festival's 1st annual fitness event by Gulf Insurance Group kicked off on 1st and 2nd of November at the Green Island in collaboration with Circuit+ Fitness who organized the region's largest fitness event.

The event was attended by more than 2,500 athletes, spectators and volunteers from over 40 different countries. Athletes competed in a number of games, including the Athlete Games, the Super Team Cup, the Saracen Race, and - for the first time - the Powerlifting Combat. Gulf Insurance Group held an interactive booth at the event to engage with the vis-

itors and athletes through competitions and fun activities.

As successful as the event was, Gulf Insurance Group is honored to have had this opportunity to be the title sponsors by supporting athletes and to take its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to the next level by helping our younger generation lead a more health-conscious life. Competitive sports have gained popularity among young men and women in Kuwait in the recent years, and we hope that this event will serve to further support a more active lifestyle among this segment of the society.



## DWC praises National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters

The members of the Women's Diplomatic Committee (DWC) recently visited Mr Kamel Al-Abduljalil, Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters to express its appreciation and special thanks for his great contribution, support and encouragement for the programs and activities prepared by the DWC aiming to strengthen cultural and artistic relations between the Council and the countries through the embassies accredited in Kuwait. He praised the theme

of DWC programs for the year 2019-2020 "Kuwait on the Silk Road" aiming to enhance the role of the State of Kuwait culturally and historically and insisted that all his support and assistance will go to the programs and activities of the committee in future. He invited members of the Committee for the excursion of Failaka Island to learn about the island's history and the importance of its geographical location. The members of the committee wished him all the success for his future.



# At-home test could boost screening for cervical cancer

PARIS: An at-home, non-invasive screening for cervical pre-cancer could increase compliance with recommended follow-up tests, according to research presented Monday at a cancer conference. The new screening, called the S5 test, is based on a urine sample or a vaginal swab that women can collect themselves at home and have sent to a lab.

Researchers look for a change in DNA associated with a human gene and the four most dangerous types of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted infection linked to cervical cancer. The protocol was developed by Belinda Nedjai of the Molecular Epidemiology Lab at Queen Mary University to increase the compliance of women who do not return to the clinic after an abnormal test result. These are typically older women who find the follow-up painful, she said.

The test is considerably less invasive than those requiring a speculum, Nedjai told AFP. It's also fast — after samples are sent to the lab, it takes only hours to do the screening. "These women can give a swab or a urine sample and we can test them," she said. "It's going to be beneficial." Currently, the gold standard for cervical-cancer screening is an HPV test and a pap smear, usually following a positive HPV result. Patients with an abnormal pap smear are then referred for another screening, called a colposcopy.

**A win-win process**

The S5 screening could reduce the number of

women sent for a colposcopy, Nedjai said. It was tested on 620 patients at Royal London Hospital who had an abnormal pap smear or positive HPV test. "We found that the S5 classifier — with or without HPV testing — worked well in both urine and vaginal samples," said Nedjai, who unveiled the findings today at the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Cancer Conference in Glasgow.

"It distinguished between women who had no pre-cancerous lesions and those who had (higher-risk) lesions." In patients with HPV, an S5 urine test was better at correctly identifying women with pre-cancer lesions than testing for a high-risk type of HPV, she said. Vaginal samples worked equally well. As a standalone test in patients who had not been screened for HPV, the pre-cancer was identified at least 85 percent of positive cases.

Cervical screening is at a 20-year low in Britain, according to Public Health England, which launched a campaign earlier this year to promote screening. Nedjai explained there's still a lot of research that needs to be done before the S5 test could be used in place of HPV testing. Implementation of the S5 test may be fast-tracked in low- and medium-income countries where cervical cancer screening is not available, Nedjai said. "For them, it's a win-win process." There were more than 311,000 deaths from cervical cancer in 2018, and about 90 percent were in less-developed countries, according to the World Health Organization. The research has not yet been submitted for peer-reviewed publication. The NCRI Cancer Conference runs from November 3 to 5. — AFP

## Seas to rise even if greenhouse gases are curbed

WASHINGTON: Just as an oil tanker steaming ahead at full speed cannot stop immediately, so the dramatic rise in sea levels will continue even if the world manages to slash greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2030, experts warned in a study published Monday. Emissions between 2015, when the Paris climate change accord was thrashed out, and 2030 would be enough to raise levels by eight centimeters (3.1 inches) by 2100, according to research by experts based in Germany.

They would rise by 20 centimeters (7.9 inches) by 2300 in comparison with the reference period of 1986-2005, according to the study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). In total, sea level can be expected to rise by at least a meter by 2300 in the extremely unlikely event that greenhouse gas emissions fall to zero in the next 11 years. And that may be a conservative estimate: UN-backed scientists are already predicting an increase in water levels of between 26 cm and 77 cm by the end of this century alone.

A full quarter of that one-meter rise by 2030 will be due to emissions from China, the United States, the European Union, Russia and India in the preceding 40 years, the authors of the latest report concluded. By comparison, oceans rose by around 20 cm in the 20th century. The goal of the study, co-author



BANGUI: Civilian security personnel assess the damage to a house on the banks of the Oubangui River. — AFP

Alexander Nauels of the Climate Analytics institute in Berlin told AFP, was to show that current emissions will have a clear effect on rising sea levels that will be felt over the next 200 years.

"We all focus on the 21st century," he said, warning that "sometimes that can create the false impression that after the 21st century nothing else will happen." Sea level rise is due to a number of complex phenomena that can play out over extremely long time scales, making its study difficult. It is still unclear why Antarctic ice is melting more slowly than in Greenland. "When you're looking into the sea level rise problem, it's a very slow and responding system," said Nauels. "A centimeter doesn't sound like much but it's actually a lot," he added. In a report published last year, experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said reducing the rise in sea level by 10 centimeters would save 10 million people in coastal areas from being exposed to flooding, storm surges and other risks. — AFP

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- Treatment of vertigo.

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American Board Certified in General Surgery  
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)  
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- Day case surgeries
- Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
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- Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- Breast surgeries
- Hernia repair
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant  
http://www.international-clinic.com  
Tel: 1886677

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

- General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- Single Port Surgery
- Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, including Colorectal Cancer
- Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abdomen
- Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- WART Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistaloscope)
- Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve-Gastroctomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernia Surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

- American Board of General Surgery
- Fellow of American College of Surgery
- Canadian Board of General Surgery
- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- American Board of Colo - Rectal Surgery
- American Board of Surgical Critical Care

**Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad**  
Surgery Department  
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

**مسشفى دار الشفاء**  
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**DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM**  
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

**Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368**  
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

**DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant of General Surgery  
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

**Academic Certificates - Training**

- Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- (IFSO) member .
- Faculty member of (BEST).
- Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

**Scope of clinical Practice.**

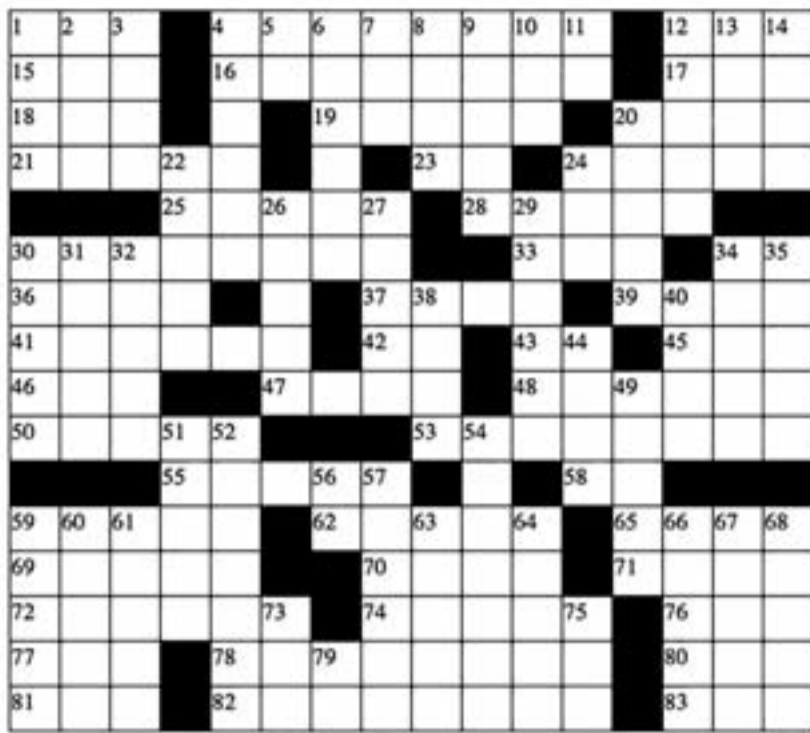
- Bariatric surgeries.
- Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- G.I. surgeries.
- Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228 Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Closer Center Mazaya Building



Stars

CROSSWORD 2352



ACROSS

1. A master's degree in business.
4. Beard grown down the side of a man's face in front of the ears (especially when the rest of the beard is shaved off).
12. God of the earth.
15. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
16. Troubled emotionally and usually deeply.
17. Step on it.
18. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
19. Marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea.
21. (Sumerian and Babylonian) A solar deity.
23. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
25. A game played with playing cards.
28. Italian violin maker in Cremona.
30. A long slender cigar.
33. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
36. A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
37. A blind god.
39. Any branch of Shinto other than Kokka.
41. A republic in southwestern Africa on the Atlantic Ocean.
42. The sciences concerned with gathering and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
43. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
45. Late time of life.
46. The basic unit of money in Romania.
47. Having nine hinged bands of bony plates.
48. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
50. A shot in billiards made by hitting the cue ball with the cue held nearly vertically.
53. A member of a North American people formerly living in the Colorado river valley in Arizona.
55. (possibly Roman) Goddess of horses and mules and asses.
58. An associate degree in nursing.
59. The sound made by a horse.
62. A name that has been assumed temporarily.
65. A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
69. Present reasons and arguments.
70. The form of RNA that attaches the correct amino acid to the protein chain that is being synthesized at the ribosome of the cell (according to directions coded in the mRNA).
71. United States physiologist (born in Germany) who did research on parthenogenesis (1859-1924).
72. An industrial city in northwestern Ohio on Lake Erie.
74. Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
76. A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
77. A rapid bustling commotion.
78. Giant tree-like plant having edible nuts and leafstalks that yield a refreshing drink of clear watery sap.
80. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
81. A zodiacal constellation in northern hemisphere between Cancer and Virgo.
82. Achieved or reached.
83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An utterance expressing pain or disapproval.
2. An island in Indonesia east of Java.
3. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
4. A midnight meeting of witches to practice witchcraft and sorcery.
5. A class of proteins produced in lymph tissue in vertebrates and that function as antibodies in the immune response.
6. A full skirt with a gathered waistband.
7. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
8. A small cake leavened with yeast.
9. A city in central New York.
10. Having any of numerous bright or strong colors reminiscent of the color of blood or cherries or tomatoes or rubies.
11. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
12. Of a yellowish brown color similar to olive drab n.
13. A genus of Mustelidae.
14. Massive plantigrade carnivorous or omnivorous mammals with long shaggy coats and strong claws.
20. Reddish long-tailed monkey of west Africa.
22. Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
24. 10 grams.
26. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
27. Formerly a term of respect for important white Europeans in colonial India.
29. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
31. Transient cessation of respiration.
32. Wine and hot water with sugar and lemon juice and nutmeg.
34. (pathology) An elevation of the skin filled with serous fluid.
35. A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
38. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
40. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
44. Offering fun and gaiety.
49. Obvious and dull.
51. Proceed without interruption.
52. Jointed and nearly leafless desert shrub having reduced scalelike leaves and reddish fleshy seeds.
54. Of or relating to or characteristic of Uganda or its people.
56. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
57. Any of various plants of the genus *Althaea*.
60. Become ground down or deteriorate.
61. An Eskimo hut.
63. A native or inhabitant of Iran.
64. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
66. British filmmaker (born in Hungary) (1893-1956).
67. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
68. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
73. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.
75. A boy or man.
79. A state in New England.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Legal work, not necessarily problems, may come into play today. Perhaps there is someone near you who needs your guidance. Your very fine verbal skills and a natural sense of justice make future legal work a distinct possibility for you. You may already have a working knowledge or some experience with the law. You also have a great interest in ideas; the more true and lasting they are, the better. You may be able to give someone some good ideas that will help him or her avoid legal problems. Your love of job and practical skills makes you a fine businessperson; however, you may find yourself entertaining others this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Good practical job-related thoughts and ideas are available as usual. Figuring things out is one of the things that take on special significance. You have a strong urge to organize things your work area. There is much mental busywork as well. The ability to communicate with superiors or describe what you see brings attention to what you say. Your timing should be perfect for just about any project you want to attempt. Be careful not to push too hard as you could become too dominating. You may feel the need to care for others or to have them care for you. You sense what is needed and you move forward to take care of the essentials or to lend a helpful hand.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There may be several times today where you could be in a position to guide young people. Perhaps several young people are helping in the workplace for a few weeks. This could mean taking inventory or rearranging inventory. You have a natural sense for communicating with others, especially those younger than yourself. They just tend to follow you around. Gathering and exchanging information becomes important this afternoon as it is imperative that an update is recorded of your good work. There is much interest in new equipment as well. This evening, neighbors or siblings have a big impact on your goals. This is a mentally and socially active period. As a footnote regarding expenses... Plan for the future now.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a challenging day. You may, however, want to set aside time to attend a lecture or business meeting on the technical level. Later, emotional considerations may block or oppose how you proceed with a plan. Someone may get pushy or obscure the real choices and the right path. Give yourself time to think things through. Stay away from speculative ventures. It is not a good idea to squander your resources. You are practical and conscientious about your own personal choices and how you conduct your life. These attributes take on a special importance now as the young people in your family, and perhaps friends, depend on your thinking to help them make life choices: home, car, etc.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Frustration, especially in getting things accomplished, may set today's mood. You are, however, able to rise above any difficulty... Seen or unseen. If possible, this is a better time to stay on the path and just keep moving forward. You can handle any glitch in the process and will eventually learn to be more patient with yourself. Sometimes the process of well-traveled steps points the way to the end result that is appreciated the most. This afternoon, exchanging information takes on more significance. Being more involved with neighbors or your siblings is important after your workday has ended. A sense of belonging and nurturing is an issue.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have a continued interest in adventure and may reveal a motto that says your attention is on yourself for now. This is your time to shine! A well-earned vacation could be in the forecast and you have an idea of where or how you would like to spend this vacation time. This may mean visiting a long-lost relative or scuba diving in the south atlantic. There is open communication available and you can really get your thoughts and ideas across to others. You could find that you are appreciated for your courage and your ability to act on your dreams. If you find the right opening in a conversation you will be successful in inviting some fun company for this diving trip. A sense of harmony makes this a happy time. There is an adventure waiting to happen.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a good time to buckle down and concentrate on your work. Your managerial abilities and sense of responsibility prove successful. Your career assumes a more solid form—a firm foundation. Preach or teach what is on your mind today. Your words contain a timely message that is good for all to hear. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation this afternoon as you visit with a friend or family member. You are learning to ask good questions and you can quickly get to the root of a matter that helps in understanding viewpoints. Listening and adding your comments when asked is what makes you a favorite. You may find yourself on the phone later today as you busy yourself cooking or look for a special recipe to trade.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be surprised when others express appreciation for your ability to know just what needs to be done, and you contribute your expertise to whatever is needed. This could be in the workplace with a team that needs coaching, support or guiding. Real insight into your own inner workings could surface in a manageable form. Every day is different, and you enjoy your work and the people you work with as each person is dedicated and enthusiastic. At home this afternoon you may realize that although much effort goes into your workday, the people at home also need your attention. You build your relationships so they will last a lifetime, and you are willing to do what it takes to make family work.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A sense of security, belonging and nurturing are instinctively felt now. You can be very commanding. You have great confidence and a take-charge sort of manner. You are a great doer once you make up your mind what it is you are going to do—others accept your commanding nature. You can also be a good team player. You enjoy working hard at being organized and you exercise skill and discipline in anything that affects your career and reputation. This is a perfect day to show off your excellent management skills. You can find support from all sides when it comes to any sort of mental activity—writing, speaking and all forms of communication.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A new or alternate life style and new ways in which to make a living are interesting to you at this time. You may not be all that satisfied in your work choices and you could surprise yourself by requesting an internship with a fishing boat captain, a prison guard or a horse wrangler. You are economy personified—always able to salvage and redeem anything. You like to tend and care for people, animals and things. You relax by working. Belonging, security and nurturing are the issues you instinctively sense at this time. You want roots; you crave a sense of intimate connection that will last.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find yourself dealing with matters of much concern and responsibility and a little puzzle solving. You may find yourself working extra hard to gain the respect and admiration of someone you hold in great esteem. You are very sensitive, even vulnerable when it comes to expressing yourself today. This is a time of intense creativity, enabling you to go through changes and inner growth. This creative intensity is good for any problem-solving opportunity, as well as music, poetry, art, etc. It should be a really good time for clear decision making and problem-solving. Later today you may decide that it is time to shop for a special gift.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your timing should be perfect and you will also find the right words, good choices and spontaneity as well. There is a lot of busy work—communication, investigation and research—perhaps through probing questions. You are not afraid of a good confrontation and you seldom pull any punches. You may find yourself involved in some sort of research or any work that requires digging, searching, investigating and getting beneath the surface of a situation. You totally enjoy social interchange. When those in command, higher-ups or customers ask for you to make changes in your work or business, you are ready, willing and able. You enjoy variety and change. Thinking, writing, researching and sciences are good interests for you.

Wordsearch Puzzle

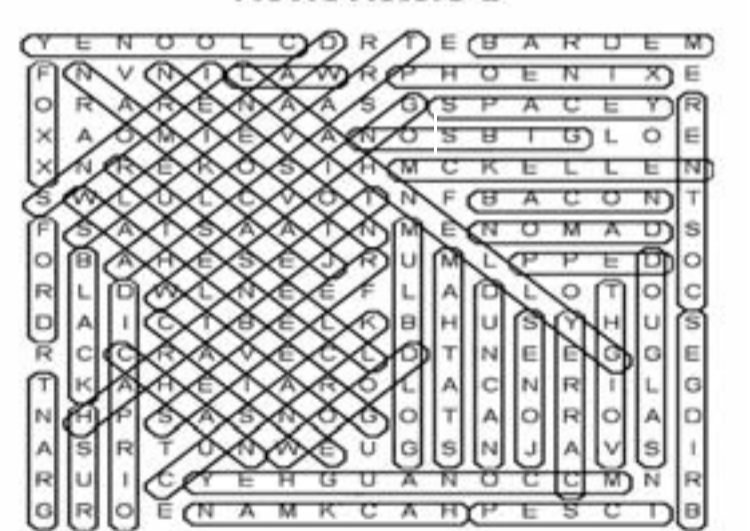
Movie Actors 2

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 William Hurt won an Oscar.



- |                   |                         |                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ASTIN, Sean       | FENNES, Raigh           | MARTIN, Steve       |
| BLOOM, Orlando    | FREEMAN, Morgan         | HORTENSEN, Viggo    |
| BROSNAN, Pierce   | GERE, Richard           | MYERS, Mike         |
| BUSCEMI, Steve    | GOSLING, Ryan           | FATTINSON, Robert   |
| CAGE, Nicolas     | HANKS, Tom              | PENN, Sean          |
| CONNERY, Sean     | HARRELSON, Woody        | REYNOLDS, Ryan      |
| CROWE, Russell    | HOFFMAN, Philip Seymour | RODGE, Seth         |
| CRUISE, Tom       | HOWARD, Terrence        | RUDDO, Paul         |
| DAFOE, William    | HURT, William           | SMITH, Will         |
| DE NIRO, Robert   | JACKSON, Samuel L.      | STALLONE, Sylvester |
| DESEL, Vin        | JONES, Tommy Lee        | STEWART, Patrick    |
| DOWNEY JR, Robert | KEATON, Michael         | VAUGHN, Vince       |
| DREYFUS, Richard  | KILMER, Val             | WILKINSON, Tom      |
| DUVALL, Robert    | LABERGE, Sha            | WILLIAMS, Robin     |
| EVERETT, Rupert   | HAGUIRE, Tobey          | WILSON, Owen        |
| FERRELL, Will     |                         |                     |

Movie Actors 1



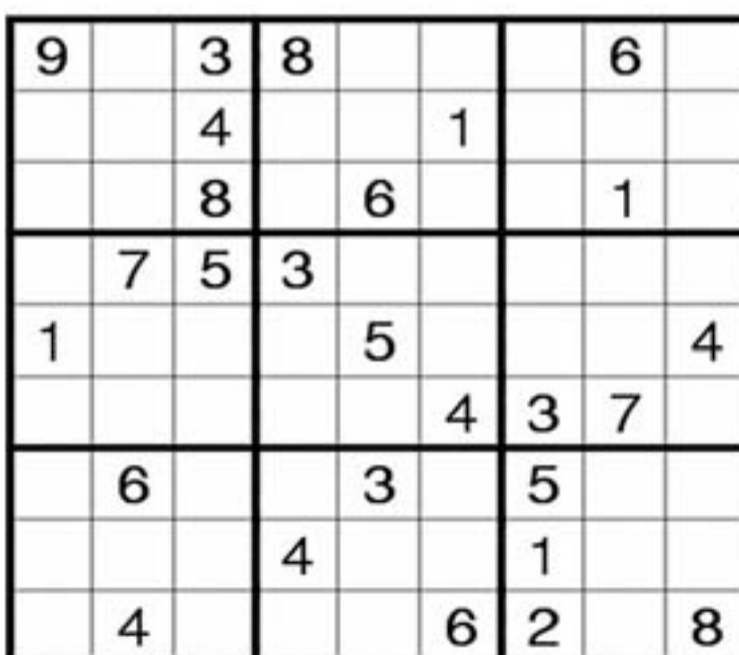
- |                    |                        |                  |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| BACON, Kevin       | DUNCAN, Michael Clarke | MCKELLEN, Ian    |
| BARDEN, Javier     | FORD, Harrison         | NEESON, Liam     |
| BLACK, Jack        | FOX, Jamie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

The hidden movie title is: REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019



A pedestrian walks past a mural artwork painted on the wall of a house in the town of Ferizaj. — AFP

## Japan's kabuki harnesses the Force for Star Wars performance

From a galaxy far, far away, Star Wars is coming to a traditional Japanese kabuki theatre stage for a one-off performance in Tokyo celebrating the blockbuster cinema series. Kabuki actors will swap their samurai swords for lightsabers to perform the adaptation of the wildly popular series later this month, ahead of the release of the final film in the main Star Wars saga. Ichikawa Ebizo, among the biggest names in Japan's heavily choreographed kabuki world, will star as Kylo Ren, the son of Han Solo, who is drawn to the dark side.

The performance on November 28 at an undisclosed location in Tokyo is shrouded in secrecy, but will feature key moments from recent installments of the series, the Japanese arm of Disney said in a statement. Disney said it plans to invite at least 25 couples to the performance, which will also be live-streamed. "Star Wars kabuki" will depict the sagas of love and loss for the Skywalker family that stretch for more than 40 years, Ichikawa said in the statement. "It will be a show that both Star Wars fans and kabuki fans will enjoy."

The new Star Wars film, which hits movie theatres from December 20, will

be the final episode of the Star Wars epic that began four decades ago. The multi-generational saga of the Skywalker clan is a global phenomenon, with Japan no exception, particularly among those who remember the original trilogy released in the 1970s and 1980s. And Star Wars is said to have been influenced throughout the years by Japan. Director J.J. Abrams has said Ren's fractured facemask was inspired by the Japanese art of kintsugi, where cracks are repaired with silver or gold and highlighted rather than hidden.

The production comes as kabuki actively adopts new themes to appeal to a wider audience, adapting popular comic books and other works in a bid to draw in new viewers. The artform with its set pieces and historical weight is often associated with kimono-clad elderly patrons, and adaptations of popular comic books like "One Piece" and "Naruto" are an attempt to shake off a stuffy image. It has even embraced virtual reality, with kabuki star Nakamura Shido performing alongside giant screens featuring virtual reality character Hatsune Miku. — AFP

## French star Haenel says she was 'abused' by director from age 12

French star Adele Haenel accused the director who discovered her of sexually harassing her from the age of 12 in a lengthy interview on Monday. The 30-year-old, who is wowing critics on both sides of the Atlantic with her performance in "Portrait of a Lady on Fire", said she was the victim of "permanent sexual harassment", "forced kisses on the neck" and touching for the three years she spent working and promoting her debut film, "The Devils".

Director Christophe Ruggia strongly denied the claims, with his lawyers saying that he "categorically refuted" any misconduct. He insisted that he had a "professional and affectionate relationship" with Haenel. But the actress handed over love letters she said Ruggia had sent her at the time to the French investigative website Mediapart, which spent seven months talking to more than 30 people involved with the 2002 film about an incestuous relationship between 12-year-old siblings.

The director's ex-partner also told the site that she left him after he confessed to being in love with Haenel and of touching her inappropriately. Haenel, who played a girl with autism in "The Devils", told a live interview streamed on Mediapart Monday that she decided to go public after watching "Leaving Neverland", the documentary about the child victims of US pop star Michael Jackson. She said her resolve was further stiffened when she discovered that Ruggia was set to make another film with adolescents.

### Director expelled

The actress, who has won a string of awards including two French Oscars, the Césars, said Ruggia "put a system in place to isolate me, to have him at his place every weekend... It was a man of nearly 40 who every week got himself into a room with a young girl who was between 12 and 15 and tried to touch her up."

"There was no ambiguity in the situation... it wasn't romantic, it was pure pressure. I was stuck to the sofa. I froze in the centre of all this."

She said the experience had traumatised her and that she never wanted to make another film.

The French society of film directors (SRF) said it was expelling Ruggia from its ranks in light of the accusations.

"We want to express our total support, our admiration and recognition of the actress Adele Haenel, who had the courage to speak out after so many years of silence," it said in a statement Monday.

Ruggia, 54, who is also known for "The Kid from Chaaba", is a former co-president of the organisation.

Ruggia's lawyer, Jean-Pierre Versini, told AFP that while the filmmaker may have had "an involuntary, adult, director's hold on her... he categorically denies touching or sexually harassing her" when she was a minor.

Haenel told Mediapart in the live streamed interview that she was "shocked that he denies it. You have to recognise it, it is more violence denying it. And I am even more shocked by the fact that he says he discovered me, because really he destroyed me."

The actress said she was not going to the police because of the "contempt with which the judicial system treats women. One rape in 10 ends up with a conviction." — AFP



This file photo in Paris shows French director Christophe Ruggia giving a press conference. — AFP

## Cheddar cheese row chef named as 'immortal' of French cuisine

A French celebrity chef who is suing the Michelin guide for suggesting he used cheddar cheese in a soufflé was named as one of the 10 immortals of haute cuisine Monday by the rival Gault & Millau guide. Marc Veyrat was given a permanent place in the new academy of the "Golden Toque" alongside Guy Savoy, Alain Passard, Alain Ducasse and other legends of French cuisine. The news was seen as a swipe at its arch rival Michelin, who Veyrat accused of "dishonoring" him by stripping him of his coveted third star in January.

The chef—a larger than life figure instantly recognizable for his wide-brimmed black Savoyard hat and dark glasses—is taking the guide to court later this month to try to force Michelin to hand over its inspectors' notes. Gault & Millau announced its new academy featuring the 10 pillars of

French cooking as it named Arnaud Donckele as its chef of the year. They described his cooking at La Vague d'Or restaurant in the chic French Riviera resort of Saint Tropez as poetry on a plate. While the prize is usually given to emerging chefs, the 42-year-old is already a big name, holding the maximum three Michelin stars. "Even though he is extremely well known, he merits further praise," Gault & Millau chief Jacques Bally told AFP.

### Dish inspired by fisherman

Bally said that in a divided and splintered culinary world "with Arnaud Donckele you will find the essence of taste that everyone can agree on." Donckele, who is set to open Le Cheval Blanc restaurant in Paris next year, told AFP that his cooking was "complex" but also designed to please

everyone. Famous for his exquisite reductions and sauces, Donckele's signature dish was inspired by a sandwich that a fisherman once gave him.

"Chopin of amberjack done after the fashion of Victor Petit" was also influenced by a salad from the interwar years Donckele discovered in the writing of a gastronomic journalist from the period. Gault & Millau's head of tasting told AFP that "even if Donckele's cooking is very complex, it is never complicated. What he is looking for above all is the extreme purity of taste and the association of flavours," he added.

Gault & Millau named Jessica Prealpatto—already crowned as the best pastry chef in the world by the 50 Best ranking—from Alain Ducasse's restaurant at the Plaza Athenee hotel in Paris as the best patissier of the year

alongside Max Martin from Yoann Conte's two-star establishment on Lake Annecy near Geneva.

Conte is an acolyte of Veyrat, 69, who made his name with so-called "botanical" cooking, employing the wild herbs gathered around his restaurants in his native Haute Savoie region. The controversy around his lost Michelin star centres on claims that its inspector mistakenly thought he had adulterated a soufflé with English cheddar, instead of using France's reblochon, beaufort and tomme varieties.

"I put saffron in it, and the gentleman who came thought it was Cheddar because it was yellow. It's just crazy," Veyrat said. He also claimed that a new generation of editors at the head of the Michelin guide were out to make their names by taking down the giants of French cuisine. — AFP



# Iron Curtain to green haven: A mountain village transformed



A tourists boat sails on the lake of Kerkini near the Belles mountain (Belasitsa in Bulgarian) at the Greece and Bulgaria's border. — AFP photos



Former head of the local communist party Stanimir Samardzhiev, left, walks near the remains of the border fortifications from Soviet era in the steps of Belasitsa.



Tourists watch birds on a tourist boat sailing on the lake of Kerkini near the Belles mountain.



Birds fly around tourists boats on the lake of Kerkini near the Belles mountain.

Where 30 years ago barbed wire guarded the Bulgarian border, tourists now hike in a nature park filled with rare flora and fauna, part of a surprising legacy of the Iron Curtain which once ran across this region. Sweet chestnut forests and meadows cover the northern slopes of the Belasitsa mountain range in the EU member's southwest, where access even for locals was once subject to special permission from the authorities.

As a result, nature was left to rule untroubled for 45 years until the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989. "After the border fences were removed, they revealed the area's well preserved biodiversity heritage," Dobriel Radev, the nature park's director, told AFP. Nestled under the 1,880-metre (6,170-foot)-high border peak of Tumba, on the crosspoint of Bulgaria, Greece and North Macedonia, the village of Gabrene has been completely transformed from a strictly guarded outpost to a tourist attraction.

A patch of the old border fence and a rusty army observation tower can still be seen on Gabrene's outskirts, and elderly villagers eagerly share their memories of that time. "Our everyday life was subject to strict control," said Stanimir Samardzhiev, a former local Communist party official and retired mathematics teacher. "Villagers had to show their ID before they could work their fields" beyond the fence, he said.

## Gains for all our losses

Belasitsa, which was declared a nature park in 2007, boasts 1,591 plant species, including 28 which are protected, as well as foxes, roe deer and wild boars. "There are gains for all our losses," said park expert Sofia Ilkova, who was one of the first biologists to discover the Bulgarian border region after the fall of the Iron Curtain. "The animals lived without being disturbed, and the steep terrain did not encourage agriculture so no insecticides were used," she said.

Rare plant species found in Belasitsa's grassy meadows include the wild lily with its bright yellow flowers. Just across the border in neighboring Greece, where Belasitsa is called Belles, lies another protected area that also benefited from the Iron Curtain era—the Kerkini Lake national park. In late



This picture shows flocks of pelicans and flamingos in the lake of Kerkini, near the Belles mountain at the Greece and Bulgaria's border.

September, pelicans, cormorants and flamingoes could be seen at Belasitsa as buffalo herds grazed in pastures around the water lily-covered swamps of the park.

## Symbol of cross-border cooperation

Both parks are part of the European Green Belt—an initiative that aims to promote sustainable development, tourism and local traditions along the whole 12,500 kilometers of the former Iron Curtain. Belasitsa park director Radev said the "unique ecological route shared by 24 countries is a symbol of cross-border cooperation". Today the inhabitants of Gabrene and the other villages at the foot of the mountain rely on green tourism, welcoming hikers and cyclists in several renovated traditional houses.

A bike track runs along the former frontier. "It's

hard to imagine that Greece and Macedonia were considered enemies 30 years ago," said one Bulgarian teenager, part of a group of Bulgarian and North Macedonian high school students marking European Green Belt Day in September with a bird-watching boat trip on the Greek side. But the verdant landscapes that have replaced the Iron Curtain is not immutable. Environmental advocates point to threats, such as the construction of hydroelectric power stations and motorways, enlargement of ski resorts and intensive logging. — AFP

## Graffiti speak volumes in Chile's protest crisis

A visitor wondering what the deadly unrest in Chile is about can learn a lot from the graffiti that has blanketed the capital's streets. AFP has photographed some of the striking slogans and murals in Santiago as Chileans vent their rage at the government.

### 'Dignity!'

Protests against a rise in traffic fares swelled into a general outpouring of rage at economic hardship, expensive education and healthcare and tight pensions. Many of the graffiti made a scrawled plea for "Dignity". "They won't keep us quiet any longer," the slogans warn. "The status quo is slavery for us."

### Torture

After starting three weeks ago, the demonstrations descended into deadly clashes between protesters and police. Twenty people have been killed in the unrest. UN human rights authorities are inves-

tigating allegations of police brutality. "They kill, rape and torture," the graffiti say. "They are drinking the blood of the people."

### Resign

The central target of the crowds' fury is Chile's billionaire conservative president, Sebastian Pinera. Countless graffiti cry out for his resignation—or worse. He at first responded to the unrest by claiming the country was "at war". "We are not at war," the graffiti roared back.

### Constitution

The protesters are demanding constitutional reform. Chile's current constitution dates back to the 1973-1990 dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. The words "New constitution!" are scrawled on walls in giant letters. Several opposition parties and officials have backed plans to discuss a new constitution.

### Revolution

Among the puns and rhetorical figures of speech, classic revolutionary language screams from the murals: injustice, rebellion, victory. "The rich ones' democracy is the poor ones' dictatorship." "If revolution is necessary, revolution is possible."

### Victims

Graffiti specialist Alvaro Ramirez says the outpouring of street painting in Santiago is reminiscent of the 1970s, when artists would defy the curfew to go out and paint murals. The whole length of Santiago's eight-kilometer (five-mile) Alameda avenue has been covered in paintings and slogans. Some murals commemorate those killed in the unrest. Only one building has escaped the graffiti: the heavily guarded La Moneda presidential palace. — AFP



These pictures show graffiti related to protests that began against a rise in metro ticket prices and other austerity measures that descended into vandalism, looting and clashes between demonstrators and police, in Santiago. — AFP photos





These pictures show participants releasing a hot-air balloon attached with fireworks during the Tazaungdaing Lighting Festival at Taunggyi in Myanmar's northeastern Shan State. — AFP photos

# Flames and fireworks as Myanmar fire balloon fest opens



The gigantic hot air balloon folded into itself and fell in a ball of flames, scattering onlookers below at the beginning of Myanmar's stunning yet treacherous fire balloon festival. Nobody was hurt this time but every year several are injured at the event in Shan State's capital Taunggyi, a highlight of the annual Tazaungdaing festival of light that marks the end of the rainy season. The celebration is rooted in Buddhism and draws tens of thousands each day.

It has become a "festival for the whole of Burma", competition judge Thein Zaw, 54, told AFP in between balloon inspections. After months spent working on their designs, competing teams launch-or try to launch-some 200 homemade devices over the course of the 10-day festival. They are weighed down with frames carrying hundreds of fireworks or candles, and a miscalculation on when to light the rockets can result in a fiery catastrophe.

Points are scored for aesthetics, teamwork, height reached, and the duration of time spent in the air explained Thein Zaw, who has been on the judges panel for 13 years. On Monday evening, the competition began after a dancing display by many of Shan's ethnic groups and the release into the night sky of hundreds of traditional lanterns-albeit many with the modern twist of a company sponsor name emblazoned on their sides.

"I've been coming to this event every year since I was a kid," enthused Thuzar Lin, 26, after a kaleidoscopic shower of fireworks from her group's creation rained on admiring onlookers. Most teams boast a mixture of men-who normally handle the gunpowder and wield the huge flaming torches used to set light to the burners-and women.



This year, for the first time, a launch field had been fenced off-much to the disappointment of many thrill-seeking regulars, who in previous years had enjoyed front-row seats to the action. "It's really changed the atmosphere. You can't get involved like before," said 31-year-old Zu Zue ruefully. The last fatalities were in 2014 when three were killed as a balloon crashed onto the crowds below.— AFP



These pictures show participants releasing a hot-air balloon attached with fireworks during the Tazaungdaing Lighting Festival at Taunggyi in Myanmar's northeastern Shan State. — AFP photos



## Shakira says losing voice was 'darkest moment' of her life

Colombian superstar Shakira says temporarily losing her voice two years ago was "the darkest moment" of her life, and which affected her "deeply". In November 2017 the three-time Grammy winner was forced to postpone her hip-shaking "El Dorado World Tour" for seven months after suffering a hemorrhage on her right vocal cord.

"It affected me deeply, there is a before and after," the 42-year-old said during an interview with AFP late on Monday in Barcelona, where she lives with Spanish footballer Gerard Pique and their two young sons. "You take many things for granted when you have them... In the case of my voice, it is something that is so inherent in my nature, it is my identity," she added in the interview at a Barcelona hotel. "I always thought that one day I would lose many things, one day you lose your youth, you lose your beauty, you even lose friends, there are people who come and go... but I never thought my voice was something that could disappear.

### A miracle

"When that doubt arose, when I did not know if I could sing again, it was the darkest moment of my life," she added. In what she describes as "a miracle", Shakira recovered her voice naturally, without needing to undergo surgery as recommended by doctors and was finally able to carry out her tour in 2018. A documentary about the tour, which encompassed over two decades of hits and was based on two shows she gave in Los Angeles, will open in around 60 countries from November 13.

"It is one of the most important tours of my life for what it means, for the different obstacles that I had to overcome," Shakira said. With her mix of Latin and Arabic rhythms and rock influence, Shakira is one of the biggest stars from Latin America, scoring major global hits with songs such as "Hips don't Lie" and "Whenever, Whenever". She was picked to perform alongside pop star Jennifer Lopez at the halftime show of the Super Bowl at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami on February 2, 2020 — which happens to be Shakira's birthday.

"We have a lot of ideas, it is hard to do them all in the short amount of time which we have. But we will try to take advantage of it as much as possible, especially the opportunity to represent Latinos," Shakira said. The National Football League's Super Bowl championship final is the biggest annual event on US television. The halftime show typically features some of the world's best-known performers. Last year's show drew 98.2 million viewers. — AFP



In this file photo Colombian singer Shakira leaves a court in Madrid. — AFP



## Lifestyle | Gossip



## Liam Payne wants people to put their phones down

**T**he 'Strip That Down' hitmaker relished his recent trek through Africa with former soldier Ant Middleton for TV special 'Ant Middleton & Liam Payne: Straight Talking' as the lack of social media meant they could make a genuine connection with one another. He said: "When I was in remote Africa, there was no phone signal and no clouds in the sky, so no light pollution. We were making fires, and chatting was our only entertainment. "And when you're able to sit in silence with somebody and not have to fill it, that's when you know you've got a true friend, a true relationship with somebody. I think I and a lot of people

have kind of lost touch with that because we're so used to these little 30-second bites of information... "It has taught me that with the way life is, especially with social media and with young people who are its biggest consumers, we're so much more interested in what everybody else is doing, we're forgetting to just be ourselves. "So, I recommend that everyone puts their phones down and stops for a few minutes every day. They'll find they're not spending their hours consumed by thinking about what everybody else is doing. Because if you get wrapped up in this manic merry-go-round and in everybody else's problems, you forget to deal with your own.

And you fail to see the bigger picture." The 26-year-old singer - who has two-year-old son Bear with former partner Cheryl - learned the "true power" of both honest conversation and silence while on the trip. He added to the new issue of Radio Times magazine: "It was quite an awakening for me as Ant got me to talk frankly - and I think I made Ant open up about the things that matter to him as well. "But it was the moments when we didn't speak that changed my life forever, when I learnt the true power of conversation - and silence."

## Josephine Skriver set to star in boohoo's Holiday 2019 campaign

**T**he 26-year-old model will join forces with the likes of Romee Strijd, Elsa Hosk, Jasmine Tookes, and Yvonne Simone for the international retailer's upcoming Holiday campaign, which is set to launch worldwide on Thursday. boohoo's campaign was shot in Las Vegas by photographer Zoe McConnell, who captured the glitz and glamour of the collection at notable locations, including Fremont Strip, The Plaza Hotel, The Golden Nugget and new luxe sites including the NoMad Hotel at Park MGM and On the Record nightclub and lounge. The collection is set to feature rich velvet suiting, mini dresses with feathered embellishments, sparkling two-piece sets, and faux furs, which each of the models involved in the campaign will embody. boohoo's holiday campaign launches globally on November 7, 2019 on boohoo.com. Josephine, Romee, Elsa, and Jasmine have all worked together in the past, having all hit the runway as Victoria's Secret angels. And for Jasmine, the new campaign will come as she's used to having her mother, Cary Robinson, style her for events. Jasmine recently revealed she used to assist her mother in her work dressing celebrities, and since pursuing modeling herself, has now enlisted her mother's help in choosing her outfits. She said: "It's really, really nice because I'm not afraid to say that I don't like something. Sometimes when I work with another stylist, I don't want to hurt their feelings if they have brought me options that I don't like. "My mom and me obviously have an amazing relationship - we're like sisters - she knows my exact style; she knows what I'm going to like and what I don't like and also she has a very classic style."



## Kate Moss, Yara Shahidi star in Coach's 2019 festive campaign

**T**he 45-year-old British supermodel and the 19-year-old American actress-and-model have been photographed by Juergen Teller for the campaign with the images released this week. In one shot, Kate is seen wearing a dark red dress styled with a chunky black leather belt as she lies on a fallen Christmas tree whilst holding a new version of the luxury brand's Kat Saddle Bag. 'Black-ish' star Yara is seen in another image standing in the snow next to a box of festive decorations and wearing a hoodie emblazoned with the company's dinosaur mascot Rexy. The pair are joined in the campaign by rapper Megan Thee Stallion, model Fernanda Ly and actor Miles Heizer. The group also appears in a video titled 'Wonder For All' directed by Bunny Kinney, with Yara's family making a cameo alongside the Newark Boys choir, Spike and Tonya Lee, model and actress Camila Morrone, RuPaul's Drag Race season eight's winner Bob The Drag Queen and actor Ben Sinclair. Explaining the inspiration behind the Christmas campaign, a Coach spokesperson said: "The campaign follows the band of revelers as they gather at an impromptu party at a New York brownstone. Capturing the magical mood of the season, it champions the belief of coming together for the holidays and the inclusive, authentic spirit of New York. "It sees the cast in joyful, unfiltered scenes that highlight the house's spirit of playfulness and the authentic self-expression that defines New York City." Last year, Coach unveiled actress-turned-singer Selena Gomez as the face of their 2018 holiday campaign 'Lights, Camera, Holiday.' The playful series of short animated films followed the pop star and an unexpected cast of animated animals as they audition for the gig of the season - the Coach holiday store windows.



## Tracee Ellis Ross to host The Fashion Awards 2019

**T**he 47-year-old actress - who is the daughter of Motown legend Diana Ross and her ex-husband Robert Ellis Silberstein - will helm the annual celebration of models and celebrities and businesses and brands in the global fashion industry at the Royal Albert Hall in London on December 2. The British Fashion Council (BFC) announced that the 'Black-ish' star is this year's host in a statement which read: "Born from a legacy of style, Ross is known for her sartorial flair and taking fashion risks with ease and grace. Whether gracing the Emmys red carpet in couture, thanking her shopping habit for her oft-documented street style, or inviting her more than nine million followers on social media to make fun of her dad sneakers, Ross uses fashion as a mean of self-expression and communication. She not only loves fashion; she has fun with it." This year's event will see Adesuwa Aighewi, Adut Akech, Adwoa Aboah, Kaia Gerber and Winnie Harlow compete for the Model of the Year prize, whilst Bottega Veneta, Gucci, Jacquemus, Loewe, and Prada have all been nominated in the Brand of the Year category. Gucci's Alessandro Michele, Bottega Veneta's Daniel Lee, JW Anderson and Loewe creative director Jonathan Anderson, Dior Men's Kim Jones and Prada's Miuccia Prada are all in the running for Designer of the Year. Supermodel Naomi Campbell will be honored with the Fashion Icon Award in recognition of her four decades at the top of the industry. The Fashion Awards is the main fundraiser for the BFC charities who aim to support the future of creative talent with educational programs and scholarships, as well as financial and mentoring awards for emerging talent.



## Taylor Swift relieved her songwriting isn't tied to own personal misery

**T**he 'Blank Space' hitmaker - who is dating actor Joe Alwyn - admitted many writers worry about finding "stability" in case it impacts on their creativity so she was pleased to find inspiration from her own happiness for her latest album 'Lover'. She said: "That's exactly what's happened with this album! I think a lot of writers have the fear of stability, emotional health and happiness. "Our whole careers, people make jokes about how, 'Just wait until you meet someone nice, you'll run out of stuff to write about.' "I was talking to [Cats' director] Tom Hooper about this because he said one thing his mother taught him was, 'Don't ever let people tell you that you can't make art if you're happy.' I thought that was so amazing. "He's a creator in a completely different medium but he has been subjected to that same joke over and over again that we must be miserable to create. "Lover is important to me in so many ways, but it's so imperative for me as a human being that songwriting is not tied to my own personal misery. It's good to know that, it really is!" Earlier this year, Taylor was left upset when Scooter Braun bought her former record label, Big Machine, meaning he acquired the rights to her master recordings. The 'Me!' hitmaker explained she was so vocal about the situation because she wanted to shine a light on what had happened so other artists don't find the same thing happening to them in years to come.



## Keanu Reeves attends LACMA Art + Film Gala with Alexandra Grant

**T**he 55-year-old actor - who hasn't been pictured with a partner for years - fuelled speculation he has found love as he posed for photos with the 46-year-old artist as they entered the Gucci-sponsored event in Los Angeles Their high-profile appearance comes shortly after the 'Matrix' star was spotted walking arm-in-arm with Alexandra as they left a West Hollywood sushi bar. According to the New York Times, the pair first met at a dinner party in 2009 and began collaborating on their first book, 'Ode to Happiness' shortly afterwards. They have a joint venture, X Artists' Books, which works to produce titles that "wouldn't fly at larger imprints." The 'Speed' actor - whose daughter Ava was tragically stillborn in December 1999, just a month before his girlfriend Jennifer Syme died in a car accident - admitted earlier this year that he felt "lonely" but hadn't given up hope of finding love. He previously said when asked what he thinks about love: "You mean romantic love? You know, I'm the lonely guy. I don't have anyone in my life. But if it does occur, I would respect and love the other person; hopefully it'll happen for me." The 'Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure' star certainly knows how to win over the heart of a girl as he pulled out all the romantic stops for his first proper girlfriend. He explained: "I was 17 and I had an older girlfriend who turned me on to a lot of music. I had this car with these speakers in the back; she turned me on to bands like Joy Division, the Violent Femmes. "We would get in the car, drink a little, do this or that, and I'd put the speakers on top of the car, and we'd go to a park and we'd dance."



## Emma Watson is happy being self-partnered



**T**he 'Harry Potter' actress "never believed" people who claimed they were content to be single and it's took her a "long time" to embrace her own status without a partner. She said: "I never believed the whole 'I'm happy single' spiel. I was like, 'This is totally spiel.' "It took me a long time, but I'm very happy [being single]. I call it being self-partnered." Emma turns 30 next April and although she didn't previously understand the "big fuss" around the milestone birthday, she instantly felt "stressed and anxious" when she reached 29 as there is so much pressure on reaching key life moments. She told the new issue of Britain's Vogue magazine: "I was like, 'Why does everyone make such a big fuss about turning 30? This is not a big deal...' "Cut to 29, and I'm like, 'Oh my God, I feel so stressed and anxious. "And I realize it's because there is suddenly this bloody influx of subliminal messaging around. If you have not built a home, if you do not have a husband, if you do not have a baby, and you are turning 30, and you're not in some incredibly secure, stable place in your career, or you're still figuring things out... "There's just this incredible amount of anxiety." The British star can next be seen in 'Little Women' and she loved getting the chance to work with her fellow "activists" Laura Dern and Meryl Streep.



# Classifieds

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

**BY NIGHT:** Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 05/11/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	30 °C	24 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	32 °C	20 °C			
ABDALY	33 °C	16 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	32 °C	20 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	28 °C	24 °C			
AHMADI	29 °C	25 °C			
NUWASIB	32 °C	21 °C			
WAFRA	32 °C	21 °C			
SALMY	32 °C	20 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	MAX. Temp.	MIN. Temp.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Wednesday	11/06	Partly cloudy	32 °C	18 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h
Thursday	11/07	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	29 °C	18 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 40 km/h
Friday	11/08	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	30 °C	18 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 40 km/h
Saturday	11/09	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	28 °C	19 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:43
Sunrise	06:04
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:37
Sunset	16:59
Isha	18:18

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	32 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	65 %
MIN. RH	25 %
MAX. Wind	NE 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I. Subashmon** Koovadu Cacko (Koovakadu Puthuparampil House, Mammood PO, Kottayam, Kerala Pin 686553) holder of Indian Passport No. L0036092 issued at Kuwait on 15-04-2013, presently residing at Kuwait do hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as: Given name: Subashmon Koovakadu, Surname: Chacko. Objections if and may be forwarded to Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Safat, Arabian Gulf St. Kuwait City 13015.

**I. Subashmon** Koovadu Cacko, Father of Abel Martin Subash holder of Indian Passport No. R2311106 issued at Kuwait on 06-03-2017, permanent address of (Koovakadu Puthuparampil House, Mammood PO, Kottayam, Kerala 686553), presently residing at Kuwait do hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as: Given name: Abel Martin, Surname: Subash, Father's name: Subashmon Koovakdu Chacko. Objections if and may be forwarded to Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Safat, Arabian Gulf St. Kuwait City 13015.

**I. Sajimol** Issac (Koovakadu Puthuparampil House, Mammood PO, Kottayam, Kerala Pin 686553) holder of Indian Passport No. N8636560 issued at Kuwait on 05-04-2016, presently residing at Kuwait do hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as: Given name: Sajimol, Surname: Issac, Spouse's name: Subashmon Koovakadu Chacko. Objections if and may be forwarded to Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Safat, Arabian Gulf St. Kuwait City 13015.

**I. Subashmon** Koovadu Cacko, father of Andrea Anna Subash holder of Indian Passport No. P7119181 issued at Kuwait on 12-01-2017, permanent address of (Koovakadu Puthuparampil House, Mammood PO, Kottayam, Kerala Pin 686553), presently residing at St. Marys

Residential Public School, Paliakkara, Thiruvalla do hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as: Given name: Andrea Anna, Surname: Subash, Father's name: Subashmon Koovakadu Chacko. Objections if and may be forwarded to Embassy of India, 4 Square Plaza, MC Road, Opposite Mahadeva Temple, Nagampadam, Kottayam, Kerala 686001. (C 5470)

**I. Sajan** Joseph Mathew, holder of Indian Passport No. J5619340, having permanent address as Row House No. 25, Royal Park, near Navare Nagar, GUT No. 49, B-Cabin Road, Ambernath E 421501, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under: Given name: Mathew Sajan and Surname Joseph. (C 5687) 6-11-2019 in the US. He

### MATRIMONIAL

Proposal required for Pakistani boy MSC, working as Software Engineer in Kuwait Oil Company, belonging to Kashmiri family. Interested may contact with family details and photo on WhataApp: +965-66903574, +92-333-4826247. (C 5471)

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

**EMERGENCY**  
  
**112**

## SALES MAN REQUIRED

- Minimum 1 - 2 year's experience in security systems
- Must have Knowledge of Kuwait Market
- Valid driving license with car.
- language -English is a must.
- Transferable visa.

Send your CV to  
[info@dss-kuwait.com](mailto:info@dss-kuwait.com)

**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

**Flight Schedule**

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

## DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 6/11/2019				Departure Flights on Wednesday 6/11/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	NIA	1504	Muscat	12:30
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	KIS	6033	Mashhad	12:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	TBZ	6606	Mashhad	12:55
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	IAW	158	AI Najaf	13:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
MSR	618	Amman	01:35	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	7912	Hanoi	14:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	RBG	218	Asyut	14:35
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	673	Kuwait	15:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	UAE	878	Dubai	15:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
JZR	502	Lahore	02:55	SVA	505	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:55	JZR	125	Dubai	15:50
RJA	784	Amman	03:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	100	London	15:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	Amman	563	Amman	16:00
NIA	1604	Luxor	03:10	JZR	405	Kochi	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	128	Sharjah	16:15
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
RBG	1153	Asyut	04:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
ETH	3424	Bahrain	04:15	FEG	242	Alexandria	16:55
KAC	796	Madinah	04:25	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	SVA	505	Madinah	17:00
JZR	1738	Cairo	04:45	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:35
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10	KAC	503	Beirut	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	OMS	226	Muscat	17:50
RBG	215	Sohag	05:35	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
KAC	552	Cairo	05:45	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
BAW	157	London	06:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	18:10
JZR	708	Luxor	06:15	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	JZR	721	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
JZR	724	Alexandria	07:50	Bahrain	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	351	Kochi	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	UAE	876	Doha	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:15	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	NIA	1406	Sohag	21:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	RBG	214	Sohag	21:35
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	THY	1089	Doha	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	114	Doha	11:10	THY	1413	Tabriz	22:25
IGO	1755	CNN	11:30	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
NIA	1405	Sohag	11:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	JZR	407	Ahmedabad	22:40
KIS	6032	Mashhad	11:45	GFA	220	Jeddah	22:50
IAW	157	AI Najaf	12:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	JAV	622	Amman	23:15
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				SVA	515	Riyadh	23:25
				SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45
				JZR	701	Asyut	23:45



# Iran to resume enrichment at Fordow underground plant

TEHRAN: President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday that Iran would resume uranium enrichment at an underground plant south of Tehran in its latest step back from a troubled 2015 agreement with major powers. The suspension of all enrichment at the Fordow plant in the mountains near the Shiite holy city of Qom was one of the restrictions on its nuclear activities that Iran accepted in return for the lifting of international sanctions.

But Washington's abandonment of the deal in May last year followed by its reimposition of crippling sanctions prompted Iran to begin a phased suspension of its own commitments in May this year. Under the terms of the agreement, Iran has retained more than 1,000 first-generation centrifuges at the Fordow plant, which have been running empty or remained idle since it took effect. "Starting from tomorrow (Wednesday), we will begin injecting (uranium hexafluoride) gas at Fordow," Rouhani said in a speech broadcast by state television.

His announcement came a day after tensions flared anew on the 40th anniversary of the US embassy siege and hostage crisis, with thousands in Tehran taking to the streets and Washington imposing fresh sanctions. Iran said the resumption of enrichment at Fordow would be carried out transparently and witnessed by inspectors from the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

But the European Union voiced disquiet at the new step away from the 2015 deal. "We are concerned by President Rouhani's announcement today to further reduce Iran's commitments," EU spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic told reporters. France urged Iran to "go back on its decisions, which contradict the accord." Russia too expressed worry, despite its good relations with Iran. "We are monitoring the development of the situa-

tion with concern," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "We support the preservation of this deal."

At the same time, Peskov said Moscow understood Tehran's concerns over the "unprecedented and illegal sanctions" imposed by Washington. The move is the fourth announced by Iran since it began responding to Washington's abandonment of the agreement.

## 'Committed to negotiations'

Iran has repeatedly warned the remaining parties to the deal - Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia - that the agreement can only be rescued if they help it circumvent US sanctions. European governments have strived to come up with a mechanism that would allow foreign firms to continue to do business with Iran without incurring US penalties. But to Iran's mounting frustration, their efforts have so far failed to have any significant impact.

Rouhani stressed that Iran remained committed to efforts to save the 2015 agreement, despite its phased suspension of some of its commitments. "The fourth phase, like the three previous ones, is reversible," he said. "We are committed to all the behind-the-scenes negotiations we have with some countries for a solution. "Over the next two months, we will negotiate more." Rouhani said Iran wanted to return to a situation in which "we can easily sell our oil, we can easily use our money in banks". If that were achieved, "we will completely go back to the previous situation."

The EU warned on Monday that its continued support for the deal depended "on full compliance by Iran". "We have continued to urge Iran to reverse such steps without delay and to refrain from other measures



TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani speaks during the opening of a factory in the capital yesterday. — AFP

that would undermine the nuclear deal," Kocijancic said.

But Ellie Geranmayeh, an Iran expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said the measures were designed to increase Iran's leverage in future talks and to pressure Western countries to provide Iran with economic relief. "This is not attempt to inch towards nuclear weapon," she wrote on

Twitter. "#IAEA continues to provide intrusive monitoring."

On July 1, Iran said it had increased its stockpile of enriched uranium to beyond a 300-kg maximum set by the deal. A week later, it announced it had exceeded a 3.67-percent cap on the purity of its uranium stocks. On Sept 7, it fired up advanced centrifuges to boost its enriched uranium stock-

piles. On Monday, Iran announced a more than tenfold increase in enriched uranium production as a result of the steps back from the nuclear deal it had already undertaken. The country's enriched uranium production has reached five kilograms per day, said Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, compared with 450 grams per day two months ago. — AFP

## Saudis scramble to raise cash for Aramco share sale

RIYADH: From tapping lenders to selling personal assets, Saudis are scrambling to raise cash to invest in Aramco stocks after the oil giant announced its blockbuster market debut even as it offered few listing details. After years of delay and false starts, the state-owned company said on Sunday it plans to sell an unspecified number of shares on the Riyadh stock exchange, but no date was set and the firm's valuation remains shrouded in mystery.

But retail investors in Saudi Arabia still appear to be salivating at the prospect of owning a piece of the world's most profitable company, seen as the kingdom's crown jewel, amid calls to make the initial public offering (IPO) a success. "Some (Saudis) have started to sell other stocks in preparation to buy Aramco (shares)," said Ibrahim Ahmed, a Saudi energy analyst who is also considering investing his savings. "People look at it as a sound investment. (But) I'm aware that it is a long-term investment that is good to have in a portfolio and not some kind of lottery ticket."

The IPO, billed by the company as a "historic milestone", forms the lynchpin of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious plan to transform the petro-state by generating much-needed cash to fund mega projects and non-oil industries. The government has reportedly pressed wealthy Saudi business families and institutions to invest in the IPO, and many nationalists have labelled it a patriotic duty.

Fahad Hashemi, portfolio manager at the Riyadh-based Middle East Financial Investment Co, told AFP his firm had a "strong intention" to participate despite the lack of listing information. Saudi Arabia has sought to ease lending restrictions for ordinary citizens to buy a stake in the company, a strategy deemed risky by observers. Eid Al-Shamri, chief executive of investment bank Ithraa Capital, said some Saudis

were considering selling their homes or borrowing money to purchase shares. "This is definitely a serious event that will be recorded in the history of Saudi Arabia," Shamri told Bloomberg News. "A lot of people are talking about it. But what is the extent of the people's participation? We are tightening our belts."

Aramco said its final offer price and the number of shares to be sold "will be determined at the end of the book-building period". In a 21-page document released by the company, the company called the IPO a "unique investment proposition". Aramco chief executive Amin Nasser said the company was committed to offer shareholders "long-term value creation".

To promote participation by all sections of Saudi society, divorced women or widows with minors will be eligible to receive bonus shares, local media reported. But amid scant information about the listing, it is difficult to determine the pay off. It is unclear whether Aramco will get the \$2 trillion valuation Prince Mohammed had hoped for, with investment research firm Bernstein estimating that a "fair value range" for the company is between \$1.2 and \$1.5 trillion.

There are also reports the firm is struggling to get institutional investors on board amid a bearish outlook for the energy sector and questions over the company's transparency and governance. Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the largest in the world, has said it does not plan to invest in Aramco, a Norwegian official told AFP.

Investors are also concerned about geopolitical risks weighing on the stock. The news of the listing comes just weeks after crippling attacks on the heart of Aramco's facilities briefly halved its output amid a spike in tensions with Iran. But the company, a cash cow that catapulted the kingdom to become the Arab world's biggest economy, holds enormous appeal for local retail investors.

"I do think there is significant local demand among retail investors, though large family businesses might be more skeptical," said Steffen Hertog, an associate professor at the London School of Economics. "Aramco will be a blue chip company producing fairly reliable dividends." Its 2018 net profit of \$111.1 billion is higher than the combined profits of Apple, Google and Exxon Mobil. — AFP

ment will allow the coalition to stick together and focus their efforts on fighting the Houthis instead of each other," said Elisabeth Kendall, senior research fellow at Oxford University. "In the long term, it simply kicks the can down the road on southern secession. Southern ambitions won't just go away. The question is, can they be temporarily reined in."

The military coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) intervened in Yemen in 2015 as the Houthi rebels closed in on Aden, prompting Hadi to flee into Saudi exile. The conflict has since killed tens of thousands of people - most of them civilians - and driven millions more to the brink of famine in what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The south was an independent state before being forcibly unified in 1990, and the STC has said it wants to regain its lost status.

The separatists have received support and training from the UAE, even though it is a key pillar in the Saudi-led coalition. Abu Dhabi accuses Yemeni authorities of allowing Islamist elements to gain influence within their ranks. The mistrust between the allies has posed a headache for regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia, which remains focused on fighting the Houthis who are aligned with Riyadh's archfoe Iran.

Nevertheless, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan tweeted a picture of himself and Prince Mohammed walking hand in hand with Hadi after yesterday's ceremony. The Houthis have offered to halt all attacks on Saudi Arabia as part of a wider peace initiative, later repeating their proposal despite continued air strikes from the Saudi-led coalition. The offer came after the Houthis claimed responsibility for attacks on Sept 14 against two key Saudi oil installations that temporarily knocked out half of the OPEC giant's production. Riyadh and Washington, however, blamed Iran for the attacks - a charge denied by Tehran. — AFP

## Disinformation, surveillance threats...

Continued from Page 1

electronic devices to glean information about constitutionally protected activities such as peaceful protests and critical reporting."

The report said disinformation was rampant in the

## Mounting toll in Iraq protests as...

Continued from Page 1

Protests restarted after a two-week lull, with fewer deaths and an easing by the government of internet restrictions on social media sites. But late Sunday and early Monday, the bloodshed resumed, with four protesters killed near the Iranian consulate in the Shiite pilgrimage city of Karbala.

On Monday evening, security forces fired live ammunition at crowds in Baghdad for the first time since rallies resumed, killing two people, medical sources said. Two protesters were also shot dead in the southern city of Nasiriyah.

And yesterday morning, two protesters were killed when security forces attempted to break up crowds blocking the road to the southern port of Umm Qasr, the main entry point for imports of food and medicine. The deaths brought the overall toll since Oct 1 to more than 270 killed, according to an AFP count. Officials have stopped providing running casualty figures.

The United Nations' mission in Iraq raised the alarm yesterday over "serious human rights violations and abuses" in the second wave of demonstrations, citing "unlawful use" of weapons by security forces and armed groups. Amnesty International has accused Iraqi forces of using two types of military-grade tear gas canisters that have pierced protesters' skulls and lungs.

Anger over chronic unemployment and widespread official corruption initially fuelled the rallies. But demonstrators have increasingly called for radical reform of the political system, and turned to strikes and sit-ins to press their demands. In the southern cities of Kut, Nasiriyah and Diwaniyah, all government offices were closed yesterday. And in the capital, demonstrators remained camped out in Tahrir Square,

## Qatar eyes polls, hails economy...

Continued from Page 1

is finished", the amir said, flanked by a military officer and wearing a traditional thobe outfit with gold trim. Elections to the council, required under the country's 2004 constitution, have been postponed repeatedly and the body's members have instead been directly appointed by the amir. The shura council advises the ruler on draft laws but does not create its own legislation and can be overruled by a simple decree.

Sheikh Tamim also said Qatar had overcome the "negative impacts" of the Saudi-led regional embargo enforced since June 2017 over claims that Doha backs militant Islamist movements and Iran, which it denies. "As a result of the efforts to cut expenditure and increase efficiency, the big budget deficit in 2017 was turned into a surplus,"

US, focusing on the November 2018 midterm elections, and that "both domestic and foreign actors manipulated content for political purposes, undermining the democratic process and stoking divisions in American society." The biggest declines were in Sudan and Kazakhstan, followed by Brazil, Bangladesh, and Zimbabwe. Improvements were measured in 16 countries, with Ethiopia recording the largest gains. Despite the grim outlook, Abramowitz cited some positive examples of technology spurring democratic change, including in Lebanon, where people "are rallying their fellow citizens" for reforms. - AFP

where they have set up tents and occupied buildings for more than a week.

The Internet went down at midnight and came back around 9:00 am (0600 GMT) before being cut again. But protesters vowed to press on regardless. "They already cut the Internet once, and doing it again won't do anything," said Ammar, a 41-year-old protester in Tahrir yesterday. Cyber security NGO NetBlocks said yesterday's blackout was "the most severe telecommunication restriction" imposed by Iraqi authorities since Oct 1.

Iraqi leaders have scrambled to respond to protesters' demands, but their proposals have yet to impress. President Barham Saleh has proposed early polls once a new electoral law is agreed. Yesterday, he was in the northern city of Arbil to meet with Kurdish officials as part of talks to ease the crisis. Embattled Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi proposed a series of measures, including hiring drives and social welfare packages. He called on protesters earlier this week to clear the streets and allow "normal life" to return, but they have defied him in growing numbers. "We're not scared of the leaders - they're the ones who are afraid of us because we're peaceful," another protester told AFP yesterday morning. "Tyrants will go but the people will stay," added an elderly protester in a checkered keffiyah scarf. Many demonstrators have accused neighboring Iran of propping up the government they are seeking to overthrow. Iraq has close but complicated ties with Iran. The two countries fought a devastating 1980-1988 war, but Iran now has significant sway among Iraqi political and military leaders.

Tehran has sought to calm the demonstrations, with sources reporting senior Revolutionary Guards commander Qassem Soleimani making several visits to "advise" Iraqi authorities on their response. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has slammed protests in both Iraq and Lebanon, labelling them conspiracies by the United States and its allies. "It's the Iranians who rule the country," said one protester in Tahrir. "We'd rather die than stay under their yoke." — AFP

he said in front of two large flags and the gas-rich country's crest. "We have been able to restore the state reserves to levels higher than the pre-blockade levels."

Qatar reported a 39.99 billion riyal (\$10.98 billion) budget deficit in 2017 - the first year of the embargo - according to official statistics, rebounding to a 15.08 billion riyal surplus in 2018. Gross domestic product at current prices grew by 15 percent in 2018, the amir said, using an infrequently used measure. The IMF has put Qatar's nominal GDP growth for 2018 at 1.5 percent, with 2.0 percent projected for 2019.

The country liquidated almost a quarter of its fiscal reserves to shore up its financial system in the immediate aftermath of the embargo. Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain have issued a raft of terms for Qatar to accept before the alliance lifts the embargo. The sanctions include a ban on direct air, land and sea trade. Doha has refused to meet the demands which include the closure of its flagship state-run Al-Jazeera broadcaster. Qatar has repeatedly insisted it is economically strong enough to withstand the crisis. — AFP

## Yemen govt, separatists...

Continued from Page 1

HH the Amir also wished King Salman a long and healthy life and further development and prosperity for the kingdom. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to King Salman.

The UN special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, congratulated the two sides on the deal which he said would propel efforts to end the wider civil war that has devastated the country. "The signing of this agreement is an important step for our collective efforts to advance a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Yemen," he said in a statement. "Listening to southern stakeholders is important to the political efforts to achieve peace in the country."

Security Belt Forces - dominated by the STC - in August took control of Aden, which had served as the beleaguered government's base since it was ousted from the capital Sanaa by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in 2014. The clashes between the separatists and government forces, who for years fought on the same side against the Houthis, had raised fears the country could split apart with disastrous effects. The warring factions in recent weeks held indirect talks mediated by Saudi Arabia in the kingdom's western city of Jeddah, which culminated in the deal signed in Riyadh. Both Hadi and STC leader Aidarous Al-Zoubeydi attended the ceremony.

Analysts said the deal prevented the violent disintegration of Yemen but that secessionist sentiment could resurface in the future. "In the short term, the agree-



Sports

# Marchand's five points lead Bruins past visiting Penguins

## Senators score 5 straight goals, blow past Rangers

**BOSTON:** Brad Marchand's tiebreaking second goal with 1:57 left in regulation Monday helped the Boston Bruins beat the visiting Pittsburgh Penguins 6-4. Marchand's shot from the left circle went off the near post and goalie Tristan Jarry's back. Patrice Bergeron added an empty-netter, with Marchand getting an assist — his fifth point on the night. David Pastrnak had a goal and an assist, while Jake DeBrusk and Torey Krug also scored for Boston. Jaroslav Halak stopped 40 of 44 shots. Dominik Kahun, Nick Bjugstad, Bryan Rust and John Marino scored for Pittsburgh, which erased an early three-goal deficit. Matt Murray allowed three goals on 11 shots before being pulled for Jarry, who made 12 saves.

### SENATORS 6, RANGERS 2

Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored two of Ottawa's five consecutive goals on the way to defeating host New York, which had its two-game winning streak snapped. Trailing 1-0, Pageau opened the flurry at 14:56 of the first period for the Senators, who entered Monday with an NHL-low seven points on the season. Ottawa went ahead for good on Tyler Ennis' goal 3:35 later then overwhelmed New York with goals by Ron Hainsey, Pageau and Brady Tkachuk in the first 15 minutes of the second. Vladislav Namestnikov added a goal in the third period. Kaapo Kakko gave the Rangers a brief lead in the first period, and Artemi Panarin scored late in the second. Goalie Alexandar Georgiev made 24 saves for New York, which was whistled for 11 penalties.

Ottawa goalie Anders Nilsson recorded 32 saves.

### PREDATORS 6, RED WINGS 1

Matt Duchene scored twice during Nashville's five-goal, second-period barrage in a rout of host Detroit, which has lost 11 of its last 12 games. Nick Bonino, Kyle Turris, Colton Sissons and Filip Forsberg also scored for Nashville, while Pekka Rinne made 23 saves. Rinne had been winless in his previous nine appearances against the Red Wings. Andreas Athanasiou scored his first goal of the season for the Red Wings. Detroit goalies Jimmy Howard and Jonathan Bernier combined for 20 saves.

### COYOTES 3, OILERS 2 (OT)

Derek Stepan scored the game-winning goal in overtime as Arizona managed to regroup from a late blown lead to get a win in Edmonton. Taking advantage of a turnover, Nick Schmaltz fed Stepan on the ensuing two-on-one rush, and the center took advantage to net his second of the season and claim the victory at 2:01 of OT. Goalie Darcy Kuemper made 26 saves for the Coyotes, who have won four of five games and eight of their last 10. Edmonton superstar Connor McDavid opened the scoring 91 seconds into the game with the kind of goal hockey fans have come to love from the Oilers captain. McDavid started a rush up ice, played give-and-go with Leon Draisaitl in the neutral zone and then turned on his jets to zip around a defender before sliding the puck into the net for his seventh of the season. — Reuters



**BOSTON:** David Krejci #46 of the Boston Bruins pulls Brandon Tanev #13 of the Pittsburgh Penguins away from the goal during the first period at TD Garden in Boston. —AFP

## Kuwait International Bowling Tournament to conclude tonight

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The 13th Kuwait International Bowling Tournament will come to a close tonight, which marks the last rounds of the international tour 2019, with prizes totaling \$218 thousand, with \$50,000 as top prize.

There are 112 bowlers from all over the world participating in the tournament including world and ranked champions and some amateurs, all looking to win the top spot.

Competition of the last day will be over three periods, as 16 players will compete in the third round from 10 am to 11:30 am, for five spots to qualify for the final which will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm.

The two decisive rounds for women and men, Kuwaitis only, will be held between 1 pm to 3 pm.

Yesterday saw competitions of the first and second rounds as the preliminaries were concluded after 22 rounds, then players were distributed over three categories: The seeded from 1 to 8 including a woman and a Kuwaiti player, then from 9 to 16 including two women,



then from 17 to 48 including 3 women and 2 Kuwaitis.

The 17-48 seeds will compete in the first round with eight qualifying for the second round to compete with the 9-16 seeds, for 8 places to qualify for the third round which includes the 1-8 seeds.

Australia's Sam Cooley topped the list of the top ranked players with the score of 1,409 points, followed by Iceland's Arnar Johnson with 1,396, Hong Kong's Michael Mak 1,386, Danish Thomas Larson 1,375, England's Stewart Williams 1,366, American Nik Pate 1,364, and the USA Open Champion for 2019 American Danielle McEwan, and Kuwait's Mustafa Al-Musawi

1,335. Iceland's Arner Johnson said this his first time in Kuwait, and enjoyed the warm weather.

He said Kuwait Bowling Center is huge and magnificent with a number of lanes that is double than in Iceland.

He said competition is tough all along and will be hard in the finals, besides the new scoring system makes it hard to predict any winner.

He said the new system has its positives and negatives, but it is hard to make a judgment at this early stage, and all what we have to do is to adapt with it and see what happens.



## Past Olympic hurdles champ Harper aims for Tokyo

**WASHINGTON:** American 100m hurdler Dawn Harper Nelson, the 2008 Olympic champion and 2012 Olympic runner-up who retired to have a baby, said Monday she is training for next year's Tokyo Olympics.

The 35-year-old from suburban St. Louis was second to Australia's Sally Pearson at the 2017 World Championships but missed this year's meet after giving birth to a baby girl last April. Harper Nelson stepped away from the sport in September 2018 but worked out during her pregnancy and returned to the track a month after giving birth.

"I still think I have it and I can kill it," Harper Nelson said in a posting on the US Olympic website. "All the women in my life had said when they were moms they stopped their dream. Once I had my daughter, I looked at her and I remember thinking, 'I still have this year to run.'"

"And I refuse for her to say, when she looked at my career, 'My mom always said she wanted to keep running, but she stopped because she had me.'" Harper Nelson overtook teammate Lolo Jones late to capture gold in Beijing 11 years ago and settled for silver in London behind Pearson four years later.

She kept herself available for drug testing during her year off and told US Olympic broadcaster NBC she has spoken with New Zealand shot putter Valerie Adams, a two-time Olympic champion, who was pregnant with her second child during Harper Nelson's pregnancy.

But Harper Nelson struggled at first with speed and doubt. "That initial burst of speed to get off the line, it just was lacking," Harper Nelson said. "I really had a moment where I sat down and kind of cried. I was thinking, 'Do you ever really get that back? Is it possible?'"

"We slowly just gradually did things and gradually got myself back." But medical advisors said allowing her body some rest helped her feel her best in years. Husband Alonzo Nelson will be her coach while she trains on her high school track in East St. Louis, Illinois, in what is likely a one-year comeback. "I really do feel like this would probably be it because we want more kids," she told NBC. — AFP

## WADA was not equipped to handle size of Russian doping scandal

**KATOWICE:** Outgoing World Anti-Doping Agency president Craig Reedie said yesterday the scale and size of the Russian doping scandal that erupted in 2015 had overwhelmed his organisation at the time.

Speaking at the World Conference on doping in sport, Reedie said the Russian doping affair that emerged ahead of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and saw the involvement of a vast number of athletes, coaches and officials was the biggest challenge WADA had faced in its 20-year existence.

"The worst case of system failure in my time as president of WADA or in the entire time of the anti-doping movement is Russia," Reedie told the conference. He said the level of cheating was "unprecedented," leaving WADA under mounting pressure to work for all clean athletes as the Russian anti-doping agency (RUSADA) was declared non-compliant.

"What it (scandal) taught us when it erupted was that we were not equipped to deal with such a large-scale programme," Reedie said. RUSADA was suspended after the 2015 WADA report found evi-

dence of state-sponsored doping in Russian sport and the country was barred from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics the following year. All Russian athletes also competed as independents at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. RUSADA's suspension was lifted in September 2018 amid strong criticism as WADA gradually got access to key Russian athletes' data from the Russian lab.

But in September WADA said it had again opened compliance proceedings against RUSADA after finding "inconsistencies" in the vast bank of historical testing data finally handed over in January. That means RUSADA are again at risk of being declared non-compliant and thus putting Russia's participation at the Tokyo Olympics next year at risk. Reedie did not say when a decision on this matter will be taken.

"Clearly we have all faced pressures to deal with the Russian situation effectively," said Reedie, who will be replaced by Poland's sports minister Witold Banka on Jan. 1. "Athletes expect us in WADA to step up the fight. They expect the rules to be enforced." — Reuters

## Australia's Vow and Declare wins Melbourne Cup

**MELBOURNE:** Australian gelding Vow and Declare won the coveted Aus\$8.0 million (US\$5.5 million) Melbourne Cup at Flemington yesterday as revelations about the grim fate of retired racehorses were put to one side as punters streamed through the turnstiles.

With veteran jockey Craig Williams in the saddle, the four-year-old ended a decade of international domination in a thrilling finish to edge out Prince of Arran, Il Paradiso and Master of Reality in a thrilling finish to the famous 3,200-metre (two mile) "Race that stops a nation".

Twilight Payment set the pace until the Danny O'Brien-trained Vow and Declare got up on the line to upset a field packed with overseas runners and containing only two Australian-bred horses. "I was lucky enough to sit on Vow And Declare. A credit to Danny O'Brien," said Williams, who has now won the Melbourne Cup to go with the Cox Plate, Caulfield Cup and Golden Slipper during an illustrious career.

"It was a privilege to ride him today. We had a difficult barrier draw but we trusted him. We knew what we can do. Great to be associated with a horse like this." Master of Reality, ridden by Frankie Dettori, crossed the line second in a photo finish ahead of British raider Prince of Arran and American stallion Il Paradiso.

But a stewards' protest over interference by Dettori in the final 100 metres was upheld with Prince of Arran elevated to second, Il Paradiso to third and Master of Reality relegated to fourth.

O'Brien, who gave Vow and Declare a light spring campaign of just two runs before Tuesday, paid tribute to Williams. "An amazingly special thing to happen," he said. "I feel incredibly blessed to have a horse good enough to be in it and then for him to be ridden so beautifully by Craig."

"He rolled the dice like he does, he's an outstanding jockey." First staged in 1861, the Melbourne Cup has been run on the first Tuesday of November since 1876, and the winning horse instantly becomes a household name in Australia.

It is a cultural institution and tens of thousands of well-dressed punters flock to Flemington, with boozey parties held nationwide. The race was run this year with the industry under extreme scrutiny following damning revelations about the fate of retired racehorses.

While slaughtering horses instead of rehoming is not illegal in Australia, an undercover probe by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation alleged the practice was far more widespread than acknowledged. It detailed healthy horses being brutalised at one abattoir before being killed on an "industrial scale", with their meat shipped overseas for human and pet consumption.

It sent shockwaves through the industry, which pledged to do better. But racegoers seemed largely undeterred as 81,408 packed into heaving grandstands, slightly down on last year's attendance of 83,471, with bookmakers predicting more than three million Australians would have a flutter.

The Melbourne Cup was not directly linked to those slaughterhouses though the race had already been a target of animal rights activists because of the deaths of six horses at the race meeting since 2013.

There were no fatalities yesterday but Irish five-year-old Rostropovich pulled up lame with a fractured pelvis after finishing last. Racing Victoria said in a statement that she was "comfortable and receiving the best veterinary care". — AFP



## Sports

# Sublime Smith steers Australia to comfortable win over Pakistan

## We didn't bat well in the powerplay: Babar Azam

CANBERRA: Master batsman Steve Smith stroked a faultless unbeaten 80 as Australia edged Pakistan by seven wickets in Canberra to go 1-0 up in their three-match Twenty20 series.

Top-ranked Pakistan set a competitive 150 for six off their 20 overs, with skipper Babar Azam hitting his second consecutive half-century and Ifthikhar Ahmed clubbing a quickfire 62.

But their bowling attack was no match for Smith, who brought up his fourth 50 in the short format off 36 balls, with six fours and one big six, as Australia reached 151 for three with nine balls to spare.

It put them 1-0 up after the opening match in Sydney on Sunday was abandoned due to rain. The final game is in Perth on Friday.

"Very pleasing. I thought we were pretty good all day," said skipper Aaron Finch.

"To get wickets consistently was key. Everyone is playing their roles really well, and we've got guys like Steve, who does what he does best."

Australia is on a hot T20 streak, having not been beaten in their last seven matches.

"Credit goes to Smith," said Azam. "He took the game away with a magnificent innings. We are very disappointed. We didn't bat well in the powerplay."

David Warner had been in fantastic touch after scoring 219 without losing his wicket in four previous innings, and he ominously smashed 16 off Imad Wasim's opening over.

However, the explosive opener was clean bowled by Mohammad Amir for 20, missing a drive, and when Finch fell for 17 to veteran seamer Mohammad Irfan, Pakistan's hopes were up.

But with Smith at the wicket, it was never going to be easy and the experienced campaigner picked the gaps and found the boundary ropes with impeccably timed shots, while grabbing quick singles.

With Ben McDermott at the other end, he pushed the score to 86 for two off the first 10 overs before his partner fell lbw to Wasim for 21.



CANBERRA: David Warner (C) of Australia plays a shot during the second Twenty20 match between Australia and Pakistan at the Manuka Oval in Canberra. — AFP

It left Smith and Ashton Turner with 45 runs to win off 42 balls, which they managed comfortably.

Earlier, Azam, the world's top T20 batsman, again anchored the Pakistan innings with a 38-ball 50 as teammates fell around him until he found support from Ahmed, who notched a maiden, and entertaining, half-century.

After Pakistan won the toss and opted to bat, opener Fakhar Zaman, desperately in need of runs, was left floundering against Pat Cummins and was out for two, driving to Warner at mid-off.

Haris Sohail came to the crease but only lasted nine balls, gone for six.

It took the wind out of Pakistan's sails, and the runs dried up before Azam and Mohammad Rizwan began to push the scoreboard along — until Ashton Agar dismissed Rizwan and then Asif Ali in quick succession.

Azam finally found support from Ahmed before the captain was run out for 50 — his 12th in the short format — after some fantastic fielding by Warner.

Ahmed ensured it was a competitive score, smashing 22 off the penultimate over from Richardson. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second of three Twenty20 internationals between Australia and Pakistan yesterday in Canberra:

Pakistan	Australia
F. Zaman c Warner b Cummins	2
B. Azam run out (Warner)	50
H. Sohail c & b Richardson	6
M. Rizwan st Carey b Agar	14
A. Ali c Cummins b Agar	4
I. Ahmed not out	62
I. Wasim run out (Smith)	11
W. Riaz not out	0
Extras: (lb)	1
<b>Total:</b> (six wickets, 20 overs)	150
<b>Did not bat:</b> Shadab Khan, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Irfan	
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-22 (Zaman), 2-29 (Sohail), 3-62 (Rizwan), 4-70 (Asif), 5-106 (Azam), 146-6 Wasim	
<b>Bowling:</b> Starc 4-0-25-0, Richardson 4-0-51-1, Cummins 4-0-19-1, Zampa 4-0-31-0, Agar 4-0-23-2	
	A. Finch c Azam b Irfan
	D. Warner b Amir
	S. Smith not out
	B. McDermott lbw Wasim
	A. Turner not out
	Extras: (nb2, w3)
	<b>Total:</b> (three wickets, 18.3 overs)
	<b>Did not bat:</b> Alex Carey, Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Kane Richardson, Adam Zampa
	<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-30 (Warner), 2-48 (Finch), 3-106 (McDermott)
	<b>Bowling:</b> Irfan 4-0-27-1, Amir 3.3-0-32-1, Wasim 4-0-34-1, Shadab 4-0-25-0, Riaz 3-0-32-0
	<b>Result:</b> Australia won by seven wickets.

## Tickner, Ferguson help NZ thwart England's chase

WELLINGTON: New Zealand fast bowlers Blair Tickner and Lockie Ferguson shared four wickets to trigger an England batting collapse that helped the hosts to a thrilling 14-run win in the third Twenty20 international at Nelson yesterday.

England, chasing 181 for victory, were cruising at 139-2 in the 15th over but lost five wickets in a flurry to end their 20 overs on 166-7. The victory gave the Black Caps a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. The teams now head to Napier for the penultimate match on Friday, which England must win to keep their hopes of winning the series alive.

Ferguson and Tickner finished with identical figures of 2-25 while all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme was Man of the Match for his knock of 55 from 35 balls, which helped the team post 180-7 after they opted to bat first.

De Grandhomme hit five fours and three sixes to build New Zealand's innings after opener Martin Gupthill's fast start of 33 off 17 deliveries. England opener Dawid Malan gave a fitting reply for the touring side with a 34-ball 55 with James Vince keeping the team firmly on course in the chase with 49.

England captain Eoin Morgan smashed Mitchell Santner for two sixes in successive deliveries before holing out in the deep against the left-arm spinner, which started the collapse as England lost five wickets for 10 runs.

"I think that's one that got away from us," said Morgan. "We were in control for the whole chase until we were three or four



NELSON: England's Tom Curran bowls during the Twenty20 cricket match between New Zealand and England at Saxton Oval in Nelson yesterday. — AFP

down, probably the lack of experience in the chase cost us. "But the guys need to play more games, need to get into situations like that." — Reuters

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third Twenty20 international between New Zealand and England in Nelson yesterday.

New Zealand	England
C. Munro c Mahmood b T. Curran	6
M. Gupthill c T. Curran b Brown	33
T. Seifert b Parkinson	7
C. de Grandhomme c Banton b T. Curran	55
R. Taylor lbw Mahmood	27
J. Neesham b S. Curran	20
M. Santner run out (Billings)	15
T. Southee not out	1
Extras: (lb6, w8, nb2)	16
<b>Total:</b> (for 7 wickets, 20 overs)	180
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-40 (Gupthill), 2-42 (Munro), 3-69 (Seifert), 4-135 (de Grandhomme), 5-162 (Taylor), 6-171 (Neesham), 7-180 (Santner)	
<b>Bowling:</b> S. Curran 4-0-29-1 (2w), T. Curran 4-0-29-2 (1w), Mahmood 4-0-49-1 (3w), Brown 4-0-34-1, Parkinson 2-0-14-1 (1w), Gregory 2-0-19-0 (2nb)	
	T. Banton b Tickner
	D. Malan c Gupthill b Sodhi
	J. Vince c Southee b Tickner
	S. Billings run out (Munro)
	S. Curran c Munro b Ferguson
	L. Gregory b Ferguson
	T. Curran not out
	S. Mahmood not out
	Extras: (lb1, w5)
	<b>Total:</b> (for 7 wickets, 20 overs)
	<b>Fall of wicket:</b> 1-27 (Banton), 2-90 (Malan), 3-139 (Morgan), 4-142 (Billings), 5-147 (Vince), 6-148 (Gregory), 7-149 (Curran)
	<b>Bowling:</b> Southee 4-0-28-0, Ferguson 4-0-25-2 (1w), Tickner 4-0-25-2 (1w), Sodhi 3-0-30-1 (1w), Santner 4-0-41-1 (2w), Neesham 1-0-16-0
	<b>Result:</b> New Zealand won by 14 runs.

## S Africans scream, sing and dance as Springboks return

JOHANNESBURG: Thousands of South Africans screamed with joy, danced and sang at OR Tambo airport near Johannesburg yesterday as a first group of Springboks who won the Rugby World Cup returned home.

Forward Pieter-Steph du Toit, voted World Rugby Player of the Year two days ago, and scrum-half Faf de Klerk were among the first players to arrive. The victorious squad, coaches and officials are scheduled to return between today as no airline could accommodate the entire group on one flight.

Captain Siya Kolisi and coach Rassie Erasmus are among a group expected to arrive in Johannesburg later. A carnival atmosphere enveloped the normally sedate international arrivals section of the airport as Du Toit, De Klerk and some teammates and coaches received deafening applause.

Black and white, male and female, young, middle aged and old, low-income earners and the

wealthy all descended on the airport east of Johannesburg to salute their heroes. Many wore replica green and gold shirts and waved national flags as they celebrated the rugby triumph which was all the sweeter after poor recent results by the national football and cricket teams.

The Springboks dominated and then crushed pre-match favourites England 32-12 in Japanese city Yokohama on Saturday to lift the World Cup a record-equalling third time. Winning the four-yearly showcase of rugby so decisively has lifted the spirits of a nation mired in economic and social quagmires.

Although boasting the most developed economy in Africa, South Africa is struggling with stagnant growth, near 30-percent unemployment and widespread poverty and inequality. Headlines about corruption in state institutions and violence against women and children also appear with



JOHANNESBURG: Springboks fly half Elton Jantjies takes a selfie with a fan upon the South African Rugby team's arrival at the O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg yesterday. South Africa's World Cup winning rugby squad arrived home yesterday to a heroes' welcome and will be embarking on a nation wide Champions Tour. — AFP

alarming frequency in the media.

Rosharon Morgan, a 34-year-old from western Johannesburg, said she closed the family engineering business for the day in order to welcome the Springboks. "I'm here because the Springboks are the pride of the nation," she said. "I was listening to the speeches of (captain) Siya Kolisi and (coach) Rassie Erasmus and

they were along the lines of uniting us and giving us hope. "Right now there is a lot of euphoria in the county, but what we need to do is turn that into tangible changes. The problem is that we are not working toward (racial) unity.

"There are still many issues that need to be addressed such as racial and economic inequalities. We cannot overlook them." — AFP

## Suns send Sixers to first loss

PHOENIX: Devin Booker scored a season-high 40 points on Monday, and Ricky Rubio added 21 points and 10 assists as the host Phoenix Suns handed the Philadelphia 76ers their first loss of the season, 114-109. Aron Baynes had 15 points and made three 3-pointers, Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 14 points, and the Suns shot 53.2 percent from the field. Phoenix won for the fifth time in seven games, its best start since beginning the 2013-14 season with the same record. Al Horford had a season-high 32 points and tied a career high with five 3-pointers, Tobias Harris had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Furkan Korkmaz contributed a career-high 20 points for the Sixers. Philadelphia had been the last undefeated team in the league after winning its first five. The 76ers played without leading scorer and rebounder Joel Embiid, who served the final game of a two-game suspension after an altercation with Minnesota center Karl-Anthony Towns last Wednesday. Kurkuz started in his place.

### ROCKETS 107, GRIZZLIES 100

James Harden scored 44 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Houston to a victory at Memphis. Harden was the foundation of a bounce-back effort for the Rockets, whose defense was torched for an average of 126 points in back-to-back losses at Brooklyn and Miami over the weekend. Houston, playing without Russell Westbrook (rest) for the first time this season, got 16 points from Eric Gordon and 15 points and nine rebounds from Danuel House Jr. Rookie Ja Morant paced the Grizzlies with 23 points. Dillon Brooks chipped in 17 points and nine boards, and Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

### BUCKS 134, TIMBERWOLVES 106

Giannis Antetokounmpo recorded 34 points and 15 rebounds as Milwaukee rode a third-quarter surge and overcame a bizarre delay to the game and roll past Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Antetokounmpo, who was named the Eastern Conference Player of the Week earlier on Monday, shot 14 of 19 from the field in a game that began after a delay of nearly an hour caused by a basket malfunction as one of the rims was found to be uneven during warmups. Chris Middleton scored 26 points following a 9-of-15 effort from the field for the Bucks, who have won three in a row overall and nine of their last 11 encounters with the Timberwolves. Andrew Wiggins recorded 25 points for Minnesota, which played without Karl-Anthony Towns as the two-time All-Star center served the second contest of his suspension for the altercation with Embiid.

### WARRIORS 127, TRAIL BLAZERS 118

Rookie Eric Paschall scored a season-best 36 points as Golden State surprised Portland and won for the first time at its new home arena, Chase Center in San Francisco. The win capped a six-day, four-game homestand during which the Warriors had lost to Phoenix, San Antonio and Charlotte to fall to 0-4 at home before finally getting the win Monday. Portland took just its second loss in five road games. Damian Lillard, an Oakland native playing his first game in San Francisco, paced the Trail Blazers with 39 points, including five 3-pointers. The Warriors shot 33-for-36 from the foul line while the visitors were 11-for-14 on free throws.

### NETS 135, PELICANS 125

Kyrie Irving totaled 39 points and nine assists while leading six players in double figures as host Brooklyn nearly blew all of a 20-point lead but recovered to knock off New Orleans. Irving scored at least 20 points for the seventh straight game, matching Brook Lopez for the most in Nets history since the franchise moved from New Jersey in 2012. He posted his third 30-point game and scored 24 of his points after halftime while shooting 13 of 21 from the floor overall and hitting all 11 of his free-throw attempts. The Nets rebounded from blowing a 14-point lead at Detroit on Saturday and headed into a five-game road trip at 3-4. They withstood a career-high 40 points from New Orleans forward Brandon Ingram and survived allowing 48 points in the third quarter. Caris LeVert added 23 for the Nets. — Reuters



PHOENIX: Tobias Harris #12 of the Philadelphia 76ers handles the ball under pressure from Devin Booker #1 of the Phoenix Suns during the second half of the NBA game at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, Arizona. — AFP



## Sports

# Bale confident he will be fit for crucial Euro 2020 qualifiers

## Giggs call up Juventus midfielder Aaron Ramsey

LONDON: Gareth Bale believes he will be able to play a role in Wales's must-win final two Euro 2020 qualifiers against Azerbaijan and Hungary. Welsh manager Ryan Giggs said yesterday. The 30-year-old Real Madrid star has been struggling with a calf problem and has not played since scoring for Wales in their 1-1 draw with World Cup finalists Croatia on October 13.

However, Giggs said Bale is confident he could win the race to be fit for both the game in Azerbaijan on November 16 and at home to Hungary on the 19. "It wasn't a big injury, but with the short turnaround it's a worry," said Giggs after naming a 27-man squad.

"I'm in constant contact with him and he feels confident that he'll be fit for the game. It's just monitoring it this week, literally day by day. The last time I spoke to him he was confident he'd be OK." The Welsh — surprise semi-finalists at Euro 2016 — are presently fourth in their group, six points adrift of table-topping Croatia and four shy of second-placed Hungary.

Both Croatia and Hungary have just one game remaining. Bale returned to light training with Real Madrid last week after a visit to London sparked more speculation about his future. This accelerated on Monday with claims Real Madrid were preparing a £70 million (\$90 million) bid plus Bale to lure England striker Raheem Sterling away from Manchester City.

Giggs, who became Wales manager in January 2018 after Chris Coleman left to take over at Sunderland, said he hoped Bale would get some game time this weekend. "That's the ideal situation, that he gets minutes before meeting with us," said the 45-year-old former Manchester United wing.

"They're huge games and we need to win them (to qualify), we know what we've got to do. We've played against both teams, we beat Azerbaijan and lost against Hungary." However, Real coach Zinedine Zidane said yesterday in Madrid that Bale was still unfit to play, adding "if he is not ready to play for Wales, he won't play." Giggs has also called up Juventus midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who could make his first appearance in the qualifiers after recovering from a thigh injury.

"He's come on in the last two games for Juventus and he's looked sharp," said Giggs. "I wouldn't say he's 100 per cent match fit but he looks good and he looks sharp." Another midfielder Joe Allen, like Bale and Ramsey a pivotal figure in the 2016 team, is named in the squad despite being suspended for the trip to Azerbaijan on November 16.

The 29-year-old — presently playing for second tier strugglers Stoke City — will return for the Hungary game in Cardiff. — AFP



MADRID: File photo shows Gareth Bale scored a wondergoal as Real Madrid triumphed in the Champions League final.

## Atalanta aim to avoid another City slaughter

MILAN: Gian Piero Gasperini warned that psychology will be key as Italian newcomers Atalanta look to avoid another huge defeat at the hands of Champions League rivals Manchester City in Milan today.

The Premier League champions can seal their ticket to the knockout rounds with a win over Atalanta, who have lost all three Group C games in their first ever foray into the elite European competition.

Man City are top of their group with maximum nine points and 10 goals scored, with the Bergamo side bottom after conceding 11 goals conceded and scoring just two. Five of those came last time out, when an 11-minute Raheem Sterling hat-trick helped City to a 5-1 win in Manchester.

"The psychological aspect will be fundamental," said Gasperini. "It's a tight turnaround, but we'll prepare as best we can." Atalanta hit back in Serie A days later

with a 7-1 demolition of lowly Udinese, but they have felt the absence of star Colombian striker Duvan Zapata, who has been out with a thigh injury picked up on international duty last month.

Without him Atalanta have slipped from third to fifth in Serie A, eight points behind leaders Juventus after a 2-0 defeat to Cagliari at the weekend. Juventus, Inter Milan and Napoli are used to measuring themselves against the European elite, but Atalanta's only trophy was the Italian Cup back in 1963.

The turn around in their fortunes has been orchestrated by former Genoa and Palermo boss Gasperini who took over in 2016. The 61-year-old's success at Atalanta came eight years after being sacked by Inter Milan after just three months.

The northerners sprinted to third in Serie A last season ahead of Inter Milan, their best ever finish, with the most goals scored, and reached the Italian Cup final. This season they have continued on the same path leading the way in the scoring charts with 30 goals scored after 11 rounds.

Their success has been largely powered by Zapata, who stayed on after finishing second top scorer in Serie A last season with 23 goals. Fellow Colombian Luis Muriel arrived last summer from Fiorentina, joining Argentine forward Alejandro Gomez and Slovenian

striker Josip Ilicic. Zapata (6) and Muriel (8) have accounted for 14 league goals between them this term. And Gasperini expressed his fury when Zapata, on a four-game scoring run, pulled up injured in a "useless" friendly with Colombia.

Zapata has been key to Atalanta's exciting high-pressing and fast paced style of play, which should in theory have carried over to Europe. But they have had a baptism of fire with defeats at Dinamo Zagreb (4-0), Man City (5-1) and letting a 1-0 lead slip against Shakhtar at the San Siro to lose 2-1.

Despite their struggles Brazilian defender Rafael Tolo insisted that Atalanta are in their rightful place among the European elite. "We've earned the right to play such opponents," the 28-year-old said ahead of meeting Man City.

"They have super players. Sterling is very fast, so we'll have to be aggressive and very careful in the markings. We know that with our fans at home we can do well." Atalanta can still theoretically reach last 16.

And their 'home' game will be at the San Siro, 56km from Bergamo, deemed more suitable by UEFA than their 21,000-seater Stadio Atleti Azzurri d'Italia. But the odds are stacked as they take on Man City, who are second in the Premier League and on a run of 10 wins from their last 11 matches in all competitions. — AFP

## Hazard's slow start gathering pace

MADRID: Eden Hazard is beginning to show glimpses of his best form and it cannot come soon enough for Real Madrid. They play at home to Galatasaray in the Champions League today, when victory would put them within touching distance of qualification from Group A.

Hazard has endured a disjointed and disappointing start in Spain, where expectations soared following his long-awaited 100-million euro move from Chelsea in June. A week later, 50,000 thousand fans streamed into the Santiago Bernabeu to see Hazard wear the shirt while some even ran to the entrances to grab a better seat. As supporters left, Hazard was giving his first press conference underneath the stadium, telling a packed auditorium he wanted to be a galactico. "I'm not a galactico, not yet, but I hope I will be one day," he said. But the grand opening fizzled, in part due to events off the pitch, a combination of bad luck and personal circumstances that have spared the 28-year-old harsher critique from fans and journalists alike. On the day before Madrid's first game of the season away at Celta Vigo, Hazard pulled a muscle in his thigh in training and had to withdraw from the squad.

He sat out three matches before making his first start against Paris Saint-Germain, but looked off the pace and it was a night to forget as Madrid were thrashed 3-0. Hazard was left on the bench against Osasuna amid reports he was overweight and then scored his first goal against Granada, a delightful looping finish that promised finally to unleash the Belgian's best.

"We know the quality of player we have and we know he is going to deliver," said Zinedine Zidane in September. "Everyone expects a lot from him and he knows that. But we support him and as the games go by I am sure he is going to be the player we want him to be in this Real Madrid team."

But the international break checked Hazard's momentum and he missed Madrid's first match back, a 1-0 loss away at Mallorca, due to the birth of his fourth child. In the three games since, he has appeared in bursts, delivering exhilarating moments like the glorious flick inside against Galatasaray and a run in behind to win the penalty against Leganes.

"He sees things that other players cannot see," Zidane said. Yet there have been disappointments too, not so much glaring errors as a general hesitance, a tendency to choose the safe option or fail to choose at all when in those attacking positions he usually relishes.

Hazard's most impressive showing so far was arguably against Real Betis last weekend, when Madrid failed to score but he had his exuberance back, not to mention the change of pace that at times has appeared worryingly absent.

He was darting through gaps rather than turning away from them, taking risks, and unfortunately to see a superb goal ruled out for offside. "Everyone wants to see Eden playing better," Zidane said last week. "But I see him getting much better every day. He will get there in the end for sure."

Madrid's goalless draw against Betis shows why Hazard's crescendo must find its climax, and quickly, if Zidane's team are to avoid the same problems up front that



Eden Hazard

proved their undoing last season. Despite the best efforts of Benzema in recent months, the void left by Cristiano Ronaldo is still to be filled and although Hazard has never been a prolific scorer, he can contribute and enhance the numbers of others.

Those that know Hazard say he has a relaxed, down-to-earth personality, unfazed by attention and uninterested in the pizzazz of modern football. Perhaps it is one of the rea-

sons his move to Madrid was not pushed through sooner.

But to succeed, he is likely not only to need that zip again that comes only with full fitness but self-belief, to take ownership of this Madrid side in the same way he once commanded the adoration of Stamford Bridge.

Few doubt Hazard will soon rediscover his peak, certainly not Zidane, who insists goals are all he needs. Real Madrid need them too. — AFP

## India-Pakistan Davis Cup tie shifted to 'neutral' site

ISLAMABAD: This month's Davis Cup tie between Pakistan and India, scheduled to take place in Islamabad, must now be played at a "neutral venue" due to security concerns, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said Monday.

The Asia/Oceania Group I match had initially been planned for September, but was pushed back to November 29-30 after safety fears were raised by India amid tensions between the neighbouring nations over Kashmir.

In a statement, the ITF said the

decision to move the match was taken "following a review of the latest advice given by the ITF's independent security advisors." "The ITF and Davis Cup Committee's first priority has always been the safety of athletes, officials and spectators and the decision was made on this basis," the ITF said.

According to Davis Cup rules, "the Pakistan Tennis Federation now has the choice to nominate a neutral venue and has five working days to confirm their proposed

venue," it added. "The venue will be announced once the choice has been submitted and approved."

Tensions are simmering between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. Kashmir has been divided between the two countries since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Both claim the territory in full and have fought two wars over it.

In August, New Delhi revoked the special status of the part of the region that it administers. An Indian tennis team last played a Davis Cup tie in Pakistan in 1964, when they beat the hosts 4-0. Pakistan lost 3-2 when they played in Mumbai in 2006. — AFP



### Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Bayern Munich v Olympiacos CFP	beIN SPORTS HD 5	20:55
Lokomotiv Moscow v Juventus FC	beIN SPORTS	20:55
Paris Saint-Germain v Club Brugge KV	beIN SPORTS	23:00
Real Madrid CF v Galatasaray SK	beIN SPORTS HD 1	23:00
Crvena Zvezda v Tottenham Hotspur	beIN SPORTS	23:00
Bayer 04 Leverkusen v Atletico de Madrid	beIN SPORTS	23:00
Atalanta v Manchester City	beIN SPORTS	23:00
GNK Dinamo Zagreb v Shakhtar Donetsk	beIN SPORTS	23:00

## Verona get one-match stadium closure for Balotelli racist abuse

MILAN: Italian club Verona were yesterday given a one-match partial stadium closure for monkey cries from their fans directed at Brescia forward Mario Balotelli during a Serie A game at the weekend.

Italian international Balotelli scored in Sunday's 2-1 Serie A defeat but his performance was overshadowed by his fury at the racist abuse from a section of Verona's supporters. The Lega Serie A's disciplinary commission yesterday said that the chants "were clearly perceived, in addition to the player, also by the federation representative positioned nearby."

The commission found that "after these cries .. there were also cries of support followed by long applause". As a result they ordered that a section known as the "Poltrone Est" in the Bentegodi Stadium, which can host around 3,500 spectators in the 30,000-capacity stadium, be closed for one match.

Despite denials of abuse from Verona, a video published on Twitter by a fan showed a number of supporters directing abuse at Balotelli before the forward booted the ball at them in the stands. 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 loud-speaker threatening that both teams would leave the field if there was a repeat of any abuse.

The message was whistled loudly by a large number of the home fans. Verona coach Ivan Juric insisted he heard "no racist chants, nothing at all," adding that "to say otherwise is a lie". Earlier Verona announced they have banned Luca Castellini, the leader of their hard-core ultras supporters group, until June 2030 for saying that Balotelli would never be "completely Italian".

"Balotelli's Italian because he has Italian citizenship, but he can never be completely Italian," Castellini said in a radio interview on Monday. When asked if Verona fans were racist, Castellini added: "We have a negro in our team and he scored yesterday and all of Verona applauded."

Verona barred Castellini from their stadium "based on considerations and expressions seriously contrary to those that distinguish the ethical principles and values of our club". Balotelli, 29, who was born in Palermo to Ghanaian parents but was raised just outside Brescia, had to be held back by players from both teams to stop him leaving the pitch.

"Balotelli's a clown. He only heard it in his own head," continued Castellini. Former Manchester City and Inter Milan striker Balotelli, who obtained Italian citizenship at the age of 18, has been capped 36 times for Italy. — AFP



**25** Marchand's five points lead Bruins past visiting Penguins

**26** Sublime Smith steers Australia to comfortable win over Pakistan

**27** Bale confident he will be fit for crucial Euro 2020 qualifiers



## Cowboys beat Giants, stay atop NFC East

Dak Prescott threw three touchdown passes



EAST RUTHERFORD: Golden Tate #15 of the New York Giants is tackled by Jaylon Smith #54 and Jourdan Lewis #27 of the Dallas Cowboys during the third quarter of the game at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. —AFP

**NEW YORK:** Dak Prescott threw three touchdown passes as the Dallas Cowboys beat the New York Giants 37-18 on Monday to remain an NFL division leader. The Cowboys improved to 5-3 to stay ahead of Philadelphia (5-4) atop the NFC East division with the Giants a distant third at 2-7.

It was the sixth consecutive victory by Dallas in the rivalry against the Giants, although the Cowboys led only 13-12 at half-time. "It just shows the character of the team to be able to overcome adversity," Prescott said. "Another slow start but we got the run game going and that

opened up the passing game.

"We had no doubt we were going to finish this game off. We went out and executed plays and that's what we did in the fourth quarter." Prescott completed 22-of-35 passes for 257 yards with only one interception while Ezekiel Elliott carried 23 times for 139 yards for the Cowboys.

Prescott tossed a 15-yard touchdown pass to Michael Gallup, who made an acrobatic move along the sideline to reach the end zone, as the Cowboys stretched their lead to 23-15 early in the fourth quarter. After the ensuing kickoff, New York's Saquon Barkley rambled 65 yards on the

longest pass reception of his career to set up Aldrick Rosas's fourth field goal, a 29-yarder, to trim the Giants' deficit to five points with 11:50 remaining. Prescott answered with a 45-yard touchdown pass to Amari Cooper, who caught the ball at the 25-yard line and continued his crossing pattern all the way into the end zone as Dallas surged ahead 30-18.

Cowboys defender Jourdan Lewis scored the final touchdown on a 63-yard fumble recovery return with six seconds remaining. Giants quarterback Daniel Jones lost his NFL-high eighth fumble of the season to set up the score.

Jones lost his seventh fumble to set up a 28-yard field goal by Brett Maher to give Dallas a 16-12 lead late in the third quarter. Rosas answered for the Giants with a 26-yard field goal to pull New York within 16-15 before Prescott's fourth-quarter heroics.

Prescott had flipped a short pass to Blake Jarwin, who raced 42 yards for a touchdown with 52 seconds remaining in the second quarter to pull the Cowboys within 12-10. On the next possession, Cowboys defender Xavier Woods intercepted New York's Daniel Jones to set up Maher's 52-yard field goal that lifted

Dallas ahead 13-12 at half-time.

A black cat running across the field delayed the game with 5:32 remaining in the second quarter, eluding police for several minutes before running out a tunnel behind an end zone. Shortly after that disturbance, the Giants seized a 12-3 lead on a 25-yard Rosas field goal.

Jones flipped a one-yard touchdown pass to Cody Latimer early in the second quarter to give the Giants a 9-3 lead but Rosas missed the conversion kick. The teams traded field goals in the first quarter, Rosas connecting from 21 yards and Maher equalizing from 35 yards. —AFP

## Bayern interim boss Flick to ring the changes

**MUNICH:** Interim boss Hansi Flick says Thomas Mueller and Javi Martinez will start for Bayern Munich in today's Champions League tie against Olympiakos as he rings the changes for his first game in charge following Niko Kovac's sacking.

Kovac was dismissed as head coach on Sunday in the wake of Bayern's 5-1 drubbing at Eintracht Frankfurt. His assistant Flick has been appointed interim coach for Wednesday's European tie at home to Olympiakos and Saturday's league game against Dortmund.

Flick, 54, was called to an emergency meeting by Bayern's bosses on Sunday night and was "honoured" to be asked to take temporary charge. Now the former Germany assistant coach wants an immediate response from Bayern's stars against Olympiakos.

"The goals we conceded recently were not 'Bayern like'," said Flick in a press conference. "We trained today like we want to play." Both Mueller, 30, and Martinez, 31, mainly started on the bench under Kovac, but Flick wants to

utilise the experience of the veterans, who helped Bayern win the 2013 treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup titles. "Of course, you can't change everything immediately, but it's also about the selection with perhaps one or two tactical changes," said Flick. "Javi Martinez and Thomas Mueller will play," he added with Martinez to start at centre-back.

"Niko appreciated Thomas as a player, he (Mueller) is important for the club and has won everything. He can sweep the team along and lead them. "The team needs to be active and take the initiative, we need to show the quality we have in the squad."

"That goes for every individual player - not just (captain) Manuel Neuer or 'Lewy'", he added with striker Robert Lewandowski having scored a phenomenal 20 goals in 16 games so far this season.

Group B leaders Bayern host bottom side Olympiakos at the Allianz Arena with a fourth straight Champions League win in their sights after beating the Greek side 3-2 in Piraeus a fortnight ago. Bayern already have one foot in the knock-out phase as they currently sit five-points clear of second-placed Tottenham, who they host in December having routed them 7-2 in north London last month. However, all is not well behind the scenes at the Bavarian giants, who have won just three of their last six games in all competitions. Following Sunday's upheaval, ex-

Bayern and West Germany defender Andreas Brehme says the Bayern squad "let Kovac down" with a series of lacklustre recent performances, sentiments echoed by midfielder Joshua Kimmich, who says the players must step up.

"It's not so easy for Hansi, he hasn't had much time," said Kimmich. "The main responsibility now lies with us players. "We have to pull ourselves together. "There are no alibis for any of us anymore. An excuse from the coach no longer exists."

Bayern now have two tough games before the international break, also hosting second-placed Borussia Dortmund on Saturday in the Bundesliga with defending champions Munich fourth in the table, trailing leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach by four points.

Flick, part of the Germany staff when they won the 2014 World Cup, will remain in charge until a new head coach is named. Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness says they expect to name the new boss within three weeks but two potential candidates have already dropped out.

Ajax's Erik ten Hag has stated he will not leave the Dutch side before the end of the season while Sky German reports that Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel has turned down an approach. Jose Mourinho, Arsene Wenger and Massimiliano Allegri have been mentioned as possible contenders. —AFP

## Ferrari reject Verstappen 'cheating' claims

**AUSTIN:** Ferrari has hit back at Max Verstappen's 'cheating' claims made against the Italian team following the United States Grand Prix. Dutchman Verstappen, who finished third behind the Mercedes duo of Valtteri Bottas and newly-crowned six-time champion Lewis Hamilton, said Ferrari had lost their previous speed and form because they had been stopped from cheating by an official technical directive.

The directive, from the sport's ruling body, the International Motoring Federation (FIA), followed an inquiry from Verstappen's Red Bull about a 'tricky' fuel-flow system, designed to boost power, that was declared illegal.

Speaking to reporters late Sunday at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Ferrari team chief Mattia Binotto said: "I read and I heard a lot of comments this weekend about a technical directive and the impact on our cars. "I heard comments at the end of the race, which I feel were very disappointing..."

"It is the type of comments that are

completely wrong in the sport. It is not good for the sport and I think everybody should be a bit more cautious."

Binotto, who celebrated his 50th birthday on race day Sunday, went on to launch a defence of his team, explaining how their six-race run of pole positions came to an end and why they endured a disappointing race with an apparent loss of their previous big speed advantage on the straights.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel retired early with broken suspension and teammate Charles Leclerc, powered by an 'old' Spec 2 engine, finished fourth, 50 seconds adrift of Verstappen's Red Bull.

Asked why he thought Ferrari had suffered a slump, Verstappen said: "That's what happens when you stop cheating..." Binotto rejected the charge, saying: "As a matter of fact, I believe we were very close to pole position as it was in the last race. I think Seb could have scored pole, but maybe was a bit too cautious in one corner." —AFP