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# India's supreme court gives disputed holy site to Hindus

## Hundreds of Indian Sikhs make historic pilgrimage to Pakistan



KARTARPUR, Pakistan: Sikh pilgrims stand in a queue to visit the Shrine of Baba Guru Nanak Dev at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib near the Indian border yesterday. — AFP

NEW DELHI/AYODHYA/KARTARPUR: India's Supreme Court yesterday awarded a bitterly contested religious site to Hindus, dealing a defeat to Muslims who also claim the land that has sparked some of the country's bloodiest riots since independence. The ruling in the dispute between Hindu and Muslim groups paves the way for the construction of a Hindu temple on the site in the northern town of Ayodhya, a proposal long supported by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu-nationalist party.

Yesterday's judgment, which is likely to be viewed as a win for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its backers, was criticized as unfair by a lawyer for the Muslim group involved in the case. However, the group's leader said ultimately it would accept the verdict and called for peace between India's majority Hindus and Muslims, who constitute 14 percent of its 1.3 billion people.

In 1992, a Hindu mob destroyed the 16th-century Babri Mosque on the site, triggering riots in which about 2,000 people, most of them Muslims, were killed across the country. Court battles over the ownership of the site followed. Jubilant Hindus, who have long campaigned for a temple to be built on the ruins of the mosque, cheered and set off fire crackers in celebration

Continued on Page 24



AHMEDABAD, India: Supporters of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) militant organization celebrate the Indian Supreme Court's verdict to award the disputed religious site in Ayodhya to Hindus yesterday. — AFP

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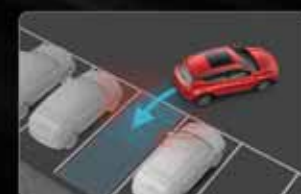
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## Local

# Escalation of Kuwaitis' demonstrations could leave the government vulnerable

## Causes, possible impact of protests against alleged rampant corruption

**KUWAIT:** A demonstration held outside the Kuwaiti parliament over alleged rampant corruption was reminiscent of past crises that have marred political life in the oil-rich Gulf state. The gathering on Wednesday night by hundreds of protesters, the first of its kind in the emirate for several months, comes at a time of mass demonstrations against graft in Lebanon and Iraq. Kuwait is the only member of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to have witnessed such anti-government protests. Here is a look at the causes and possible impact.

### Why are Kuwaitis angry?

At the opening ceremony of the newly-elected parliament last week, pro-government speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem lashed out at what he said was gross exaggeration of the extent of corruption in Kuwait. He said there were attempts to show Kuwait as if it were "the capital of the corruption world and that all Kuwaitis are involved in corruption."

The provocative statement angered citizens and triggered the protest, said political analyst Ibrahim Dashti. "Citizens feel that corruption is widespread everywhere. We are one of the world's richest countries but still have no good roads; (public) education and health services have deteriorated," Dashti said.

Kuwait ranks 78th on the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index compiled by Transparency International—the worst performance of any of the oil-

rich Gulf states. The government-appointed Anti-Corruption Authority said last year it received 196 complaints regarding corruption cases but referred only 34 of them for investigation.

### What's next?

Given the current mood across the region, commentators are watching to see if the Kuwait demonstrations escalate, and if so whether the government will be vulnerable. At Wednesday's protest, unlike previous demonstrations, no political organizations were invited and no speeches made, making its impact difficult to assess. Kuwait witnessed large-scale demonstrations in late 2011, coinciding with the Arab Spring uprisings. Those rallies, led by opposition groups and lawmakers, were also focused on combatting corruption and pressing for political and constitutional reforms. The protests forced then prime minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to step down. His Highness the Amir issued a decree to dissolve parliament and call for early polls. If the latest protests continue, "the government of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah will resign and snap polls will be held," said Dashti.

### Are protests allowed?

Kuwaitis are allowed to hold peaceful protests as part of their constitutional rights, on condition they obtain a permit from the authorities. Unlike its Gulf



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti demonstrators take part in a demonstration against alleged corruption in Kuwait City on November 6, 2019. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

neighbors, Kuwait has a vibrant political life and an elected parliament. It became the first Gulf state to have a constitution and elected chamber in 1962. The

50-seat parliament also has powers to hold ministers to account in Kuwait, whose citizens make up about 30 percent of the 4.7-million population. —AFP

### local spotlight

## Government expenditure

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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There are undoubtedly several important issues before the National Assembly such as the bedoons' law, new cities and others, but I as a Kuwaiti citizen hope the parliament looks at the issue of government spending among its agenda. This topic is very important for Kuwait's interests and international reputation, so a joint national project between the government and the Assembly should be launched to control public expenditure within a specified period of time.

The basis of this project is to ensure new projects are not launched unless they have a guaranteed return, and reduce spending on other non-priority areas with administrative and parliamentary supervision over spending. I think, for example, that building new cities without services for the population is not as important as new roads and repairing damaged streets.

Reports have been spreading for days about the possibility of rain, and although rain is liked by people, what people remember is that last year, rains inundated parts of Kuwait and roads were lined with submerged cars, raising concern. These matters may seem small, but are a major issue for the public. I think it is better to criticize the government for the delay in the completion of projects than to lose those projects in full because of mismanagement or lack of completion.

The new government spending project does not aim at reducing public expenditure. How much society needs various projects and differentiating among them on the basis of their collective benefit should be considered, and only then spending on these projects should be determined.

For example, the 5 percent VAT approved by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for nearly four years has not been implemented in Kuwait, but spending efficiency is better than resorting to tax increases to reduce public deficit. I believe that the efficiency of government spending is a guarantee for economic growth of the state and makes it immune from potential pressures due to global economic conditions. It is perhaps the only remaining means of financial sustainability.

We tend to hear that the reason for general waste is salaries, which makes up nearly three-quarters of spending in Kuwait, but this should not be the reason for more spending. I know that the issue of government spending in many countries around the world is difficult and burdened by complexities, because there are multiple ways of spending and decentralized decision-making, but remains essential to avoid possible risk from global trade tensions and uncertainty in oil prices.

Because of large budget deficits and reliance on volatile commodity prices, government spending needs to be addressed with a more strategic approach. The decline in oil prices will not only affect the Gulf region, but the entire Arab region, especially as the Gulf countries are the most important trading and investment partners of all non-oil exporting countries. So, focusing on spending efficiency is important.

These factors require the importance of continuing and accelerating the pace of financial and structural reforms to increase economic resilience and stimulate the growth of the private sector to be a partner in development and not only a beneficiary. The optimal use of financial resources is not just a wish but an irreplaceable choice. I believe that achieving efficiency is one of the issues that requires consensus between the legislative and executive branches of the country.



## VIVA successfully concludes advanced Photoshop course

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and a subsidiary of STC Group, has successfully concluded the 'Advanced Photoshop' course for entrepreneurs held at VIVA's headquarter building for three consecutive days from 4 to 6 November 2019, embracing the #because\_we\_care theme. The educational course fea-

tured several activities bringing the participants together to learn more about the latest and most advanced design tricks and methods of the Photoshop software that could be applied on creative concepts nowadays. Moreover, they have been assigned by the instructors Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan 'bonmr' and Abdullah Hamadah, to create digital artworks throughout the course, bringing out their own personal views and artistic touches and expressions.

All participants were awarded certificates from VIVA in recognition of successfully completing the three-day design course. Those who were nominated as 'Best Designers' were given prizes as a token of appreciation. This advanced course falls in line with the corporate social responsibility agenda at VIVA which strives to support various initiatives in the health, education, sports, environment and entrepreneurship arenas, all in benefit of our society.

## Kuwait's PM directs raising efficiency of govt bodies

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Thursday directed improving government bodies' performance, urging ministers to hold the negligent accountable. This came during a meeting held at His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan with the ministers and in the presence of Sheikh Ahmad Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, head of Government Performance Follow-Up Agency (GPFA).

Sheikh Ahmad Meshaal Al-Ahmad gave a presentation to Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and the ministers on the projects and the timetables of carrying them as planned, and the observations of the regulatory bodies on the govern-

ment agencies, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said after the meeting. They were also briefed on the implementation of the recommendations of the parliamentary committee of budgets and final account, Saleh added. The meeting was held in light of the government's attention to improve its bodies' services and facilitate implementing projects as well as complete measures in this matter.

Among these measures were the meeting of the coordinating committee of the Council of Ministers with all agents and leaders in government agencies, discussing all observations contained in the reports of the regulatory bodies and the recommendations of the parliamentary committee, as well as dealing with means of raising the level of performance and facilitating the completion of projects, and others. They studied the results of the report submitted by Sheikh Ahmad Meshaal Al-Ahmad, obstacles against executing projects as planned and the causes led to the observations of the regulatory bodies as well as means of addressing them practically in order to facilitate the implementation of projects.—KUNA



## Camping okayed on Kuwait Bay's eastern bank

**KUWAIT:** The four-month camping season in Kuwait kicks off on November 15, when the Kuwaiti desert, amid the moderate weather, would host camping fans and leisure seekers. Kuwait Municipality is kicking off the season, promoting a new site for camping: the eastern bank of Kuwait Bay at the other end of Sheikh Jaber Causeway that stretches across the sea waters, linking up the bay two banks. Fahad Al-Qraifah, in charge of public cleanliness and road works at the municipali-

ty, said that the new camping location has been chosen for easy accessibility, noting that it is far from military installations and high-tension cables. Public services centers and security checkpoints will be erected close to camping sites, he said, reiterating that people cannot camp at locations that have not been chosen by the authorities. Camping fans can register their names as of the 15th of this month via a dedicated website, with a KD 50 fee and repayable sum of KD 300. A

camper will be allowed to use a 1,000 square meter plot of land. The Sheikh Jaber Causeway is one of the latest national accomplishments, envisaged within the New Kuwait Vision 2035 development strategy. It is designed to pave way for decentralization and establishing new residential districts. Many people have been eager to enjoy the camping season, as the weather has turned quite with the maximum temperatures currently in the 30 degrees' range.—KUNA

### News in brief

#### Kuwait conducts household income survey

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's census bureau is currently conducting a nationwide survey to determine the country's median household income and expenditure for the years 2019-2020, the national data provider said yesterday. The aim of such endeavor is to get a clearer picture of the living conditions in Kuwaiti households, according to the Central Statistical Bureau's assistant undersecretary Munia Al-Qabandi. In a statement, she urged citizens and residents alike to be cooperative with census takers through providing them with the most accurate information possible. As per Kuwaiti law, households are obligated to provide the census bureau with personal income data, added the official. —KUNA

#### Live ammunition exercise

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Coast Guard will conduct a drill using live ammunition in the country's territorial waters tomorrow and Tuesday, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. The exercise is scheduled to take place between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm near the islands of Qarouh and Umm Al-Maradim, read a ministry press release. It advised sea-goers to steer clear off the identified locations during the drill. —KUNA

#### Al-Baghli's case

**BUCHAREST:** Local authorities are keen on following up Kuwaiti businessman Mohammad Al-Baghli's disappearance case, President of the Romanian Senate Teodor Melescanu reaffirmed on Friday. His remarks came while meeting Kuwait's Ambassador to Romania Talal Al-Hajri at the Senate's headquarters. Baghli has been missing in Romania for more than four years despite efforts by government and private institutions to know his whereabouts. Since his disappearance in a Romanian village on August 5, 2015, authorities in the State of Kuwait have been exploring every possible effort to know his whereabouts. However, all bids have so far failed. Ambassador Hajri said that cooperation on a parliamentary level was also discussed with the Romanian top lawmaker, who, according to the ambassador, voiced desire to visit Kuwait. —KUNA



Local

# Civil Aviation unifies allowances hours after employees threaten to go on strike

## Ministry increases NUKS USA, UK students' allowances

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Hours after airport employees revealed plans to stage a strike in protest of 'unpaid allowances,' Director of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Yousif Al-Fauzan announced yesterday unifying the allowances of some staff members working shifts at Kuwait International Airport departments. Fauzan said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) issued a resolution on Thursday explaining that shifts would be of eight hours each and every air traffic control staff member will work morning, afternoon and evening shifts on three consecutive days, followed by two days off. Fauzan added airport staff will work the same eight hours for three consecutive days followed by one day off instead of the old system of working a full 24 hours followed by 48 hours off. Earlier yesterday, DGCA employees' syndicate stressed that it will proceed with plans to go on strike tomorrow. The syndicate's chairman Jaber Al-Azmi said the CSC only approved allowances for air traffic control staff and that the syndicate insists on unified allowances for all staff members working shifts. However,

the union did not release a statement after Fauzan's announcement, or comment whether they still plan to stage their strike or not.

### Students' allowances

Secretary general of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA) Ali Al-Ghanem said the Ministry of Higher Education agreed to increase scholarship students' allowances and contacted the finance ministry in this regard. Similarly, Ghanem's counterpart in the United Kingdom, Nayef Al-Alatti, announced the same for students studying in the UK. Separately, Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi ordered an immediate investigation over a social media video showing a teacher allegedly assaulting a student, and strongly rejected any leniency towards such violations. Additionally, the ministry emphasized in a post on its official Twitter account its total rejection of assaulting students at any educational facility.

### Expats' contracts

Responding to parliamentary complaints, the Public Authority for Manpower stressed that it operates according to law number 6/2010

and its amendments pertaining business owners and the assessment of their needs. The manpower authority also stressed that it fully abides by the CSC resolution concerning replacing expats with citizens in government jobs, adding that contracts of hundreds of expats had been terminated this year.

### Cultural center

The Farwaniya committee at the Municipal Council is due to discuss a number of topics in this week's agenda, including building a cultural and educational center for the Bohra community in Ardiya and a parking lot in Omariya.

### Housing issue

MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei said that his grilling motion against the minister of public works was the fruit of hard work by a large group of citizens over a common major concern in their lives - housing. Tabtabaei added that citizens have to wait four or five years to get a house. "The real achievement is to give citizens their house keys instead of the deeds," he stressed, pointing out that citizens are currently paying KD 700 in monthly rent, which overburdens Kuwaiti families.

## Four dead, six injured in Zour Road crash

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Four Kuwaitis were killed and six injured after a pick-up truck they were in rammed into a lamppost at Al-Zour Road yesterday. Three of the injured are in critical condition. An investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the accident.

### Body found

An Egyptian man's body was found under the rubble after firefighters battled a blaze reported in a cement company in Abdali, where the victim worked. An investigation was opened. Separately, a fire in a Qurain building's basement caused a woman to suffer minor suffocation. The building was evacuated and the fire was put out by Qurain and Mubarak Al-Kabeer fire stations.

### Counterfeit t-shirts

Customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle counterfeit



KUWAIT: A firefighter is seen in a Qurain building where a fire was reported in the basement.

brand-named t-shirts. The goods were found aboard a wooden boat arriving from a neighboring country. Samples from the 1,085 t-shirts were sent to concerned authorities, who confirmed they were not genuine.



## Zain platinum sponsor of NUKS USA 36th annual conference

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its platinum sponsorship of the 36th annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA), which is set to be held from November 28 to December 1, 2019 in San Diego, California under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Zain expressed its pride in being the platinum sponsor of the conference, continuing its role as a main supporter of the event for 16 years. The conference is considered the largest gathering of Kuwaiti students abroad, and Zain's support comes in line with its corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy towards the youth and education sectors, as well as its belief in connecting with the country's youth abroad.

As it does every year, Zain will be contributing to the event by organizing a number of unique activities and programs. The company will be sponsoring a special sports seminar featuring many distinguished Kuwaiti athletes, as well as organizing the thrilling 'Zain Football Tournament' for students. Zain will also host a workshop that discusses accelerating tech startups, featuring many successful entrepreneurs.

Zain will participate in recognizing the top performing Kuwaiti graduates from the US, and will also take part in a special exhibition for sponsors, where the company will offer its exclusive promotions to students, present its available career opportunities, as well as showcase its leading experience in the telecom sector. In addition, Zain has prepared a number of surprises for students who will be visiting the event.

The conference will feature many unique activities, including a workshop entitled 'Phonorizma' for creating a charis-

matic brand through social media and smartphones, a self-development workshop for female students, and an economic seminar. The event will also host the stars of Kuwait Pulse 88.8 FM, and a concert by popular Kuwaiti band Miami. All these activities and more will feature many public/media figures, politicians, social activists, athletes, and more.

Zain's presence in the event conveys its enthusiasm to interact with the future generations of Kuwaiti youth, especially those who pursue their education abroad, as the NUKS USA conference is considered the largest gathering of Kuwaitis outside of Kuwait, and welcomes students from all around the US. The distinctive event appeals to students on both an intellectual and social levels and it serves as an open forum for them to exchange opinions and views regarding important domestic issues with the presence of distinguished national figures from the Kuwaiti society.

Zain sees its annual participation in the conference as part of its responsibility as a leading national company to help provide bright and enthusiastic young Kuwaitis with a great social experience, as well as listen to their ideas and experiences while pursuing their education abroad.

The NUKS USA serves nearly 14,000 Kuwaiti students studying in the United States. The union aims, through its events and programs, to connect Kuwaiti students with each other on one level, and with their nation and the latest updates of the Kuwaiti community on another. NUKS USA was publicized in the US and was granted the recognition of the United States government. The achievement is considered a proud milestone for Kuwait's youth, and is a direct result of the great relations between the State of Kuwait and United States. Such a recognition is a clear reflection of the strategic relations between the two nations.

## KUNA chief discusses cooperation with Spanish counterpart

MADRID: Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah held talks with Chairman of the Spanish News Agency (EFE) Fernando Gareca on cooperation between the two news agencies. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij affirmed the aspiration to beef up relations and establish partnerships with media organizations around the world "for the sake of

cementing other states' bonds with Kuwait in a manner that would serve its sagacious foreign policy." The meeting with the EFE chief and other officials at the Spanish news agency resulted in laying basis for boosting the relations between EFE and KUNA. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij said, adding that he agreed with the Spanish side to activate the cooperation in order to serve interests of the two countries' peoples.—KUNA

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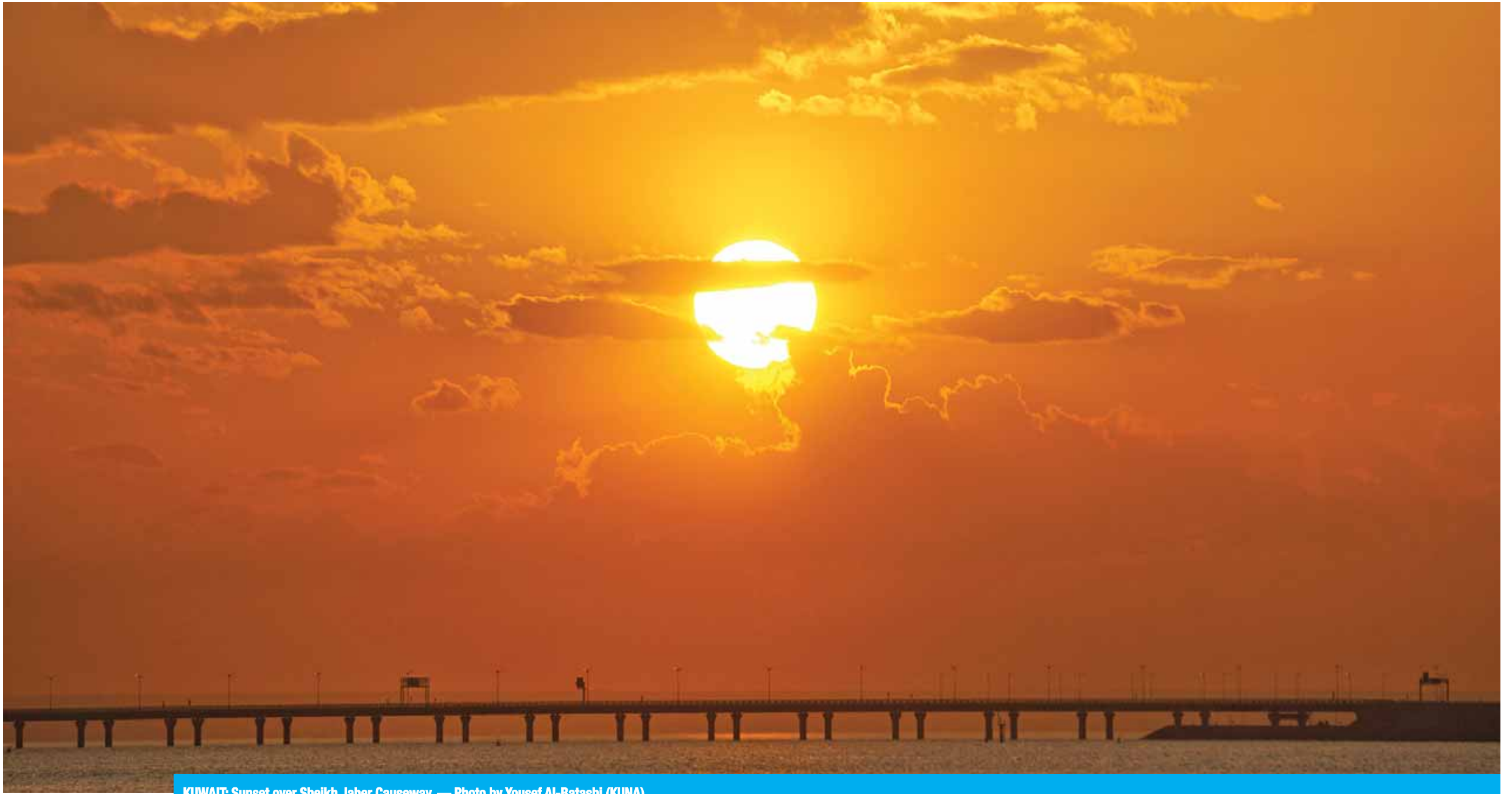
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## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Sunset over Sheikh Jaber Causeway. — Photo by Yousef Al-Batashi (KUNA)

# Kuwaiti humanitarian activities continue covering several areas

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**KUWAIT:** Kuwait continues to extend its humanitarian arm around the world, helping those who are in dire need. In a statement to the press, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ahmad Al-Manzari said that Kuwait will fund programs to combat the spread of measles among Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and Lebanese kids as well. This comprehensive Kuwaiti support comes after briefing Kuwaiti Health Minister Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah on the problem of the spread of measles among Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and the ease of its transmission to Syrian children, he added. He pointed out that the meeting also discussed the various WHO programs funded by Kuwait in Iraq and Yemen and for the benefit of Syrian refugees, which had a significant impact in the face of health crises resulting from the situation there.

Manzari stressed that Kuwait's great humanitarian role in implementing many health programs and its continuous solidarity with the most vulnerable community groups directly contributes to saving lives. The Director-General of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Abdulwahab Ahmad Al-Bader announced last week humanitarian projects to improve the situation of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region of Iraq in cooperation with the UNHCR. In a joint press conference, Bader said that Kuwait and KFAED have a prominent role in providing humanitarian services to refugees in all countries, especially Syrian refugees in a number of countries, especially those living in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Bader affirmed that KFAED will continue to provide humanitarian projects for refugees in cooperation with the UN organizations to alleviate their suffering.

Ibriil Governor Firsat Sofi expressed his deep thanks to the KFAED and the Kuwaiti charitable organizations for providing humanitarian services to Syrian refugees and displaced Iraqis. He pointed out that the region has gone through difficult economic conditions during the past years, stressing that without the assistance provided by Kuwait and other organizations, the situation "would not be worse than it is now, and we would not have been able to receive such a large number of refugees." According to the latest statistics of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq, in addition to the 250,000 Syrian refugees who have been living in the region for years, more than 14,000 Syrians have sought refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan since the outbreak of violence in northeastern Syria.

Meanwhile, the specialized medical camp for ear, nose and throat surgery started in the Yemeni province of Marib with the support and funding of the Kuwaiti International Mercy Society. The camp, which was inaugurated at Marib General Hospital, aimed to perform 150 free surgical operations, said Foundation for Human Development in a statement. Furthermore, Kuwait International Mercy Society opened its health projects in Marib, laying the foundation stone for the construction of a model health center and the launching of the mobile medical unit within the framework of the 'Kuwait by Your

Side' campaign. In the meantime, a delegation of Kuwait's National Society of Human Rights praised Bahrain's experience in the field of human rights. This came on the sidelines of a field visit by the Vice-President of the National Office for Human Rights, Dr Seham Al-Freih and Kuwaiti Advisor Huda Al-Shayji to Al-Karama Center for Social Welfare and Dar Al-Aman Center to learn about Bahrain's experience in the field of human rights. Dr Freih said that the field visit comes within the framework of the keenness of the Kuwaiti human rights society to be acquainted with the various Bahraini experiences in the field of human rights and benefit from them.

Kuwait, through the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO), inaugurated the largest relief project for Syrian refugees in the camps of the Kurdistan region of Iraq with the distribution of more than a thousand tons of food under the supervision of the Consulate General of Kuwait in Irbil and the implementation of the Barzani Charity Foundation. Kuwaiti Consul General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari said that the project came to meet the needs of Syrian refugees in the region as part of the Kuwaiti campaign launched by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Kandari, who supervised the launch of the project, noted that the assistance provided by Kuwait to the displaced Iraqis and Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region of Iraq will continue and diversify to include all categories and benefit a wide range of people in need. Chairman of the Barzani Charity Foundation Moussa Ahmad said that Kuwait and its humanitarian organizations have an active role in providing various humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and displaced Iraqis distributed in camps in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Ahmad thanked Kuwait for its humanitarian initiatives towards refugees and displaced people in the region, adding that Kuwaiti humanitarian institutions have made a promise to continue providing assistance in the future as long as they need assistance.

The free medical camp, which included 210 minor surgeries funded by the Islamic Heritage Revival Society, was concluded in Aden on Thursday, said the Yemeni Wisdom Society in a statement. The Director of the Public Health and Population Office in Aden Dr Jamal Khadabish praised the generous humanitarian role adopted by Kuwait and its societies and their inherent position alongside the Yemeni people under the circumstances. Director of the Wisdom Society's Aden branch Mohammad Abdulwaseh stressed the continued support provided by the Islamic Heritage Revival Society in Kuwait, which represents a tributary of humanity and development of the Yemeni people. The Kuwaiti Patient Assistance Fund has launched a campaign for preventing diseases and environmental sanitation in Khartoum State. The Director General of the Ministry of Health in Khartoum State, Osama Ahmad Abdulrahim, praised the generous support provided by the Patient Assistance Fund Association and Kuwait in supporting various programs in Sudan. — KUNA



Doctors operate on a patient in a Kuwaiti-funded mobile medical unit in Yemen.



## Local

# Kuwait eyes more crude oil exports to China: official

## Kuwaiti-Chinese cooperation at highest level: Ambassador

SHANGHAI: A senior Kuwaiti oil official affirmed yesterday that his country plans to increase its crude oil exports to China to more than 600,000 barrels per day by 2019. Kuwait's volume of liquefied natural gas exports to China has significantly increased to over two millions tons annually, making up nearly 40 percent of its total exports. Deputy Managing Director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) International Marketing Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah said. Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah made his remarks while addressing participants of the second edition of China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.

Kuwait considers China as one of its main strategic partners, he affirmed, noting KPC's cooperation relationship and partnership with China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec Group), particularly in the energy field. Kuwait's oil exports have grown significantly thanks to its partnerships with China, notably Sinopec Group, especially since KPC opened its representation office in Beijing in 2005, Sheikh Khaled noted, adding such mutual understanding and support was the key for this partnership's success. The KPC-Sinopec cooperation includes oil-manufacturing sectors such as oil extraction and refinery, in addition to exporting oil derivatives, marketing, business development, investment, and joint operations, said the Kuwaiti official.

The Kuwaiti-Chinese oil cooperation is very "promising" and would contribute to the two countries' prosperity for long years to come, he noted, affirming his country seeks to maintain the stability of international oil markets. Kuwait aspires to faster global economic growth as it continues, through KPC, to supply the international markets, particularly the Chinese ones, with crude oil and its various related-products, said Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah. As part of its strategy, the Kuwaiti corporation seeks to



SHANGHAI: Deputy Managing Director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) International Marketing Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah speaks at the second edition of China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. — KUNA photos

increase its production capacity of crude oil to more than four million barrel per day, as well as 2.5 billion cubic meters of LNG by 2040, he noted.

Furthermore, Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah affirmed KPC's strive to reach a total refinery capacity of crude oil to about 1.4 million barrels per day by 2021, in addition to investment on an international level to secure best returns for Kuwaiti oil. On KPC's current oil projects, he mentioned clean fuel as one, in addition to development and integration of local refineries in order to secure production of high-quality products that match international environmental criteria. Moreover,

KPC would construct an LNG station with a total capacity of nearly three billion British thermal units per day in order to maintain Kuwait's LNG needs and achieve better environmental criteria on the local level.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah also mentioned that KPC plans to construct a new refinery, called Zour Refinery, which has been designed in accordance to international standards and in a total major capacity of nearly 615,000 barrels per day to cover Kuwait's energy needs.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to China Sameh Hayat affirmed Friday that



Kuwait's Ambassador to China Sameh Hayat speaks at the event.

"prosperous" bilateral relations with China are at the highest of levels. Acting upon wise directions of both leaderships, and stemming of a mutual political desire, the two countries succeeded in establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership, Hayat said while addressing participants of the second edition of the International Financial Cooperation Forum 2019 in Shanghai.

Kuwait's participation this year reflects its interest to interact with such a significant financial event in one of China's - and the world's - leading economic cities, said the Kuwaiti envoy. It also embodies the fruitful outcomes of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to China last July, which propelled the relationship between the two countries to higher strategic prospects, noted Hayat. Shanghai is also at the forefront of the 'Belt and Road Initiative,' launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013, he added, noting that Kuwait was the first

supporter and signatory on its cooperation pact with the Chinese government.

Hayat stressed the importance of organizing events of such a caliber more periodically and continually as the Shanghai Forum is considered one of the important economic meetings in the world. His Highness the Amir's recent visit to China was one of the most successful throughout various junctures of the two countries historic relationship, as it achieved its desired objectives, he affirmed. The Belt and Road Initiative is to contribute to global economic prosperity, he said, noting Kuwait would be one of its launching pads due for its distinctive geographic location in north of the Arabian Gulf. Hayat also said the initiative matches Kuwait government's strategic vision in making the country a safe sea route, a major commercial hub, and a core of a network of steel lines starting from China and ending in Jerusalem through Central Asia and other countries. —KUNA



More than  
600,000 barrels  
per day

### Highest level

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to China Sameh Hayat affirmed Friday that



## Second EQUATE employee invention patented by US

KUWAIT: The EQUATE Group announced its pride for the second invention by an employee to be patented internationally by the US Patent Office. Nabeel Al-Kandari, Electrical Discipline Activity Specialist at EQUATE, invented an anode assembly that creates a cathodic protection to protect offshore steel platforms from corrosion on the long-term.

The invention was made possible thanks to the cooperation between the company, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KEAS) and the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC). The milestone is a new contribution to the advancement of Kuwait's Global Innovation Index.

EQUATE Vice President for Technical Services, Nawaf Al-Khaledi, said: "We are very proud at EQUATE to have enabled an environment of innovation

and advancement which foster our talented human capital, and we always aim to advance the standards of environment, health, safety and security in our organization as well as the industry at large."

Nawaf added, "On behalf of everyone, I extend our congratulations on the new invention to Nabeel Al-Kandari and every EQUATE employee who contributes to our success." Speaking of this invention, Nabeel Al-Kandari said, "The assembly implements safety procedures, and takes into consideration cost control and maintenance. The invention will enable EQUATE to reduce maintenance time from 400 hours to two hours only." This is the second invention by an employee at EQUATE to be patented internationally. The first invention was by Saheem Al-Hajery, who was a Senior Discipline Activity Specialist at EQUATE before he retired, and was patented in 2017.

should be explored at the very outset of a mandate and not delayed until later," he stressed.

Echoing other speakers, Munayekh underscored the critical role played by women police officers in areas including outreach to conflict-hit communities and support to victims. Also speaking at the session were UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Police Commissioner of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) Issoufou Yacouba, Police Commissioner of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) Awale Abdounasir, and Senior Police Adviser for the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) Mary Gahonzire. Police commanders from peacekeeping missions in Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Abyei border region between Sudan and South Sudan participated in an interactive discussion with Council members, outlining both strides made by their personnel and challenges faced. — KUNA

## Kuwait's envoy highlights UN police's role

NEW YORK: Kuwait's Deputy Representative to the UN Bader Al-Munayekh said the police officers, deployed as part of UN peacekeeping operations across the world, serve crucial functions in post-conflict transition and building the capacities of the local partners. Speaking at a UN Security Council session on peacekeeping operations, he welcomed the fact that police units have evolved to better respond to emerging challenges facing societies. Citing that Council resolution 2382 (2017), Minister Plenipotentiary Munayekh called for the incorporation of police units to be considered in the deployment of peacekeeping operations. "Their inclusion



KUWAIT NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY (KNPC)  
(Internal Purchasing Committee)

### CB/PQ01-2018 PRE-QUALIFICATION OF LOCAL / GULF & INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS FOR TURNAROUND MAINTENANCE AT KNPC REFINERIES

This is to announce that KUWAIT NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY (KNPC) – seeks pre-qualification for local / Gulf & International companies FOR TURNAROUND MAINTENANCE AT KNPC REFINERIES, and as per the scope of work mentioned below:

#### Scope of Work – General:

Contractor shall supply all personnel and tools to perform various Turnaround Maintenance (Mechanical Maintenance) Works, The Contractor shall execute the contractual requirement in safe manner in accordance to KNPC Health, Safety and Environment Policy and Regulations & according to what is stated in Pre-qualification documents and commensurate with the size and value of the work.

- The details of Scope of Work & Pre-qualification document, forms & Questionnaires shall be downloaded from the link shown:- (<https://www.knpc.com/en/>) starting from 3/11/2019.
- KNPC will select one or more potential firms, who have the financial capacity, technical capability and experience in implementing various Turnaround Maintenance (Mechanical Maintenance) Works, as per the attached PQ Scope Highlight.
- It is required that Contractors who are wishing to Pre-qualify are already experienced and trading in the same field and has the ability to implement these actions and contracting in State of Kuwait.
- The last date to receive the Applications shall be not later than 1:00 pm, of Thursday 5/3/2020, The PQ documents to be filled in as required and shall be submitted to the IPC (Room no., 1A-046) in KNPC Head Office, Al-Ahmadi in a closed envelope, noting that the PQ number, title and the Closing date should be indicated on the envelope.
- For any enquiry, Applicants may contact
  - Chairman, PQ Committee
  - Office Manager Quality Assurance, 3rd Floor, Mina Abdullah Refinery Administration Building
  - Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Mina Abdullah Refinery
  - Kuwait, P.O BOX 69, Safat 13001
  - Fax: 00965 23280106 / Tel: 00965 23883500
  - E-mail: PQTurnaround@knpc.com
- IPC invites the Applicants to attend the PQ Applications opening meeting in Room 2A-050, 2nd Floor, KNPC Head Office at Al-Ahmadi at 08:00 am of the first Sunday following to the Application closing date.

IPC Secretary





Catastrophic bushfires kill three in Australia

## Divisions rife as Germany marks 30 years since Berlin Wall fell

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BEIRUT: Lebanese students wave the national flag during a demonstration in the capital Beirut yesterday as protesters keep up their three-week-long movement against a political class regarded as incompetent and corrupt. — AFP

# Lebanese women denounce 'double burden'

## Grand mufti calls for protesters' demands to be met

BEIRUT: Marching along with hundreds of other women in Lebanon's capital, 41-year-old Sahar says she had twice the reasons to join in the nation's mass anti-system protests than any man. "As women, we're doubly oppressed," she said passionately, while around her hundreds waved Lebanese flags and chanted against the patriarchy. Women have been at the forefront of Lebanon's mass street movement since October 17 demanding an overhaul of a political system seen as incompetent and corrupt.

Like their male counterparts, they have denounced their inability to alleviate a raft of woes from a deteriorating economy to unclean water and endless power cuts. But in a country viewed as one of the most liberal in the region, they are also crying out against discriminatory laws and religious courts governing their lives. "On top of everything we suffer as Lebanese people, there's a whole bunch of laws that are unfair for women," said Sahar, bouncing on her toes in a green T-shirt and jeans.

In a country where 37 women have died from domestic violence since the start of 2018, female protesters are demanding better prevention and application of a 2014 law to punish battery. Instead of what they see as antiquated religious courts, they want a

national law for all Lebanese-whatever their sect-to grant civil marriage, and rule on issues of divorce and child custody. They ask for the amendment of a century-old law governing citizenship that does not allow Lebanese women to pass down their nationality to their children.

### Custody battles

During a women's march on Sunday, protesters held up a long banner inscribed in red paint with the words: "Our revolution is feminist". "I can't get my mother's nationality, but I can defend her revolution," read another sign, referring to the 1925 law that deprives children of Lebanese women from their rights as citizens. Zoya Jureidini Rouhana, head of a the Kafa non-governmental organization, explained the challenges ahead in the tiny multi-confessional country.

"There is no single law for personal status but different legislation for each court from 15 different religious sects in Lebanon," she said. Among the most contentious issues is child custody, with religious authorities for each community applying a different limit to a divorced mother's custody. In the Catholic church, children in theory must be handed over after

the end to breastfeeding or at around two years of age, but a court decides in the interest of a child.

For Greek Orthodox Christians, a mother loses permanent care of the child when they reach 14 years old for boys and 15 for girls. After widespread pushback, Sunni Muslim divorcees have been granted full custody until their children turn 12. But in the Shiite community, children are whisked away to live with their fathers when they turn two for boys and seven for girls. Similar differences also apply on matters of inheritance, as well as in setting the minimum age to wed, with no national law to ban unions under the age of 18.

### 'Part of the revolution'

Rim, a 24-year-old student, said she has been taking to the streets since October 17 - for cleaner water, fewer power cuts and an end to perceived state graft. "As a young Lebanese woman, I demand a secular system and for religious courts to be abolished," she said. Women have been at the forefront of the protests since they started last month, sparked by a proposed tax on phone calls via free applications like WhatsApp before blowing up into general rage against the system.

In the movement's first few days, a woman who kicked an armed ministerial bodyguard in the groin

became a symbol of the growing protests. In recent days, female high school and university students have eagerly spoken to local television stations to ask for politicians to stop wasting their future. Women have taken to Beirut's main square after dark holding candles and banging pots and pans, in a clamoring racket that echoed around the capital's homes.

Debate around women's rights has gained momentum in recent years, but activists says much remains to be done. In 2014, parliament passed a law to punish domestic violence, but rights advocates have demanded it be reformed to accelerate trials and increase sentences. Among the protesters, Roba, 33, a lawyer, said women's rights were crucial for radical change. "Women's issues are an integral part of the revolution," she said. "Any revolution that doesn't address women's issues is wanting."

Meanwhile, Lebanon's grand mufti, the top cleric for Sunni Muslims, called yesterday for the formation of a new emergency government of technical experts and for those in power to meet protesters' demands. The country is in political and economic turmoil after three weeks of nationwide protests that prompted Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri to resign last week. — Agencies

## Earthquake hits Iran killing 5; 300 injured

TEHRAN: An earthquake rocked north-western Iran before dawn on Friday, killing at least five people and injuring more than 300 in crumbling and collapsed buildings. The 5.9-magnitude quake struck at 1:17 am about 120 kilometers southeast of the city of Tabriz, in East Azerbaijan province, the Iranian Seismological Centre said.

Described as "moderate", the quake was eight kilometers deep and was followed by five aftershocks. The provincial governor, Mohammad-Reza Pourmohammadi, told Iranian media that rescue operations were underway in 41 villages, but the damage was largely concentrated in two, Varnakesh

and Varzaghan. According to the emergency services, nearly 340 people were admitted to hospital for treatment, but all but 17 were discharged by Friday noon. Some 40 homes were leveled by the quake and over 200 head of cattle killed. Around 100 injured residents were pulled out of the rubble of their damaged or flattened homes. Around noon, emergency teams distributed survival kits, stoves, blankets and tents in 78 villages.

In Varnakesh, an emergency shelter was set up. State television broadcast images of people who had fled their homes warming themselves around a fire lit on a public highway. But the damage appeared to be less widespread than initially feared. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) had issued an alert warning that "significant casualties are likely and the disaster is potentially widespread". In many areas people had returned to their homes by daybreak after the initial panic subsided and the aftershocks petered out. — AFP



VARNAKESH: A picture shows the debris of buildings in the Iranian village of Varnakesh, about 120 kilometers southeast of the city of Tabriz, in East Azerbaijan Province, following a 5.9-magnitude earthquake. — AFP

## NATO! not dead yet

BRUSSELS: Emmanuel Macron's declaration that NATO is experiencing "brain death" prompted angry rebuttals from across the alliance, but should be seen in the context of the growing debate about European defense. Here are some key questions raised by the French president's interview with The Economist.

### Is NATO's Article 5 under threat?

Macron asked what NATO's mutual self-defense pact, enshrined in Article 5 of its founding treaty, might mean in the future, and pondered whether it could be invoked if President Bashar Al-Assad's forces retaliate against Turkey's military operation in northern Syria. Under Article 5, NATO members agree that an attack on one is an attack on all and commit to taking "such action as (they) deem necessary" in such an event.

This may include force, but Article 5 does not oblige allies to go to war - they could choose to offer political, diplomatic or logistical support. And, in any case, experts and diplomats say it would almost be impossible to imagine it being used in the Turkey-Syria case because Ankara initiated the conflict. "Article 5 won't be activated since you need unanimity (of the 29 NATO members) for that. And of course Article 5 is designed for the defense case and not if a country invades another country," a NATO diplomat told AFP after the operation began last month.

### What is Macron doing?

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned that "any attempt to

distance Europe from North America" risks weakening the alliance and dividing Europe - a striking rebuff to Macron's criticism of Washington for failing to coordinate strategically with allies. France has shown ambivalence about US-dominated NATO almost since its inception, notably withdrawing from its military command structure between 1966 and 2009 to maintain independent control of its nuclear weapons.

But French officials insist Macron's comments are not intended to undermine NATO - instead he is trying to wake allies up to the current strategic reality that the US under President Donald Trump will act in its own interests and Europe must learn to fend for itself. "This crisis is real. It must be addressed. As messengers, we expect our president's message to be heard and taken seriously within our Alliance," Muriel Domenach, the French ambassador to NATO, tweeted. French officials say that NATO works well at the military and operational level, but on the political, strategic side it needs work. Even so, after Macron's "brain death" comment, one French source insisted: "We believe in resurrection". And the call found an echo from US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who acknowledged in Berlin that "NATO needs to grow and change, it needs to confront the realities of today and the challenges today."

### Why now?

Some Brussels diplomats see a careful choice in the timing of Macron's comments - a month out from a NATO summit in London and as a new European Commission prepares to take office with a pledge to make the EU a more significant "geostrategic" player. The London meeting has been billed as a celebration of NATO's 70th anniversary, but the run-up will now be dominated by debate about Macron's

incendiary remarks.

Diplomats also see Macron as attempting to set the agenda for a debate just starting within the EU about the bloc's own strategic role, as it steps up military cooperation and defense initiatives. France will seek to ensure Macron's call for European "strategic autonomy" - a longstanding pillar of French diplomatic thinking - takes a central role as the debate develops over the coming months. France also wants more European help for its military operations against Islamist militants in the Sahel region of Africa - a region where NATO has not got involved.

### Can Europe manage without US?

Despite Macron's forthright argument that American unilateralism under Trump shows that Europe must stand on its own feet, there is deep scepticism among many Europeans that this can be achieved in military terms. A report by the UK-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) earlier this year suggested that, if the US pulls out of NATO, European members would need to spend between \$288 billion and \$357 billion to fill the capability gaps in order to prevail in a "limited regional war".

Elsewhere, diplomats point out that, despite Macron's claim that Europe "has the capacity to defend itself", the EU's civilian operation in Afghanistan was only possible because of security provided by NATO forces. And among NATO's Eastern European members, where memories of Soviet domination are still fresh, there was anger at Macron's comments. "NATO remains our absolutely most important instrument to defend ourselves from external threats and we should not give anyone on the outside the slightest doubt that it will remain so in the future," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda said. — AFP



International

# Israeli farmers to quit Jordan's lands as 25-year lease expires

## Jordan recalls ambassador from Israel over detention Jordanians



**NAHARAYIM:** Israeli tourists visit the Naharayim peace park at the Jordan Valley site of Naharayim, also known as Baqura in Jordan, east of the Jordan river and which has been leased to Israel as part of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, shows a view of the Jordan river. — AFP

**JERUSALEM:** A deal dating from Israel's historic 1994 peace treaty with Jordan allowing Israeli farmers to lease two sites along their common border runs out today but the tenants say that nobody has told them what happens the day after. In the peace negotiations, Jordan agreed to lease the lands to Israel for a 25-year renewable period, with the Hashemite kingdom retaining sovereignty.

One of the sites is Naharayim, a spit of land where the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers meet - which is called Baqura in Arabic. The other location, deep in the Negev desert south of the Dead Sea, is known in Hebrew as Tzofar and in Arabic as Ghumar. In October last year, Jordan's King Abdullah said his country had notified Israel that it wants to take them back. Now with the deadline only hours away, Idan Greenbaum, head of the Israeli regional council for the Jordan Valley, says Jordanian officials have told him that as from today the Naharayim site will be out of bounds. Israeli authorities, he told Israeli army radio on Friday, have told him nothing. "As of this time no Israeli official has chosen to update us," he said. Asked by AFP for details, the Israeli foreign ministry sent the reply, "the agreement will expire on November 10th", without elaborating.

Since the heady days of the 1994 treaty, which made Jordan only the second country after Egypt to make

peace with Israel, relations with Amman have been strained. Opinion polls have repeatedly found that the peace treaty with Israel is overwhelmingly opposed by Jordanians, more than half of whom are of Palestinian origin. In 2017, an Israeli embassy security guard in Amman killed two Jordanians. Three years earlier, an Israeli soldier at a border crossing killed a Jordanian judge he deemed a threat.

Just last month, Amman recalled its ambassador from Israel over the prolonged detention without trial in the Jewish state of two Jordanians. Israel has not commented on the reasons for their imprisonment, though Israeli media have said they were detained on suspicion of security-related offences. They were freed and returned to Jordan on Wednesday and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the Jordanian ambassador would return shortly.

Private television station Channel 13 reported Thursday that Netanyahu's National Security Advisor, Meir Ben-Shabbat, had met Monday in Amman with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi who told him there would be no extension to the Naharayim and Tzofar leases. Citing "senior sources" in Jordan, it said Safadi instead suggested that compensation be paid to the Israeli farmers for crops remaining at the sites after the handover. — AFP

## 'So many dead' - Survivors describe terrifying ambush

**OUGADDOUGOU:** A mine worker shot during an ambush on a mining convoy in Burkina Faso said he was one of only three survivors from a bus with up to 80 people aboard, suggesting the death toll may be much higher than officially reported. Abel Kabore, 35, described the attackers, some speaking a foreign language and shouting "Allahu Akbar" - Arabic for "God is great" - raking three buses with bullets after a security vehicle escorting the convoy hit a landmine. The first two buses were able to escape, he said.

"The three buses which were shot ... there were so many dead. It was over 100. We were on the ground. We saw everything," he said quietly at a hospital in the capital Ouagadougou. Of the people on his bus, "only 3 of us survived." Another survivor, who worked for Australian mining services provider Perenti, said he was in the fifth bus, about a km from the vehicle hit by the explosion. The gunmen fired at the bus for an hour, he said, then came aboard to execute survivors. "These were the last prayers we were praying," he said, asking not to be identified for security reasons. "I pretended I was dead - that was all I could do."

When he was finally able to leave the bus, he had to climb over the dead bodies of his co-workers. "I saw one body facing up. I knew him. He looked untouched and I called out to him but he didn't answer. Then I touched him and I knew he was dead." A security source who works in the sector and a worker at the mine previously said the convoy was likely carrying around 250 people in all, leaving dozens unaccounted for based on the authorities' casualty list of 38 dead and 60 wounded.

Neither Canadian gold miner Semafo nor the Burkinabe authorities have confirmed how many

people were in the convoy when it was ambushed on Wednesday on a road leading to the company's Boungou mine in eastern Burkina Faso. Neither responded to queries on Friday. Perenti has said 19 of its workers were killed in the attack and 20 sent to hospital. The employees worked for its African Mining Services unit, which had been contracted by Semafo for work at its Boungou mine.

Panicked workers tried to flee the buses during the attack, then desperately scrambled back onboard away from gunmen in the bush, said another wounded survivor, Bakary Sanou. "People were trying to go back into the buses. I tried to run away into the bush, and saw that they (the attackers) went back onto the buses, opened the doors and tried to kill everyone," said Sanou, an oversized bandage on his right foot. A mobile phone lay charging next to him on crumpled pink sheets.

### Identifying victims

The bodies of 29 victims were formally identified on Friday, public prosecutor Harouna Yoda said in a statement, adding that their families would be allowed inside the morgue of the Bogodogo District Hospital in Ouagadougou. Distraught and angry relatives had complained earlier that authorities were not letting them view the bodies. "The government should allow at least one family member to go and identify a body," one man, Ismail Roamba said.

It was still unclear who carried out Wednesday's ambush. Yoda said the government had opened an investigation. A homegrown, three-year-old insurgency has spread over parts of Burkina Faso, amplified by a spillover of Islamist militant violence and criminality from its chaotic northern neighbor Mali. In 2016, an Islamist attack on a hotel and restaurant in the capital killed 30 people. A similar assault the next year killed 19. In 2018, militants hit the French Embassy and the army headquarters in Ouagadougou, killing 16. The Boungou mine is located in Burkina Faso's eastern region about 355 km from Ouagadougou. Semafo has said the mine site is secured, but it has suspended operations there. Canada condemned the attack and offered condolences to victims. — Reuters

## Iran beauty queen Bahari wins asylum in the Philippines

**MANILA:** An Iranian beauty queen sought by Tehran on criminal charges has been granted political asylum in the Philippines, an official said yesterday, ending a three-week standoff at Manila airport. Bahareh Zare Bahari, based in the Philippines since 2014, was denied entry into the Southeast Asian nation on October 17 when she returned from Dubai, with Philippine authorities citing an Iranian warrant for her arrest.

Claiming Tehran wanted to punish her for opposition to Iran's theocratic regime, Bahari then sought refugee status, holed up in a room at Manila's international airport and using social media to rally support from the international community - including a plea to Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. "They will kill me", Bahari told Britain's Telegraph newspaper last month, referring to Iranian authorities.

Philippine Justice Undersecretary Markk Perete told AFP that she had been granted political asylum, adding that she was detained because Iran had asked Interpol for help in arresting and returning her on assault and battery charges. "She will be getting out of the airport and coming into Philippine territory," Perete said, but declined to discuss the grounds on which she was granted asylum citing confidentiality rules in the United Nations refugee convention. When asked for comment, a consular official at the Iranian embassy in Manila told AFP to call back on Monday.

Ahead of the asylum decision, rights group Amnesty International had urged the Philippines authorities not to deport Bahari, describing her as "a vocal critic of the Iranian authorities and a public opponent of forced



**MANILA:** Photo shows Iranian national Bahareh Zare Bahari, who sought refugee status after she was denied entry into the Philippines at her room while holed up at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal building in Manila. — AFP

veiling". "If the Philippines authorities send her to Iran she risks arrest, torture and other ill-treatment, and unfair trial and imprisonment," Nicholas Bequelin, Amnesty's regional director for East and Southeast Asia said in a statement on Thursday.

In a video posted on her Facebook page two weeks ago, Bahari said she had lived in the Philippines since 2014, studied dentistry and also started a modeling and acting career. She represented Iran at the Miss Intercontinental beauty pageant in Manila last year, and said Tehran wanted her deported because of her "political activity". Bahari's Facebook page features a photo posted in August showing her wearing a dress resembling the Iranian flag used by the Shah of Iran's regime, which was toppled in the 1979 Islamic Revolution. — AFP

## Iran downs unidentified drone that 'infiltrated' near the Gulf coast

**TEHRAN:** Iran shot down an unidentified drone that "infiltrated" near Bandar-e Mahshahr port on the Gulf coast Friday, Iranian media reported, after the downing of a US drone nearly triggered air strikes earlier this year. IRIB, a state broadcaster, aired a short video purporting to show the interception of the drone by an Iranian anti-missile battery. The six second sequence showed the luminous nighttime trail of what appeared to be a missile before an explosion at very low altitude.

But the video was not broadcast by state TV's Farsi channel IRINN, which largely ignored the story. Relevant units acted "in response to a violation of our airspace by a drone (that) infiltrated", IRIBNEWS reported, citing Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi Fard, commander in chief of aerial defense. "The drone was shot down before it could reach sensitive sites thanks to the great vigilance of our unified aerial defence system," he said.

Earlier, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported that aerial defense had "destroyed an unidentified drone" which flew through the skies of Bandar-e Mahshahr in

Khuzestan province. Located near Iraq, Bandar-e Mahshahr and the neighboring port of Bandar-e Emam-Khomeini is a key zone for petrochemical activity. The army downed the unmanned aircraft over Khuzestan province before dawn using a Mersad surface-to-air missile, reported the Tasnim news agency, which is close to Iran's ultra-conservatives and generally well informed on defense matters.

### Debris examined

Citing provincial governor Gholamreza Shariati, it reported that the armed forces had located the wreckage of the drone in a marshy area and opened an inquiry into the incident. Tasnim cited "unofficial" sources saying the missile that destroyed the drone had been fired "as part of a nighttime combat exercise aiming to test aerial defense systems". The agency later deleted those details from its site. According to state news agency IRNA, Shariati said the "unknown drone... (belonged) without doubt to a foreign country." The accidental crash of an Iranian drone in the same province on October 23 prompted newspaper reports that an unidentified foreign aircraft had been shot down. The conservative Fars news agency later revealed that the drone that crashed in October was Iranian and had been forced to make an emergency landing. The incidents come amid soaring tensions between Tehran and Washington since President Donald Trump unilaterally abandoned a landmark 2015 nuclear deal last year and reimposed crippling sanctions. — AFP

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## International

# Bloomberg files papers, paving way for the US presidential bid

## Bloomberg candidacy could do the most damage to Joe Biden

**CONCORD:** New York business tycoon Michael Bloomberg has paved the way for a shot at the US presidency, registering as a candidate in the Alabama Democratic primary race before Friday's filing deadline. Although the 77-year-old billionaire has not publicly announced his run, his inclusion among a crowded field kept his options open for mounting a concerted bid to topple a fellow New Yorker, President Donald Trump.

Analysts say a Bloomberg candidacy could do the most damage to the prospects of frontrunner Joe Biden, but the former vice president put on a brave face Friday and said he was not worried Bloomberg would draw away centrist voters. Bloomberg's name was posted among 17 candidates on the Alabama Democratic Party's website only hours before registration closed.

Alabama is not one of the early primaries but it has the earliest deadline to register. Biden, who will also turn 77 on November 20, has placed himself in the political center with South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, while Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren run to his left. "Michael's a solid guy," Biden told reporters in Concord, New Hampshire, while registering to take part in the February primary in the northeastern state.

"I have no, no problem with him getting in the race," Biden said. "And in terms of he's running because of me, last polls I

looked at I'm pretty far ahead. "If I'm not mistaken I'm doing pretty well, both relative to Trump and relative to all the people running," he said. Jason Mollica of American University said the entry of Bloomberg in the race could be "an indication that he believes the Democrats do not have a strong candidate that can defeat President Trump."

"Mr Biden's campaign isn't the strength it was at the start and if Mr Bloomberg gains the support of the centrists in the Democratic Party, that is a big sign for Mr Biden the party doesn't feel he's the right candidate, either," Mollica said. Kyle Kondik of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia said a Bloomberg run could conceivably draw support away from Biden but it remains to be seen how much backing he'll receive in a crowded field.

"At first blush, yes, one might think Bloomberg would hurt Biden more than others," Kondik said. "But we have to remember that sometimes voters don't fit neatly into ideological categories." While neither is running hard to the left and both are older white men, voters might perceive key differences between them," Kondik said. "Bloomberg has to actually show he can draw significant support in order to hurt Biden."

### 'Doesn't have the magic'

Trump weighed in Friday on a potential Bloomberg bid. "Little Michael will fail,"

Trump told reporters in a reference to the stature of the 5ft, 8in (1.73m) Bloomberg. "He doesn't have the magic to do well. "There's nobody I'd rather run against than little Michael," Trump added. "He's not going to do well but I think he's going to hurt Biden actually."

Bloomberg said back in March he wouldn't run, but has been toying for weeks with the idea of seeking the White House after all, according to advisors. "We now need to finish the job and ensure that Trump is defeated - but Mike is increasingly concerned that the current field of candidates is not well positioned to do that," Bloomberg advisor Howard Wolfson said in a statement. "Based on his record of accomplishment, leadership and his ability to bring people together to drive change, Mike would be able to take the fight to Trump and win," Wolfson added, according to Bloomberg News.

Bloomberg, co-founder and CEO of the media and financial information company that bears his name, is one of the richest people in the United States according to Forbes, worth \$52.4 billion. His huge personal wealth would likely shake up the contest at a time when Biden's fundraising is sagging. Bloomberg, who was elected mayor of the Big Apple in 2001 and served until 2013, is seen as close to Wall Street and opposed to some of the policies espoused by the more liberal Warren and Sanders. His entry would bloat an already crowd-



This combination of pictures shows Michael Bloomberg (left) and US President Donald Trump in Monroe, Louisiana. — AFP

ed field of contenders, with 17 candidates vying for the right to take on Trump in November 2020 as the Democratic nominee. Bloomberg has switched between the Republican and Democratic parties over the years and also served as an independent mayor. He has used some of his fortune to

back Democratic politicians and fund policies that he believes in - including gun control and the fight against climate change. Bloomberg considered running for president as an independent in 2016 but eventually opted not to for fear of splitting the Democratic vote. — AFP

## Biden brings confidence to New Hampshire

**CONCORD:** Democrat Joe Biden strode into New Hampshire's state house Friday like he owned the place, back-slapping officials and insisting he has broad voter support as he ramps up his bid to challenge President Donald Trump in 2020. Biden has struggled to retain the frontrunner status that he claimed when he entered the crowded Democratic field in April.

He faces tough competition from progressive US senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, and from up-and-coming fellow centrist Pete Buttigieg, an Indiana mayor who is half Biden's age. The party elder statesman finds himself under relentless attack by Trump, who has branded him "corrupt," without evidence, for his son's dealings with a Ukraine energy firm. Biden's debate performances have been shaky, and questions have swirled about whether the candidate - who turns 77 on November 20 - has the stamina for a grueling one-year campaign.

And Biden faced renewed scrutiny Friday after Mike Bloomberg, the billionaire ex-mayor of New York, suddenly signaled he could enter the race, possibly

syphoning moderate voters away from the former vice president. But Biden has shown resilience on the campaign trail and in national polls. He appeared to shrug off the latest developments as he made his entrance to the New Hampshire secretary of state's office, after celebrating with cheering and drum-beating supporters in the building's crowded hallways.

"Alright, where do I sign, boss?" a confident Biden quipped as he took part in an early hallmark of US presidential races: filing at the 200-year-old state house in Concord to be on the ballot in the small New England state that votes second in the nominations process. Biden has been here before: he ran for president in 1988 and again in 2008. But this year is his best shot at the presidency, despite his advanced age and intense competition. After filing, Biden braved freezing temperatures and snow flurries to address a rally of about 100 supporters.

John Lynch, the popular former governor of the Granite State, described Biden as "genuine, caring and authentic, and I can't wait for him to get into the White House." Biden is a party establishment favorite. But he pushed back at the suggestion he might be too cozy with the Democratic elite to inspire young voters and reach new voices. "I am reaching them. I'm the only person in this race that has significant support" across the voter spectrum, Biden told reporters. "I'm ahead across the board." — AFP

after people expressing dissent," he said. "It's a constant cat-and-mouse game between users and very well-resourced governments." Bruce Schneier, a security researcher and fellow at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, said it is not surprising to see governments targeting databases of tech platforms. "We all assume it happens a lot. But this (prosecution) rarely comes up," Schneier said.

### No match for Russia

Schneier said there have long been fears about Chinese or Russian insiders pressured to introduce vulnerabilities in major software platforms, and that companies may be ill-equipped to thwart those efforts. "The government of Russia versus Twitter is not a fair fight," he said. "It's hard to blame the tech companies."

Because major tech firms have engineers from all over the world, Schneier said it enables intelligences services to seek out and pressure their expats for espionage purposes. The case highlights the potential for insider threats, said James Lewis of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "Insider threats go back to biblical times," he said, noting that the suspects were probably caught because they "did a terrible job of covering their tracks."

According to an indictment unsealed Wednesday, US citizen Ahmad Abouammo and Saudi national Ali Alzabarah were recruited in 2014-2015 to use their positions in Twitter to gain access to private information related to accounts of critics of Riyadh. Ahmed Almutairi, a marketing official with ties to the royal family, was a critical go-between who arranged contacts, prosecutors said. — AFP

## Divisions rife as Germany marks 30 years since Berlin Wall fell

**BERLIN:** Germany yesterday marks 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall that ushered in the end of communism and national reunification, as the Western alliance that helped secure those achievements is riddled with divisions. Two days before the date that brought epochal change, France's President Emmanuel Macron dropped a bombshell, declaring that transatlantic partnership NATO was suffering from "brain death" and that Europe itself was "on the brink".

Chancellor Angela Merkel responded with uncharacteristic sharpness, saying Thursday "I don't think that such sweeping judgments are necessary", and the ensuing storm over NATO laid bare the growing differences among traditional allies. The bad tempered prelude to the festivities stood in sharp contrast to celebrations five years ago, when former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and ex-Polish president and freedom icon Lech Walesa were present.

This time, leaders of former Cold War powers will be absent, as Donald Trump's America First policy, Britain's Brexit struggles and Russia's resurgence put a strain on ties. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit

## Brazil leftist icon Lula walks free from prison

**CURITIBA:** Brazil's leftist icon Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva walked free from jail Friday after a year and a half behind bars for corruption following a court ruling that could release thousands of convicts. The former president, wearing a black T-shirt and suit jacket, pumped his fist as he exited the federal police headquarters in the southern city of Curitiba and was quickly mobbed by hundreds of supporters and journalists.

In an impassioned address in a sometimes hoarse voice, Lula vowed to keep fighting for poor people and denounced the economic policies of the current right-wing president, Jair Bolsonaro. "People are hungrier, they have no jobs, people work for Uber or delivering pizzas on a bike," Lula said in remarks sometimes drowned out by cheers from the crowd and fireworks overhead.

Lula's highly anticipated exit from the facility where he had been held since April 2018 came hours after his lawyers requested the immediate release of the 74-year-old, who has been serving a nearly nine-year sentence for corruption and money laundering. Late Thursday, the Supreme Court overturned a rule requiring convicted criminals to go to jail after losing their first appeal. Lula is one of several thousand convicts who could benefit from the decision.

Those convicts would remain free until they had exhausted their rights to appeal—a process critics say could take years in cas-



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (center) talks with young people during the central commemoration ceremony for the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall yesterday at the Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauer Strasse in Berlin. — AFP

ended Friday while Macron is only planning a flying visit today, leaving the actual anniversary on November 9 without globally prominent figures. Pompeo also left behind a stark warning: "As we celebrate, we must also recognize that freedom is never guaranteed. Today, authoritarianism is once again rising," he said, namechecking China and Russia.

### 'Naive complacency'

Carrying a similar message, the EU's incoming chief Ursula von der Leyen noted that the euphoric optimism over liberal democracy and freedom that characterized November 9, 1989 has dissipated. "Today, we have to admit that our complacency was naive," said von der Leyen. Russia is "using violence to shift estab-

lished borders in Europe, and is trying to fill every vacuum that the US has left behind." And hopes that China would develop closer to the Western liberal democracy model has not been fulfilled, she said.

Mikhail Gorbachev, whose decision not to send the Soviet army to prop up the East German regime was seen as crucial to preserving peace during the Cold War, told Spiegel magazine in an interview that there is "no nostalgia" for that period of division. But "we have to admit that after the end of the Cold War new leaders failed to create a modern security architecture, especially in Europe." "As a result, new lines of divisions have emerged, and NATO's eastward expansion ... shifted these lines to the Russian border." — AFP

## Twitter's spy case highlights risks for big tech platforms

**WASHINGTON:** The allegations of spying by former Twitter employees for Saudi Arabia underscore the risks for Silicon Valley firms holding sensitive data which make the platforms ripe for espionage. The two Saudis and one US citizen allegedly worked together to unmask the ownership details behind dissident Twitter accounts on behalf of the Riyadh government and royal family, according to a federal indictment. Analysts say the incident shows how massive databases held by Silicon Valley giants can be juicy targets for intelligence agencies, which can often apply pressure to company insiders.

"The Twitter case shows how data is not only an asset but a liability for companies," said Adrian Shabbaz, research director for technology and democracy at the human rights group Freedom House. "For companies collecting massive amounts of data, the challenge is how to keep it secure not only from hackers, but from rogue employees." Shabbaz said platforms such as Twitter and Facebook remain important tools for human rights activists, but that users should be aware of potential for data leaks — both in their countries, and from insiders.

"It's been alarming to see how governments using tactics to exploit the inherent weaknesses of the internet... go



CURITIBA: Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks to supporters next to his girlfriend Rosangela da Silva (right) after leaving the Federal Police Headquarters, where he was serving a sentence for corruption and money laundering, in Curitiba, Parana State, Brazil. — AFP

es involving people able to afford expensive lawyers. Many of those affected by the 6-5 ruling are political and business leaders caught up in a massive corruption probe dubbed Car Wash that began in 2014. The Supreme Court ruling had given Lula "hope that there could be justice," his lawyer Cristiano Zanin said. "Our judicial battle continues, our focus is to get the legal case nullified."

### A hero to millions

Lula, who led Brazil through a historic boom from 2003 to 2010, earning him the gratitude of millions of Brazilians for redistributing wealth to haul them out of poverty, was serving eight years and 10 months for corruption. He was sentenced to almost 13 years in jail in February in a separate corrup-

tion case and still faces another half dozen corruption trials. Lula has denied all the charges, arguing they were politically motivated to keep him out of the 2018 presidential election that was won by Bolsonaro. "I'm coming for you, wait for me!" Rosangela da Silva, Lula's girlfriend, tweeted after the Supreme Court announced its decision.

"If all the others did worse and are free, why not him too?" Eleonora Cintra, a 74-year-old resident of Sao Paulo said. Bolsonaro has been unusually quiet about the court's ruling that freed his nemesis. But his sons have taken to Twitter to attack the decision. "Thousands of prisoners will be released and rattle everyone, regardless of their political beliefs, generating serious internal and external social and economic reactions," Carlos Bolsonaro tweeted. — AFP



## International

## Australia bushfires leave three dead; at least 150 homes lost

## Firefighters struggle towards hard-to-reach communities

**BOBIN:** Catastrophic bushfires in eastern Australia have killed at least three people and forced thousands from their homes, with the death toll expected to rise as firefighters struggle towards hard-to-reach communities. In the normally picturesque coastal town of Forster - one among dozens hit along the eastern seaboard - vast plumes of smoke shot out from multiple blazes as water bombers swooped in overhead.

And in Bobin, around 60 kilometers north of Forster, the whole town was scorched with some fires soaring 10 meters along the tree canopy. Some homes were completely burned to the ground in the small rural town, and in one just a fireplace could be seen among the smoldering rubble. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that, if needed, the military could be called on to help some 1,300 firefighters who are tackling around 100 separate blazes.

Several people are still unaccounted for and 30 more have been injured - mostly firefighters working for hours on end in smoky, smoldering scrubland and blazing forests of towering eucalyptus. "My only thoughts today are with those who have lost their lives and their families," Morrison said, as hundreds of civilians also volunteered to help their hard-hit neighbors. A body was found in a burnt-out building near the east-coast town of Taree, police said, while another victim was found in a car and a woman died despite medics trying for several hours to save her.

As hot and windy weather eased slightly on Saturday, the number of most serious fires fell to just a handful from an unprecedented 17 on Friday. But within an area spanning almost 1,000 kilometers, schools were burned and at least 150 homes were destroyed, while authorities were forced to evacuate detention centers and old people's homes. It was a narrow escape for Don Russell, with the fire coming within meters of his home in Taree.

"They've done a top job, them fellas," Russell told AFP after a crew of six firefighters brought the blaze under

control. His next-door neighbors were not so lucky, however - their home went up in flames Saturday afternoon. No one was home. "It used to be God's country, but it ain't any more," said another neighbor, 72-year-old Dave Scott. New South Wales's rural fire service said an emergency warning was in place for four fires among the dozens raging across the state.

## Tinderbox

Bushfires are common in Australia and a vast corps of firefighters had already been tackling sporadic blazes for months in the lead-up to the southern hemisphere summer. But this was a dramatic start to what scientists predict will be a tough fire season - with climate change and weather cycles contributing to the dangerous combination of strong winds, high temperatures and dry conditions. "We're experiencing tinderbox-like conditions across much of the state and all it takes is one spark to start a fire that may burn for days," said Queensland's acting fire commissioner Mike Wassing.

Meanwhile, New South Wales premier Gladys Berejiklian warned that next week's weather forecast "could mean we're not through the worst of it". Morrison, whose government has played down the threat of climate change, sought to deflect questions about what impact it may have had. "Australia has been battling ferocious fires for as long as Australia has been a nation, and well before. And we will continue to do so," he said.

## 'Too late to leave'

Firefighters had described the conditions Friday as "difficult" and "dangerous". In some areas, residents were stuck and told to simply "seek shelter as it is too late to leave". Local radio stopped normal programming and provided instructions about how to try to survive fires if trapped at home or in a vehicle. Across the central coast, smoke bil-



**BOBIN:** A fire rages in Bobin, 350km north of Sydney yesterday as firefighters try to contain dozens of out-of-control blazes that are raging in the state of New South Wales. — AFP

lowed high into the sky and residents posted images online of tangerine skies and storeys-high trees ablaze. Authorities said some of the fires were creating their own weather conditions - pyrocumulus clouds that enveloped entire towns.

Despite easing conditions, a prolonged drought and high aridity levels will continue to make circumstances combustible. Earlier this month, some of the same fires cloaked Sydney in hazardous smoke for days. — AFP

## Bangladesh, India move thousands away from Bulbul

**MOUSOUNI ISLAND:** Bangladeshi and Indian authorities yesterday ordered more than 450,000 people to flee coastal villages and islands as Cyclone Bulbul headed for the Bay of Bengal coast. The eye of the storm, packing winds of up to 120 kilometers per hour, was expected to hit land around the Bangladesh-India frontier later. A storm surge up to two meters high was predicted along the coast, Bangladesh's Meteorological Department said. Bangladesh troops were sent to villages to help with the evacuation. About 55,000 volunteers were also going door-to-door to warn residents.

Minister for disaster management Enamur Rahman told AFP the evacuation of 400,000 people would be completed by evening. "We've already evacuated some 391,000 people," he said. About 1,500 tourists were stranded on the southern island of Saint Martin after boat services



**KAKDWIP:** Hindu pilgrims walk back from the dock after a ferry service to Sagar Island was suspended due to the approaching Cyclone Bulbul in Kakkdwip in West Bengal state yesterday. — AFP

were suspended due to bad weather. Bangladesh's two biggest ports, Mongla and Chittagong, were closed because of the storm and flights into Chittagong airport have also been halted.

India also ordered an alert on its side of the border and the West Bengal government evacuated nearly 60,000

people in the state, officials said. On the island of Mousouni, which lies in the path of the storm, scared residents took shelter in schools and government buildings because they had not been able to escape. All flights in and out of Kolkata airport were suspended for 12 hours and military planes and ships have been put on standby, Indian authorities said.

Winds of up to 110kph and heavy rainfall from the fringe of Bulbul have already lashed Odisha state, uprooting trees that blocked many roads. Bulbul was expected to hit the coast at the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, which straddles Bangladesh and part of eastern India and is home to endangered species including the Bengal tiger. Bangladesh's low-lying coast, home to 30 million people, is regularly battered by cyclones that leave a trail of destruction.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in cyclones in recent decades. While the frequency and intensity have increased, partly due to climate change, the death tolls have come down because of faster evacuations and the building of 4,000 cyclone shelters along the coast. In November 2007, Cyclone Sidr killed more than 3,000 people. In May this year, Fani became the most powerful storm to hit the country in five years, but the death toll was about 12. — AFP

## Cambodian opposition figure lands in Malaysia

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Self-exiled Cambodian opposition figure Sam Rainsy landed in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur yesterday after promising to return home to rally opponents of authoritarian ruler Hun Sen. "Keep up the hope. We are on the right track," Rainsy said on arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in a message to supporters. "Democracy will prevail. Democracy has prevailed in Malaysia. Democracy will prevail in Cambodia."

Asked whether he planned to return to Cambodia he said: "I cannot say anything. I do not deny, I do not confirm." The veteran opposition figure had planned to return to Cambodia yesterday, Independence Day, in what Prime Minister Hun Sen characterized as an attempted coup against his rule of more than three decades.

But Sam Rainsy was blocked from boarding a Thai Airways flight to Bangkok in Paris on Thursday. He and other leaders of his banned opposition party have said they want to return to Cambodia by crossing the land border with Thailand. Malaysia has no border with Cambodia. An official of Rainsy's banned Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) in Thailand said that nobody would be returning yesterday.

"We will be returning as soon as possible," Saory Pon, General Secretary of the Cambodia National Rescue Party Overseas told Reuters, complaining that some party officials in Thailand had been harassed and followed by security services. Cambodian government spokesman Phay Siphon said that if Sam Rainsy did return he would face outstanding charges against him in court. "If he comes to cause instability and chaos, we will destroy him," he said.

Some 50 opposition activists have been arrested in recent weeks. In Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, security forces patrolled in pickup trucks yesterday, which marks Cambodia's 66th anniversary of independence from France. On Sunday and Monday, Cambodia celebrates an annual water festival.

Police armed with assault rifles lined up at Cambodia's Poipet border crossing with Thailand, where Sam Rainsy had said he planned to cross, pictures posted on Twitter by the independent Cambodian Center for Human Rights showed. Rainsy, a founder of the CNRP, fled four years ago following a conviction for criminal defamation. He also faces a five-year sentence in a separate case. He says the charges were politically motivated.

The 70-year-old former finance minister, who usually sports large, rimmed spectacles, has been an opponent of Hun Sen since the 1990s. He also vowed to return home in 2015 in spite of threats to arrest him, but did not. — Reuters

## Key dates in centuries-old Indian holy site dispute

**AYODHYA:** The 1992 demolition of Babri Masjid - a mosque named after the Mughal emperor Babur - by Hindu hardliners in the Indian holy city of Ayodhya led to riots that left more than 2,000 dead. Hindus say the small patch of land where it stood is the birthplace of their revered god Ram, and the site has become a symbol of India's Hindu-Muslim divide. Here are the key dates in the centuries of bitterness leading up to the Indian Supreme Court's much-awaited ruling on Saturday on who should own the site:

## 5114 BC

According to devout Hindus, this was when the important warrior deity Lord Ram or Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu, is born in Ayodhya in northern India.

## 1528 AD

After more than a year's work, a mosque to honor Babur, who came from what is now Uzbekistan to conquer northern India, is completed. Nearly five centuries later, the derelict site now covered in weeds and the rubble is considered the epicenter of modern Hindu nationalism.

## 1853

The first recorded sectarian clashes over the mosque erupt after Hindu devotees launch protests saying the mosque was built on the birthplace of Rama. Muslims stage their own march on Ayodhya and about 70 die in clashes. Two years later, another Muslim march on the city is fought back by British and Hindu troops in clashes that leave up to 700 dead.

## 1934-1949

The mosque is damaged in a communal riot in 1934 after the killing of a cow, an animal many Hindus consider sacred. But it is soon after the subcontinent's 1947 partition into Hindu-majority India and Muslim-dominated Pakistan that Ayodhya becomes a battleground between the two faiths. On December 22, 1949, dozens of people break into the mosque and set up idols of the gods Ram and Sita. The next day, thousands of Hindus gather outside believing it was a miracle. Federal courts order the idols to be removed, but local courts refuse to enforce the action.

## 1986

Hindu agitation over Ayodhya grows in the 1980s. In 1986, one radical group launches a campaign to gather bricks for a new temple that draws contributions from across India as well as from supporters in the United States, Canada and Europe.

## 1990

L.K. Advani, then leader of the conservative Bharatiya Janata Party of current Prime Minister Narendra Modi,



**AYODHYA:** Security personnel cross a road in Ayodhya yesterday, as a Supreme Court issues verdict on a disputed religious site. — AFP

leads a procession of Hindus demanding the building of a temple on the mosque site. The Indian army blocks the procession and Advani is arrested. Some 30 Hindus are killed in clashes.

## 1992

On December 6, some 200,000 Hindu activists gather in Ayodhya. Some climb fences surrounding the mosque. "With pick axes, shovels and their bare hands, they destroyed the mosque in a matter of hours," wrote US professor Heather Selma Gregg in her book, "The Path to Salvation: Religious Violence from the Crusades to the Jihad". The demolition sparks nationwide riots in which 2,000 people die. There are also disturbances in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

## 2002

In February, a train carrying Hindu activists from Ayodhya prior to the 10th anniversary of the demolition catches fire in Gujarat state - where Modi is the chief minister - and almost 60 are killed. Anti-Muslim riots in the state leave more than 2,000 dead. Gregg says the modern-day violence took on "mythic proportions, symbolizing the fall of India and its people to foreign occupiers and the need for liberation of not only Ayodhya but the entire subcontinent and Hindu people everywhere".

## 2010

A court in Allahabad orders the mosque site to be divided between three Hindu and Muslim groups. All the parties appeal and the Supreme Court stays the ruling. Yesterday's judgment decided the cases. — AFP

## IS claims deadly Tajik attack as doubts swirl

**ALMATY:** The Islamic State group on Friday claimed responsibility for a deadly attack against a Tajik border post this week, but Central Asia watchers cast doubt on the jihadists' claim as well as official Tajik statements on the incident. "By the grace of Allah the Almighty, the soldiers of the Caliphate attacked a border guard post of the Tajik apostates in the Ishkobod area, near the Tajik-Uzbek border," the IS group said in a statement released online. Tajik authorities on Wednesday said that fifteen jihadists were killed during an attack on a border post that officials blamed on members of the Islamic State group who crossed over from Afghanistan.

The overnight assault also left a soldier and policeman dead, authorities in the ex-Soviet republic said. The Islamic State group claimed that its fighters killed 10 soldiers in the clashes. In a separate statement, Amaq, the IS propaganda agency, said that all the IS attackers were killed but did not specify how many or where they had come from. However "the whole story is a bit murky," Raffaello Pantucci, senior associate fellow at the London-based Royal United Services Institute, told AFP.

"Everyone I have asked in Tajikistan is suspicious." "There are dozens of questions" - Tajikistan's interior ministry insisted Friday that the attack was perpetrated by IS fighters - "mostly citizens of Tajikistan" - who had crossed into the country from Afghanistan. Pantucci said that the IS claim was a boost to the group after leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in a US raid. "For ISIS it looks good to claim," he said. "A new leader comes in and we immediately see attacks."

IS also released Friday what it said was a video of the attackers reciting a pledge of allegiance to the group's new leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi. Before the Islamic State group claimed the attack a spokesman for Afghanistan's defence ministry said that it did not believe the event which happened near Tajikistan's border with Uzbekistan had anything to do with Afghanistan.

Tajik authorities said five attackers had been captured. Citing the confession of a detained attacker, the Tajik border guard service said the group crossed from Afghanistan in darkness on Sunday into the Tajik district of Qabodiyon. "All of them are members of the Islamic State," the border guard service said. But some also refused to take the Tajik authorities' statements at face value. Daniil Kislov, director of the Moscow-based Fergana News agency which covers Central Asia and Afghanistan, also poured cold water on Tajikistan's claims.

"There are dozens of questions," Kislov told AFP before the IS group claimed the attack. "Where did the attackers find cars, which had Tajik number plates? 'If they stole them, who were the victims (of the theft)? You can go on and on," he said. Tajikistan, a poor mountainous country of nine million people bordering Afghanistan and China, has been hit by conflicts since it gained independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Tajikistan and other ex-Soviet Central Asian countries have been major sources of recruits for radical Islamist groups in Syria and Iraq. — AFP



**DUSHANBE:** Police investigators work at the site of an attack at the Ishkobod border post located some 50 kilometers west of the Tajikistan capital Dushanbe. — AFP



## Analysis

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## Washington Watch

## Will the US 2020 election heal or deepen the divide?

By Dr James J Zogby

For a growing number of Americans on both sides of our ever-deepening political divide, the 2020 presidential election has become a critical contest about the future of our country. While so many significant policy concerns are at stake in Nov 2020, this will be an election about Donald Trump and what he has done to our politics. There can be no doubt that, by any measure, Donald Trump has been the most outrageous president in our history. In fact, it is a role he appears to relish. It isn't just the policies he has pursued. It is the way in which he has exacerbated the polarization of our society and coarsened our political discourse.

Ever the performer, he has used his rallies to incite against his opponents, resorting to name-calling and even vulgarity to denigrate them. In addition, he has used his tweets and engagements with press to the same end. Despite the discomfort this has brought to the more staid members of the Republican establishment, they have, for the most part, held back from criticizing his behavior in part because they fear incurring his wrath and/or ridicule.

It's important to understand, however, that there is a method to this madness. What Trump has intuited is the anger of a significant portion of the American electorate that has been squeezed by a changing economy, threatened by cultural forces beyond their control, and ignored by the political elites in both parties.

Whatever they are called, whether it's the white middle class or white working class, this is the base to which Trump has played. And he has played them well. He has condemned both trade deals that he maintains have sent their factory jobs to Mexico and China in search of cheaper labor, and environmental regulations he claims have cost them their mining jobs. He has railed against immigrants whom he says have displaced hard-working Americans, and the "coastal elites" who have looked down their noses at ordinary folks, scorning their values and ignoring their aspirations. And he has preyed on people's fears and insecurities by scapegoating Mexicans and Muslims.

When Trump says he'll "Make American great again," his base understands this as recapturing the country's lost glory, while at the same time evoking a romanticized past of quiet middle class neighborhoods free of crime, where work was plentiful, and opportunities were available to all who "played by the rules."

There are, to be sure, problems galore with both this messenger and the message. If anything, Donald Trump is the embodiment of the very "coastal elites" he derides. His business practices, values, and lifestyle are not those of his base. His bankruptcies have left tens of thousands out of work and his resorts have regularly hired undocumented cheap labor. His and his daughter's product lines have moved their operations overseas. And the policies he has pursued have benefited the wealthy and only increased income inequality. But none of this has mattered to his base - because he speaks directly to them and has convinced them that he alone understands them and will fight for them. Hungry for a savior, they have latched onto him as their "last, best hope" to improve their lot in life. As a result, they see attacks on his presidency as threats to their future well-being.

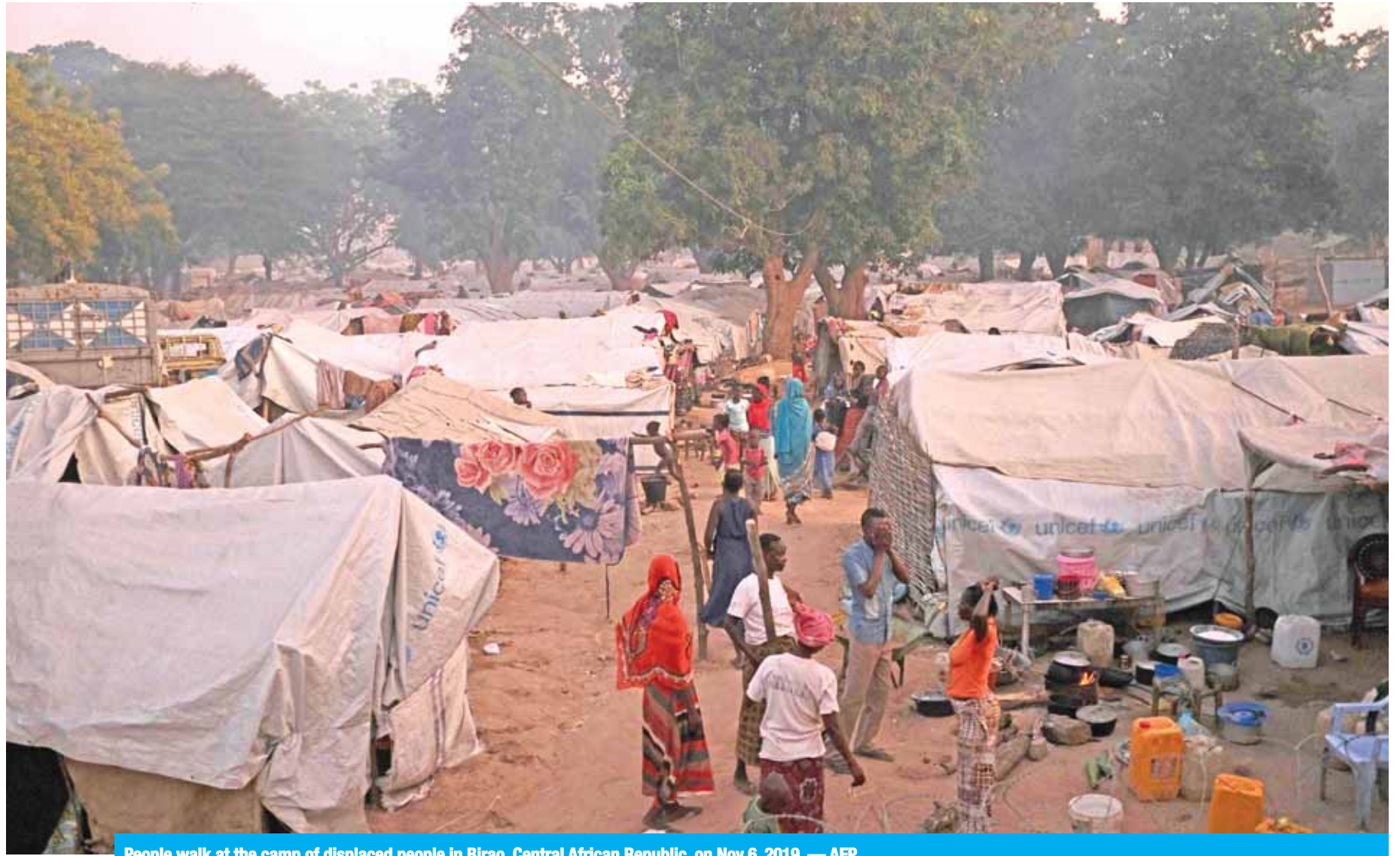
The dilemma now confronting Democrats is how to respond to this Trump challenge. On this, the many 2020 candidates and the party, itself, are not of one mind. All are agreed that Trump's behavior is to be condemned and that moving forward with impeachment is a national priority and a constitutional imperative. But what about the divide and how to relate to Trump's base? Here there are divergent views.

Some appear to see no need to address this concern. They simply want to defeat the man, send him packing, and restore a Democrat to the White House. Others believe that the way forward is to heal the divide by preaching a message of unity and civility.

But while winning will obviously be an important goal for Democrats, governing in a post-Trump America is a critical concern that cannot simply be pushed aside. We have seen the dysfunction created by hyper-partisanship. When either party has controlled both the legislative and executive branches of government, bills get passed - but rancor only grows - recall the "Tea Party" reaction to Obama and the "Resistance" that greeted Trump. Winning, by itself, won't do the trick. Changing our politics and the governing coalition is what is required to move the country forward. What polling makes clear is that our political divide isn't just partisan. It's really demographic. For too many election cycles political consultants using advanced data mining have identified target constituencies and directed their messaging and outreach efforts to reach them.

**NOTE:** Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

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



People walk at the camp of displaced people in Birao, Central African Republic, on Nov 6, 2019. — AFP

## Birao's militia powderkeg in north CAR

A heavy silence hangs in the dusty alleys of Birao, in the extreme northeast of Central African Republic, where figures only rarely wander between the empty houses and reed hedges. Since September, Birao has been hit hard by fighting between armed groups despite a peace agreement that had helped bring a precarious calm to a country ravaged by years of civil war. Most of Birao's 14,000 inhabitants are now refugees camped out in makeshift tents next to a UN base, only metres from the abandoned homes that few can imagine returning to any time soon.

Birao highlights the complexities of the Central African Republic's fragile peace deal among 14 armed groups and the government - an attempt to end a conflict that has killed thousands and displaced a fifth of the 4.5 million population in six years. Rumors of another attack by the Popular Front for the Renaissance of Central Africa (FPRC) triggered the latest surge of displaced to the camp, where water is already scarce as the dry season begins.

Only the town's central market shows any sign of life. Patrols of UN peacekeepers in blue helmets pass by the pick-up trucks of turbaned militiamen under the indifferent gaze of the elders who sip tea in the shade of the acacias. Birao is a hotbed of rebellion that has escaped state control for decades. Since 2014, the FPRC, one of the country's main rebel movements, has controlled the region and the lucrative tax of goods from neighboring Sudan.

Its military leader, Aboulouay Hissene and several of his

officers belong to the Runga ethnic group, a minority in Birao but well established in the local economy. That is enough to stir up old tensions with the Kara ethnic group, about 40 percent of the population of Birao. They also make up the vast majority of members in a rival militia, the Movement of Central African Liberators for Justice or MCLJ.

### Ethnic tensions

In late August, the son of the ethnic Kara leader in Birao was murdered by a FRPC militiaman, sparking new fighting. After an initial clash on Sept 1, the more powerful FPRC was defeated and driven from the town two weeks later by the MCLJ and armed Kara civilians. In the chaos, wealthy homes in the Runga district were looted and burned, and Birao's elders are now refugees.

The ethnic Runga are now hunkering down near the airport under UN protection, separated from the Kara by 15 km of dirt road. "The bandits that chased us out have blockaded the road and are preventing food from reaching us. It is more than savage," said Gabriel Redjal, head of the camp. "Now is not the time for Runga to be living in Birao, we should be led far from here," he said.

International observers say the crisis could degenerate into open warfare and spread to neighboring regions. The FPRC has pledged to retake the town as soon as seasonal rains end, while the MCLJ continues to edge into its adversary's territory and head towards the town of Tizi.

### Ethnic or political

"Within a week, something is going to happen there," says Kara leader Adramane Ramadan with a sly smile. The new chief of Birao receives visitors at home, surrounded by heavily armed gunmen. "They are not MLCJ militiamen," he insists, while denying any ties with the group. "This is not a war between the MLCJ and the FPRC, it's an ethnic war." That revives bad memories in a country marred by years of ethnic violence. The Runga elders see the situation differently. "There has always been some jealousy, but the Kara and Runga live well together," said Gabriel Redjal. "There is some political manipulation behind all that, and the manipulation runs deep."

He was talking about Kara leader Ramadan, who openly admits he would like to be mayor of Birao, where ethnic strength has always determined the outcome of local elections. But the comments could also be directed at MLCJ chief Toumou Deya, who sits 800 km away in Bangui as minister charged with relations with armed groups. In 2020, the country's presidential election could be determined by rural voters. Back at the airport, an FPRC commander, captain Moussa insists that "the FPRC was respecting the peace accord". "Those that did not respect it, who attacked us, are there with their weapons in town. Where is the justice?" Having traded his uniform for a track suit, the former officer concluded that "there is no truth in the Central African Republic. We will never resolve the Birao affair." — AFP

## At Taranto steel mill, disillusioned workers await fate

Disillusioned, tired, and now at risk of losing their jobs, workers at the Taranto steel mill faced Friday an uncertain future as global giant ArcelorMittal decides if it will walk away from Europe's biggest integrated plant. The world's largest steelmaker generated shockwaves Monday by announcing it would ditch its plan to buy Ilva, which owns the Taranto plant in southern Italy. It is Europe's largest integrated steelmaking site, and employs more than 8,000 workers.

The Italian government, which provisionally nationalized Ilva in 2015, has vowed to be "inflexible" in holding ArcelorMittal to its deal. ArcelorMittal, which began leasing the plant in November with an obligation to buy it, first blamed its retreat on a decision by Rome to refuse it immunity from prosecution over the plant's severe pollution. The Luxembourg-based steel giant planned to invest \$1.2 billion (\$1.3 billion) in Taranto to curb pollution by 2024, and was given a period of legal immunity to bring the site up to environmental standards.

But Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who faced a crowd of shouting workers at the site on Friday, said the decision was instead driven by profits, with ArcelorMittal

demanding that 5,000 jobs be cut. While Rome and ArcelorMittal wrangled, Taranto workers expressed worry and fatigue over the latest challenges, which follow years of controversy. Experts say 7,500 people have died in the surrounding area - where the plant's tall chimneys can be seen for miles - from diseases linked to toxic emissions.

"People are worried, mad, but overall they're tired, resigned because the problems at Ilva are endless and have gone on for decades," said one worker, who asked to be identified only as Pasquale. In the midst of a one-day strike, Fabio Cocco told AFP that he and his colleagues at the plant were disillusioned with a mill that was once the pride of the region, employing generations of workers. "We don't believe in it anymore today. We've suffered too long with the pollution, the sickness, and now Mittal which is leaving us," he said. Cocco called the risk of mass layoffs "the latest blackmail that we've endured and I've had enough".

Speaking to journalists during his visit, Conte said he was struck by what he had heard and seen while in Taranto, including workers who wondered whether they were "doing something wrong," in continuing to work at the mill, given the environmental damage incurred. "This is a wounded community," Conte told journalists, caught "between the right to work and the right to health". "This is a community that has suffered so much and continues to suffer," Conte said, cautioning that a solution to the problem would take more than just one person, community, or government.

### Toxic dust

ArcelorMittal had originally said it planned to invest a total \$2.4 billion in the plant to revive it, including 1.2 billion to curb pollution. The plant is currently losing almost \$2.0 million a day, unions say. "We could see with the naked eye toxic dust floating in the air in the neighborhood but we never imagined the problem was also invisible, with substances like carcinogens," said retired worker Cosimo Martinese, 70. Underscoring persistent economic problems plaguing the area, youth employment in the area around Taranto is 56.2 percent of the workforce, according to the national statistics agency. In the town itself, overall unemployment is 30 percent, and scores of ex-workers from the struggling plant rely on social services.

Former worker Emmanuele Palmisano, 45, calculated that around 1,660 people had been laid off by Ilva before the arrival of ArcelorMittal, which cut another 1,400 jobs owing to the sluggish market for steel during its short tenure. "That makes nearly 3,000 people living off of welfare," Palmisano noted. In 1995, when Ilva was sold to the family-run company Gruppo Riva, suspicions began to surface of links between the plant and abnormal rates of cancers, often infantile, among local residents. After being placed under state-supervised administration in 2015, Italy held an international bid for the group that was won by ArcelorMittal. Journalist Fulvio Colucci, author of the book "Invisible: To live and die at Ilva in Taranto," explains that the plant's core problems are classic supply and demand, with production levels that exceed current demand for steel. — AFP

## Bloomberg eyes one last prize: The White House

Giant in the financial information world, a three-term mayor of New York and a climate change activist: Hyper-industrious billionaire Michael Bloomberg has, until now, hesitated to pursue the US presidency. But as he decides to join the race for the 2020 Democratic nomination, the 77-year-old has some catching up to do. He would be joining a packed slate of candidates - 17 at last count - that includes three others in their 70s, plus a fellow billionaire, Tom Steyer.

Bloomberg would clearly count on leveraging his fortune - Forbes ranks him as the ninth richest person in the world - to make up ground on the favorites, including fierce Wall Street critics Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, both of whom he sees as "extremists". He would be working for a long-awaited chance to take on fellow New York tycoon Donald Trump, with whom then-mayor Bloomberg often rubbed shoulders at social events, occasionally even offering words of praise, before turning his back when Trump entered politics.

"I know a con..."

"I'm a New Yorker, and I know a con when I see one," he said dismissively of Trump during the 2016 presidential

campaign. Bloomberg had toyed with the idea of running as an independent, before finally - fearful of dividing Democratic voters - throwing his support behind Hillary Clinton. In March, Bloomberg said he would not run this time around, and could do more good by supporting the eventual nominee than by taking on the "incompetent" Trump. As a successful businessman who shuns political labels - economically conservative but liberal on gay rights and abortion - he has grown increasingly worried by Warren and Sanders passing centrist Joe Biden in some polls, a close advisor said. But can he win over Democratic voters? He points to his successes as an executive who helped revitalize post-9/11 New York, his advocacy and financial support for gun control and his work on climate change.

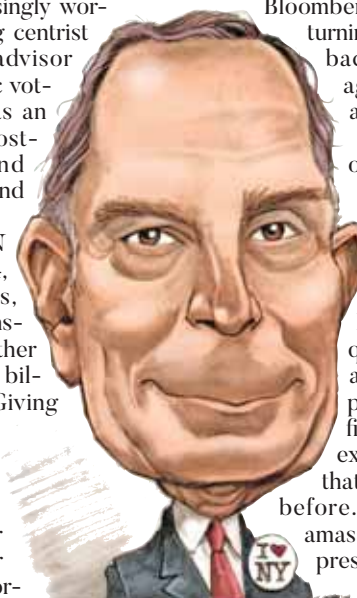
Bloomberg has been a special UN envoy for climate action since 2014, and has helped several US states, counties and cities finance emissions-reducing projects. The divorced father of two daughters has joined other billionaires in signing the so-called Giving Pledge, which commits them to contribute more than half their wealth to good causes. He supports cultural organizations, advocates against smoking and vaping and last year donated \$1.8 billion to his alma mater Johns Hopkins University to help poor-

er students pay tuition. In 2018, he spent \$100 million to help Democratic candidates regain control of the US House of Representatives.

### Against the tide?

Still, Bloomberg will have to contend with his image as an elitist swimming against a Democratic orthodoxy that has moved left on taxation and immigration. And as mayor, Bloomberg, who travels in private jets, was accused of turning New York into a playground of the rich while backing tough police tactics that discriminated against minorities. No one denies his business acumen, which took him from a middle-class early life north of Boston to his exalted status as one of the world's most powerful media moguls.

Born Feb 14, 1942 into a Jewish family - his father was an accountant at a dairy - Bloomberg excelled in electrical engineering at Johns Hopkins before earning a Harvard MBA. He went to work at the Salomon Brothers investment bank in 1966 and rose quickly to the rank of partner before leaving with a \$10 million bonus in cash and bonds. He and partner Matthew Winkler founded financial news firm Bloomberg LP, revolutionizing stock exchanges with its innovative computer terminals that financiers could access data far quicker than before. Bloomberg is fond of pointing out that his amassed fortune dwarves Trump's, even though the president started in business with millions of dollars from his father. — AFP





SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019

## Business

**12** Electric motorcycles ride to rescue in fuel-short Cuba**13** Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co opens showroom for Geely auto passenger vehicles**14** KFH unveils Visa Infinite Metal Card with enhanced benefits

LONDON: A container ship is unloaded at the Port of Immingham operated by Associated British Ports (ABP) on the south bank of the Humber Estuary, eastern England. Maritime freight volumes have dropped in the last year due to protectionism and the weakening of international commerce. — AFP

# Moody's downgrades UK's debt outlook

## Spending plans, Brexit paralysis put Britain's rating at risk

WASHINGTON/LONDON: Credit ratings agency Moody's on Friday downgraded the outlook for Britain's debt, citing mounting policy challenges amid the Brexit debate. The agency cut the outlook to negative from stable but kept the debt at the investment grade Aa2. The ratings agency Fitch had similarly put Britain on "negative watch" in February. Pointing to "paralysis that has characterized the Brexit-era policy-making process," Moody's said London has "struggled to cope with the magnitude of policy challenges that they currently face."

In addition, Britain's "economic and fiscal strength are likely to be weaker going forward and more susceptible to shocks than previously assumed," Moody's said in a statement.

Britons voted by 52 percent to leave the European Union in a 2016 referendum, but MPs have been divided over how, when and even if that result should be delivered. The political wrangling has forced two successive Conservative governments to ask the European Union to delay Brexit three times this year. It is now set for January 31. Current Tory Prime Minister Boris

Johnson hopes the snap election next month will give him a majority in the House of Commons to allow him to ratify his exit terms and finally leave the EU. "Over the longer term, institutional weakening may also impact the UK's economic strength, through its effect on the investment climate and on the UK's attractiveness to skilled and unskilled foreign labor," Moody's said.

"In recent years, we have already seen the negative impact this can have, and Moody's expects this negative influence will likely endure as the exit process continues and uncertainties persist during the subsequent phase of trade negotiations with the EU and with other nations."

Britain remains highly indebted and this was unlikely to change in the next three to four years, according to Moody's. In a toughly worded statement, Moody's said the fissures in Britain's society and politics exposed by its still-unresolved decision to leave the European Union would be long-lasting. "It would be optimistic to assume that the previously cohesive, predictable approach to legislation and policymaking in the UK will return once Brexit is no longer a contentious issue,

however that is achieved," the ratings agency said.

Moody's said Britain's 1.8 trillion pounds (\$2.30 trillion) of public debt - more than 80 percent of annual economic output - risked rising again and the economy could be "more susceptible to shocks than previously assumed." Both of the main political parties have promised big spending increases ahead of next month's election. "In the current political climate, Moody's sees no meaningful pressure for debt-reducing fiscal policies," the ratings agency said.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the Dec. 12 election in an attempt to break the deadlock over how, and even if, the country should leave the EU, more than three years after the Brexit referendum.

Moody's said the "increasing inertia and, at times, paralysis that has characterized the Brexit-era policy-making process" showed how the UK's institutional framework has diminished. Even once Britain was out of the EU, uncertainty would remain because of the "significant challenges" of reaching a future trade deal with the bloc, it said. Any signs that Britain was unable to replicate the benefits of EU membership

with trade deals in Europe and beyond would also be negative for the rating.

Moody's, which stripped the country of its AAA rating in 2013 and downgraded it again in 2017, said it was lowering the outlook on Britain's current Aa2 rating to negative from stable, meaning the rating could be cut again. At Aa2, Britain is on the same level as France but below Germany's AAA rating by Moody's.

Moody's said the government, after reducing a budget deficit which leapt to 10 percent of GDP in 2010, had been increasingly willing to "move the goalposts" on making further progress.

"Successive governments have announced large, permanent increases in public expenditures, most notably a large increase in spending on the National Health Service, outside the normal calendar for fiscal policy changes and without detailed policy plans," it said. Last month, ratings agency Standard & Poor's said it would cut Britain's AA credit rating if the country leaves the EU without a deal, and it, too, warned that Brexit indecision was causing government paralysis. — Agencies

## Americans have more debt, need family help to buy homes

WASHINGTON: Americans are waiting longer to buy their first homes, have more debt and more often need family help to make the purchase amid a supply crunch that is pushing up prices, according to a new data released Friday. But African Americans and Hispanics continue to make up a very small share of homebuyers in the United States, far below their share of the population, according to National Association of Realtors report.

While low interest rates have made mortgages more accessible, and historically low unemployment means more Americans have a steady paycheck, the influx of buyers combined with a shortage of workers means homebuilders have not been able to keep up with demand.

The report shows the median sales price

in September was up to \$272,100 compared to \$259,300 for all of 2018 and \$197,100 five years earlier. NAR has long highlighted the shortage of homes on the market but the report puts the implications of that problem in stark relief.

African Americans comprise just four percent of homebuyers, despite making up 13 percent of the US population, the report said. Hispanics make up seven percent, while they are 18 percent of the population. "There's no way to sugarcoat how low the Hispanic and African American homebuyers (rate) has been and... how far it's fallen from before the recession to today," said Jessica Lautz, NAR's vice president of demographics and behavioral insights.

With homeownership for blacks in particular at historic lows, this has "very large implications for their ability... to build wealth and to be able to build a nest egg," Lautz told AFP. She notes research showing minorities are less likely to apply for a loan, more likely to be denied for mortgages and less likely to have family help, "which is a key down payment source for first time homebuyers today."

### Homes in short supply

One third of first-time homebuyers have

family help for their down payment, either through a gift or a loan, she said. At the same time, African American first-time homeowners "have significantly more student loan debt than white homebuyers do... which is in a significant hurdle, holding back many potential buyers."

The report showed 39 percent of first-time buyers had student loan debt, a median amount of \$30,000. NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun stressed that the housing shortage is a key factor driving the problems with affordability. Since many first time buyers need family help "what does that mean for American families that don't have deep pockets," he told reporters.

Yun said he expects home building to accelerate modestly in 2020, which will "open up a chain reaction in existing home sales." He predicted a four percent uptick in home sales next year.

The report also showed that more buyers are waiting longer before buying their first home-the median age hit 33 for the first time-and an increasing number are joining forces with friends rather than partners or spouses in order to be able to afford a place in their desired location, the report showed. There is "a growing share



In this file photo, a for sale sign stands before a property for sale in Monterey Park, California. — AFP

of people who are embracing homeownership through unique means, purchasing with a non-romantic partner," Lautz said.

About one in 10 home buyers purchased a multigenerational home, to take care of aging parents, because of adult children

returned home, and for cost-savings, the report showed.

First-time homebuyers held steady at 33 percent of all buyers, a measure that for the past eight years has been below the historic norm of 40 percent. — AFP



## Business

# Electric motorcycles ride to rescue in fuel-short Cuba

## Cubans struggle as US sanctions curb oil imports

**HAVANA:** It is rush hour in Havana and the queue at the bus stop is longer than ever. Then a fleet of electric motorcycles appears, beeping their horns. Surprised and relieved, passengers jump on the backs of the 50 or so electric mopeds. It is a new solution for Cubans struggling with fuel shortages driven by US sanctions that have curbed oil imports.

Cuba has long been known for the classic American cars that people here lovingly maintain decades after they stopped being built. But urban transport on the communist island is evolving. The bikes' horns beep and some of the riders play reggaeton music-but, being electric, their motors make hardly any noise. A Chinese-made electric motorcycle costs between \$1,800 and \$2,300 in Cuba. A basic petrol-powered bike on the island can cost up to six times that.

### Volunteer riders

The electric bikes-with a maximum speed of about 50 kilometers (30 miles) per hour-were first licensed for import in 2013. They have multiplied in the streets since then-and have come into their own with the recent fuel shortages. "I really like this initiative, it helps a lot with the economy," says passenger Yanet Figueroa, 42, sitting on the back of one of the bikes. "It really helps people who have great need of it."

Cuba plunged into a fuel crisis in September after Washington imposed restrictions on fuel shipments from Cuba's top ally Venezuela. Cuba had to make do in September with just 30 percent of its usual fuel supply and the level has still not recovered-it is forecast to reach no more than 80 percent this month.

With the public transport network badly hit, President Miguel Diaz-Canel has called on drivers to pick up pas-

sengers voluntarily. The owners of electric bikes known as "motorinas" answered the call. "We have volunteered to do this as a service to society," says one of the drivers, Javier Capote, 33. "It is going very well. We are very happy about it." The president himself during a televised address mentioned "those famous... what do you call them, the bikes? The 'motorinas', that have come out to help."

### Electric bike era

Cuban authorities estimate there are 210,000 electric motorcycles currently in use on the island. That figure is expected to rise as the government in late October began to sell them with the price capped at \$1,700.

Those who make a living servicing the bikes are pleased by that move as it will bring down costs. "It seems like a very good idea to us mechanics," says one, Enrique Alfonso, 47, in his workshop. He recalls the economic crisis of the 1990s that followed the end of cheap imports from the Soviet Union. "That was the era of (affordable) Chinese bicycles. Now we are in the era of electric motorcycles," he says. "With everything that is going on the country, they have become obtainable for a lot of people."

### Accidents

The electric bikes had a mixed reception at first. Silent and often inexpertly ridden, they are often involved in accidents in a country that already suffers from thousands of crashes a year. Officials say that of the 7,000 road accidents recorded so far this year, a third have involved electric motorcycles. Authorities have responded by insisting riders have a license and register their vehicles. The flourishing of electric bikes follows several years of gradual opening-up of Cuba's state-run economy. It has also coincided with a digital mini-revolution. Thanks to the availability of 3G-standard internet connections since last year, riders can network more easily.



**HAVANA:** Cuba has long been known for the classic American cars that people here lovingly maintain decades after they stopped being built. But urban transport on the communist island is evolving.

The 3G connections helped spawn the Electric Motorbikes of Cuba online group, a club with more than 80 members. It started out as a club for enthusiasts seeking to have "healthy fun and share the passion we all have for electric motorcycles and road safety," says its president Osdany Fleites, a 37-year-old taxi driver. "The

motorcycles do not pollute the environment, they do not make a noise," he says. Now the club has evolved to have an environmental and "social purpose." Along with another club, Eracing, its members take part in rescuing bus passengers stuck due to the fuel shortages.

They have also taken part in environmental clean-up jobs, helping eradicate an infestation of troublesome giant snails in Havana, donated blood and visited children in a cancer ward. — AFP

## Fed sees climate change shaping economy, policy

**SAN FRANCISCO:** The US central bank signaled on Friday it may be getting ready to join international peers in incorporating climate change risk into its assessments of financial stability, and may even take it into account when setting monetary policy. "To fulfill our core responsibilities, it will be important for the Federal Reserve to study the implications of climate change for the economy and the financial system and to adapt our work accordingly," Fed Governor Lael Brainard said in remarks released at the start of the Fed's first-ever conference on climate change and economics.

The Fed, she said, will need to look at how to keep banks and the financial system resilient amid risks from extreme weather, higher temperatures, rising sea levels and other effects of the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. And increasingly, she said, "it will be important for the Federal Reserve to take into account the effects of climate change and associated policies in setting monetary policy to achieve our objectives of maximum employment and price stability."

Brainard's comments mark a shift for the Fed, which lags other major central banks that have made climate change an explicit part of their financial stability remit. Her talk, the first she's given in her five-year tenure at the Fed that even mentions the subject, suggests she and her colleagues are taking the risks and costs of global warming seriously.

The US central bank's attention to global warming comes even as President Donald Trump's administration denies it exists. Trump on Monday notified the United Nations that the United States will in 12 months leave the Paris Climate Accord, under which 195 nations agreed to reduce green-

house gas emissions in a bid to prevent catastrophic planetary warming. Scientists are in broad agreement that carbon dioxide from cars, power plants and other human sources are behind the climate change that's already making powerful hurricanes, severe drought, and other weather extremes more frequent.

### Rising risks, slowing economies

The San Francisco Fed's conference, so oversubscribed that a webcast has been created to meet demand, gave policymakers a crash course in research that could change how the Fed forecasts economic growth, regulates banks, and even sets interest rates.

Papers presented at the conference showed how climate change has crimped growth and presented ideas on how policy, including monetary policy, can be used to mitigate harm.

University of Southern California professor Hashem Pesaran showed that rising average temperatures and volatile precipitation - both effects of climate change - have already slowed US economic output in recent decades. Meeting Paris Accord goals, the paper found, could limit losses to per capita US GDP from planetary warming over the next 80 years to 3 percent or less, versus 14 percent if goals are not met.

Swedish central bank economist Conny Olovsson used an economic model to show losses to economic growth from imposing a carbon tax - an objection often raised by politicians and industry - would be dwarfed by the economic losses projected if carbon dioxide remains largely untaxed and global warming continues unchecked. In a third paper, Nicholas Muller, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, outlined how the Fed might factor environmental circumstances into monetary policy by, for example, keeping rates lower when pollution levels were increasing, to encourage consumption before they got worse, and higher when pollution was declining, to depress spending until the environment improved. — Reuters

## IMF approves \$450m loan tranche for Pakistan

**WASHINGTON:** The IMF on Friday praised Pakistan's economic performance and agreed on next steps, paving the way for release of another

portion of a \$6 billion, three-year loan package. Once the International Monetary Fund board gives the go ahead, the Washington-based lender will provide \$450 million to help right the South Asian nation's economy, on top of the \$1 billion released in July.

"Despite a difficult environment, program implementation has been good, and all performance criteria for end-September were met with comfortable margins," IMF mission chief Ernesto Ramirez Rigo said in a statement. The official, who led a team that spent two weeks in the country, pointed to signs of improving economic stability,

including the move to a flexible exchange rate, and slowing inflation that is projected to fall under 12 percent next year. But he said more work was needed to target money laundering and on terror finance controls. Approval of the first performance review of Pakistan's policy program will also help unlock "significant funding from bilateral and multilateral partners." Under the loan program, the government agreed to slash civil expenditure and freeze military spending while promising to substantially raise revenues to stem a yawning fiscal deficit, and pledging to collect 5.5 trillion rupees (\$36 billion) in taxes. — AFP

### WALL STREET WEEK AHEAD

## Small-cap shares poised to benefit from shift to value

**NEW YORK:** Beleaguered shares of small US companies are set for a bump in performance as value stocks have risen, market analysts say, but small caps could quickly fade again with an economic setback.

The small-cap Russell 2000 index has lagged the benchmark S&P 500 for much of 2019 and has yet to escape the bear market it confirmed last December. Still, so far this quarter, the Russell 2000 has risen 4.6 percent, edging out the 3.6 percent rise in the S&P 500. The Russell's outperformance is in tandem with the S&P 500 Value index, whose 5.2 percent quarter-to-date climb has outpaced the S&P 500 Growth index's 2.3 percent advance over the same period.

Improving economic sentiment has prompted some investors to take a second look at underperformers among both value stocks and small-cap shares. Value shares tend to be concentrated in economically sensitive sectors such as financials and energy. Shares of small-cap companies, which tend to be more domestically focused than their large-cap counterparts, often track investors' outlook on the US economy. Reflecting growing economic optimism, the benchmark 10-year Treasury yield has moved well off its early September lows, and the yield curve between 3-month bills and 10-year notes has steepened.

As a result, some investors believe US small-cap stocks are set to rally. The performance of financial shares, in particular, has improved as yields have risen, which could help boost small-cap shares. Financials make up 20 percent of the Russell 2000, as compared to 13 percent of the S&P 500. "Higher rates tell us that you've got a stronger economy," said Gary Bradshaw, senior vice president and portfolio manager at Hodges Capital Management in Dallas.

"Small caps, which have lagged the large caps, can certainly catch up (given) this rotation into value." In recent months, Bradshaw said, Hodges has added positions in small-cap value companies such as oil and natural gas companies Matador Resources Co and Parsley Energy Inc as well as Brinker International Inc, which owns Chili's restaurants. Though some market analysts are skeptical that large-cap value shares will sustain their market leadership, the improving earnings backdrop for small-cap companies could nonetheless boost their shares. Earlier this year, the earnings growth rate for small-cap companies lagged that of large-cap companies, in an aberration from usual patterns, said Lori Calvasina, head of US equity strategy at RBC Capital Markets in New York. But since then, small-cap earnings growth has recovered.

"People like small caps because they offer superior earnings growth longer-term," she said. "You couldn't really say that based on these stats at the beginning of the year, but now we look at these stats and the normal relationship is returning." Still, the outlook for small-cap shares is highly dependent on US economic data, which



**NEW YORK:** Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City. Stocks closed up over 160 points following news that China had come to an agreement with the US to remove existing tariffs in stages. — AFP

suggest a slowdown. The Institute of Supply Management's widely followed manufacturing index, for instance, has indicated a contraction in US factory activity for three straight months.

A US-China trade agreement would help bolster economic indicators in the manufacturing and industrial sectors, but it remains tentative. Data on October US industrial production and retail sales, along with the National Federation of Independent Business's monthly small business survey, are scheduled for release next week. "If we don't get a deal on trade, if we get more indications that the US economy is weaker, small caps are going to get crushed," said Steven DeSanctis, equity strategist at Jefferies in New York. "But I see (economic) growth holding up." — 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 |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 18.869 |

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

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfr Selling Rate

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| US Dollar             | 303.890 |
| Canadian Dollar       | 231.765 |
| Sterling Pound        | 392.910 |
| Euro                  | 339.610 |
| Swiss Frank           | 303.010 |
| Bahrain 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         | 11.050  |
| Turkish Lira      | 53.375  |
| Singapore dollars | 223.154 |

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

#### CURRENCY BUY SELL

| EUROPE             |          |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| British Pound      | 0.384666 | 0.398566 |
| Czech Korune       | 0.005184 | 0.014484 |
| Danish Krone       | 0.041003 | 0.046003 |
| Euro               | 0.329287 | 0.342987 |
| Georgian Lari      | 0.102118 | 0.102118 |
| Hungarian          | 0.000925 | 0.001115 |
| Norwegian Krone    | 0.029068 | 0.034268 |
| Romanian Leu       | 0.053877 | 0.070727 |
| Russian ruble      | 0.004783 | 0.004783 |
| Slovakia           | 0.009099 | 0.019099 |
| Swedish Krona      | 0.027455 | 0.032455 |
| Swiss Franc        | 0.299825 | 0.310825 |
| Australasia        |          |          |
| Australian Dollar  | 0.201492 | 0.213492 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.187578 | 0.197078 |
| America            |          |          |
| Canadian Dollar    | 0.225801 | 0.234801 |
| US Dollars         | 0.300300 | 0.305600 |
| US Dollars Mint    | 0.300800 | 0.305600 |
| Asia               |          |          |
| Bangladesh Taka    | 0.002977 | 0.003778 |

|                   |          |          |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Chinese Yuan      | 0.042010 | 0.045510 |
| Hong Kong Dollar  | 0.036772 | 0.039522 |
| Indian Rupee      | 0.003682 | 0.004454 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000017 | 0.000023 |
| Japanese Yen      | 0.002704 | 0.002884 |
| Korean Won        | 0.000252 | 0.000267 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.069758 | 0.075758 |
| Nepalese Rupee    | 0.002625 | 0.002965 |
| Pakistan Rupee    | 0.001310 | 0.002080 |
| Philippine Peso   | 0.005760 | 0.006060 |
| Singapore Dollar  | 0.218605 | 0.228605 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee  | 0.001319 | 0.001899 |
| Taiwan            | 0.009891 | 0.010071 |
| Thai Baht         | 0.009736 | 0.010286 |
| Vietnamese Dong   | 0.000013 | 0.000013 |

| Arab             |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar   | 0.801282 | 0.809328 |
| Egyptian Pound   | 0.018636 | 0.021377 |
| Iranian Riyal    | 0.000084 | 0.000085 |
| Iraqi Dinar      | 0.000214 | 0.000274 |
| Jordanian Dinar  | 0.424432 | 0.433432 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar    | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound   | 0.000151 | 0.000251 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.021011 | 0.045011 |
| Omani Riyal      | 0.785524 | 0.793411 |
| Qatar Riyal      | 0.082956 | 0.083788 |
| Saudi Riyal      | 0.080087 | 0.081387 |
| Syrian Pound     | 0.001290 | 0.001510 |
| Tunisian Dinar   | 0.103175 | 0.111175 |
| Turkish Lira     | 0.046094 | 0.055939 |
| UAE Dirhams      | 0.082245 | 0.083071 |
| Yemeni Riyal     | 0.000989 | 0.001069 |



# Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co launches state-of-the-art showroom for Geely vehicles



From right to left: Yousef Al Qatami (GM, Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive), Li Chuanhai (President, R&D Institute of Geely), Eng. Fahad Ali Alghanim (MD, Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive), Nan Shengliang (GM, Geely Auto International), Hamad Al Anjeri (GM, Geely Kuwait) and Xue Tao - Assistant GM, Geely Auto International

- Brand-new sales, service and spare parts facility dedicated exclusively to Geely Auto vehicles
- Stunning new GEELY COOLRAY SUV unveiled at the launch with 15 years warranty for the first time in Kuwait



Eng. Fahad Ali Alghanim



**KUWAIT:** Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co., one of Kuwait's leading importers of luxury vehicles, has officially launched a state-of-the-art sales, service and spare parts facility dedicated exclusively to the Geely Auto brand in Kuwait. The showroom launch follows the recent signing of an agreement between Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive and Geely Auto International Company to be the authorized distributor for the Geely Auto range of passenger vehicles in the country.

The launch of the new Geely Kuwait Showroom, which is situated in the Al Rai district of Kuwait, was attended by key VIPs and dignitaries, including Mr. Ali Mohamad Thunayan Alghanim, Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry; H.E. Li Minggang, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait; Mr. Nan Shengliang, General Manager, Geely Auto

International Company; Mr. Li Chuanhai – President of the R&D Institute of Geely Auto and Mr. Xue Tao, Assistant General Manager, Geely Auto International Company.

Speaking at the event, Engineer Fahad Ali Alghanim, Managing Director of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co., said: "It gives us great pleasure to embark on this journey with Geely. With over 30 years' experience in the luxury automotive segment, it makes perfect sense for us to acquire a high-quality economy car brand to complement our existing portfolio. Over the years, we have proven ourselves time and again by offering exceptional customer service and we aim to deliver the same promise to our Geely customers. This state-of-the-art facility is the first step in helping us deliver an extraordinary customer experience through an exquisite showroom space, advanced workshop equipped

with the latest tools and a spare parts facility to ensure availability of parts at all times."

To mark the launch of the new showroom, the viewing gallery was dedicated to showcasing the attractive new GEELY COOLRAY, the brand's latest SUV model, featuring the very best passenger comfort and driver assistance technologies such as 360 degree camera, automatic parking and remote engine start amongst many others.

Speaking at the new model's unveiling, Mr. Xue Tao added: "This partnership works so well because Geely Auto and Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive share the same philosophy: Guided by user needs, we create the ultimate driving experience for our customers. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the latest Geely model being launched here tonight, COOLRAY, an SUV that combines technology, intelligence and safety,

developed based on global consumer demand whilst taking into account the extreme environment of the region. In the future, we plan to introduce a desirable range of products to the Middle East market to meet different consumer needs. The key three pillars for these products will be technology, intelligence and safety. There is much more to come from Geely Auto in Kuwait, and I look forward to sharing it with you in the near future."

To further entice potential customers through the doors, any buyer purchasing a Geely vehicle will enjoy an unbelievable 15-year warranty, which only demonstrates the unfailing confidence that Geely Auto, and their partners in Kuwait, Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive, have in their products. New customers will also enjoy the benefit of a free 3-year service package to further sweeten the deal.





## Business

# KFH unveils Visa Infinite Metal Card with enhanced benefits

## The first-of-its-kind in Kuwait exclusively for private banking customers

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has issued the new KFH Visa Infinite Metal Card with enhanced benefits. The credit card is now available for all private banking customers of KFH, after being issued exceptionally to a specific customer segment. This comes as part of its efforts to continually expand its products and services to meet the modern lifestyle needs of its customers while offering them a wide array of rewards and sought-after benefits.

General Manager Private Banking at KFH, Abdullah Al-Mejhem, said: "Visa Infinite Charge Card is the ultimate Visa product, exclusively designed for private banking customers so they can live their life by their own rules."

He added in a press release, that the card will bring cardholders to a world of indulgences created to enhance even the most exceptional of lifestyles, travel, dining and



Abdullah Al-Mejhem

shopping opportunities. Also, it gives access to several airport lounges all around the world, and complimentary access to a concierge service that exists to satisfy every taste, in addition to an international support network for medical emergencies with foreign language support. Hotel offers with Agoda.com, Visa Luxury Hotel Collection, discounted Meet and Greet services at select interna-

tional airports, access to premium Global Blu Lounges across key locations in Europe to process VAT refunds, multi-trip Travel Insurance, global Customer Assistance Services and a plethora of other benefits.

He pointed out that the benefits have been offered to all private banking customers to meet the increasing demand for the advantages and services the card provides. Al-Mejhem indicated the Metal Card is offered free to private banking customers and is valid for 3 years, with automatic renewal thereafter.

He reiterated the Bank's excellence in offering cutting-edge services to its private banking customers, indicating KFH offers a wide range of solutions and benefits for luxurious lifestyle as per highest standards of service quality. The Bank optimally utilizes its resources for the best inter-

est of its customers. This helps in achieving the highest returns on Private Banking customers' investments.

Moreover, KFH works tirelessly to meet all requirements of its private banking customers by providing a highly qualified line-up of Relationship Managers who take great care of all customers' needs in ultimate privacy. Meanwhile, Ankush Devadason, Visa's Country Manager for Kuwait, said: "Visa is delighted to partner with KFH, a leader in premium financial products, to launch the KFH Visa Infinite Charge Card for the bank's private banking customers. We look forward to working closely with KFH to introduce more of such innovative offerings tailored to different segment of cardholders, so that they have access to convenient, secure, seamless and rewarding payment experiences."

## Gulf Bank's tenth monthly salary draw to be held tomorrow

**KUWAIT:** Tomorrow, Gulf Bank will be announcing the winner of its tenth monthly Salary Account draw at Gulf Bank's Head Office. The announcement will be approved by, and held in the presence of, a representative from the Ministry of Commerce.



Ahmad Al-Amir

"To date, we have had nine lucky winners of our monthly Salary Account draws, and we can't wait to see who is going to be the tenth," said Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank. "While the winner will be lucky enough to take home a cash prize up to 12 times their monthly salary, it's important to remember that with the Gulf Bank

Salary Account, everyone's a winner. Not only are customers automatically enrolled into the monthly and annual draws, but they can also avail interest-free loans, cash gifts, fee waivers, and many more rewards throughout the year."

The 2019 Kuwaiti Salary Offer automatically enrolls both existing and new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank in the monthly and annual draws. The monthly draws allow customers the chance to win cash prizes of up to 12 times their salary, while the yearly draw gives them the opportunity to win Kuwait's largest salary prize of up to 100 times their salary.

The Salary Account also gives new customers the opportunity to receive either a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest-free loan of up to KD 10,000. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and will be eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.

Customers can also enjoy additional benefits like a Visa or MasterCard credit card free of charge for a year, as well as a chance to apply for a loan of up to KD 70,000 or a consumer loan of up to KD 25,000.

## Petrol pumps shut down in protest-hit Lebanon over dollar shortage

**BEIRUT:** Several petrol stations in protest-hit Lebanon stopped services Saturday, as reserves ran dry due to a shortage of US dollars to pay suppliers, a syndicate head said. The shutting of petrol stations came as demonstrators again took to the street across the country, keeping up their three-week-long movement against a political class regarded as inefficient and corrupt.

"The petrol stations that opened today are the ones that still have reserves. They will close down as soon as supply runs out," said Sami Brax, the head of the Syndicate of Gas Station Owners.

He said if officials do not facilitate access to dollars by Tuesday, "we will be forced to stop imports and close down all petrol stations." Petrol stations receive payment from customers in Lebanese pounds but have to pay importers and suppliers in dollars. For two decades, the Lebanese pound has been pegged to the US dollar, with both currencies used interchangeably in daily life. But banks have been reducing access to dollars since the end of the summer, following fears of a shortage in central bank dollar reserves. In recent days, banks halted all ATM withdrawals in dollars and severely restricted conversions from Lebanese pounds. Many Lebanese have had to instead buy dollars from money changers at a higher exchange rate, in what amounts to a de-facto devaluation of the local currency that has sparked price hikes. The official exchange rate has remained fixed at 1,507 Lebanese



**BEIRUT:** A man withdraws cash from an ATM machine in the Lebanese capital Beirut yesterday. Several petrol stations in protest-hit Lebanon stopped services yesterday, as reserves ran dry due to a shortage of US dollars to pay suppliers, a syndicate head said. — AFP

pounds to the dollar, but the rate in the parallel market has surpassed 1,800. "The banks are under pressure from people, both inside Lebanon and abroad," said economist Naseeb Ghahreel, after many rushed to withdraw their dollar savings or convert Lebanese pound accounts.

Since September, petrol station owners have accused banks of failing to provide them with the dollars they need and threatened strikes. In response, the central bank last month pledged to facilitate access to the greenback for importers of petroleum products, wheat and medicine. But the measure has not yet gone into effect. Lebanon has since October 17 witnessed an unprecedented popular uprising against everything from power cuts and poor social security to alleged state corruption. The government yielded to popular pressure and stepped down last month, with the World Bank urging for the quick formation of a new cabinet to prevent the economy from further deteriorating. — AFP

## Work on ECB digital currency under way

**BRUSSELS:** Progress on the feasibility of a digital currency backed by the European Central Bank could be made in the coming months, senior officials said on Friday, cautioning that the project faced challenges and was for the long term. Plans for a European public digital currency have begun emerging after social media giant Facebook announced in June its blueprint for Libra, a private digital currency, which spooked regulators who have since raised concerns and said Facebook's project could be banned.

A public cryptocurrency would represent an alternative to Libra and other private projects, and could reduce costs of international transactions, which EU officials see as too high. Acknowledging it would take time to develop a

European public version of Libra, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told a news conference in Brussels: "The fact that it is for the long term does not prevent us from working and having results next year."

An ECB official told Reuters the euro zone's central bank was already working on the technical aspects of a digital currency and would present clarifications to European Union governments soon. EU finance ministers discussed the issue at a meeting in Brussels on Friday and are set to adopt a joint statement welcoming the ECB's work on the topic at their next gathering in December.

The EU's finance commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said Libra was a "wake-up" call that showed there are gaps in the offer for cheap and fast cross-border payments in Europe.

The ECB official said several options were being studied. Under the most ambitious plan, users of the new digital coin could open bank accounts directly at the ECB. That would cut transaction costs but would make existing banks and payment services largely redundant. Under a less radical option, banks could be given elec-

## AUB congratulates winners of Al-Hassad draw

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank announced on November 6, 2019 the winners of its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic account which is the very first draw account in Islamic banking in Kuwait that has reshaped the lives of thousands lucky winners. Al-Hassad has have over 850 prizes, over a 12 month period.

The weekly draw announced the grand prize winner of KD 10,000 as Hussain Abed Hreish.

20 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000. They are: Jameelah Mubarak Al-Daihani, Ali Abdulaziz Al-Qawsi, Khalid Adel Al-Arbeed, Mohammed Abdulhadi Al-Wazzan, Ali Eissa Hussain, Zaid Fahd Al-Zaid, Amal Eid Al-Sharekah, Esmail Saleh Al-Misri, Moneef Naser Al-Mutairi, Mohammed Hussain Hatim, Sarah Dheyaa Al-Shafa, Abdulaziz Salem Al-Rashed, Mohamed Abdulrasool Al-Halwachi, Salman Jaffar Yousif, Ramzi A. Alorayedh, Ramla A Redha Husain, Nawal A Hussain Saleh, Abbas Hasan Ali, Ahmed Qanber Abdulla, Moh'd Ebrahim Ahmed.

On the occasion Ahli United Bank congratulate its winning customers, and commented that there are many chances to win waiting for our customers. Draws are held every Wednesday at AUB Kuwait or AUB Bahrain depending on the draw plan. On public holidays, the draw is postponed to the next business day. Al-Hassad Islamic Account presents also 4 quarterly mega prizes of KD 250,000 that will help the lucky winners achieve their dreams and aspirations in addition the monthly draw to win a prize of KD 100,000.

tronic cash or tokens by the ECB which they could then distribute to their clients, the official said, stressing that work was under way and that several technical and legal challenges remained.

The ECB's policymaking Governing Council will meet next week for the first time under the presidency of Christine Lagarde, who replaced Mario Draghi at the beginning of this month. The official said that meeting could address the issue of a public digital currency in a session dedicated to future challenges.

The debate is at this stage focused on whether a public cryptocurrency is feasible or desirable, the official cautioned. In separate comments, Le Maire backed proposals from Germany's Finance Minister Olaf Scholz to link progress on a Europe-wide bank deposit guarantee scheme to banks' reduction of their exposure to sovereign debt. "It is not good that banks, be them German, Italian, French or Spanish, are too exposed to the sovereign debt of their country," Le Maire said, stressing these holdings should fall before the EU could implement a joint insurance scheme for savers. — Reuters

## Warba Bank announces winners of Al-Sunbula draws

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, held its weekly Sunbula draw number 42 and Sunbula Kids. The draws announced the 8 lucky winners in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and bank officials.

The bank proudly announced the weekly draw number 42 and 5 lucky winners of the KD 1000 prize: Muneerah Abdullateef Mohammad Al-Enezi, Mubarak Mohammad Mubarak Al-Dosari, Mohammad Fahad Salamah Al-Zoabi, Surour Ayedh Surour Al-Otaibi and Obaid Saad Obaid Al-Hajri.

Warba Bank has added Sunbula Kids Account for the first time to Sunbula Draws, it's an investment saving's account with promising competitive returns along with monthly draws with innovative prizes chosen carefully for the kids. The winners of this month are: The 1st winner of a trip to Dubai Parks is Abdulaziz Abdullah Fahad Al-Enezi, the 2nd winner of a one-year subscription at Flex is Dhamer Dahi Saleh Al-Shemmeri and the 3rd winner of a one-year subscription in one of the participated clubs is Rinad Faisal Nahar Al-Mutairi.

Al-Sunbula, both account and fixed deposits, are the perfect choices for customers who wish to save money and achieve steady returns while at the same time have the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year. In line with the bank's mission to develop and differentiate its offerings, Warba Bank has enhanced its Sunbula campaign for 2019 with more cash and prizes reaching more than KD 1 million. Warba Bank will continue its weekly draws for 5 winners of KD 1,000 each. What's new in 2019 are the "Mega Draws" which will be held every quarter to reveal five winners, the 1st winner will get KD 100,000! The four winners thereafter will each get the latest Land Cruiser VXR. Furthermore, the final Mega draw held in January 2020 will feature 2 more Land Cruiser VXRs!

## Germany's economic pain is here to stay

**FRANKFURT:** It was meant to be a fleeting slowdown for Europe's economic powerhouse, followed by a rapid rebound. Instead, Germany has been stuck in neutral for a year with hopes fading for a turnaround, a situation that threatens to spread lasting economic gloom across Europe.

Its vast industry is in recession, a victim of shifting consumer trends, China's economic rebalancing, and a global trade war. Investment spending is shrinking, sentiment is souring, job creation has stalled and productivity growth looks to have turned negative. Compounding the pain, what was thought to be an unfortunate coincidence of one-off factors has turned out to denote deeper structural problems that will keep Germany, and by extension, the 19-member eurozone, weak well into the next decade.

Exhibit A will be Thursday's release of third-quarter growth data, which is expected to confirm fears that Germany is in recession. Whether the actual figure is minus 0.1 percent, as a Reuters poll indicates, or merely shows a flat outcome, does not change the bigger picture.

"Germany is likely to remain in a zone between modest positive growth and slight GDP declines," Commerzbank economist Jorg Kramer said. "Once the downturn is over, however, there is unlikely to be a strong economic recovery ... the German export industry will suffer for a long time to come."

### Structural flaws

Germany's independent Council of Economic Experts delivered a similarly grim message just days ago: the good old

days are over and it's time to reform. Germany is slow to adopt new technology, investment is weak and barriers to starting new businesses are too high, said the five-person Council, whose members include Isabel Schnabel, soon to be a member of the European Central Bank's Executive Board.

Its rapidly ageing population helps keep productivity growth weak: because the labor market is shrinking and skilled workers are hard to come by, firms hoard labor even during downturns for fear they will struggle to hire during the rebound. Banks are of little help to the economy either. They operate with the highest costs in the eurozone and their combined return on equity in the second quarter was zero. This is a problem because banks restrict lending when the economy slows to save capital, exacerbating any recession. And with earnings already weak, they are unlikely to support the economy.

"Banks' low profitability poses risks to financial stability, because it hampers the build-up of equity and provides incentives to take excessive risks," the Council said.

Stimulus would appear timely given this environment but little more is likely to come. The ECB has already done almost all it could to lower borrowing costs. Indeed, the Bundesbank estimates the German state saved 368 billion euros in borrowing costs in the 10 years to the start of this year.

The government could use those savings to boost spending as it has one of the lowest debt levels in Europe. But in a country obsessed with running a balanced budget, meaningful fiscal stimulus is politically unacceptable. Berlin has long resisted calls for a big spending boost, arguing that an ageing population requires savings and that firepower must be preserved for a real crisis.

A surge in infrastructure investment would be problematic, anyway, as the construction sector is running at capacity, so it would struggle to absorb the extra cash. Such a grim outlook does not automatically translate into economic gloom for others,



**BRUSSELS:** New European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde (left) speaks with German Finance Minister and Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz as she arrives for her first Eurogroup finance ministers meeting at the European Council headquarters in Brussels on Friday. — AFP

and data on Friday showing German exports posted their biggest rise in almost two years in September offers a glimmer of light. But Germany is the top trading partner for most EU countries with value chains reaching well beyond borders.

Indeed, when the European Commission slashed its 2020 growth forecasts for Germany earlier this week, it also cut its projections for most EU countries. As the Commission put it, the bloc is at a crossroads: it could enter a recession, muddle through with a protracted period of low growth or find a way to rebound, seen now as the least likely outcome. The eventual direction depends very much on Germany.

### Powell, Tump

Besides German GDP data, US President Donald Trump's decision on car import tariffs will also be in focus. Having

already reached a deal with several major importers, the decision is essentially about whether to impose additional duties on cars from the EU, analysts say.

Any increase in car tariffs is likely to trigger immediate retaliation by Brussels, leading to a further escalation of a global trade war. US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell is also likely to make headlines when he testifies to Congress on the US economy on Wednesday. Having cut rates for the third time this year just days ago, Powell is unlikely to deviate from his recent message, which suggested a pause in any further easing. Powell said the Fed would stay put as long as incoming information about the economy was consistent with its outlook, a signal taken by markets to mean that the Fed, much like the ECB, would be on hold for some time to come. — Reuters



What's On

# LOYAC entrepreneurs visit Oman



Eleven LOYAC's young entrepreneurs (the winners in the KON program) recently spent a four-day excursion in Oman, from October 30 to November 2nd,

where they experienced leadership, self-reliance and learnt team work skills. In this regard, the excursion supervisor, Fajr Al-Qadeeri said that the adventure was highly

appreciated by the winners of the KON social entrepreneurship program that is brought to Kuwait in collaboration with Babson College in Boston, Babson College and

was sponsored by NBK as the platinum sponsor, ZAIN as the golden sponsor and Agility as the bronze sponsor. The program was hosted by AUK's ongoing education center.



## Peace Festival at Shaheed Park

For the second year in a row, the Cairo Steps band concluded its participation in the Peace Festival organized by LOAYC's Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA) at the Shaheed Park. The concert was held last Thursday in the presence of the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait, Tareq Al-Qouni, his spouse and LAPA's chairperson, Fare'a Al-Saqqaf.

The band included 11 musicians from Egypt, Germany and Iraq and the concert attracted a large audience. The Egyptian-German band played a number

of its best hits. Speaking on the occasion, the Egyptian ambassador expressed his appreciation for LAPA's activities and stressed that he is one of the biggest followers and admirers of its programs.

Also speaking on the occasion, the band founder, Bassem Darweesh said that the band was currently preparing a project with the Egyptian Opera orchestra which involves presenting oriental music with a western orchestra in a bid to reach and communicate with the world while preserving the core of oriental music and art.



## The Australian College of Kuwait hosts Bader Al Essa (Bo Nabeel)

The Teaching and Learning Center at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) hosted a seminar titled 'How to Find Your Passion' on Wednesday, October 30th 2019. The seminar was delivered by Mr. Bader Al Essa, known popularly as (Bo Nabeel), an entrepreneur and investor who dreams to see the youth at the highest level of creative development and achievement.

The objective of the event was to create an impact and help students to find their inner value and passion in order to continue their life successfully with a mission in mind. By pursuing and practicing their passion even on the smallest scale, they allow themselves to excel. During the seminar, Bader provided many

insightful and helpful tips about understanding the passion in life. The event was engaging and a lot of positive feedback was received from the audience, which were a mix of ACK students, staff and registered guests. The attendees highly interacted by asking questions on how to develop and succeed in what they are passionate about.

Rola Mourdaa, Manager of the Teaching and Learning Center, praised the content of the presentation and audience for participating. Stating that following your passion is an important prerequisite for success. "I believe the first step to invest in yourself is to find your passion. You will be extremely powerful when you focus on what excites you," said Mourdaa.





Health & Science

# As climate change hits crops, debate heats up over use of plant gene data

**ROME:** Rich and poor countries are at loggerheads over how to share benefits from genetic plant data that could help breed crops better able to withstand climate change, as negotiations to revise a global treaty are set to resume in Rome tomorrow. The little-known agreement is seen as crucial for agricultural research and development on a planet suffering rising hunger, malnutrition and the impacts of climate change.

"We need all the 'genetics' around the world to be able to breed crops that will adapt to global warming," said Sylvain Aubry, a plant biologist who advises the Swiss government. Rising temperatures, water shortages and creeping deserts could reduce both the quantity and quality of food production, including staple crops such as wheat and rice, scientists have warned. The debate over "digital sequence information" (DSI) has erupted as the cost of sequencing genomes falls, boosting the availability of genetic plant data, Aubry said. "A lot of modern crop breeding relies on these data today," he added. At the same time, the capability of machines to process vast amounts of that data to identify special crop traits such as disease resistance or heat tolerance has grown.

Pierre du Plessis, an African technical advisor on treaty issues, said companies and breeders can use DSI to identify the genetic sequence of a desired plant trait and send it by e-mail to a gene foundry that prints and mails back a strand of DNA. "Then you use gene-editing technology to incorporate that strand into a plant. So you have created a new variety without accessing the trait in biological form," he said. That process could enable businesses to circumvent the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which stipulates that the benefits derived from using material from species it covers -

including money and new technology - must be shared.

Developing states, which are home to many plant species such as maize and legumes used in breeding, hope to add digital sequence information to the treaty's scope.

This would force companies and breeders that develop new commercial crops from that data to pay a percentage of their sales or profits into a fund now managed by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The fund's resources are used to conserve and develop plant genetic resources - the basis of the foods humans eat - so that farmers, particularly in the developing world, can cope better with a warming climate.

Most wealthy nations, which are generally more active in seed production, argue digital information on plant genetics should be available to use without an obligation to share benefits. "There's almost no one still doing the old-fashioned, 'let's try it and see' breeding. It's all based on the understanding of genome and a lot of CRISPR gene editing creeping in," said du Plessis.

CRISPR is a technology that allows genome editing in plant and animal cells. Scientists say it could lead to cures for diseases driven by genetic mutations or abnormalities, and help create crops resilient to climate extremes. But developing nations and civil society groups such as the Malaysia-based Third World Network say companies that develop new crop varieties using this information could lock access to their critical traits using intellectual property rights.

**Science fiction?**

The treaty row emerged in late October when representatives of governments, the seed industry, research organizations and civil society attended a meeting at FAO headquarters in Rome.



said Thomas Nickson, who attended the Rome talks for the federation. "It is critical to have the information publicly available, especially for small companies in developing countries," he added. But Edward Hammond, an advisor to Third World Network, said small farmers needed support, and open access to plant data should not mean a "no-strings-attached free-for-all". "Resilience to climate change is being grown in the fields," he said. "Interesting and new varieties are appearing in the fields as they adapt. This is not coming from companies using new seeds."

**'Unfair system'**

Kent Nnadozie, secretary of the treaty, said if it were agreed the genetic data should be freely available, it would be mostly developed countries that had the capacity, resources and technology to put it to use. "The fear is that (this) perpetuates and reinforces an unfair system or... amplifies it," he said.

Concerns over increasing privatization and monopolization of food crops - which experts say threaten agricultural biodiversity - played a role in the treaty's origins. Its aim was to build a multilateral approach to access and exchange plant resources, with "fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use" as a means to address historical imbalances between farmers and seed companies. While breeders and seed firms rarely pay for the knowledge and genetic resources they source from farmers and indigenous peoples, farmers usually have to buy the seeds of the improved crop varieties businesses produce and sell. So far, more than 5.4 million samples of plant genetic resources have been transferred under the treaty between governments, research institutes and the private sector in 181 countries, its secretariat said. — Reuters

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DENTAL

These services include, but are not limited to, the below:

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- Orthodontics
- Surgeries & Procedures
- Endodontics / Restorative
- Teeth Whitening
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**Dr. Arwa Abdelkhalik**  
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Senior Registrar

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# CLINIC PAGE



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**Scope of clinical Practice.**

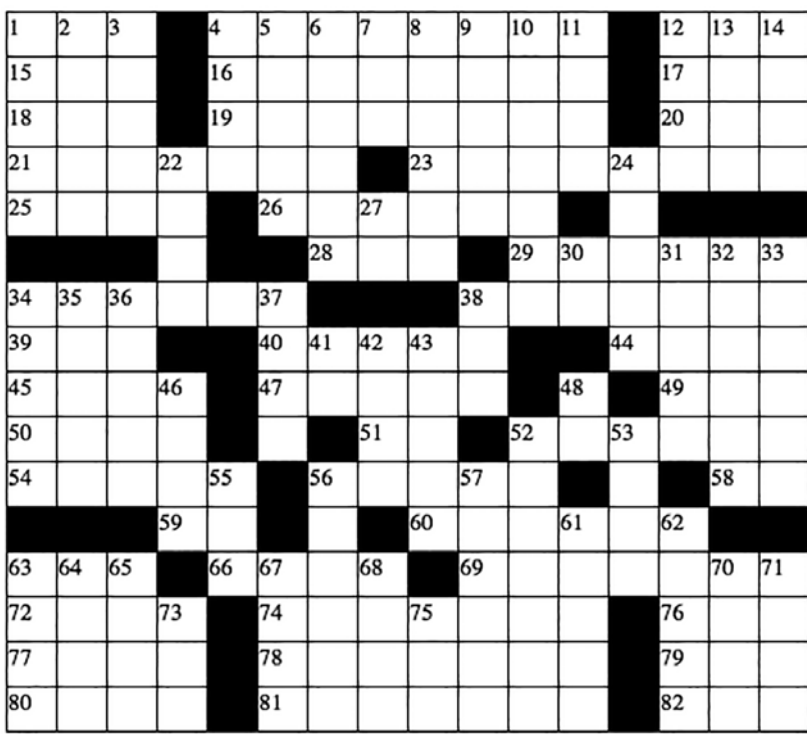
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Stars

CROSSWORD 2355



ACROSS

1. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
4. (of movement) At an angle.
12. (computer science) A computer that is running software that allows users to leave messages and access information of general interest.
15. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
16. Tarpons and ladyfishes.
17. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
18. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
19. Not absolute or complete.
20. The cry made by sheep.
21. Small genus of east African herbs.
23. A band worn around or over the head.
25. An informal term for a father.
26. The way in which someone or something is composed.
28. Resonance of protons to radiation in a magnetic field.
29. A unit of weight used in some Spanish speaking countries.
34. Deciduous dioecious Chinese tree having fan-shaped leaves and fleshy yellow seeds.
39. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
40. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
44. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
45. A caustic substance (Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>) produced by heating limestone.
47. (Welsh myth) The other world.
49. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
50. Advanced in years.
51. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
54. Mild form of diabetes mellitus that develops gradually in adults.
58. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
59. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
60. An embroidered rug made from a coarse Indian felt.
63. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
66. A law passed by US Congress to prevent employees from being injured or contracting diseases in the course of their employment.
69. A mask with a filter protects the face and lungs against poisonous gases.
72. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
74. The Bantu language of the Buganda people.
76. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
77. A collection of facts from which conclusions may be drawn.
78. A habitual liar (after a New Testament character who was struck dead for lying).
79. A barrier constructed to contain the flow of water or to keep out the sea.
80. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
81. An actor's portrayal of someone in a play.
82. A loose sleeved outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A doctor's degree in musical arts.
2. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
3. A burn caused by hot liquid or steam.
4. A member of a Slavic people who settled in Serbia and neighboring areas in the 6th and 7th centuries.
5. The part of the small intestine between the jejunum and the cecum.
6. A Hussar's jacket worn over the shoulders.
7. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
8. Wither, esp. with a loss of moisture.
9. A farewell remark.
10. A member of a North American Indian people of central Arizona.
11. A small hard fruit.
12. A small cake leavened with yeast.
13. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
14. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
22. Noisy talk.
24. A borough in Scotland.
27. A metric unit of length equal to 1000 meters (or 0.621371 miles).
30. A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.
31. The ending of a series or sequence.
32. When dried yields a hard substance used e.g. in golf balls.
33. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
35. Any of a group of heavenly spirits under the god Anu.
36. Given or having a specified name.
37. Toward the mouth or oral region.
38. (of light) Lacking in intensity or brightness.
41. An associate degree in nursing.
42. English prelate noted for his pessimistic sermons and articles (1860-1954).
43. Two items of the same kind.
46. Edible starchy tuberous root of taro plants.
48. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
52. The ninth month of the Moslem calendar.
53. A signal transmitted along a narrow path.
55. A unit of conductance equal to the reciprocal of an ohm.
56. Tropical American feather palm whose large nuts yield valuable oil and a kind of vegetable ivory.
57. A building where prostitutes are available.
61. Small shrubby African tree having compound leaves and racemes of small fragrant green flowers.
62. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
64. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
65. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
67. A blow from a flat object (as an open hand).
68. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
70. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
71. God of love and erotic desire.
73. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
75. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are a very strong speaker and will communicate just what is needed. Words just flow out and you have the attention of an audience, co-workers or authority figures. An emotional impact will bring the subject matter home to your listeners. Everyone knows you are a born doer with an incredible drive to accomplish and achieve in most circumstances. Be careful not to allow others to take advantage of you just now. Your ambitions are backed up by the will to get things done. You can be very emotional and others might find you a bit aggressive. You try hard and you tend to push forward in order to reach your goals.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You cannot help but overindulge today. This does not necessarily mean food. You enjoy challenges and put yourself in the line of fire often. Although you are not dangerous to yourself or others, you do enjoy overcoming difficult situations. Most people look at problems with great dread but you look at problems as the next challenge to test your skills. You have a natural sense of organization and may come across as being a little too sober in the workplace. When it comes to friends you enjoy the interaction between people. You are always available to help others but you enjoy the contact that brings about laughter, jokes and cheerful chatter.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a time during which you are unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unexpected backing-your efforts will be successful. You could have new heights of creativity. You may feel that you can take on any projects after this but remember that life and the current energies seem to enjoy testing us with new things so that we don't always walk away the winner. You should walk in humble ways and just quietly know that you will be able to achieve most anything that is placed in your path. This is also a good time for public relations-you will accomplish much. There is a satisfaction that comes with helping others. You influence people through your optimism. Enjoy some laughter tonight!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your talents are clearly measurable. You can expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. The original Sherlock Holmes, you are able to find information and all kinds of secrets. You are research oriented and security minded. The boss or the customer may become much more interested in your talents today. With a shrewd and penetrating mind, you enjoy mental effort and discipline. You could be working long and hard with some project this afternoon. If you are a student, you will find your studies quite interesting. An instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of you is emphasized now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life. You could gain from subordinates or young people at this time. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in projects and in all aspects of your life. There is time today to clear away any unfinished business. A few opportunities arise for you to help guide others in the right direction, and you have a good attitude about interruptions. This is a good time: good fortune and plain old luck surround you. As you make correct decisions, find the right path and move forward where career and success are concerned, it is time to turn to the personal side of life. Use exercise and physical activity as a means to release any tension and find ways to laugh.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A lot of energy goes into getting things scheduled and organized. Now is the time to make that outward push to increase your income. This is the best time you will have to make progress, push forward and rise to prominence. It will be hard for you to do wrong, for all the cycles are working in your favor. This is also a time when you may marry or take on a new role in the community or with other people. You will be in demand and recognition is inevitable. This is a time during which things will come to you easily. You may find yourself wanting to shoulder more responsibilities connected with your family, neighborhood or personal business affairs. Friends and a social life are in order-an easy and untroubled life can be enjoyed.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your career decisions may need a little more organization and self-discipline-you will be happy with the results of this effort. You will find a great deal of improvement in your abilities to respond and gain insight. New habits are developed successfully at this time. You may have enough work time now to plan ahead for a vacation. You may enjoy chatting with your co-worker friends about some of their vacation choices. Making money and multiplying what you have are not only fun but also great habits to get into, and you are good at them. You may find requests from friends for advice on money. To prepare for the worldwide changes that you will be involved in the rest of this year, increase your network of friends.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues this morning. You are working within your limitations instead of feeling hemmed in by them. You may be well-advised to accept the counsel of others concerning decisions relating to your career or life path. Careful-there could be a tendency to go too far, expand too fast and overindulge. Counseling will make it easier for you to understand the areas in which adjustments could be made. Enjoy the progress you are now making! There are emotional beginnings and that feeling of a fresh start-perhaps the establishment of new habit patterns-or just getting rid of old ones.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It may seem like it is forever before you find the answers you need in the workplace today. Your sense of humor is what sees you through as the delays may be outside your control. Customers are rushed-perhaps because of the weather. Many subjects need your attention. One thing at a time and you will be where you need to be. Looking at customers and smiling with the answer they like to hear is supreme. Customers love to hear the words that say you appreciate their patience, etc. You are well-regarded for your attempts to respond quickly to others and remain polite during the frustrations.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find that the foggy thinking has lifted, and with a little research you will be able to find the foods, atmosphere or conditions that may have caused the difficulty. This new information will help you understand and correct any physical problems that may exist. You may soon have the opportunity to consider a part-time job. If you can swing it for a temporary assignment, it might just work out to your benefit. You successfully set out to make new friends and go to new places this evening. Be prepared to mingle with some very important people who can give you hopes a big boost.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Successful career moves may demand conformity and cost you personal freedom, perhaps toning down a few of your unconventional habits. A kind of magic seems to dawn in your life now. Prosperity and security take center stage in your thinking and you are determined to work hard for the financial results that you seek. You excel as a social being and should make a career out of your deep-seated interest in other people, partnerships and relationships. Strengthen your mastery of difficult problem-solving details. This is a month where you can pull a few strings and gain help from your co-worker friends or your other friends.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are riding a high now in terms of taking advantage of the changes that are happening in your life. It is important that you secure any advances you have made recently. In other words, call to confirm things like hard-to-get appointments, price quotes, analysis results, recommendations, etc. There is a change of direction for you, away from the material and glitter, toward inner needs and security. You will find yourself more concerned with maintaining and strengthening your position, rather than pushing outward. This time should be easy and filled with opportunities and friendships. Enjoy them. More demanding times will be coming a little further down the road. Be sure to set aside some prime time for your sweetheart this evening.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Movies: Science Fiction 2

Find and circle all of the Science Fiction movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional Science Fiction movie.

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|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| AEON FLUX    | FREQUENCY    | OUTBREAK   | SPECIES      |
| ALIEN NATION | GAMER        | OUTLAND    | SPHERE       |
| ALIENS       | GODZILLA     | PANDORUM   | STAR TREK    |
| ARMAGEDDON   | HULK         | PREDATOR   | SUNSHINE     |
| AVATAR       | INCEPTION    | PUSH       | SUPERMAN     |
| CLOVERFIELD  | IRON MAN     | RED PLANET | THE ABYSS    |
| DARK STAR    | JUMPER       | ROLLERBALL | TIMECOP      |
| DEATH RACE   | KING KONG    | SCANNERS   | TIMECRIMES   |
| DEJA VU      | KNOWING      | SERENITY   | TRANSFORMERS |
| DONNIE DARKO | MEN IN BLACK | SIGNS      | WATCHMEN     |
| FLATLINERS   | MIMIC        | SLEEPER    | ZARDOZ       |
| FREEJACK     | MOON         | SLITHER    |              |

Movies: Science Fiction

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|----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| ALIEN          | FANTASTIC VOYAGE | ROBOCOP           | TERMINATOR   |
| BLADE RUNNER   | FLASH GORDON     | SCANNERS          | THE ABYSS    |
| BODY SNATCHERS | FLATLINERS       | SHIVERS           | THE FLY      |
| BRAZIL         | FORBIDDEN PLANET | SILENT RUNNING    | THE MATRIX   |
| COCONO         | FRANKENSTEIN     | SOLARIS           | THEY LIVE    |
| CONTACT        | GATTACA          | SOYLENT GREEN     | TOTAL RECALL |
| CUBE           | INDEPENDENCE DAY | SPIDER-MAN        | TRACERS      |
| DARK CITY      | JURASSIC PARK    | STAR WARS         | TRON         |
| DEEP IMPACT    | LOGAN'S RUN      | STARGATE          | VIDEODROME   |
| DUNE           | MAD MAX          | STARMAN           | WESTWORLD    |
| EQUILIBRIUM    | METROPOLIS       | STARSHIP TROOPERS |              |

Hidden movie: THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI ACROSS THE EIGHTH DIMENSION

Friday's Solution

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

Daily Sudoku

|   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|   |  | 1 | 6 |   |   | 9 |   |  | 2 |  |
| 2 |  |   | 7 | 3 |   |   | 6 |  |   |  |
|   |  | 9 |   |   | 7 | 1 |   |  |   |  |



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019



Indonesian students participate in a carnival to celebrate the country's 74th Independence Day, in Banda Aceh on August 18, 2019. — AFP

## Generation Z taunts old-timers with 'OK boomer' jibe

Call it an eye-roll from the "snowflakes" to the old-timers they blame for climate change and student debt. "OK boomer" is the new rallying cry for Generation Z, and the meme-friendly putdown is suddenly everywhere. "The reason it's resonating so well with Gen Z kids right now is that it's such a simple, short response, and it's not aggressive," explains 18-year-old Nina Kasman, who sells "OK boomer" goods on Redbubble.com.

"It's passive. It means I'm not going to give you a full response because we know boomers haven't been listening to full explanations anyway," the student tells AFP. "OK boomer" has become the retort of choice for Gen Z kids exasperated with the views of their elders — and a potent pushback at those who dismiss today's youth as easily offended "snowflakes."

It is fueling countless memes on video app TikTok, emblazoning hoodies and t-shirts, and was even used by a member of New Zealand's parliament this week, forcing the older establishment to take notice. "Boomer" is shorthand for baby boomers, a term used to describe people born during the uptick in birthrates that followed World War II. It generally means any-

one born between 1946 and the mid-1960s when the United States enjoyed considerable prosperity. But "OK boomer" refers to "a certain mindset," not specifically the age group, says Kasman, who attends Northern Illinois University. "People who are older who are fighting for the environment — those people are not necessarily boomers in this context," she adds.

### Climate protests

The pithy phrase took off early this year as a comeback to older social media users, mostly white males, who attack the "safe spaces" and "trigger warnings" promoted by many young people in the name of inclusiveness and respect. "We're just kind of tired of being put down for the things that the younger generation enjoys or believes in," says 19-year-old Everett Solares, who blames boomers for some of the ills affecting her generation. "We're trying our best to bounce back from it," adds the University of Alabama student. Generation Z roughly refers to those born after 1997. Millennials, also known as Generation Y, describes the group that came before — those



William Shatner



Teenage Swedish activist Greta Thunberg attends a climate action rally in Los Angeles.

roughly born between 1981 and 1996.

Both groups are regularly said to be paying the price for the excesses of their parents' and grandparents' generations, when education was cheap, car ownership soared, and it was easier to find a job and buy a house. "It was possible to put yourself through college on a minimum wage job when the boomers were going to college, but that's incredibly impossible now," says Kasman. "We're pretty upset about it." Generation Z — to which climate activist Greta Thunberg belongs — has been driving massive environmental protests around the world calling on adults to act to save the planet for future generations.

Thunberg regularly accuses older people of choosing to ignore scientists who largely agree that manmade warming is leading to a climate emergency. Twenty-five-year-old New Zealand MP Chloe Swarbrick used "OK boomer" this week when she hit back at another politician who heckled her during a speech about climate change. The catchphrase gained mainstream traction last month when it was featured in *The New York Times* — and has triggered plenty of heated online debate with some older people retaliating.

### Death knell?

Star Trek actor William Shatner, who at 88 is not a boomer, called the jibe a "childish insult" after a Twitter user directed it at him.

Instagram test of hiding 'likes' spreading to US

Instagram chief Adam Mosseri on Friday said that a test of hiding "likes" at the image and photo sharing social network will spread to the US. "Heads up! We've been testing making likes private on Instagram in a number of countries this year," Mosseri said in a tweet. "We're expanding those tests to include a small portion of people in the US next week."



Facebook in September confirmed it is dabbling with no longer making a public display of how many "likes" are racked up by posts. Such a change could ease pressure to win approval with images, videos or comments and, instead, get people to simply focus on what is in the posts. Facebook-owned Instagram earlier this year announced it was testing hiding like counts and video view tallies in more than a half-dozen countries, with account holders still able to see the numbers but masking amounts from others.

Twitter has also experimented with hiding numbers of times tweets were "liked" or "retweeted," according to product lead Kayvon Beykpour. Twitter found that people engaged less with tweets when they couldn't see the counts. "When you remove engagement indicators, people engage less," Beykpour said while briefing journalists at Twitter headquarters in San Francisco earlier this year. — AFP





# 'Fearless' Charlize Theron honored by Hollywood

Charlize Theron was honored by Hollywood Friday for a "fearless" career in which she tackled themes including sexual harassment long before the #MeToo movement up-ended the industry. The 44-year-old South African Oscar-winner, who has often played down her flawless looks to win darker, more complex parts, collected the prestigious American Cinematheque Award at a Beverly Hills gala.

"I'm overwhelmed — I need a cocktail!" she said as stars including Kristen Stewart, Seth Rogen, and David Oyelowo gathered to honor her career. "These people who are here tonight have been with me through a lot of stuff." Theron won the best actress Academy Award in 2004 with her turn as prostitute and serial killer Aileen Wuornos in "Monster." She earned Hollywood's respect with a visceral performance which saw her pack on 30 pounds and render herself unrecognizable with makeup and prosthetics to play the unapologetic murderer.

"She is the most fearless actor I've ever worked with, and probably the most fearless human being I've ever met," said Jason Reitman, who directed Theron in "Young Adult" and "Tully." Next month Theron appears in another transformative role — as former TV anchor Megyn Kelly in



Charlize Theron speaks onstage during the 33rd American Cinematheque Award Presentation Honoring Charlize Theron.

"Bombshell," which depicts the downfall of Fox News co-founder Roger Ailes after a sexual harassment scandal. "When I read (the script) it felt like it was part of a conversation that was happening now. And that to me, felt really important," she said.

In contrast, her 2005 turn as a miner who files the United States' first class-action sexual harassment lawsuit in "North Country" came at a time when Hollywood turned a blind eye to such issues. Back then there was a sense that sexual harassment "was in the past and that it's been dealt with," said Theron. The part earned her a second Oscar nod. A decade later, the #MeToo movement swept through Hollywood.

Theron was born in the small South African town of Benoni in 1975. When she was 15, her mother shot and killed her father after he attacked them in a drunken rage. Her mother was never charged. Theron arrived in Los Angeles as a teenager in the 1990s speaking only broken English — her first language is Afrikaans. She was discovered by a talent scout in a bank, and broke into Hollywood's elite with "The Devil's Advocate" (1997), alongside Keanu Reeves and Al Pacino. Theron has since mixed commercial films such as the "Fast and Furious" franchise with tougher, less conventional roles. The American Cinematheque Award is a "mid-career achievement award," with previous honorees including Al Pacino, Tom Cruise, and Steven Spielberg. — AFP



(L-R) Seth Rogen, Charlize Theron, and Seth MacFarlane attend the 33rd American Cinematheque Award Presentation Honoring Charlize Theron and The 5th Annual Sid Grauman Award Presented by Hill Valley to Adam Aron on behalf of AMC Theatres at The Beverly Hilton Hotel. — AFP



US rappers Tyler, the Creator (L) and ASAP Rocky attend the WSJ Magazine 2019 Innovator Awards at MOMA on November 6, 2019 in New York City. — AFP

## US rapper A\$AP Rocky to return to Sweden after ruling

New York rapper A\$AP Rocky will return to Sweden for a concert, its promoter said Friday, despite an assault conviction that sparked diplomatic tensions and fan fury. "After massive support from the Swedish fans he is returning to Stockholm for an anticipated concert," entertainment company Live Nation said in a statement.

The event is scheduled for December 11 at the Ericsson Globe arena. The 31-year-old rapper, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, was arrested on July 3 following a street fight in Stockholm on June 30 in which he and his entourage were embroiled with a 19-year-old plaintiff. Considered a "flight risk", Mayers was held in custody for a month while the case was investigated and throughout his trial.

But he was released after the close of proceedings on August 2, pending the verdict, and immediately returned to the United States. In mid August the Stockholm District Court announced it had found him, along with two members of his entourage, guilty and handed them suspended sentences. Part of the brawl was captured in a video, published by US celebrity news outlet TMZ, where the rapper can be seen throwing a young man to the ground and aiming several punches at him while he is down.

## LGBTQ characters on US TV at all time high

Shows like "Batwoman," "Pose," and "Euphoria" have brought the number of lesbian, gay and transgender characters on US television to a record high, helping to accelerate acceptance of sexual diversity in wider society, according to a report issued on Friday. Advocacy group GLAAD said that LGBTQ characters made up 10.2% of prime-time series regulars on traditional network television. That was the highest percentage in the 15 years that the organization has been tracking numbers and a 1.4% increase over the previous year.

Adding in those with recurring roles in the 2019-2020 television season now underway, GLAAD calculated that there are now 488 LGBTQ characters in scripted television series on broadcast, cable and streaming platforms in the United States. "Shows like, 'Pose', 'Schitt's Creek,' 'Batwoman,' and 'Billions' demonstrate that not only are

LGBTQ stories and characters on television becoming more diverse, but also that viewers everywhere continue to respond with extreme positivity," GLAAD President Sarah Kate Ellis said in a statement.

The numbers of lesbian and transgender characters showed a particularly strong rise, thanks largely to upcoming series "The L Word: Generation Q," "Batwoman" which featured the first lesbian superhero, and the upcoming "9-1-1: Lone Star" spinoff, which will feature a black transgender male actor. GLAAD said that according to recent opinion polls, less than one quarter of Americans say they personally know someone who is transgender.

"This is why it is so important that Hollywood be inclusive of trans characters which reflect the full diversity of the community, and that they tell a wide range of stories," the report said. GLAAD had called on the TV industry to reach 10% LGBTQ characters by 2020. With that goal already surpassed, the group raised its target and called on the makers of television shows to ensure that 20% of regular characters on prime-time scripted series are LGBTQ by 2025. — Reuters

## Georgia far-right protest at gay film premiere

Hundreds of far-right activists burned a rainbow flag and cried "Shame!" during a protest in the Georgian capital against an Oscar-nominated Swedish-Georgian gay-themed film which premiered amid a heavy police presence. Set in Georgia, "And Then We Danced" — Sweden's official Oscar submission in the best international feature film category — is a love story about two male dancers in Georgia's national ballet company.

The drama has won worldwide critical acclaim but was denounced by the Caucasus country's influential Orthodox Church as an "affront to the traditional Georgian values". In front of the Amirani cinema in the capital Tbilisi, the anti-gay protesters chanted "Long live Georgia!" and "Shame!". They burned the rainbow flag as an Orthodox priest recited a prayer. The interior ministry said 11 protesters were arrested for "disobeying police".

The cinema, which had earlier posted a video on Facebook of policemen checking the cinema's seats with sniffer dogs, let ticket holders inside for the evening premiere showing and then shut the doors. "Georgian folk dance is an epitome of the Georgian spiritual values, we will not let them defile our national traditions," said one of the far-right protesters, 35-year-old housewife Teona Gogava. Maka Kiladze, a 40-year-old choreographer who was among the audience in the cinema, said: "There is huge interest towards the film in Georgia. It's anomaly that we have to face an angry mob to attend a film screening".

### 'Dark times'

Earlier this week, Sandro Bregadze, a former junior minister in the ruling Georgian Dream party's government, said his nationalist Georgian March group would not allow the film to be screened in Tbilisi, calling it "propaganda of sodomy". Levan Vasadze, a Georgian businessman with links to Russia's anti-Western and far-right groups, said his supporters will "enter screening rooms in the six cinemas in Tbilisi and turn off the projectors," also vowing to "shove back police if need be".

"Some far right groups and the Church have



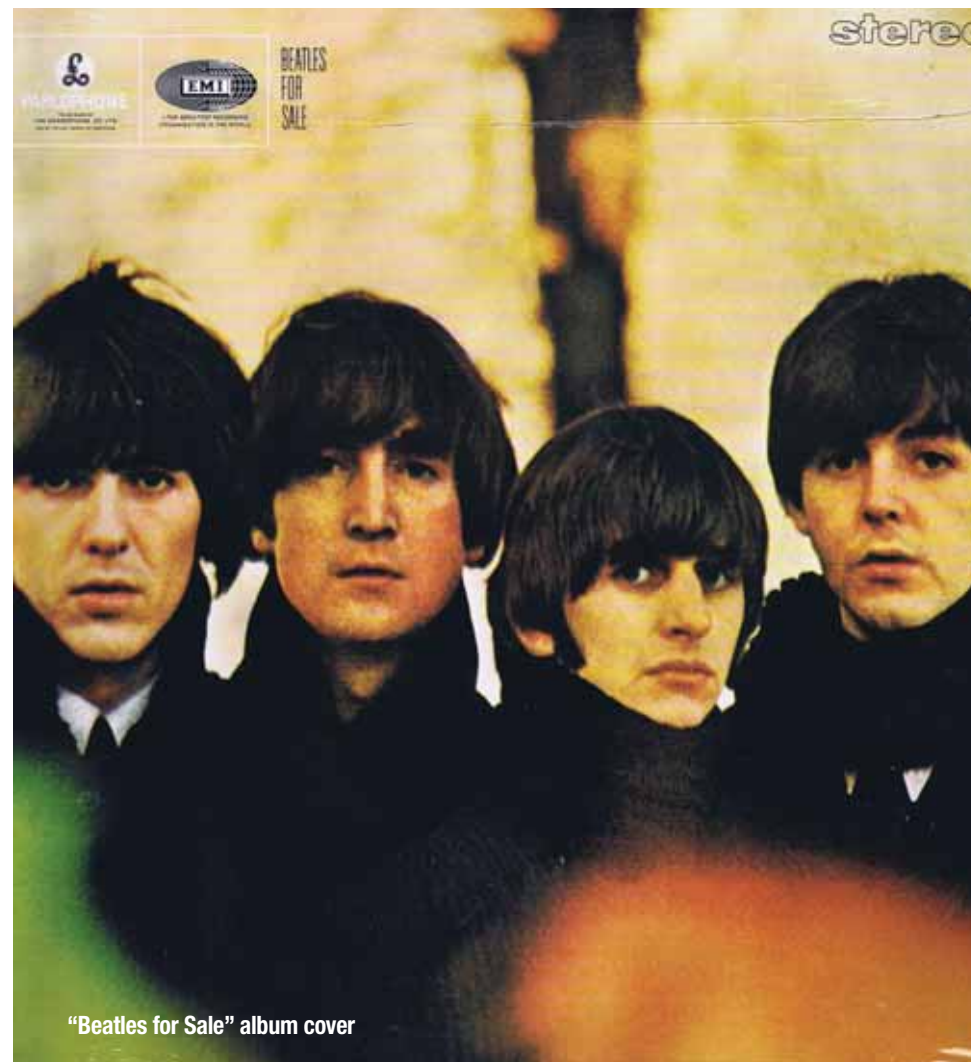
Georgian police officers stand guard in front of the Amirani cinema as far-right activists protest against the premiere screening of an Oscar-nominated Swedish-Georgian gay film in Tbilisi. — AFP

basically condemned the film and are planning to stop people from entering the sold out screenings," the film's director Levan Akin, a Swede with Georgian roots, wrote on his Facebook page earlier Friday. These are "dark times we live in," he wrote, adding that it is important to "stand up against these shadowy forces in any way we can".

Georgia's interior ministry issued a statement, promising to ensure "the protection of public safety and order, as well as the freedom of self-expression". "We address everyone: obey the law. Otherwise, police will use their lawful mandate and suppress unlawful acts immediately," the statement said. Homosexuality is still highly stigmatized in Georgia, a socially conservative Black Sea nation where the immensely influential Orthodox Church has previously clashed with Western-leaning govern-

ments over social issues.

Homosexuality was banned in Georgia after the country was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1921. After the Soviet Union's collapse, the ban was not enforced, but officially homosexuality was only decriminalized in 2000, with anti-discrimination laws adopted in 2006. Critics of the ruling Georgian Dream party have accused the government of giving tacit support to homophobic and nationalist groups which traditionally support the party in elections and have staged protest rallies against pro-Western opposition parties. — AFP



"Beatles for Sale" album cover

## Iconic Beatles album cover photographer Freeman dies

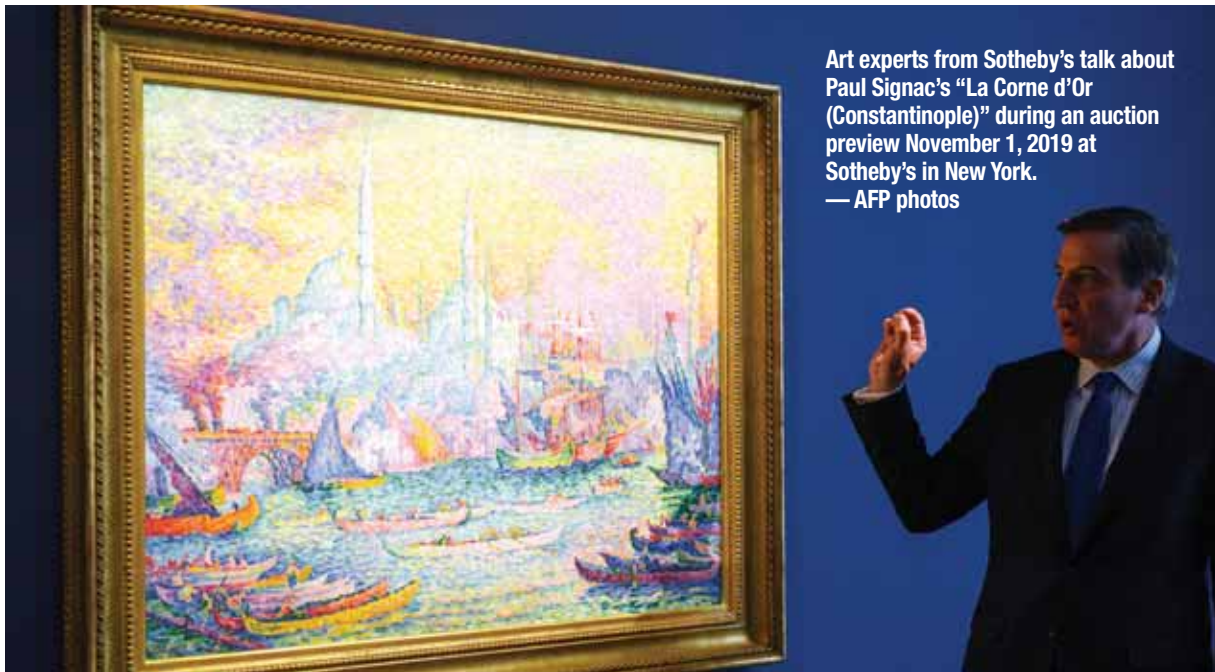
Photographer Robert Freeman, who helped define the Beatles' mop top look on their early album covers, has died, the legendary Liverpool band said Saturday. He was 82. "Besides being a great professional he was imaginative and a true original thinker," Paul McCartney wrote in a blog post. "I will miss this wonderful man but will always cherish the fond memories I have of him."

Freeman's photographs first made the covers of the quartet's "Meet the Beatles!" and "Beatles for Sale" albums, which came out at the height of the Beatlemania that swept the world in the mid-1960s. For the slightly comical cover of "Help!", John Lennon, McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr were meant to spell out the title in flag semaphore. Freeman decided to rearrange their arm positions to give the cover a better look, with the group spelling out gibberish in the end — but it hardly hurt sales.

On "Rubber Soul", the slightly distorted look of the band's portrait foreshadowed the psychedelic era that was to define both the band's later sound and the late 1960s. In his blog, McCartney explained that it was created by accident when a card the picture was being projected onto fell backwards, warping the image. McCartney said Freeman assured the band he could reproduce the exact same image on the cover. "God bless Robert Freeman," Ringo Starr tweeted. "Peace and love to all his family." — AFP



Lifestyle | Features



Art experts from Sotheby's talk about Paul Signac's "La Corne d'Or (Constantinople)" during an auction preview November 1, 2019 at Sotheby's in New York. — AFP photos



A journalist views Willem de Kooning's "Untitled XXII" during an auction preview November 1, 2019 at Sotheby's in New York.

## Missing some stars, New York auctions push lesser-known artists

New York's fall auctions will highlight lesser known artists next week as the market searches for diversity amid an absence of works set to make astronomical amounts. Christie's set a record price for a living artist during its spring sale this year, two years after selling Leonardo de Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" for \$450 million, the most expensive artwork ever sold.

Unless there is an unexpected surge in interest neither Christie's nor Sotheby's are likely to get anywhere near the crazy highs that they have set over the past three years this time around. Instead, the sales, which begin on Monday, are expected to set individual records for artists with lower profiles, with a number of rare works that have never before been offered to the public hitting the auction block.

Auctioneers at Christie's are particularly excited about "Hurting the Word Radio #2" by American pop-art artist Ed Ruscha, who has long lived in the shadow of the movement's leader, Andy Warhol. The 1964 painting — considered Ruscha's best work — is priced between \$30 million and \$40 million. "The market wants to know it has one of the best paintings which is a change from before when it was more like, 'Jeff Koons is hot, I have to have a Koons,'" said Alex Rotter, chairman of post-war and contemporary art at Christie's. "Now it's about, 'I'd rather have the best Ed Ruscha than an average Warhol,'" he added.

The previous record for a Ruscha, who lives in California, was \$30.4 million for "Smash" which sold at auction in 2014. Among the other highlights at Christie's this season is British painter David Hockney's "Sur la Terrasse", estimated to go for anywhere between \$25 million and \$45 million.

### Hockney

At Sotheby's the big sales are expected to be "Untitled XXII" by Willem de Kooning, priced between \$25 million and \$35 million, and Mark Rothko's "Blue Over Red", which has the same



Harry Santa-Olalla runs the auction during the Gilda's Club NYC 24th Annual Gala.

estimate. A proven selling point is the freshness of a lot of the paintings on offer. Hockney's painting, which features the same lover that is in "Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)" that sold last November at Christie's for \$90.3 million, has not been publicly exhibited since the early 1970s.

"It's important to have this fresh material. It's what generates excitement from buyers," said Johanna Flaum, head of post-war and contemporary art for Christie's in New York. Sotheby's is on a similar quest. This season it is offering "Charing Cross Bridge" by Claude Monet, estimated at between \$20 and \$30 million) and "Richard Gallo and his Dog at Petit Gennevilliers" by Gustave Caillebotte. Neither have been at auction before.

"You can't even say it made this much 20 years ago. You can't anchor it to anything and you can't have any expectations of a ceiling," said Julian Dawes, head of evening sales at Sotheby's in New York. "It's exciting. There's going to be price discovery," he added. In addition to Ruscha, the

Italian Piero Manzoni and France's Yves Klein, who all rarely make headlines, auction houses are diversifying their offerings. Women painters, mainly belonging to the abstract expressionist movement, continue their ascent.

### 'Transformation'

Lee Krasner's "Sun Woman I" sold for \$782,500 in 2011. On Thursday, it could reach ten times that price with a pre-sale estimate of between six and eight million dollars. "There is an incredible enthusiasm and demand for female artists right now," said David Galperin a senior vice president at Sotheby's. The sales will also feature African-American artists, among whom Jean-



A person looks at Frank Stella's "Gray Scramble IX (Single)" during a press preview on November 1, 2019, for the Christie's Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale in New York on November 13.



Guests participate in an auction during the Gilda's Club NYC 24th Annual Gala at The Pierre Hotel on November 07, 2019 in New York City.

Michel Basquiat is no longer the only reference.

This season Charles White and Norman Lewis are expected to set new benchmarks at auction. Less than a decade ago, they were selling for tens of thousands of dollars but could exceed \$1 million this time. "These are reappraisals. We're in this great moment of transformation right now and I think our sale reflects that," said Galperin.

Despite the lack of a superstar work of art and the threat of a global economic slowdown, Sotheby's and Christie's are entering the week with confidence. "We keep waiting for it (a downturn) and it doesn't happen," said Julian Dawes a Sotheby's senior vice president. "I feel a little bit of seller reluctance in the market," because they feel they might not get the best price, "but the buyers are there," said Rotter. — AFP



(L-R) Anna, Songwriter Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Olaf, songwriter Robert Lopez, and Elsa attend the world premiere of Disney's "Frozen 2" at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre on Thursday, November 7, 2019 in Hollywood, California. — AFP

## French ex-model accuses Polanski of raping her as a teen

A French former model and actress on Friday accused Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski, whose new film on the persecution of French Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus premieres next week, of raping her in a Swiss ski resort when she was a teenager. It is the latest accusation against the 86-year-old Polish-born director who fled to France in 1978 from the US after admitting the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl.

Valentine Monnier told Le Parisien newspaper that the alleged rape occurred in 1975 when she was 18 at Polanski's chalet in Gstaad. "I had no links with him, neither personal nor professional, and hardly knew him," Monnier, a former model who worked in New York, said. She said the alleged rape was "extremely violent", adding: "He pummeled me until I gave in and then raped me, making me do all sorts of things."

Monnier said she recounted what had happened to her that very night to two women who were also staying in Polanski's chalet: her best friend and another woman who became Polanski's girlfriend for four years. Both women were contacted by Le Parisien and confirmed Monnier's version. Monnier, who acted in a few films in the 1980s, said she had finally decided to speak out as Polanski's new film about an error of justice was due to come out.

Following the Harvey Weinstein scandal Monnier said she had written letters about the alleged rape to Los Angeles police and to French first lady Brigitte Macron. Polanski's lawyer Herve Temime said the director "firmly denies all accusations of rape," adding that the allegations "which date back 45 years have never been reported to judicial authorities".

Polanski has also been accused of sexual assault by others. In 2010, British actress Charlotte Lewis accused him of "sexually abusing" her in 1983 when she was 16. Another woman, identified only as Robin, accused him in August 2017 of sexual assault when she was 16 in 1973. In September 2017, former actress Renate Langer filed a new complaint alleging she had been raped by Polanski in 1972 when she was 15. — AFP



In this file photo taken on November 4, 2019 French Polish director Roman Polanski looks on stage after the preview of his last movie "J'accuse" (An Officer and a Spy) in Paris. — AFP



Male tiger Kan - one of the tigers that were seized on the Polish-Belarusian border - is seen in his temporary enclosure at the zoo in Poznan, Poland. — AFP

## Stranded tigers recovering in Polish zoos

Nine stranded tigers whose plight sparked a wave of public sympathy after they were found emaciated and dehydrated during an odyssey from Italy are slowly recovering after their rescue by two Polish zoos. The tigers endured a grueling journey through Europe last month during which a tenth feline died. But seven are now eating and have received vitamins and mineral salts at one of the zoos in Poznan, western Poland, an AFP photographer reported after a Friday visit.

Poznan zoo workers said the three males and four females are still stressed and aggressive and currently eating only half their customary five to six kilos daily diet of beef and horsemeat. Vets say the amount must be increased only incrementally after the animals endured several days with no food at all. Two others were housed in another zoo and are in a better condition. The zoos took them in after animal lovers started a fund to create a refuge for animals in distress which Poznan will host.

They hope to raise 1.4 million euros (\$1.6 million) and have gathered around a quarter of that sum by yesterday. Polish authorities said last week they had charged two Italian truck drivers and a Russian man believed to have organized the journey with animal abuse after a truck that set off from Italy on October 22 carrying the tigers got stuck for days on the border with Belarus. They were said to be bound for a zoo in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan. The truck drivers remain in Polish detention and their lorry has been impounded.

It remains unclear who owns the animals—the head of a breeding facility in Rome or the owners of the Dagestan zoo which was due to receive them as a gift. A Poznan zoo spokesman said it was out of the question for the tigers to be sent to either and that they would ultimately be transferred to a special facility in Spain run by Dutch association Animal Advocacy and Protection. The Poznan zoo had described the tigers as "emaciated, dehydrated, with sunken eyes, excrement stuck to their fur, urine burns, in a total state of stress, without the will or desire to live" when they were discovered. According to animal rights organizations, only between 3,200 and 3,900 tigers live in the wild around the world. Another 7,000 are held in captivity, mainly in Asia. — AFP

## 'Lion King' lifts Disney as streaming costs stay under budget

Walt Disney Co's popular theme parks and a remake of "The Lion King" pushed earnings past Wall Street targets on Thursday, and the company spent less than it had projected on its big plunge into streaming entertainment. Shares of Disney rose more than 5% to \$140.77 in after-hours trading.

Disney is trying to transition from a cable TV leader to a powerhouse in the crowded streaming video market dominated by Netflix Inc. The family-friendly digital entertainment service, Disney+, is set to debut on Tuesday. Excluding certain items, Disney earned \$1.07 per share for the quarter that ended in September, above average analyst estimates of 95 cents per share, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

Disney+ will initially stream in the United States, Canada and the Netherlands. On Nov 19, it will debut in Australia and New Zealand, followed by several countries in western Europe on March 31, Chief Executive Bob Iger said. "We're making a huge statement about the future of media and entertainment and our continued ability to thrive in this new era," Iger told analysts on a conference call.

The Disney+ app will be accessible via a wide range of smart TVs, mobile phones

and streaming devices, including Amazon.com Inc's Fire TV devices and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and LG Electronics Inc products, Iger said. The company is spending heavily to compete for digital viewers. Disney's direct-to-consumer and international unit, which also includes ESPN+ and Hulu, reported an operating loss of \$740 million from July through September, up from \$340 million the previous year, but less than the \$900 million that Disney had forecast.

Seeking a broad audience of all ages, Disney+ will offer a deep library of TV shows and movies from Disney, Pixar Animation, Marvel Studios, the "Star Wars" franchise and the National Geographic Channel, plus original programming such as a new "High School Musical" series and a remake of "Lady and the Tramp." It will cost \$7 per month, less than the \$13 for Netflix's most popular plan. Edgier adult programming will go to Hulu, including shows from FX Networks starting in March, Iger said. FX on Hulu will feature every season of more than 40 FX original series spanning the past 17 years, such as "Fargo" and "American Horror Story." — Reuters



## Lifestyle | Gossip



## Tyler Perry was 'running from poverty'

**T**he 50-year-old star - who is now one of the best-paid men in the entertainment industry - has admitted that his relentless work ethic stems from his modest beginnings in New Orleans. Tyler - who has been with his partner, model Gelila Bekele, since 2009 - shared: "For 10, maybe 15 years, I got lost in the madness of it. I didn't want to date, I didn't want kids, I didn't want anything until I'd reached a place where I felt financially comfortable. I was running from poverty." Asked whether he now

feels financially comfortable, he told the Times newspaper: "No, I still feel unsafe, like I'm still too close to it. "I know, it's crazy. I could stop working right now, live the rest of my life and never have to worry about a penny, but I still feel like I'm not far enough away." Despite his fame and influence, Tyler doesn't have any desire to move into the political world. The filmmaker said his attitude towards politics is similar to that of his showbiz pal Oprah Winfrey, who has also been urged to become more involved in decision-making. He

explained: "For the same reason Oprah wouldn't: the nastiness of it, the dirtiness of it, the lies. "Everyone who goes into it who really wants to do good gets eaten alive. It's just such a dark and nasty business, especially right now - I've never seen anything like this in my 50 years. "It would cost too much for my soul, life, spirit. I watched first-hand what Michelle and Barack went through. Seeing the toll that took on them, I wouldn't wish that on anybody."

## Elizabeth Banks' husband is the 'strongest supporter' of her career

**T**he 45-year-old actress-and-director says her spouse Max Handelman - a financier with whom she co-founded her production company Brownstone Productions - has "saved" her in "all possible" ways and was the person who gave her the confidence to step behind the camera and helm movies. She said: "Max was the first person to believe in me as a director and he is my strongest supporter. He's saved me in all possible ways. "So much of your happiness depends on the person you are with and my husband and I are always side-by-side because we run our production company together. "Max's belief in me has never wavered and I am driven to accomplish as much as I can because I want him to be proud of me." Elizabeth - who made her directorial debut on 'Pitch Perfect 2' - and has helmed the upcoming 'Charlie's Angels' reboot - also

feels very lucky she has a flexible job that allows her a lot of time off with her sons, Magnus, eight, and six-year-old Felix. Speaking to Psychologies magazine, she said: "We have help at home and I'm lucky that I have a job where, after I come back from working on a film set for lengthy periods, I get to stay for several months and be with my children. "I have a good friend who works at the Department of Justice and she leaves her kids early in the morning and comes home late in the evening which, I think, is much harder. "I spend a lot of time looking after my two young children. I love being a mother and everything that comes with raising a happy family. I've adapted pretty well to managing my time.

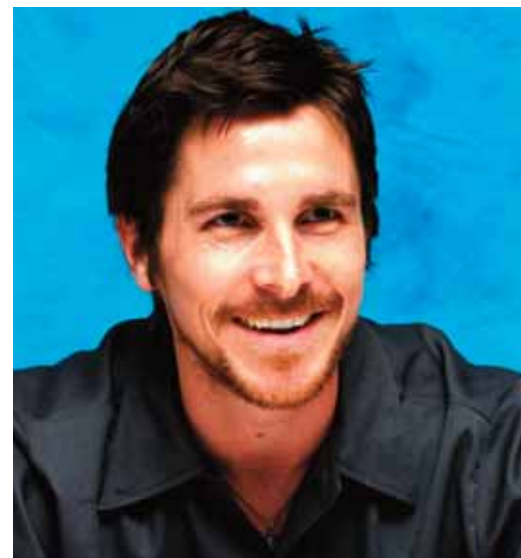
## Bale done with shedding weight for his roles

**T**he Oscar-winning star - whose weight has fluctuated dramatically during his movie career - has revealed he no longer wants to torture his body by adding and losing substantial amounts of weight for film roles. He told CBS: "I keep saying I'm done with it. I really think I'm done with it, yeah!" Christian, 45, stars alongside Matt Damon in his newest movie, 'Ford v Ferrari', which tells the story of a racing team seek-



## Tyra Banks moves in with boyfriend

**T**he 45-year-old model and the Canadian businessman are now living together, according to the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column, which reports that the duo are taking the next step in their relationship. A source told the publication: "Tyra and Louis live together but Louis always moves around a lot for business reasons." Louis and his ex-wife, Valerie Martin Scraire, have an apartment in England, as well as a house in Barbados, and a home in Magog, Quebec. Louis also has to travel in order to spend time with his 12-year-old son. The insider added: "Louis also spends some time with his own child in England and around the world for business. Tyra's child has his own room at Louis [and] Valerie's house in Magog and Tyra moved some of her stuff - clothes, jewellery - there too." Meanwhile, Tyra previously admitted that her son York - who was born via a surrogate - is desperate to have a sibling, and her mother Carolyn London thinks it's a good idea. She said: "God, my mom wants more grandbabies. "My son is rolling and running around and she's like, 'You see? He needs a friend. He's saying that these stuffed animals are his babies and he's calling himself a big brother.' "He calls himself a big brother. I'm like there's nobody underneath you - what does that mean 'big brother?'" Tyra is relishing the challenge of motherhood and previously joked she loves that York has already become the "boss" of her household. She said in 2018: "I think every two-year-old has some terrible moments. And he definitely, definitely has that. "But, he's also like in charge so when he's eating I try to tell him you must sit at the table when you eat, you cannot run around, you must sit. "So the other day, yesterday, my mom is eating at the counter in the kitchen. He's like, 'Nana, sit down. You eating. Sit down, Nana."



ing to win the 1966 24 Hours of Le Mans race in France. And Matt relished the experience of working with the Hollywood actor, hailing his co-star's "monk-like discipline". He shared: "I had a great time watching him. He's got [an] incredible monk-like discipline, like, when he went from Dick Cheney to this guy. So, he had to lose 70 pounds." Christian previously piled on the pounds to play former US Vice President Dick Cheney in 'Vice'. And he subsequently admitted to hating the experience of adding the extra weight, saying he needed to "start being a little bit aware of my mortality". Christian - who also lost a dramatic amount of weight for movies like 'The Fighter' - explained: "It's miserable. It's horrible. If you're losing weight, there's nothing to it except for going to bed hungry and feeling miserable ... [Gaining weight] is the complete opposite. "You're absolutely just losing all discipline and gorging like crazy. I need to stop it, it's not healthy for your body. I'm in my mid-40s now, it's going to start catching up with me if I don't start being a little bit aware of my mortality."



## FKA Twigs has always been 'a big risk taker'

**T**he 31-year-old singer has said she grew up learning the importance of taking risks, because she was "forced" to put herself in stressful positions because she was "the only person of colour" in the town where she grew up. She said: "I think I'm a big risk taker. I think in my early life, I was kind of forced into that position. I was brought up in the country in England and my mom was a single parent for a significant part of my life and I was like the only person of colour in the town really where I lived. So that already puts you in a position where you are, at risk, and then to want to do things to want to be able to like excel out of that environment where the odds seem quite against you." The 'Cellophane' hitmaker worked "so hard" at school to get a scholarship for university, and believes her education was a "risk" because there was no-one else like her at her school. She added: "I knew that if I wanted to go and get a good solid education, my mom said to me that if you want to go to a good school, you have to get a scholarship. That's the only way. So I remember just studying so hard. Even when I was 12, I remember doing exam papers, the weekends just over and over and over again. Do an exam papers, exam papers, so over the summer so that I could get into a good school. My mom wanted me to have a good education. So I think even from then that's a risk. And then turning up at that school as the scholarship kid with, working class mom, single parent, only black girl in the school." But Twigs believes her risky childhood has helped prepare her to take bigger risks with her career, which has brought her "success".

## Huntington-Whiteley wants her son to live a 'normal' life



**T**he 32-year-old model has two-year-old son Jack Oscar with her husband and Hollywood star Jason Statham, and has said she doesn't like posting images of her tot on social media, because she wants him to grow up as far away from the spotlight as possible. She said: "I just want him to basically grow up as normal as he can and to see what his parents do as their work, but when they come home, it's family time. "Things on the internet live forever. Jack might grow up one day and want to be a doctor or a lawyer or a solicitor or an architect and might not want to have his face all over the internet. ... It's not about publicizing those private moments for us." And although she doesn't want to post her son's face on social media, she still wants to "scream" her love for the tot "from the rooftops". She added: "I think he's the cutest thing in the world, and I want to scream it from the rooftops. Motherhood is just a wonderful journey of many ups and downs ... every day there is a new set of challenges and a new set of triumphs." Rosie also doesn't post many snaps of her 'Fast and Furious' star partner, but has said family is her top priority. She explained: "At the heart of everything is my family and making sure that they're okay and that they have everything they need and that I'm committed as a parent in every way possible." The beauty is still focused on her career, although she finds it "heartbreaking" when she has to leave her son at home. — Bangshowbiz

## Kylie Jenner and Drake 'have chemistry'

**T**he 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star - who has 21-month-old daughter Stormi with ex-boyfriend Travis Scott - was recently rumored to have struck up a romance with the 33-year-old rapper, but it has now been claimed they are only spending time together "with other friends", and are not romantically involved. A source told People magazine: "Kylie is doing great. She considers herself single. Her main focus is Stormi, but she is also young and likes to have fun. "She has been hanging out with Drake. Mostly together with other friends as well. She has known Drake for a while. They are not in a relationship. It mostly seems like they have chemistry, flirt and hang out. Nothing too complicated." Meanwhile, Kylie, 22, announced last month she had split from Travis, and friends think they

still have a chemistry between them. A source said recently: "Kylie and Travis are doing very well. Everyone thinks they are back together or already are. They haven't made anything official but it doesn't seem like much has changed. They love being together with Stormi and are happy doing that. Travis has been around the last few days and things are going well. There are very positive vibes between them." Shortly after their split, Kylie reportedly asked her friends to set her up with a new man because it can be "difficult" for her to meet someone herself. A source said: "Kylie's life is so gilded, she never meets men. "It's not like she goes out to clubs - she doesn't even go to the supermarket or to a public gym - so it's difficult for her to meet someone new.





# Classifieds

Sunday, November 10, 2019



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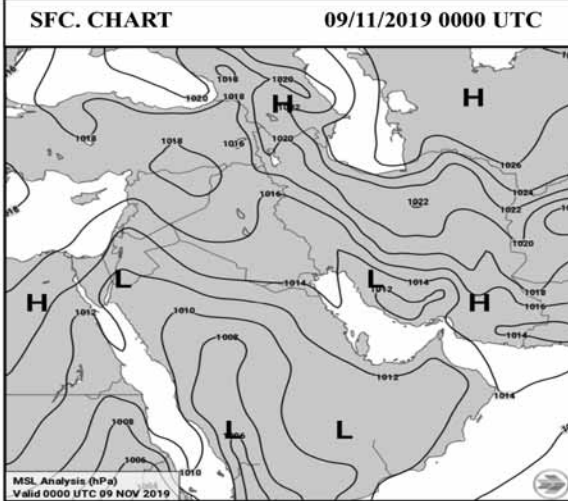
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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for scattered rain.

**BY NIGHT:** Fair with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

| WEATHER WARNING |           |           | No Current Warnings  |  |  |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| STATION         | MAX. EXP. | MIN. REC. | SFC. CHART 09/11/2019 0000 UTC   |  |  |
| KUWAIT CITY     | 28 °C     | 21 °C     |  |  |  |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT  | 31 °C     | 16 °C     |  |  |  |
| ABDALY          | 29 °C     | 15 °C     |  |  |  |
| BUBYAN          | - °C      | - °C      |  |  |  |
| JAHRA           | 31 °C     | 19 °C     |  |  |  |
| FAILAKA ISLAND  | - °C      | - °C      |  |  |  |
| SALMIYAH        | 27 °C     | 23 °C     |  |  |  |
| AHMADI          | 29 °C     | 24 °C     |  |  |  |
| NUWAISIB        | 30 °C     | 21 °C     |  |  |  |
| WAFRA           | 30 °C     | 16 °C     |  |  |  |
| SALMY           | 31 °C     | 20 °C     |  |  |  |

| 4 DAYS FORECAST |       |         |              |       |                |              |
|-----------------|-------|---------|--------------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| DAY             | DATE  | WEATHER | Temperatures |       | Wind Direction | Wind Speed   |
|                 |       |         | MAX.         | MIN.  |                |              |
| Sunday          | 11/10 | Sunny   | 32 °C        | 15 °C | NW-SE          | 06 - 28 km/h |
| Monday          | 11/11 | Sunny   | 32 °C        | 14 °C | VRB-NW         | 06 - 26 km/h |
| Tuesday         | 11/12 | Sunny   | 31 °C        | 14 °C | VRB-NW         | 06 - 28 km/h |
| Wednesday       | 11/13 | Sunny   | 31 °C        | 14 °C | NW-VRB         | 08 - 25 km/h |

| PRAYER TIMES |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Fajr         | 04:45 |
| Sunrise      | 06:07 |
| Zuhr         | 11:32 |
| Asr          | 14:36 |
| Sunset       | 16:57 |
| Isha         | 18:16 |

| RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| MAX. Temp.                           | 31 °C     |
| MIN. Temp.                           | 17 °C     |
| MAX. RH                              | 50 %      |
| MIN. RH                              | 14 %      |
| MAX. Wind                            | N 25 km/h |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.             | 0 mm      |

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Victor** Pereira Merwyn, holder of Indian Passport No. K7037436, having permanent residence at A/9 Kesley, Bldg No 2, Ramnagar, Borivli (W), Mumbai 92, India and residing in Kuwait at present hereby declare that from henceforth my name will be read as under: Given name: Merwyn, Middle name: Victor, Family name: Pereira. (C 5684)

**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 Koovakadu 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: 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, Ambemath 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

**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, +965-33233-4826247. (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

## MATRIMONIAL

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

## Flight Schedule

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| Arrival Flights on Sunday 10/11/2019 |      |                     |       |          | Departure Flights on Sunday 10/11/2019 |       |       |      |  |
|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------|-------|----------|--|-------|-------|------|--|
| Airlines                             | Flt  | Route               | Time  |          | Airlines                               | Flt   | Route | Time |  |
| IGO                                  | 1757 | Kochi               | 00:10 | AXB 393  | Kozhikode                              | 13:15 |       |      |  |
| AIC                                  | 989  | Mumbai              | 00:10 | QTR 1078 | Doha                                   | 13:35 |       |      |  |
| FEG                                  | 241  | Alexandria          | 00:30 | KAC 614  | Bahrain                                | 13:50 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 254  | Amman               | 00:45 | RBG 211  | Luxor                                  | 14:10 |       |      |  |
| NIA                                  | 561  | Asyut               | 00:45 | FDB 059  | Dubai                                  | 14:20 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 734  | Cairo               | 00:50 | KAC 774  | Riyadh                                 | 14:40 |       |      |  |
| THY                                  | 772  | Istanbul            | 00:50 | GFA 221  | Bahrain                                | 14:40 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 504  | Beirut              | 00:55 | KAC 672  | Dubai                                  | 14:40 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 102  | London              | 00:55 | SVA 500  | Jeddah                                 | 14:45 |       |      |  |
| PGT                                  | 858  | Istanbul            | 00:55 | KAC 742  | Dammam                                 | 14:45 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 002  | LGW                 | 01:25 | KAC 118  | New York                               | 14:50 |       |      |  |
| ETH                                  | 3424 | Addis Ababa/Bahrain | 01:30 | KAC 364  | Colombo                                | 14:50 |       |      |  |
| DLH                                  | 625  | Dammam              | 01:30 | KAC 618  | Doha                                   | 15:00 |       |      |  |
| THY                                  | 764  | Istanbul            | 01:50 | KAC 692  | Muscat                                 | 15:00 |       |      |  |
| PGT                                  | 840  | Istanbul            | 01:50 | KNE 529  | Jeddah                                 | 15:10 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 722  | Alexandria          | 01:55 | KAC 792  | Madinah                                | 15:10 |       |      |  |
| IGO                                  | 1759 | Delhi               | 01:55 | ETD 303  | Abu Dhabi                              | 15:15 |       |      |  |
| UAE                                  | 853  | Dubai               | 02:15 | KAC 788  | Jeddah                                 | 15:25 |       |      |  |
| ETH                                  | 620  | Addis Ababa         | 02:15 | JZR 222  | Riyadh                                 | 15:30 |       |      |  |
| RBG                                  | 551  | Alexandria          | 02:25 | OMA 645  | Muscat                                 | 15:35 |       |      |  |
| KLM                                  | 446  | Bahrain             | 02:30 | KAC 562  | Amman                                  | 15:40 |       |      |  |
| GFA                                  | 211  | Bahrain             | 02:30 | UAE 857  | Dubai                                  | 15:45 |       |      |  |
| QTR                                  | 1086 | Doha                | 02:40 | JZR 732  | Cairo                                  | 15:50 |       |      |  |
| OMA                                  | 643  | Muscat              | 02:55 | ABY 127  | Sharjah                                | 15:55 |       |      |  |
| RJA                                  | 648  | Amman               | 03:05 | KAC 152  | Mashhad                                | 16:00 |       |      |  |
| PGT                                  | 860  | Istanbul            | 03:05 | KAC 546  | Cairo                                  | 16:05 |       |      |  |
| KKK                                  | 1268 | Istanbul            | 03:05 | JZR 212  | Jeddah                                 | 16:25 |       |      |  |
| ETD                                  | 305  | Abu Dhabi           | 03:10 | QTR 1072 | Doha                                   | 16:35 |       |      |  |
| MSR                                  | 612  | Cairo               | 03:15 | JZR 116  | Doha                                   | 16:40 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 414  | Bangkok             | 04:00 | FDB 051  | Dubai                                  | 16:45 |       |      |  |
| LMU                                  | 510  | Cairo               | 04:00 | KAC 502  | Beirut                                 | 16:45 |       |      |  |
| QTR                                  | 1076 | Doha                | 04:00 | SVA 510  | Riyadh                                 | 17:25 |       |      |  |
| IGO                                  | 1751 | Chennai             | 04:10 | GFA 215  | Bahrain                                | 17:30 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 418  | Manila              | 04:25 | JZR 214  | Jeddah                                 | 17:45 |       |      |  |
| OHY                                  | 352  | Istanbul            | 04:30 | UAE 875  | Dubai                                  | 18:00 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 302  | Mumbai              | 04:40 | JZR 302  | Istanbul                               | 18:15 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 406  | Kochi               | 04:45 | FDB 063  | Dubai                                  | 18:15 |       |      |  |
| FDB                                  | 069  | Dubai               | 05:00 | JZR 124  | Dubai                                  | 18:20 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 404  | Hyderabad           | 05:10 | MSR 620  | Cairo                                  | 18:30 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 358  | Kochi               | 05:10 | QTR 1080 | Doha                                   | 18:30 |       |      |  |
| DHX                                  | 170  | Bahrain             | 05:10 | IRA 665  | Shiraz                                 | 18:35 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 784  | Jeddah              | 05:20 | JZR 306  | Istanbul                               | 18:55 |       |      |  |
| THY                                  | 770  | Istanbul            | 05:25 | RJA 640  | Amman                                  | 19:10 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 112  | Doha                | 05:35 | KAC 156  | Istanbul                               | 19:20 |       |      |  |
| QTR                                  | 8511 | Doha                | 05:45 | RBG 555  | Alexandria                             | 19:25 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 216  | Jeddah              | 05:50 | ABY 123  | Sharjah                                | 19:25 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 284  | Dhaka               | 05:55 | GFA 217  | Bahrain                                | 19:30 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 402  | Mumbai              | 06:05 | QTR 1090 | Doha                                   | 19:35 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 344  | Chennai             | 06:10 | KAC 744  | Dammam                                 | 19:45 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 382  | Delhi               | 06:10 | KAC 782  | Jeddah                                 | 19:50 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 120  | Dubai               | 06:50 | KAC 616  | Bahrain                                | 19:50 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 544  | Cairo               | 07:00 | JZR 104  | Bahrain                                | 19:55 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 678  | Dubai               | 07:05 | FDB 057  | Dubai                                  | 20:00 |       |      |  |
| BAW                                  | 157  | London              | 07:10 | OMS 225  | Muscat                                 | 20:05 |       |      |  |
| IGO                                  | 1766 | Mumbai              | 07:10 | KAC 776  | Riyadh                                 | 20:05 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 204  | Lahore              | 07:15 | KAC 104  | London                                 | 20:05 |       |      |  |
| FDB                                  | 053  | Dubai               | 07:50 | OMA 647  | Muscat                                 | 20:20 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 622  | Doha                | 08:00 | QTR 1088 | Doha                                   | 20:30 |       |      |  |
| QTR                                  | 1084 | Doha                | 08:00 | KAC 166  | Rome                                   | 20:40 |       |      |  |
| UAE                                  | 855  | Dubai               | 08:35 | DLH 624  | Frankfurt                              | 20:55 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 102  | Bahrain             | 08:55 | KAC 674  | Dubai                                  | 20:55 |       |      |  |
| ETD                                  | 301  | Abu Dhabi           | 08:55 | MEA 402  | Beirut                                 | 21:20 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 334  | Trivandrum          | 09:00 | ETD 307  | Abu Dhabi                              | 21:20 |       |      |  |
| ABY                                  | 125  | Sharjah             | 09:05 | ALK 229  | Colombo                                | 21:20 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 384  | Delhi               | 09:30 | UAE 859  | Dubai                                  | 21:30 |       |      |  |
| KAC                                  | 304  | Mumbai              | 09:30 | KAC 172  | Frankfurt                              | 21:30 |       |      |  |
| GOW                                  | 061  | CNN                 | 09:30 | RBG 217  | Asyut                                  | 21:35 |       |      |  |
| FDB                                  | 055  | Dubai               | 09:40 | KAC 162  | Geneva                                 | 21:40 |       |      |  |
| IGO                                  | 1753 | Ahmedabad           | 09:40 | GFA 219  | Bahrain                                | 21:45 |       |      |  |
| QTR                                  | 1070 | Doha                | 09:45 | JZR 002D | LGW                                    | 21:55 |       |      |  |
| SVA                                  | 512  | Riyadh              | 10:00 | KAC 164  | MXP                                    | 21:55 |       |      |  |
| GFA                                  | 213  | Bahrain             | 10:40 | KAC 168  | Paris                                  | 22:00 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 714  | Sohag               | 10:50 | KAC 564  | Amman                                  | 22:00 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 708  | Luxor               | 10:55 | KAC 620  | Doha                                   | 22:00 |       |      |  |
| JZR                                  | 122  | Dubai               | 11:15 | QTR 1082 | Doha                                   | 22:05 |       |      |  |
| QTR                                  | 1074 | Doha                | 11:35 | ETD 309  | Abu Dhabi                              | 22:15 |       |      |  |
| MEA                                  | 404  | Beirut              | 11:55 | AIC 981  | Chennai/Ahmedabad                      | 22:25 |       |      |  |
| MSR                                  | 610  | Cairo               | 12:00 | KAC 786  | Jeddah                                 | 22:50 |       |      |  |
| GFA                                  | 209  | Bahrain             | 12:05 | QTR 1092 | Doha                                   | 23:10 |       |      |  |
| SAW                                  | 701  | Damascus            | 12:30 | JZR 128  | Dubai                                  | 23:15 |       |      |  |
| UAE                                  | 871  | Dubai               | 12:50 | KAC 676  | Dubai                                  | 23:20 |       |      |  |
|                                      |      |                     |       | FDB 071  | Dubai                                  | 23:40 |       |      |  |



# Seven dead as Iraq security forces clear protest sites

**BAGHDAD:** Seven protesters were killed yesterday in Iraq as security forces cleared protest sites in Baghdad and Basra after political leaders agreed to stand by the embattled government by any means. The leaders, sources told AFP, also agreed to put an end to rallies rocking Iraq's capital and its south since Oct 1 and demanding an overhaul of the political system. The crackdown began in the morning when security forces wrested back control from demonstrators of three bridges spanning the River Tigris in the heart of Baghdad.

Iraqi forces then moved towards Tahrir (Liberation) Square, ground zero for the month-long movement demanding regime change, firing live rounds and tear gas. Three demonstrators died from bullet wounds and a fourth when a tear gas canister pierced his skull, medics and police sources told AFP. "The security forces are getting closer to us, but the protesters are trying to hold them off by burning tires," a doctor in Tahrir told AFP. "We can hear live fire now and there are so many wounded."

Three protesters were killed and dozens wounded in the southern city of Basra, medical sources said, as security forces cleared a protest camp outside the provincial government headquarters. Security forces also rounded up demonstrators in Basra. And in the revered Shiite holy city of Karbala, south of Baghdad, the tents of protesters were reduced to ashes when security forces fired searing hot tear gas canisters at them.

## 'Any means possible'

The bloodshed came after political leaders agreed to rally around Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi, whose embattled government was threatened by the largest and deadliest grassroots protests in Iraq in decades. Abdel Mahdi, 77, came to power last year through a shaky alliance between

populist cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr and Hadi Al-Ameri, a leader of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary network.

When the protests first erupted in October, Sadr threw his weight behind them while the Hashed backed the government. But they closed rank around the premier this week after a series of meetings led by Major General Qasem Soleimani, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's foreign operations arm. Soleimani, who often plays a mediating role during times of crisis in Iraq, met Sadr and persuaded him to return to the fold, said a source present at the meetings. "Those meetings resulted in an agreement that Abdel Mahdi would remain in office," the source said.

Sadr has since gone silent amid reports he is in Iran. The source also told AFP Soleimani met Mohammed Ridha Sistani, the son of Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani. But on Saturday Sistani's office issued a statement denying that cleric "was part of a deal for the current government to stay and the protests to end". Another source said political factions agreed this week to move forward on reforms and constitutional amendments if the premier and government stayed in place. "They agreed to end the protests with any means possible and to reopen the bridges and shuttered streets," said a senior member of a party represented at the gathering.

Abdel Mahdi met President Barham Saleh yesterday for the first time in days. Government sources had told AFP ties between them had been cut after Saleh proposed the premier be replaced. And yesterday, parliament convened to discuss reform proposals, including hiring drives and increased welfare payouts.

## Protesters despair

Meanwhile, the streets around Tahrir were in chaos. "The security forces told us



**BASRA:** An Iraqi protester lifts a barrel as he takes part in an anti-government demonstration in this southern city yesterday. — AFP

the protests are over and everyone should go home," one protester shouted. "But we put up more barricades so they won't enter Tahrir. Tomorrow, no one goes to work." Protesters are now on the back foot but still occupy part of Al-Jumhuriyah (Republic) Bridge, the closest to Tahrir. "Our situation as protesters is not good, but we'll stay until we find a solution," said another protester.

Oil-rich Iraq is OPEC's second biggest producer, but one in five people live in poverty and youth unemployment stands at 25 percent, the World Bank says. Those staggering rates sparked the first wave of protests on Oct 1, and public anger quickly spiralled into calls for the overhaul of the entire ruling system. Protesters say the current framework allows political

parties to dole out government jobs based on affiliation and bribes, choking out independents in a country with a weak private sector. They are demanding profound reform and constitutional amendments. Around 300 people have been killed in the protests, according to toll compiled by AFP. The government has stopped issuing figures. — AFP

## Extinction Rebellion climate group seeps into oil-rich Mideast

**LONDON:** Extinction Rebellion, the grassroots green movement that has blocked city roads, nursed babies outside corporate headquarters and put climate change firmly on the political map in capitals from London to Madrid, is now gaining ground in the Middle East. Off-shoots of the group that advocates peaceful protest as a way to pile on pressure to curb global warming are sprouting from Beirut to Doha, as activists in the oil-rich region want governments to ditch fossil fuels for renewable energy sources.

"Governments are not going to do anything unless they see that people themselves want that change - that's how any movement starts," said Iman, a member of the newly formed Extinction Rebellion (XR) group in Qatar who declined to give her full name for security reasons. "There's a very large number of Qataris who are very passionate about sustainability and who want to see change implemented but they also acknowledge the challenges to it - whether that be political or simply cultural," she said.

The gas-rich Gulf State, with a population of about 2.7 million, emits more carbon dioxide per person than any other nation globally, according to World Bank data, while across the region, countries suffer blistering heat and water shortages. As host of the 2022 football World Cup, Qatar is looking at ways to reduce carbon emissions linked to the event and exe-

cute a 2030 national plan to curb its carbon footprint. Extinction Rebellion launched in London in 2018, inspiring waves of disruptive action around the world pushing for rapid cuts in carbon emissions, with the protests leading to thousands of arrests. In Qatar - a country where protests are illegal - the nascent group acknowledges it will not be able to carry out large-scale civil disobedience like other XR groups.

But Iman said the plan is to change hearts and minds through public advertising campaigns and lobbying decision-makers. "It's a little harder to be more vocal about issues such as sustainability, especially when you're in an oil-rich region," said the 19-year-old student. "There are constraints." Despite a social emphasis on consumer culture, she said, there is growing public awareness in Qatar around waste - and a willingness by young people especially to shoulder more responsibility for the global climate crisis.

## Climate peace?

Water scarcity and desertification are major climate issues in the Middle East and North Africa, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned earlier this year. In Israel and the Palestinian territories, green activists said a 2018 report by the U.N. climate science panel - which said heat-trapping emissions must be slashed 45 percent by 2030 to keep warming to a lower agreed limit - had spurred them to join XR. "We see ourselves as the noise-makers - the ones who are saying no more business as usual," Michael Raphael, a member of XR Israel, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Globally, XR tactics center on civil disobedience such as blocking planes at a London airport and disrupting traffic outside Belgium's Royal Palace, while in

New York activists glued themselves to a green sailboat parked in Broadway. In politically tense places like Jerusalem, survival is an everyday concern, said Raphael, but a warming climate may inadvertently unite factions and help bring peace. "It doesn't matter if you're Palestinian or Jewish - you're going to face the same difficulties under climate change," he said. "If we don't take this on together, we're going to die together."

Raphael and his group are most concerned about the development of off-shore gas rigs, water shortages, pesticides and over-fishing in the region, he added. "There needs to be a big push for more systematic change." So far, local XR members have glued themselves to the windows of the Israeli stock exchange, blockaded petrochemical factories and protested outside government buildings.

## Creative tactics

In recent weeks, Lebanon has been paralyzed by an unprecedented wave of protests against what is seen as rampant corruption among its ruling elite, which led to the resignation of Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri. "The mass protests erupted and are kind of doing our job... so we're participating in them," said Rami Suleiman, co-founder of XR Lebanon. A rise in temperatures exacerbated forest fires in the country, a contributing factor to voter frustration over wider government inaction, he added.

"Climate change actually played a huge role in starting these protests," he said by telephone. "In the Middle East, we're suffering a lot from rising sea levels and changing weather patterns - so I got drawn in." The university student set up a Lebanese XR branch in May, after watching the movement grow abroad and

feeling "astonished" the region had nothing similar. The group, now around 40-strong, has translated climate documents into Arabic, disrupted traffic flows and lately participated in the broader political protests in Beirut.

In Turkey too, the climate movement is growing, with an XR group in Istanbul and others planned in Ankara, Bodrum and Izmir, said Elif Unal, an XR coordinator in the country. "I was very anxious about the climate crisis and I was feeling very hopeless," said 25-year-old Unal, who first got involved by translating XR tweets into Turkish. The group has since put on art shows and performances in central Istanbul to grab public attention. They are seeking to use more cautious and creative methods than in other European cities, she said, not least because "getting arrested is not something new in Turkey" and would be a less effective tactic.

Governments across the Middle East are grappling with how to slow down climate change and cope with its impacts. Officials are eager to demonstrate their countries can be effective stewards of the environment, despite their heavy reliance on fossil fuels. Dubai, Muscat and Doha, for example, are developing low-carbon residential areas that aim to reduce emissions and serve as green living models. Yet while all countries in the region are signatories to the 2015 Paris Agreement to tackle global warming, six states - Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey and Yemen - have yet to ratify the international accord, meaning they are not legally bound by it.

Unal said there was a tendency in the region to blame other parts of the world, such as Europe and the United States, for causing climate change. But, she added, "the climate crisis is a global problem and the solution should be global too". — Reuters

## India's supreme court gives...

Continued from Page 1

in Ayodhya after the court decision was announced. Thousands of paramilitary force members and police were deployed in Ayodhya and other sensitive areas across India. There were no immediate reports of unrest.

"Today's Supreme Court decision has given the nation the message that even the most difficult of all problems falls within the ambit of the constitution and within the boundaries of the judicial system," Modi said in a televised address yesterday evening, calling for "a new India" free of hatred. He had earlier tweeted that the verdict should not be seen as "a win or loss for anybody".

The ruling comes months after Modi's government stripped the Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir region of its special status as a state, delivering on yet another election promise to its largely Hindu support base. Neelanjana Sircar, an assistant professor at Ashoka University near New Delhi, said the verdict would benefit the BJP, which won re-election in May, but a slowing economy would ultimately take center stage for voters. "In the short term, there will be a boost for the BJP," said Sircar. "These things don't work forever ... Ram Temple isn't going to put food on the table."

Hindus believe the site is the birthplace of Ram, a physical incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, and say the site was holy for Hindus long before the Muslim Mughals, India's most prominent Islamic rulers, built the Babri mosque there in 1528. The five-judge bench, headed by the Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, reached a unanimous judgment to hand over the plot of just 2.77 acres (1.1 hectares), or about the size of a football

field, to the Hindu group.

The court also directed that another plot of five acres (two hectares) in Ayodhya be provided to the Muslim group that contested the case, but that was not enough to mollify some critics. "The country is now moving towards becoming a Hindu nation," Asaduddin Owaisi, an influential Muslim opposition politician, told reporters.

Across the border in archrival Pakistan, the foreign ministry said the decision "shredded the veneer of so-called secularism" in India and showed minorities were no longer safe. India's foreign ministry responded that Pakistan's "pathological compulsion to comment on our internal affairs with the obvious intent of spreading hatred is condemnable".

Modi's party hailed the ruling as a "milestone". "I welcome the court decision and appeal to all religious groups to accept the decision," Home Minister Amit Shah, who is also president of the BJP, said on Twitter. A lawyer for the Sunni Muslim group involved in the case initially said it would likely file a review petition, which could have triggered another protracted legal battle, but its chairman Zafar Farooqui later yesterday told reporters the verdict had been accepted "with humility".

Muslim organizations appealed for calm. The Hindu group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh - the parent organization of Modi's party - had already decided against any celebrations to avoid provoking sectarian violence. The BJP owes its origins to the RSS, a militaristic group that has long espoused "Hindutva", or Hindu hegemony in officially secular India. Under Modi, a former RSS cadre, Islamic-sounding names of several cities have been changed, while some school textbooks have been altered to downplay Muslims' contributions to India. There has been a string of lynchings of Muslims by Hindu mobs over cows, sacred for many Hindus, and other hate crimes including Muslims forced to perform Hindu chants.

Restrictions were placed on gatherings in some

places and Internet services were suspended. Elsewhere, police monitored social media to curb rumors. Streets in Ayodhya were largely deserted and security personnel patrolled the main road to Lucknow, the capital of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Indian Sikhs made a historic pilgrimage to Pakistan yesterday, crossing through a white gate to reach one of their religion's holiest sites, after a landmark deal between the two countries separated by the 1947 partition of the subcontinent. Cheering Sikhs walked joyfully along the road from Dera Baba Nanak in India towards the new immigration hall that would allow them to pass through a secure land corridor into Pakistan, in a rare example of cooperation between the nuclear-armed countries divided by decades of enmity.

Some fathers ran, carrying their children on their shoulders. Buses were waiting on the Pakistani side to carry them along the corridor to the shrine to Sikhism's founder Guru Nanak, which lies in Kartarpur, a small town just four kilometres inside Pakistan where he is believed to have died.

For up to 30 million Sikhs around the world, the white-domed shrine is one of their holiest sites. However for Indian Sikhs, it has remained tantalizingly close - so close they could stand at the border and gaze at its four cupolas - but out-of-reach for decades. When Pakistan was carved out of colonial India at the end of British rule in 1947, Kartarpur ended up on the western side of the border, while most of the region's Sikhs remained on the other side. Since then, the perennial state of enmity between India and Pakistan has been a constant barrier to those wanting to visit the temple, known in Sikhism as a gurdwara.

Pilgrims on both sides of the border hoped the corridor might herald a thaw in South Asian tensions. "When it comes to government-to-government relations, it is all hate and when it comes to people-to-people ties, it's all love," one of the Sikh pilgrims, who

did not give his name, told Pakistani state TV as he crossed. Among the first pilgrims was former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who told Pakistani state media that it was a "big moment".

The opening even inspired a singular message of gratitude from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan for "respecting the sentiments of India". For his part, Khan said a day would come "when our relations with India will improve". "I am hopeful that this the beginning," he told the pilgrims at the shrine.

For years India had been asking Pakistan to grant Sikhs access to the shrine. Many believe it has happened now because of the friendship between Khan, a World Cup winning cricketer-turned politician, and India's Navjot Singh Sidhu - another cricketer-turned-politician. "When Sidhu asked me to open the border, I kept it in my mind," Khan told devotees yesterday. He compared the situation to Muslims being able to see holy sites in Madinah, but never visit.

The opening comes just days ahead of the Guru Nanak's 550th birthday on Nov 12 - an anniversary of huge significance for the global Sikh community, and which may also have played a role in the timing. Sikhs from around the world have been arriving in Pakistan ahead of the celebrations for days already. An estimated 7,000 were at the shrine to hear Khan's speech, though it was not clear how many had arrived from elsewhere. Indian officials said just 700 were expected to cross through the corridor yesterday.

Many were emotional, some in tears. Others posed for selfies before a giant gold- and silver-colored kirpan, the dagger which Sikhs must carry with them at all times as an article of their faith. There are an estimated 20,000 Sikhs left in Pakistan after millions fled to India following the bloody religious violence ignited by partition, which sparked the largest mass migration in human history and led to the death of at least one million people. — Agencies



Sports

# Ash Barty bagels Garcia as Australia level Fed Cup final

## France's Mladenovic thrashes debutant Tomljanovic in opening

MELBOURNE: Australia's ever-dependable Ash Barty doled out the dreaded double-bagel to Caroline Garcia, levelling the Fed Cup final at 1-1 against France after the opening day's singles in Perth yesterday.

On a day of scorching heat, France struck the early blow when Kristina Mladenovic thrashed Ajla Tomljanovic 6-1 6-1, but the terrier-like Barty wrested back the momentum with her 6-0 6-0 rout of Garcia, firing up a heaving crowd at Perth Arena.

World number one Barty will return today for the reverse singles and doubles, if required, as Australia bid for their first Fed Cup title in 45 years. "I couldn't have asked for a more perfect match. That's probably the best tennis match I've ever played in my life," a thrilled Barty said courtside after extending her unbeaten run in Fed Cup singles to 10 successive matches.

"What a place to do it, this is incredible." Australia were wobbling after Tomljanovic's torrid Fed Cup debut match against Mladenovic, but 23-year-old Barty beamed as she strode onto the blue hardcourt cradling her niece in her arms and soaking up a huge ovation.

That was the last display of tenderness the stocky French Open champion would produce until consoling Garcia with a hug at the net after scarcely 56 minutes of play. In between was a virtual highlight reel of winners, as Barty, fresh from her WTA Finals triumph in

southern China, drew energy from the roaring terraces and drained Garcia of all confidence.

Fans filed out happily but some will hope for a tighter contest today. They should get it if Barty meets the impressive Mladenovic, as per the draw. The French number one, who beat Barty on clay in Rome early in the year, came out swinging against rookie Tomljanovic, who was thrown into the cauldron by team captain Alicia Molik.

With Fed Cup veteran Sam Stosur overlooked for the singles, Molik's gamble backfired as Croatia-born Tomljanovic, who became eligible to represent Australia only a month ago, quickly crumbled under pressure.

Mladenovic broke her early in a barrage of power hitting and wrapped up the first set in 38 minutes, delighting a rowdy pocket of blue-clad French fans. Tomljanovic's meek serve wilted further in the second set as the free-swinging Mladenovic roared on to a victory that gave France hope of a third Fed Cup title and first since 2003.

"That was a statement match," Barty said of Mladenovic's procession. "Kristina was in control and she was able to control the court a little bit, so I think the challenge for me tomorrow is to come out and try to take her out of her comfort zone." — Reuters

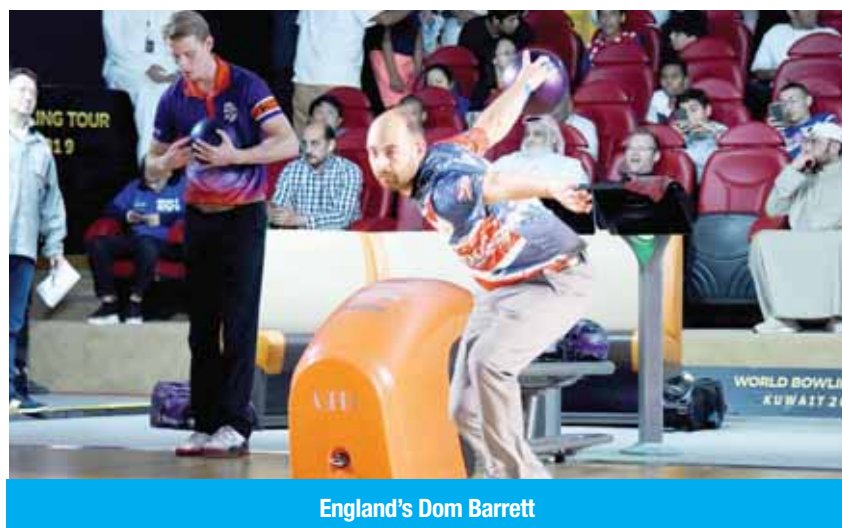


PERTH: Ashleigh Barty of Australia hits a return against Caroline Garcia of France on day one of the Fed Cup Final tennis competition between Australia and France in Perth yesterday. — AFP

## Successful Kuwait's bowling season comes to an end



Colombia's Maria Rodriguez



England's Dom Barrett

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: President of International and Asian Bowling Federations, Chairman of Kuwait Bowling Club Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah expressed satisfaction towards the success of the three tournaments that were hosted by Kuwait Bowling Center in Salmiya all along for 19 days, as the focus of bowling fans around the world was on Kuwait.

He said the World Tour season finale, the 13th Kuwait International Open and the 25th Asian Championship formed a chain of success, proving that Kuwait is able to host the strongest of world events, and it seeks to become a world center of the game, and this was the goal of the bowling club for years.

Al-Mohammad appreciated the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah of the Asian championship, adding

that his support had the biggest effect on improving the game and motivate players to make great achievements.

Sheikh Mohammad said the three championships are a prelude to the two important events the country is waiting for, they are the individuals world championship in 2020 and the group in 2021, as both will be held in Kuwait for the first time, as the case was with the 25th Asian championship, which received praise from all those involved, as far as quality of organization and high level of competition between 27 countries.

Al-Mohammad lauded the benefit of the three championships Kuwait players received as they competed with the strongest world and Asian bowlers, and were able to clinch the silver medal for the three categories by Khalid Al-Dubayyan, Jassim Al-Saqer and Mustafa Al-Mousawy.

He also spoke about the efforts of the committees who were working since Oct 20, and this effort was the corner stone of success that was achieved by Kuwait.

Al-Mohammad thanked the Public Authority for Sport, Kuwait Olympic Committee and the media for the support that made the bowling club a big motivation to bring out the events in the best way possible.

Meanwhile, England's Dom Barrett and Colombia's Maria Rodriguez dominated the finals of the world tour on Thursday that took place at the Kuwait Bowling Center with the participation of 12 top ranked champions of both genders.

Barrett won his second title in two days, as he won the gold medal at the Kuwait International Open, winning \$12,500. He beat Iceland's Arnar Johnson in the final match with the score (276-232).

Meanwhile Rodriguez beat Liz Johnson (252-234).

## Russian teen Shcherbakova dazzles to China skating gold

SHANGHAI: The 15-year-old Russian Anna Shcherbakova dazzled her way to gold at figure skating's Cup of China yesterday for her second victory in as many events in the ISU Grand Prix. China's Jin Boyang — sporting eye-catching gold-coloured blades on his skates — won the men's title from compatriot Yan Han in Chongqing, the fourth round of the series.

Shcherbakova's victory, to go with her triumph at Skate America last month in her Grand Prix debut, propelled her into the Grand Prix Final in Turin next month. Shcherbakova led after Friday's short programme and produced another flawless display — embellished by two quad Lutzes — to win the free skate.

She took the title with an overall 226.04 points to ensure that all four Grand Prix this season have now been won by Russian teenagers. Silver went to Japan's Satoko Miyahara with 211.18 points and

bronze was won by another Russian, Elizaveta Tuktamysheva, with 209.10.

"It's a good start for my first senior season but I want to do better and work more," said Shcherbakova, who effortlessly changed her blue costume to a red one mid-performance. "I think it is not my maximum now," she added.

"It was my goal to reach the Final and now I will work on my programmes, my jumps, and my goal will be to do everything cleaner and better. "There are still mistakes."

In the men's, Jin trailed Yan after the short programme but leapfrogged his compatriot with the free skate to take gold with 261.53 points overall. Yan won silver with 249.45 points and Italy's Matteo Rizzo bronze with 241.88.

"I feel very satisfied today and my performance was as spicy as a Chongqing hotpot," joked the 22-year-old Jin, referring to the famously fiery local cuisine. "I hope my passion will



DHANGHAI: Anna Shcherbakova of Russia performs during the Ladies Free Skating at the ISU Grand Prix Cup of China figure skating event in China's southwestern Chongqing. — AFP

inspire generations of skaters to come." In the ice dance, world silver medalists Victoria Sinitsina and Nikita Katsalopov, again of Russia, clinched gold and the first Grand Prix victory of

their career. They were second in Saturday's free dance but their five-point lead after Friday's rhythm dance ensured they remained in first place with 209.90 points overall. —AFP

## Mahomes returns from two-game absence to start against Titans

NASHVILLE: Kansas City Chiefs star quarterback Patrick Mahomes will return from a two-game absence to start today against the Tennessee Titans, coach Andy Reid announced Friday. Reid told reporters that Mahomes would play "unless something happens" prior to the game against the Titans in Nashville, Tenn.

The Chiefs split two games with Matt Moore starting in place of the reigning NFL Most Valuable Player, who sustained a dislocated right kneecap in Kansas City's 30-6 victory at Denver on Oct. 17. Mahomes, 24, has completed 65.1 percent of his passes for 2,180 yards, 15 touchdowns and one interception this season.

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan will return from a one-game absence to start Sunday against the New Orleans Saints, coach Dan Quinn announced. Ryan, 34, sustained a sprained ankle in the Falcons' 37-10 loss to the Los Angeles Rams on Oct. 20. He sat out Atlanta's 27-20 setback to the Seattle Seahawks the following week, marking his first missed start since Dec. 20, 2009.

Atlanta running back Ito Smith (neck), defensive end John Cominsky (ankle) and offensive lineman Wes Schweitzer (concussion) have been ruled out. —Listed as questionable by the Indianapolis Colts, quarterback Jacoby Brissett (knee) will be a game-time decision for today's contest against the Miami Dolphins, coach Frank Reich announced.

The Colts want him to see how Brissett's left knee feels during warmups before determining his status for action against the Dolphins. An MRI exam on Monday revealed a sprained MCL but no significant structural damage.

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper officially is listed as questionable for the Sunday night game against the Minnesota Vikings. Cooper, who injured his left knee in the Cowboys' 37-18 victory over the New York Giants on Monday night, underwent an MRI this week, and the results showed no structural damage. He was a limited participant Friday after not practicing on Thursday. Offensive tackle Cameron Fleming (calf) was ruled out for today.

Vikings wide receiver Adam Thielen and nose tackle Linval Joseph have been ruled out for today. Thielen missed his third straight practice with a hamstring injury and is considered "week to week," according to coach Mike Zimmer. Joseph, who has an ailing knee, was downgraded from a full participant on Wednesday to a nonparticipant one day later. Safety Andrew Sendejo (groin) also will not play against Dallas.

Pittsburgh Steelers running back James Conner will miss his second straight game when he sits out Sunday against the visiting Rams. Conner has been nursing an AC joint sprain in his shoulder sustained in the waning moments of Pittsburgh's 27-14 victory over the Dolphins on Oct. 28. Wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster (foot) was listed as a limited participant Friday. He is questionable to face the Rams.

The New York Giants ruled out tight end Evan Engram and wide receiver Sterling Shepard for their Sunday game against the New York Jets. Engram is nursing a sprained left foot and will miss his second game of the season. Shepard has been sidelined since Oct. 6 with a concussion sustained in New York's 28-10 loss to the Vikings.

Center Jon Halapio (hamstring) has also been ruled out for Sunday while offensive tackle Mike Remmers (back) is doubtful.

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson returned to practice, one day after sitting out the session due to an illness. Jackson looked no worse for wear, according to multiple media outlets. He was throwing passes and moving without issue during the early portion of practice open to the media.

Cleveland Browns defensive end Olivier Vernon has been ruled out for the Sunday game against the Buffalo Bills. The team said Vernon missed practice for the third straight day while nursing a knee injury. Eric Murray will miss his second consecutive game after undergoing knee surgery.

Quarterback Luke Falk filed an injury grievance through the NFL Players Association against the Jets, the New York Daily News reported.

Falk is the second player to file a grievance against the Jets in the past three weeks, joining Kelechi Osemele. The former offensive lineman was released on Oct. 26 after undergoing shoulder surgery that was not authorized by the team. Falk, 24, started two games in relief of ailing quarterbacks Sam Darnold and Trevor Siemian. In his last game, Falk was sacked nine times and intercepted twice in a 31-6 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles on Oct. 6. — Reuters



## Sports

# Bogdanovic's buzzer-beater lifts Jazz over Bucks

## Wiggins' 40 points carries Wolves past Warriors in OT

**SALT LAKE CITY:** Bojan Bogdanovic drained the game-winning 3-pointer as time expired Friday to lift the Utah Jazz, who withstood a series of furious second-half comebacks by the Milwaukee Bucks, to a 103-100 victory in Salt Lake City. The Jazz have won two straight. The Bucks, who trailed by as many as 22 in the first half and entered the locker room down 20, had a four-game winning streak snapped. Bogdanovic's winner gave him a game-high 33 points and capped a wild final 90 seconds in which the Jazz squandered an eight-point lead, the bulk of which was blown as Bucks superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo sat on the bench after fouling out. Antetokounmpo scored 28 of his team-high 30 points after halftime for the Bucks. He added 13 rebounds. Khris Middleton had 26 points and 11 rebounds while Eric Bledsoe finished with 22 points in the loss.

### NETS 119, TRAIL BLAZERS 115

Damian Lillard became the first NBA player this season to score 60 points, but it wasn't enough as Joe Harris ignited a late run that propelled visiting Brooklyn to victory in Portland. Lillard drilled a running 34-footer at the final horn, allowing him to surpass his previous career high of 59 points set in April 2017 against the Utah Jazz. Lillard finished 19-for-33 from the field, 7-for-16 on 3-point tries and 15-for-15 from the free-throw line. But the one-man show wasn't enough to overcome 10 combined 3-pointers from Spencer Dinwiddie and Kyrie Irving. Dinwiddie led Brooklyn with 34 points off the bench, and Irving added 33 points. Harris hit back-go-back 3-pointers to give the Nets the lead for good in the game's final five minutes.

### TIMBERWOLVES 125, WARRIORS 119 (OT)

Andrew Wiggins capped a season-best 40-point effort with a key 3-pointer with 23.5 seconds remaining in overtime as Minnesota overcame a career-high 52-point performance by D'Angelo Russell to edge Golden State in Minneapolis. Wiggins' point total was seven shy of his career-best and the eighth time he's topped 40. His previous high this season had been 30 in Minnesota's loss at Memphis on Wednesday. Russell's 52 points topped the 44 he poured in for Brooklyn against Sacramento last March. It was the NBA's third 50-point game of the season, with James Harden having gone for 59 at Washington and Kyrie Irving 50 against these same Timberwolves.

### LAKERS 95, HEAT 80

Anthony Davis scored 26 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and LeBron James added 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter to lead host Los Angeles past

Miami for the Lakers' seventh straight win. James, who led Miami to NBA titles in 2012 & '13, had produced triple-doubles in his previous three games, becoming the first Lakers player to achieve that feat since Magic Johnson in 1987. But James fell short of a triple on Friday, dishing six assists and snatching four rebounds. Miami was led by Jimmy Butler, who put up 22 points after scoring 34 in his previous game. Heat backup point guard Goran Dragic added 19 points off the bench. Miami played on short rest, having won 124-108 on Thursday night in Phoenix. The Lakers had been off since Tuesday.

### NUGGETS 100, 76ERS 97

Nikola Jokic hit a 20-foot jumper with 2.2 seconds left as host Denver rallied from 21 down to beat Philadelphia for its third straight win. Jokic scored 16 of his game-high 26 points in the fourth quarter and also had 10 rebounds in the game. Jamal Murray had 22 points and 11 assists, Will Barton scored 20 points and Paul Millsap finished with 15 for Denver. Joel Embiid had 19 points, 15 rebounds and eight turnovers before fouling out, Tobias Harris scored 13 and grabbed 10 boards, and Raul Neto had 13 points for the Sixers, who played without injured guard Ben Simmons. Philadelphia has lost three straight after winning its first five.

### RAPTORS 122, PELICANS 104

Pascal Siakam scored 44 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as Toronto routed host New Orleans in a rematch of opening night. Siakam made 17 of 28 field goals and matched his career high as the Raptors began a five-game road trip. They'll next play the Lakers and the Clippers in Los Angeles before visiting Portland and Dallas. OG Anunoby added 21 points and Normal Powell scored 18 off the bench as the Raptors had a much easier time than they had in beating the visiting Pelicans 130-122 in overtime in the season opener. Brandon Ingram scored 27 points and Jrue Holiday added 16 for New Orleans, which has won just one of eight games this season.

### CAVALIERS 113, WIZARDS 100

Tristan Thompson led seven Cavaliers in double figures with 21 points and visiting Cleveland held off Washington. Washington, which trailed by as many as 21 points, pulled within one point twice in the fourth quarter. Kevin Love and Collin Sexton scored 16 points each for the Cavaliers. Thompson and Love grabbed 12 rebounds apiece. Thomas Bryant led Washington with 23 points and Rui Hachimura added 21 points on 10-of-13 shooting.



**SALT LAKE CITY:** Eric Bledsoe #6 of the Milwaukee Bucks handles the ball against the Utah Jazz at Vivint Smart Home Arena in Salt Lake City, Utah. — AFP

### PACERS 112, PISTONS 106

Domantas Sabonis, T.J. McConnell and T.J. Warren led a well-balanced attack with 17 points apiece as host Indiana downed Detroit in Indianapolis. Sabonis also supplied 14 rebounds and six assists, while McConnell dished out nine assists for Indiana, which gained some revenge for two losses to Detroit earlier this season. Justin Holiday had 16 points, Doug McDermott tossed in 14 and Malcolm Brogdon added 11 for the Pacers. Luke Kennard poured in 29 points for the Pistons. Langston Galloway contributed 19 points off the bench, while Andre Drummond had 15 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists despite foul trouble. Markieff Morris added 13 points and Tony Snell chipped in 11.

### MAGIC 118, GRIZZLIES 86

Nikola Vucevic recorded 23 points and 16 rebounds, and a dominant fourth quarter powered Orlando past visiting Memphis. The Grizzlies outshot the Magic from behind the 3-point arc, 11 of 29 to 7 of 28. Orlando came into Friday's matchup the worst outside-shooting team in the NBA. Jonathan Isaac scored 22 points and grabbed eight rebounds for Orlando. Evan Fournier registered 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Gordon added 17 points, including two momentum-swinging dunks in the second half.

### KINGS 121, HAWKS 109

Buddy Hield scored 22 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic drained five 3-pointers as visiting Sacramento recorded a victory over Atlanta. Bogdanovic finished with 20 points, and De'Aaron Fox added 17 points and nine assists for the Kings, who have won three of their past four games following an 0-5 start to the season. Hawks guard Trae Young scored 16 of his 30 points in the third quarter and added 12 assists, but Atlanta ran out of gas after shaving a 21-point deficit down to one early in the fourth quarter.

### KNICKS 106, MAVERICKS 102

Marcus Morris matched a season high with 29 points as visiting New York overcame a triple-double by Luka Doncic and ended a four-game losing streak by holding on for a victory over Dallas. The Knicks bounced back nicely from consecutive blowout losses to Sacramento and Detroit that dropped their record to a league-worst 1-7 by overcoming Doncic's fourth triple-double of the season and winning their first meeting against their former center. Kristaps Porzingis. Doncic set a career high with 38 points while collecting 14 rebounds and 10 assists, but he also committed eight turnovers — one shy of his career high. Porzingis added 28 points and nine rebounds before fouling out in his first meeting since the trade from New York on Jan. 31. — Reuters

## Leave Pant alone, implores Rohit

**MUMBAI:** Critics of India's Rishabh Pant must leave the young wicketkeeper batsman alone and let him play with freedom, stand-in captain Rohit Sharma said yesterday. The 22-year-old has received lots of flak lately from India's coaching staff, pundits and the media after losing his wicket through loose shots and his position in the India test side has been taken by fit-again Wriddhiman Saha.

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones told Reuters this week that Pant needs to improve his off-side game if he wants to graduate from being a one-trick pony. "There is a lot of talk happening about Rishabh Pant every day, every minute," Rohit, who is leading the hosts in place of rested regular captain Virat Kohli, told reporters ahead of today's deciding final Twenty20 international against Bangladesh at Nagpur.

"I just feel that he needs to be allowed to do what he wants to do on the field. I would request everyone to just keep their eyes away from Rishabh Pant for a while." Pant was perceived as Mahendra Singh Dhoni's



**NAGPUR:** Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant attends a training session at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur, ahead of the third Twenty20 cricket match between India and Bangladesh. — AFP

natural successor in limited overs cricket for India when the former captain eventually hangs up his gloves and till recently was the preferred choice behind the stumps in all three formats.

He played 11 tests in the absence of the injured Saha

## Oilers shut out Devils

**EDMONTON:** Alex Chiasson collected a goal and an assist while Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Joel Persson both registered two assists as the host Edmonton Oilers handily beat the New Jersey Devils 4-0 on Friday. The two assists were the first points of Persson's nine-game NHL career. The Pacific Division-leading Oilers scored three goals in the second period and received a 29-save performance from goalie Mikko Koskinen to snap a two-game losing skid. Koskinen recorded his first shutout of the season and the fifth of his NHL career.

Edmonton has struggled to receive secondary scoring, and it finally received some against a Devils team that had high hopes before arriving in Alberta. New Jersey also lost 5-2 at Calgary on Thursday. After a goalless first period, Edmonton's Leon Draisaitl opened the scoring 1:55 into the second frame. Sprung on a breakaway by Nugent-Hopkins, Draisaitl netted his team-high 14th goal with a backhanded shot. Rookie forward Gaetan Haas doubled the Edmonton lead with his second goal of

the season at 15:45 of the period. Haas sent a long shot that ricocheted off the skate of Devils defender Will Butcher and into the net.

Sixty-six seconds later, James Neal made it a 3-0 game by netting his 12th of the season. Neal was parked at the side of the net and pounced on a loose puck for the rebound tally. Chiasson's first goal of the season, a power-play marker at 6:02 of the third period, rounded out the scoring. Chiasson was at the doorstep while his team was buzzing around the offensive zone, and he deflected a Nugent-Hopkins shot. Goalie Cory Schneider made 28 saves for New Jersey, which concludes a five-game road trip Sunday afternoon in Vancouver. The loss was doubly costly for the Devils. Defenseman Sami Vatanen left the game after a collision in the first period and didn't return.

### LIGHTNING 3, SABRES 2

Nikita Kucherov, Alex Killorn and Yannick Gourde scored goals to help Tampa Bay beat Buffalo in the first of two meetings this weekend at the NHL Global Series in Stockholm. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 20 saves for the Lightning, who won in regulation for just the second time since Oct. 15. Sam Reinhart scored twice, and Linus Ullmark made 31 saves for Buffalo, which has lost four in a row and is 1-4-

1 since an 8-1-1 start.

### RED WINGS 4, BRUINS 2

Robby Fabbri scored twice on the power play in his Red Wings debut as Detroit stunned visiting Boston. Dylan Larkin and Anthony Mantha also scored, and Tyler Bertuzzi had two assists as the Red Wings snapped a four-game losing streak. Detroit entered the contest mired in a 1-11-1 funk.

David Krejci and Torey Krug tallied for the Bruins, who lost a second straight in regulation for the first time this season. Jonathan Bernier stopped 26 shots for the Red Wings. Tuukka Rask made 28 saves for the Bruins.

### JETS 4, CANUCKS 1

Kyle Connor had a goal and an assist as the Winnipeg Jets defeated the visiting Vancouver Canucks 4-1 Friday night. Jack Roslovic, Mark Scheifele and Adam Lowry also scored and goaltender Connor Hellebuyck made 32 saves as the Jets improved to 3-0-1 this month. J.T. Miller scored for the Canucks, who lost for the second consecutive night, and goalie Thatcher Demko stopped 31 of 34 shots. Vancouver had an eight-game points streak (5-0-3) snapped in a 5-2 defeat Thursday in Chicago.

Connor scored on a breakaway at 13:35 of the third period to help clinch the victory. After the Canucks won a

and used his chances well, hitting a century in an Oval test against England last year while smashing an unbeaten 159 versus Australia in Sydney in January.

His six-hitting ability makes him a limited-overs asset, but India head coach Ravi Shastri and batting coach Vikram Rathour said in recent interviews that the left-hander's shot selection has occasionally let the team down. Pant played within himself and seemed to curb his natural instincts in his 26-ball knock of 27 during India's loss to Bangladesh in the first T20 in Delhi while he did not get a chance to bat during the series-levelling win at Rajkot. He, however, handed a reprieve to Bangladesh opener Liton Das, who was stumped off Yuzvendra Chahal but replays confirmed Pant did not collect the ball behind the stumps, with part of his gloves jutting ahead of the line.

Pant nearly repeated the mistake when effecting a similar dismissal to send back Soumya Sarkar for 30 off Chahal. "He is a young guy ... trying to make his mark in international cricket. Every move he makes on the field, people start talking about him. It is not fair," Rohit said.

"Focus on him a lot more when he is doing good things also, not just the bad things. He is a fearless cricketer and we want him to have that freedom. And if you guys keep your eyes little bit off him, it will allow him to perform even better." — Reuters

faceoff in the Winnipeg end, Connor stole the puck from Vancouver defenseman Tyler Myers, who spent the previous five seasons with the Jets, at the blue line and raced down the ice before beating Demko with a forehand shot.

The go-ahead goal came at 16:54 of the second after Winnipeg's Tucker Poolman gained possession of the puck at center ice and fed Connor streaking down the right wing. Connor's shot was kicked aside by Demko, but Scheifele collected the rebound at the bottom of the faceoff circle on his backhand, shifted the puck to his forehand and slipped a shot inside the right post.

The Canucks' Miller broke a scoreless tie at 6:53 of the second period. Miller took a pass at the top of the crease from Troy Stecher and redirected the puck past Hellebuyck. Brock Boeser also got an assist on the goal.

The Jets tied it with a power-play goal at 11:54 of the second. Blake Wheeler carried the puck over the blue line and down the center of the ice before shooting the puck wide of the net. Roslovic pounced on a failed clearing attempt near the left faceoff circle, driving to the net before his first shot was stopped by Demko. But Roslovic was able to lift the rebound over the goalie's left leg pad and into the net. — Reuters

## Liverpool host City with chance to open up nine-point lead

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool host Manchester City at Anfield today with the chance to open up a nine-point lead over the defending champions in the Premier League title race and take a huge step towards a first league crown for 30 years.

Clashes between the two sides have become classics in recent seasons with Liverpool thrashing City in a Champions League quarter-final 5-1 on aggregate in 2017/18 before City gained revenge with a 2-1 victory that saw them retain the Premier League title last season.

Here, AFP Sport looks at three key battles that are likely to decide the latest meeting between the champions of Europe and champions of England:

Which of these England teammates gets the upper hand will have a huge bearing on the outcome. Alexander-Arnold's superb delivery and ball striking has made him one of Liverpool's most deadly weapons, even from right-back. However, the one weakness in his game can be the space he leaves to be exploited in behind and there are few players better equipped to take advantage of that than a former Liverpool favourite in Sterling.

Sterling has never scored at Anfield since making a £50 million move to Manchester in 2015, but is City's top scorer in all competitions and has 18 goals in 20 games for club and country this season.

Fabinho's importance to Liverpool's stunning form in 2019 was underlined by Jurgen Klopp's decision to rest the Brazilian for last weekend's last-gasp win at Aston Villa to ensure he did not pick up a booking that would have seen him suspended for City's visit.

Klopp nicknamed Fabinho the "Dyson" after his recent display against Tottenham for his ability to hoover up possession in midfield. "The job of the No. 6 in modern football is incredibly important and the more offensive players there are around you, the more important it gets. But he's not only a gap-closer, a challenger or whatever, he is a very good footballer as well," added Klopp. De Bruyne missed both meetings between the sides in an injury-plagued campaign last season and his return was expected to have a major impact on the title race.

The Belgian shone in the early weeks of the season and his absence from the starting line-up has coincided with City's two Premier League defeats of the campaign so far to hand Liverpool the initiative. Mane was the focus of Pep Guardiola's ire after scoring another late Liverpool winner at Villa Park last weekend to maintain the Reds' six-point lead. — AFP



## Sports

# Timo Werner's double seals Leipzig's 4-1 win in Berlin

## Victory leaves Leipzig a point behind leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach

MUNICH: Timo Werner netted twice as RB Leipzig went second in the Bundesliga with a 4-1 win at Hertha Berlin yesterday's 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Borussia Dortmund can go top of the German league table with a win at Bayern Munich last night, but prior to the showdown, Leipzig took their chance to climb in the capital, where the Berlin Wall fell on November 9, 1989.

A replica of the Wall, which divided Germany's capital from 1961 until November 9, 1989, separated Hertha and Leipzig before being knocked down prior to kick-off as midfielder Maximilian Mittelstaedt gave the hosts a first-half lead in Berlin.

It lead lasted just six minutes as Hertha's Dutch defender Karim Rekik gave away a penalty with a handball, which Werner converted having hit a hat-trick in last weekend's 8-0 thrashing of Mainz.

Marcel Sabitzer added Leipzig's second on the stroke of half-time after the Austrian's first-time strike deflected off Rekik and wrong-footed Hertha's goalkeeper Rune Jarstein. Midfielder Kevin Kampl added a late third with a superb left-footed strike from the edge of the area before Werner grabbed his second for his 11th league goals in as many games.

Hertha striker Davie Selke then added a late second against his former club. The victory leaves

Leipzig just a point behind leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach, who are home to Werder Bremen on Sunday.

Schalke blew the chance to go third, and level with Leipzig on 21 points, after conceding a late equaliser in their 3-3 draw at home to Fortuna Duesseldorf, which left the Royal Blues fifth.

Duesseldorf striker Rouwen Hennings completed his hat-trick five minutes from time as Fortuna picked up only their third league win this season. Schalke squandered the lead three times after Daniel Caligiuri hit a superb first-half strike, then Turkey defender Ozan Kabak and Germany midfielder Suat Serdar scored second-half goals in Gelsenkirchen.

FC Union Berlin are up to 11th after their third straight win as Sebastian Anderson scored twice in their 3-2 victory at Mainz. After Austrian defender Karim Onisiwo netted late on for Mainz, captain and right-back Daniel Brosinski, who conceded a first-half own goal, gave the hosts brief hope by scoring on a counter-attack to make it 3-2 on 90 minutes.

Augsburg climbed out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win at last-placed side Paderborn as defender Philipp Max, part of the Germany team which won men's football silver at the 2016 Olympics, scored their winner. — AFP



BERLIN: Hertha Berlin's Dutch defender Karim Rekik and Leipzig's German forward Timo Werner (R) vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match Hertha BSC Berlin v RB Leipzig, at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin yesterday.— AFP

## Klopp rules out move for France superstar Mbappe

LONDON: French star Kylian Mbappe is out of Liverpool's price range, the Premier League leaders manager and long-time admirer Jurgen Klopp says. The 20-year-old Paris Saint Germain striker — who was instrumental in France's lifting of the 2018 World Cup — has been linked with Real Madrid.

This gathered momentum earlier in the week when Real's coach Zinedine Zidane remarked that Mbappe had always said it was his dream to play for the Spanish side. Klopp, speaking ahead of Sunday's clash with second-placed Manchester City, had been keen to sign Mbappe in 2017 and met with the player and his entourage.

However, he opted to join PSG for £158 million

(\$202 million). PSG are seeking to extend his present contract and if they were reluctantly to allow him to leave are believed to want more than the record fee of £198 million they paid Barcelona for Neymar in 2017.

"Buying this calibre of player is difficult," Klopp was cited in yesterday's The Times as saying. "I don't see any club at the moment who can buy Kylian Mbappé from PSG. "I don't see any club. That is how it is. And we are involved in these clubs who cannot do it. Easy as that."

"OK, from a sporting point of view, there are not a lot of reasons to not sign him. "What a player he is. It is about the money of course. No chance. Absolutely, no chance. Sorry for killing that story."

Klopp, whose side have a six point lead over champions City heading into their match at Anfield, said the minimalist level of activity from him in the transfer market in the close season was down to the money being asked for their targets.

The Champions League holders signed teenagers Harvey Elliott and Sepp van den Berg whilst bringing in goalkeeper Adrian on a free transfer. "The players we thought about to make this team better were really

expensive and we could not spend the money," said the 52-year-old German.

"That is how it is. "To see a player better than him, or with potential to be better or play exactly the same as him is really difficult. "That is what it was. That was the situation."

"It was not that we were not ready, but we did not want to make five or six changes. Not at all. "This team is at a wonderful age, there is still space for improvement, completely fine." Klopp, though, said it is easier than when he first arrived in 2015 to attract top level players to Liverpool.

Last year they secured Brazil goalkeeper Alisson and Dutch centre-back Virgil van Dijk for £65 million and £75 million respectively from AS Roma and Southampton. "I don't think we have to compare with Man City," said Klopp.

"I have no idea which kind of player wants to go to Man City, but good players obviously did it in the last couple of years, there is no doubt about that. "There are reasons, good reasons why players want to join us, that is clear. "I don't think we struggle with convincing players." — AFP

## Wonder boy Mohamed gives Egypt perfect start in Olympics

JOHANNESBURG: Wonder boy Mostafa Mohamed headed the goal that gave hosts Egypt a 1-0 win over Mali as an eight-nation African contest for three places at the Tokyo Olympics Games kicked off Friday. Later, Ghana snatched a late 1-1 draw with Cameroon in the second match of a Group A double-header at the 75,000-capacity Cairo International Stadium.

Franck Evina, who is on the books of Bayern Munich and known as the 'Bavarian Hulk', put Cameroon ahead after 59 minutes and substitute Mohammed Habib levelled three minutes from time. Forward Mohamed has earned rave reviews for his performances with top Egyptian club Zamalek at home and in Africa, with some pundits comparing him to legendary forward Hossam Hassan. He made an immediate impact in the tournament as he not only got his country off to a perfect start, but was also voted man of the match. Egypt are desperate to secure a top-three finish and a passport to Japan after the senior national team flopped as hosts of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

A Pharaohs team boasting Liverpool star and twice

African Footballer of the Year Mohamed Salah suffered a shock last-16 loss to South Africa in a tournament won by Algeria.

Mohamed struck on 29 minutes, powerfully heading an Ahmed Abo Elfetouh cross past Mali goalkeeper Youssouf Koita into the corner of the net. Fellow Egypt forward Nasser Maher was forced to retire early in the second half with a shoulder injury, but his team-mates comfortably contained Mali to go top of the table.

Cameroon, coached by Indomitable Lions great Rigobert Song, were poised to join Egypt on three points thanks to an Evina goal direct from a free-kick against Ghana. Evina is on loan to German third tier club KFC Uerdingen 05 this season from four-time European champions Bayern Munich.

But Habib salvaged a draw for the Black Meteors by poking the ball past Cameroon goalkeeper Simon Omossola after a deflected long-range shot looped into his path. Stephane Zobo, who replaced an exhausted Evina 14 minutes from time, wasted a chance to win the match in stoppage time when he headed a Michael Cheukoua cross wide.

Group B starts Saturday at the 30,000-seat Al Salam Stadium with a match between Nigeria and the Ivory Coast, followed by South Africa against Zambia. South Africa have been hampered by the refusal of some domestic clubs to free players ahead of the November 11-19 international window, and will face Zambia with a squad of only 15.

All the contenders have played at the Olympics with Egypt making 11 appearances, Nigeria seven, Ghana six, Cameroon three, South Africa and Zambia two and Ivory Coast and Mali one. — AFP



Mostafa Mohamed

## Watford win at last as Norwich hit rock bottom

LONDON: Watford got off the mark Friday with their first win of the Premier League season to climb off the foot of the table at Norwich's expense with a 2-0 victory at Carrow Road. The Hornets, finishing the game with 10 men, made a dream start as Gerard Deulofeu slotted the ball past Canaries goalkeeper Tim Krul inside the second minute.

Andre Gray doubled his side's lead seven minutes into the second half with an acrobatic backheeled flick. Watford looked to be easing towards all three points but Christian Kabasele's dismissal, after a second yellow card, left his side a man down for the last 25 minutes.

Norwich looked to make the most of the man-advantage, putting the pressure on the visitors and forcing them back into their half - but they were unable to create clear chances. The Canaries' defending was questionable at times, and the defence struggled to contain Watford on the counter-attack as a winless run stretching back to September's shock success over Manchester City continued.

With less than a minute and a half on the clock, Deulofeu weaved through the Norwich defenders inside the box before giving his side the lead with a curled effort. Deulofeu had scored his first goal of the season during the 2-1 defeat to Chelsea the previous weekend and followed it up quickly at Carrow Road.

The visitors almost extended their lead moments later when Daryl Janmaat met a Jose Holebas corner - but the 30-year-old's effort was narrowly over the bar. Daniel Farke's Canaries started to build after going a goal behind, enjoying more of the possession and Ben Foster came sliding out of the box to deny Onel Hernandez the chance to tap into an empty net.

Both sides had opportunities in a very open game throughout the first half, with Gray coming close with a blocked effort and Teemu Pukki volleying straight at Foster just before the half-time whistle.

Watford started the second half in similar fashion to the first and were rewarded when Deulofeu's cross went to Gray, who twisted to backheel the ball past Krul to double his side's lead. Facing an uphill task, Norwich came close through Jamal Lewis, whose curled effort forced Foster to deflect the ball behind.

After picking up a booking in the first half, Kabasele was shown a red card by referee Andre Marriner in the 65th minute for a careless foul on Josip Drmic, just as Norwich looked to be gaining some momentum in the match. Kenny McLean came close to pulling one back with a long-range powerful drive which was tipped over by Foster - but the Canaries struggled to make the numerical advantage count. — AFP

## W Indies complete first one-day series win in five years

LUCKNOW: West Indies beat Afghanistan by 47 runs yesterday to claim their first one-day series win in more than five years as their bowlers took control amid an invasion of moths. Sheldon Cottrell, Roston Chase and Hayden Walsh each took three wickets as Kieron Pollard's side wrapped up the three-match series with a game to spare. Afghanistan have now lost 11 one-day internationals in a row. Wicketkeeper Nicholas Pooran hit 67 off 50 balls to put backbone in the West Indies innings. Openers Shai Hope (43) and Evin Lewis (54) put on 98 for the first wicket but the batsmen then lost their way until Pooran's man-of-the-match fireworks that included three sixes and seven fours. Pooran admitted it had been a "critical situation" when he came in. He helped take the score from 156-4 to 242-8. The Afghanistan innings was overshadowed by tens of thousands of black moths and flies that took over the floodlit Ekana Stadium in Lucknow.

Dark clouds of insects rose up every time the ball hit a boundary rope and several West Indies fielders wore masks. The moths caused problems for bowlers and batsmen, and Pollard twice spoke to the umpires about the nuisance. "I've never played with so many flies around," said the West Indies captain after the game. "Health is very important, so something's got to be done about that." The third and final one-day game is on Monday but there are T20 games and a Test to

| Live  |       | Matches on TV<br>(Local Timings) |  |
|---|-------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>               |       |                                  |  |
| Manchester United v Brighton & Hove Albion  | 17:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Wolverhampton Wanderers FC v Aston Villa    | 17:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Liverpool v Manchester City                 | 19:30 | beIN SPORTS HD 2                 |  |
| <b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>                       |       |                                  |  |
| Real Mallorca v Villarreal CF               | 14:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Athletic de Bilbao v Levante                | 16:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Athletic de Madrid v RCD Espanyol           | 18:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Getafe CF v Osasuna                         | 20:30 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Real Betis v Sevilla FC                     | 23:00 | beIN SPORTS HD 3                 |  |
| <b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>                |       |                                  |  |
| Cagliari Calcio v ACF Fiorentina            | 14:30 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| SS Lazio v US Lecce                         | 17:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Udinese Calcio v spal                       | 17:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| UC Sampdoria v Atalanta                     | 17:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Parma Calcio 1913 v AS Roma                 | 20:00 | beIN SPORTS HD 4                 |  |
| Juventus FC v AC Milan                      | 22:45 | beIN SPORTS HD 4                 |  |
| <b>GERMAN BUNDESLIGA</b>                    |       |                                  |  |
| Borussia Monchengladbach v SV Werder Bremen | 15:30 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| VfL Wolfsburg v Bayer 04 Leverkusen         | 17:30 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| SC Freiburg v Eintracht Frankfurt           | 20:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| <b>FRENCH LEAGUE</b>                        |       |                                  |  |
| Stade Rennais v Amiens SC                   | 17:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Montpellier HSC v Toulouse FC               | 19:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| FC Nantes v Saint Etienne                   | 19:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |
| Olympique Marseille v Olympique Lyonnais    | 23:00 | beIN SPORTS                      |  |



LUCKNOW: West Indies' Nicholas Pooran (L) plays a shot during the second one day international (ODI) cricket match between Afghanistan and West Indies at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow yesterday.— AFP

follow — all in the same stadium. Afghanistan lost Javed Ahmed in the opening over before Hazratullah Zazai (23) and Rahmat Shah (33) steadied in the innings. But easy wickets then fell before Najibullah Zadran (56) and Mohammad Nabi (32) put on 66 for the sixth wicket, hitting the insects for six.

No one else could keep up the pace after their departure. Captain Rashid Khan scored only two as the eighth man in. "We recovered well, but couldn't finish it off," said Rashid. "The senior players did well, but we lost wickets in clusters." Walsh took three of the last four wickets to fall.

Pollard said it had been a great relief to finally win a one-day series for the first time since August 2014 when Bangladesh were the victims. "I want to go back inside and celebrate with the guys. Winning is a habit and we need to enjoy ourselves but we will be playing to win again the day after tomorrow." — AFP



**25** Russian teen Shcherbakova dazzles to China skating gold

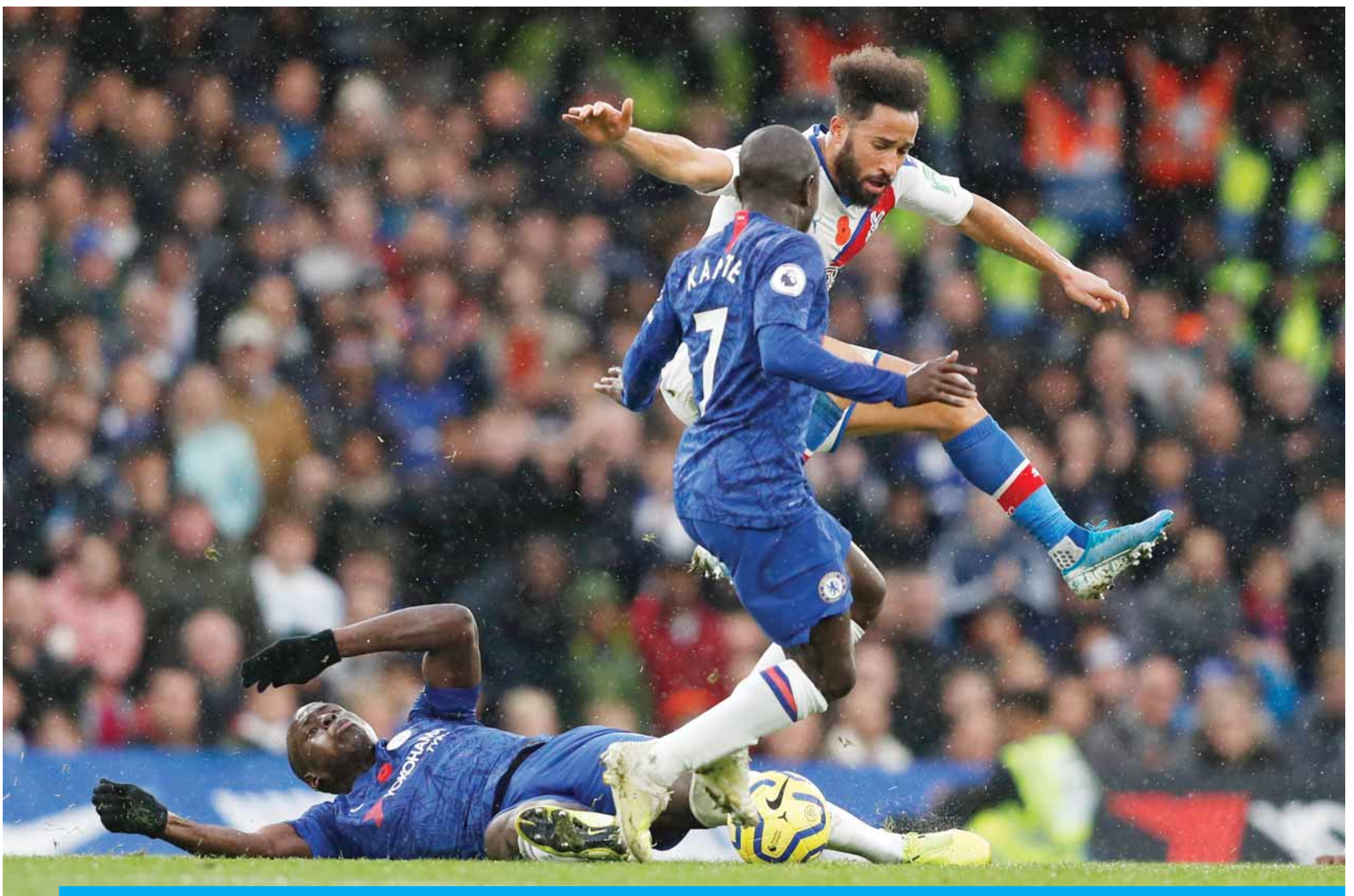
**26** Bogdanovic's buzzer-beater lifts Jazz over Bucks

**27** Timo Werner's double seals Leipzig's 4-1 win in Berlin



## Chelsea up second with sixth straight win

Tottenham slip to 12th after being held by Sheffield United



CHICAGO: Wendell Carter Jr. #34 of the Chicago Bulls fights for the rebound against the Los Angeles Lakers at United Center in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

**LONDON:** Chelsea beat Crystal Palace 2-0 to move up to second in the Premier League yesterday, while Tottenham's troubles continued with a draw at home to Sheffield United.

League leaders Liverpool host Manchester City in a highly-anticipated clash between the champions of Europe and champions of England at Anfield today.

And Chelsea took advantage of kicking off a day earlier to move a point ahead of City and close to within five of Liverpool with a patient performance to break down a defensively dogged Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge. Tammy Abraham moved level with Leicester's Jamie Vardy as the top scorer in the Premier League with 10 goals as the England striker pounced on a deft flick through by Willian seven minutes into the second half.

Christian Pulisic then secured all three points when the American headed home his

fifth goal in his last three Premier League games. "We won the game relatively comfortably," said Chelsea boss Frank Lampard. "A nice, solid win with a clean sheet."

Leicester can leapfrog Lampard's men on goal difference and open up a nine-point gap between fourth and fifth with victory at home to Arsenal later.

Tottenham slip to 12th and were lucky to even escape with a 1-1 draw as Sheffield United impressed once more to move up to fifth. John Lundstram struck the post for the visitors with the best effort of the first half, but a rare defensive error from the Blades set up Son Heung-min to open the scoring with his eighth goal of the season just before the hour mark.

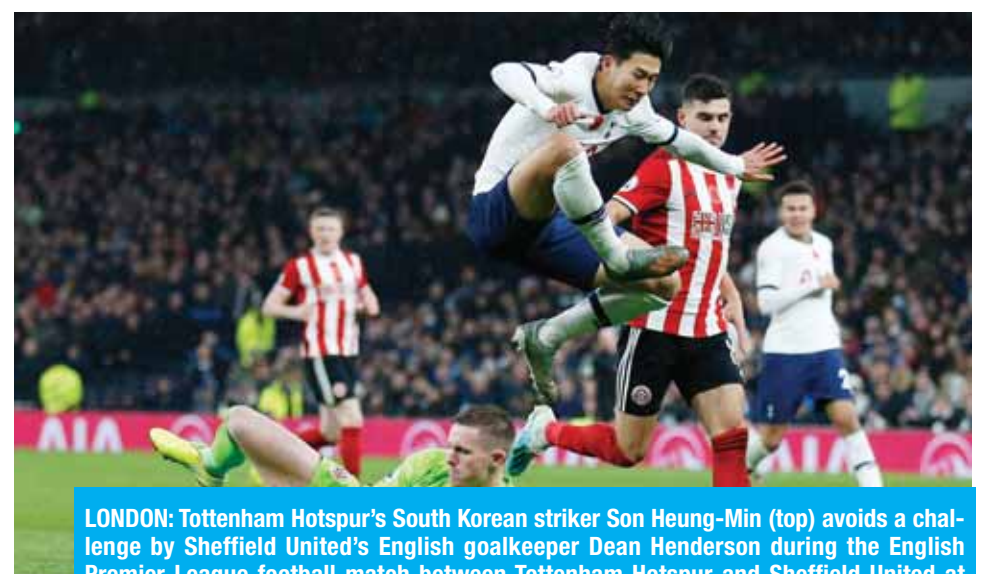
David McGoldrick thought he had levelled almost immediately, but after a three-minute delay the goal was ruled out for Lundstram being millimetres offside in the

build-up.

To their credit, Chris Wilder's men were not downhearted and survived another VAR review when George Baldock's cross from the right evaded everyone and found the bottom corner.

West Ham's woes continued as Manuel Pellegrini's men were beaten 3-0 at Burnley to stretch their winless streak to seven games. Ashley Barnes opened the scoring after 11 minutes as Burnley never looked back. Chris Wood doubled the hosts' advantage after earlier having a goal ruled out by VAR for offside and a miserable day for the visitors at Turf Moor was summed up when goalkeeper Roberto punched a corner into his own net.

Newcastle are now seven points clear of the drop zone as they came from behind to beat Bournemouth 2-1 at St James' Park thanks to goals from DeAndre Yedlin and Ciaran Clark. — AFP



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min (top) avoids a challenge by Sheffield United's English goalkeeper Dean Henderson during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Sheffield United at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, yesterday. — AFP

## Everton win 2-1 at Southampton

**LONDON:** Goals from Tom Davies and Richarlison gave Everton their first away win of the season at Southampton yesterday, taking some pressure off Toffees manager Marco Silva but putting more of it on his opposite number Ralph Hasenhuetl.

The result moved Everton up to 13th in the table on 14 points while Southampton — who are yet to

win at home this season — remain in the drop zone in 19th place on eight points.

"We deserved the three points, we were the best team on the pitch," Silva told BBC. "The first half was really good but we should kill the game. Southampton reacted and scored, but to show again the character to go back and win the game was good."

The visitors took the lead in the fourth minute when the unmarked Davies headed in a corner kick for his first goal since May 2018 — which also came against the Saints. Cenk Tosun had a chance to make it 2-0 minutes later when he played a one-two with

Theo Walcott, but the Turkish striker headed his effort from a few yards out over the crossbar.

Everton created the most chances in the first half while the home side failed to muster a single shot on goal, leading to boos and jeers from the home supporters at the halftime whistle. "Again we conceded a very early goal and it kills the mentality of our team," Hasenhuetl said. "The first half was horrible. No one wanted the ball anymore, you could feel the lack of self confidence."

However, the Saints were quick off the blocks in the second half and the constant pressure paid off when halftime substitute Sofiane Boufal beat his

marker on the right and squared the ball for Danny Ings to tap in from close range.

But with 15 minutes to go, Djibril Sidibe sent in a pin-point cross to the far post where Richarlison made it 2-1 with a left-footed first-time finish for his first goal in eight league matches to consign Saints to their eighth league defeat.

"It's not a nice situation," Hasenhuetl added. "I can guarantee the players try to fight to win games. At the moment we are not good enough. "It's my job to be strong in that moment. It's why I'm here. I will try to invest everything and try to work hard and get better. I think we can play better." — Reuters