



**6** Iran Guards vow to punish 'mercenaries' behind unrest



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# MP calls for pardoning activists jailed for expressing opinions

## Teachers slam outgoing education minister, urge PM not to reappoint him

### MoI mulls 5-yr license validity

**KUWAIT:** An informed police source at the traffic department said Acting Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary Maj Gen Jamal Al-Sayegh asked senior officials in the licensing sector to conduct a full study on the decision to link expats' driving licenses with the expiry of their residence permits.

The source said officials at the sector have spoken to Sayegh several times about the decision, which has caused con-

fusion and crowding at traffic departments in the six governorates, and asked for a solution to amend the decision. Sayegh then asked them to conduct the study to find the best solutions.

The source said the senior officials recommended that validity of licenses be decoupled from the duration of the residency, and that the license should be renewed for five years. When the residence permit expires, the license will be considered cancelled automatically. The source said officials said fines for violations will remain linked to the residence permit, which will not be renewed until the fines are paid. — Al-Jarida

By B Izzak and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MP Saleh Ashour yesterday called for a general pardon for all Kuwaitis implicated in cases related to expressing their opinions on social networks - especially Twitter - as a part of calls to grant amnesty to activists jailed over protests or for online offences. The lawmaker called for conveying this message to HH the Amir and HH the Prime Minister, and urged National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem to convey this message.

Ashour said many online users do not have full knowledge of the law and the penalties for cybercrimes. Dozens of activists are either in jail or on trial for publishing material deemed offensive and punishable by the country's laws. Ashour's call

comes as a campaign for pardoning former MPs and jailed opposition activists is gaining momentum after one former MP was pardoned and another is expected to be granted amnesty soon.

Around 15 former MPs and activists have been living in Turkey for the past 18 months to escape going to jail over the case of storming the National Assembly building in Nov 2011 following a protest against corruption. Two former MPs have returned so far. The first - Fahd Al-Khannah - was pardoned by HH the Amir, while the second - Waleed Al-Tabtabaei - returned from Turkey two days ago to accompany the body of his mother, who died there. He is expected to be pardoned by the Amir soon.

Head of the Assembly's budget committee

MP Adnan Abdulsamad said yesterday that financial controllers have registered over 20,000 financial violations committed by government departments in the 2018/2019 fiscal budget, which ended on March 31. Abdulsamad said the panel found the number of violations at the Civil Service Commission dropped by half to 344 violations.

MP Osama Al-Shaheen called yesterday for convening the Assembly on Tuesday, saying that the meeting must be held for legal and constitutional reasons. The regular meetings will not take place because the Cabinet has resigned and at least one minister is required to attend Assembly meetings for them to be constitutional. But some opposition MPs have insisted that the constitution

Continued on Page 24

## 9 killed in Iraq as unrest intensifies

**NASIRIYAH, Iraq:** Six protesters were killed yesterday in Baghdad and in Iraq's south where angry demonstrations turned up the heat on a paralyzed government facing the country's largest grassroots movement in decades. Three demonstrators died and around 50 were wounded in clashes with security forces near the key southern port of Umm Qasr, the Iraqi Human Rights Commission reported. An AFP correspondent said security forces had fired live rounds at protesters trying to block access to the port, a vital lifeline for food and medicine imports as well as energy exports.

Hours earlier, before dawn, three protesters were shot dead and at least 47 wounded by security forces in Nasiriyah, some 300 km south of the capital Baghdad, medical sources said. Hospital sources said another person died later from bullets wounds to his head. Protesters there blockaded five main bridges over the Euphrates River, shut down schools and burned tyres outside public offices. They blocked access to oil fields and companies around the city, torching as well its Shiite endowment center, a government body that manages religious sites.

Since Oct 1, Iraq's capital and majority-Shiite south have been swept by mass rallies against corruption, a lack of jobs and poor services that have escalated into

calls for a complete overhaul of the ruling elite. Top leaders have publicly acknowledged the demands as legitimate and promised measures to appease protesters, including hiring more civil servants, reforming the electoral system and reshuffling the cabinet.

But the rallies have continued, waning on some days but swelling again, despite the bloodshed, when demonstrators have felt politicians are stalling. "We are not afraid of threats," said one protester, Salem Hassan, in the southern city of Amara. "We cannot remain silent in the face of the barbarism of the leaders and the time they take to satisfy our demands."

An estimated 350 people have been killed and thousands wounded since Oct 1, according to a tally compiled by AFP as authorities no longer provide updated figures. Iraq's south, a rural area where tribal allegiances are strong, has carried the torch of the movement for weeks, with students and teachers leading rallies outside schools and public offices. The education ministry issued a directive for schools to open normally yesterday, the first day of the work week in Iraq, but protesters in Nasiriyah defied the order and shut down schools anyway, AFP's correspondent said.

In Baghdad, two protesters were killed during overnight demonstrations in central Al-Rasheed Street when police used live fire to disperse protesters, police and medical sources said. Protests flared anew yesterday on the street when security forces used live fire and tear gas to prevent protesters from trying to reach the road leading to the central bank.

Continued on Page 24



**BASRA:** A man rides his donkey-drawn carriage past burning tyres during a demonstration in this southern city yesterday. — AFP

## Duterte strips VP critic of drug war post

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte fired Vice President and arch-critic Leni Robredo from her post as overseer of his deadly drug war yesterday, an aide said, just days after calling her a "scatterbrain" not to be trusted with state secrets. Robredo, 54,



Leni Robredo

lasted less than three weeks steering Duterte's signature anti-narcotics campaign, which she vowed to reform amid allegations police were committing crimes against humanity in killing thousands of drug suspects.

"The Vice-President resorted to unduly baiting international attention on the matter," Duterte spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a statement announcing Robredo's immediate dismissal. "Essentially, what the Vice-President has done is to embarrass our country," Panelo added. Robredo's spokesman said he was not aware of her receiving any formal dismissal notice, adding "as usual, announced to media without the courtesy of directly informing (her)".

The decision came after Duterte and his political allies publicly criticized Robredo, who had vowed to end "senseless" killing in the campaign after her appointment. Critics were sceptical of the appointment from the start, questioning whether it was a trap to tarnish Robredo or simply an

Continued on Page 24

## Lebanon detains youths for tearing down banner

**BEIRUT:** Lebanese security forces briefly arrested five youths, including three minors, for allegedly pulling down a sign for the president's political party, sparking outrage yesterday on social media. Defense lawyers said the five were taken into custody on Saturday evening in the town of Hammama east of Beirut over claims they tore down a sign for President Michel Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement.

Security forces released them after midnight after taking a statement from them, the Committee of Lawyers for the Defense of Protesters said. The army said two of the children were 15 years old and the third was 12. The news sparked indig-

nation on social media, the latest outcry in a country gripped by spontaneous anti-government protests since Oct 17. "Down with the regime that arrests children," said one user. "When a 12-year-old child manages to shake the state's throne, you know the state is corrupt," another wrote.

During the first month of demonstrations, security forces arrested 300 people including 12 minors who were released within the following 24 or 48 hours, according to the lawyers' committee. But 11 people - including two minors - remain in detention accused of attacking a hotel in the southern city of Tyre during the first week of the uprising.

Continued on Page 24



**BEIRUT:** Lebanese demonstrators burn the Israeli flag during a protest near the US embassy in Awkar on the outskirts of the Lebanese capital yesterday. — AFP

## Bloomberg enters 2020 Democratic presidential race

**NEW YORK:** Michael Bloomberg confirmed yesterday that he is running for president, joining the crowded field of Democrats seeking to take on his fellow New York billionaire, President Donald Trump. His 11th-hour entry highlights the fluid nature of the Democratic contest just three months before the first primary. "I'm running for president to defeat Donald Trump and rebuild America," Bloomberg, 77, said on his website as a \$30 million Bloomberg ad campaign hit US airwaves.

The announcement ended weeks of speculation that the former New York mayor was preparing for a

run at the White House. He had prepared the groundwork for a possible bid for the Democratic nomination in recent weeks by registering as a candidate in primary voting states and filing paperwork with the Federal Election Commission. "We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's reckless and unethical actions," the billionaire businessman said. "He represents an existential threat to our country and our values. If he wins another term in office, we may never recover from the damage," Bloomberg added.

With a personal fortune of \$50 billion, Bloomberg's candidacy will likely shake up the open race, with 17 candidates already vying to be the Democratic nominee to take on Trump next year. Former vice president Joe Biden leads the race ahead of left-wingers Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, with moderate Pete Buttigieg in fourth place, according to national polls.

Bloomberg is poised to run as a centrist and analysts suspect that he could take away some of the support enjoyed by fellow moderate Biden. Some

believe that his "self-made man" image and support for fighting global warming makes him the best challenger for Trump. Others on the left of the party who favor Warren or Sanders see him as the sort of billionaire they would like to tax heavily to reduce inequality.

"As a candidate, I'll rally a broad and diverse coalition of Americans to win," Bloomberg said in his statement, adding that he would "stand up" to Trump's "bigotry". Bloomberg touted some of his achievements as New York mayor, including getting the city back on its feet after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks - he was first elected in January of the following year, taking over from Rudy Giuliani - and banning smoking in restaurants and bars.

He said he was best placed to take on Trump on the issues of gun violence and climate change. Last week he apologized for his longtime support of controversial "stop and frisk" policing policy that disproportionately targeted black and Latino New Yorkers during his time as mayor. — AFP

## Local

# Kuwait Amir meets state officials; receives call from Iraqi Premier

## Prime Minister receives phone call from Iraqi counterpart



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Speaker of the National Assembly Marzuq Al-Ghanem. — Amiri Diwan photos



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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received the Speaker of the National Assembly Marzuq Al-Ghanem. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad also hosted His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. In addition, His Highness the Amir received Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court, and President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawaa.

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call on Saturday from Iraq's Prime Minister Adel Abdelmehdi. During the conversation, Abdelmehdi inquired about His Highness the Amir's health, wishing him good health and wellness. His Highness the Amir and the Iraqi prime minister also discussed bilateral relationships between the two friendly countries and issues of common interests. His Highness expressed gratitude and appreciation for the kind gesture, delivered in a telephone call, saying it embodies the close bond between the



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chief Justice Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawaa.

two neighboring countries.

Moreover, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call on Saturday from Iraq's Prime Minister Adel Abdelmehdi. During the talks, Abdelmehdi congratulated Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on his new post as the premier and expressed best wishes in forming the

government. The Iraqi prime minister also tackled bilateral relationships between the two countries and issues of common concerns. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed gratitude and appreciation for the kind words and gesture. The two sides also delved into the latest developments in the region, and the importance of consulting and coordinat-

ing to achieve security and stability in the region.

Separately, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable to the President of the Republic of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta, expressing condolences over the victims of the heavy rainfall in his country. His Highness expressed sorrow

over the victims of house collapses and landslides caused by heavy rain that swept northwest of the capital Nairobi, wishing speedy recovery of those injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. —KUNA

## Kuwaiti Speaker, Deputy FM meet UNHCR official



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem meets with Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees at the UNHCR. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem received yesterday Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees at the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) on her official visit to the country. A group of MPs, in addition to Commission representative in GCC Khaled Khalifa, and UNHCR

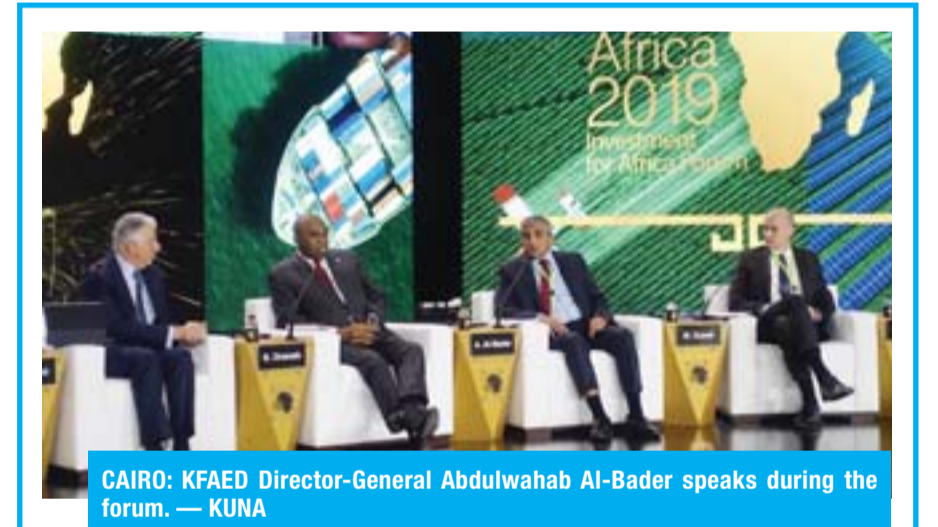
Kuwait Office Director Samer Haddadin, attended the reception.

Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah also received Clements and her accompanying delegation yesterday. The meeting dealt with prospects of cooperation between Kuwait and the Commission's program. During the meet-

ing, Clements hailed Kuwait's role and efforts in the humanitarian field. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations' Nasser Al-Heen. — KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees at the UNHCR.



CAIRO: KFAED Director-General Abdulwahab Al-Bader speaks during the forum. — KUNA

## KFAED funds 324 projects worth \$4 billion in Africa

CAIRO: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Director-General Abdulwahab Al-Bader said Saturday the fund has financed 324 projects in non-Arab African countries with loans worth \$4 billion. Bader made the remark during a debate on Arab-African investments, held as part of an ongoing forum on investment in Africa. The fund has contributed to bankrolling a large number of infrastructure projects that have promoted local, regional and international trade in the African con-

tinents, he said. He added that infrastructure utilities involve transport, communications and energy, noting that these development projects have helped in the drawing of foreign investments to Africa. The fund was established on December 31, 1961, and his activities were expanded in 1974 to cover non-Arab countries, with non-Arab African countries having been in the forefront of beneficiaries. The KFAED chief noted that the total Arab aid to African countries exceeded \$100 billion. — KUNA

## Gulf Bank hosts 'Shaping the Future' conference

KUWAIT: As part of Gulf Bank's ongoing Executive Leadership Development program, Gulf Bank hosted the 'Shaping the Future' conference. The workshop was organized and delivered as part of Gulf Bank's Executive Leadership Development program, whose purpose is to bring together the Bank's executive leadership in order to enhance operations and drive business growth according to the latest insight across the financial and banking sector.

Throughout the year, Gulf Bank hosts regular

development initiatives for its executive leadership, which include strategic workshops delivered by world-class facilitators. The aim of these workshops is to encourage Gulf Bank leaders to reimagine Gulf Bank's future in line with the latest global business trends.

Commenting on the conference, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources, Salma Al-Hajaj, said: "The importance of learning from industry leaders within the global financial sector cannot be understated. We are proud to organize

regular workshops for our executive leadership with renowned keynote speakers, business leaders, authors, and business advisors from around the globe. We have no doubt that our 'Shaping the Future' Conference was an inspiring, insightful, and energizing workshop that will have a positive impact on Gulf Bank's long-term strategy."

The workshop, delivered by Peter Fisk, was based on a series of his white papers designed for business leaders who wish to drive smarter innovation and achieve faster growth. Gulf Bank's executive leadership gleaned key takeaways from the event, including the concept of design thinking, or embracing a combination of analytics and intuition in order to understand the deeper motivations and aspirations of customers. Attendees also discussed the concept of creative disruption in relation to new business models, and explored how to challenge conventions in order to redefine the current market.



Salma Al-Hajaj



Peter Fisk addresses the audience.

## Kuwait participation in charity bazaar

VIENNA: The 51st International Charity Bazaar, organized by the UN Women's Association in Vienna, kicked-off on Saturday with the participation of Kuwait. Charge d'affaires of Kuwait's Embassy to Austria Abdullah Al-Obaidi said that Kuwait is eager to support humanitarian and charitable work in international forums. Obaidi said that the proceeds of these charitable markets, which help in diplomatic missions accredited to Austria and international organizations of the UN, help needy children in various countries of the world, adding that the proceeds will support the sick children in developing countries. He pointed out that Kuwait's participation in this charitable work in general is one of the pillars of Kuwait's foreign poli-

tics, in accordance with the directives of the humanitarian leader, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, Supervisor of Kuwaiti Pavilion Sarah Al-Sorayai said that Kuwait's participation in the bazaar, among 100 countries, is a representation of their presence over the past years. Kuwait's participation in this charity comes in line with what Kuwaitis have done to do good and help others. She added that Kuwait's participation is an opportunity to learn about the different cultures of participating countries. The Kuwaiti pavilion witnessed the presentation of various Kuwaiti products, including folk clothing and food, in addition to traditional Kuwaiti dishes, coffee, incense and souvenirs. — KUNA

Local

# Nuclear medicine staff demand to stay separate from radiology

‘Decision negatively impacts nuclear medicine diagnosis, treatment quality’

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait society of nuclear medicine urged the Ministry of Health (MoH) to cancel a previous decision to turn nuclear medicine departments into units under a new medical imaging department headed by a diagnostic radiologist without even discussing the issue with nuclear medicine doctors or justifying the decision.

“The decision was not well-studied and has negative impacts on nuclear medicine diagnosis and treatment quality,” said the society in a press statement on the sidelines of the Kuwait society of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging general assembly. “This decision is a step backwards in the field,” the society added, noting nuclear medicine has been practiced in Kuwait since the 1960s through independent departments under

a single council for nuclear medicine, diagnostic radiology and radiotherapy departments before a separate council was established in 2009 for nuclear medicine departments.

“We currently have 11 separate nuclear medicine departments in public and private hospitals, in addition to one at the military hospital and another at the faculty of medicine,” the society explained, pointing to the presence of a

separate college for nuclear medicine supervised by Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialties (KIMS) offering five-year high-quality training programs since the 1980s.

Further, the society elaborated that the equipment used for nuclear medicine are different from those used in diagnostic radiology departments and need special licenses to handle and prepare unsealed sources of radioactive materials.

## New procedures mull for expat teachers recruitment

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A number of senior Ministry of Education (MoE) officials met yesterday to discuss adopting new procedures for recruiting expat teachers from outside Kuwait that would avoid previous shortcomings including accrediting the new teachers’ degrees. Official sources said the new certificate accreditation law had been impeding the new teachers’ appointment procedures and registering them with the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

“The CSC has been refusing to pay the new teachers’ salaries unless they get their certificates accredited, which made MoE pay them monthly loans to be deducted when they officially start getting their salaries,” the sources explained, pointing out that some of the new teachers do not have the certificates to accredit them with the ministry of higher education on grounds that they had already submitted them on applying, while others would need to travel back to their countries to procure them.

The sources added that the new mechanism involves having a delegation from the ministry of higher education accompanying MoE delegations dispatched to recruit the new teachers so that they can accredit applicants’ certificates on the spot through Kuwaiti embassies in relevant countries.

## Kuwait participates in Budapest charity Bazaar

**VIENNA:** Kuwait yesterday participated in the annual diplomatic charity Bazaar held in Hungary, for the support of nursing homes, the elderly and hospitals. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Hungary Saad Al-Asousi said in a press statement Kuwait’s keenness to participate in the Bazaar was display solidarity and provide assistance and support to those in need, stemming from the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. This humanitarian event, which is held annually with the participation of more than 50 embassies and missions in the capital Budapest, reflects social responsibility, as well as spreading the spirit of humanitarian action, he added. — KUNA



Kuwait's booth in the charity bazaar.

## Kuwait participates in endourology congress

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Head of the Urology unit at Wara hospital Dr Mohammad Al-Ghanem said the use of new techniques and artificial intelligence are not limited to urology, adding that the current treatments are highly advanced, especially those using laser and robot technologies. Dr Ghanem was speaking after participating in the 37th World Congress of Endourology (WCE) 2019 in Abu Dhabi, which was organized by Abu Dhabi society for urology diseases. Dr Ghanem said the meeting discussed



Dr Mohammad Al-Ghanem

the latest research in the treatment of kidney, ureter and prostate diseases, including the latest research in the treatment of prostate cancer using robots. He added that the meeting featured many workshops with participation of around 1,800 doctors from around the world, noting that Kuwaiti doctors are keen to participate in such conferences to benefit and gain experience. “Doctors witnessed operations that were done under certain circumstances with high efficiency,” Dr Ghanem said. “We saw prostate operations performed using new techniques such as prostate vaporization using laser.”



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**KUWAIT:** A Seagull skims a chunk of floating bread from Gulf waters off the coast of Kuwait City yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait City as seen from Shuwaikh beach. — Photo by John Mathew Parapurathu (KUNA)

# Abdullah Al-Mubarak Charity Foundation awards publishers on Mideast studies

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Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah in a group photo with guests at the ceremony. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan delivers his speech.



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah delivers a speech.

**KUWAIT:** The British-Kuwaiti friendship society held its annual ceremony in London on the occasion of awarding the special prize for the best book published in English on Middle East studies, under the auspices of Abdullah Al-Mubarak Charity Foundation. The ceremony was held at Kuwait's embassy in the United Kingdom with the presence of a large number of foreign and Arab academics, diplomats and researchers from the UK and GCC states.

Speaking on the occasion, Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan stressed that the writers award given by Abdullah Al-Mubarak Charity Foundation shows the great care Kuwait gives to culture and arts under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Duwaisan also emphasized the importance of this annual award towards strengthening cultural links between Kuwait and the UK, pointing out Britain's significant role in scientific studies, especially those related to Middle East issues. Furthermore, he added that the UK is the most knowledgeable and understanding country in the history of the Middle East and its people, praising the active role that Abdullah Al-Mubarak Charity Foundation

and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah play in this field ever since its establishment in 1998 by Prince Charles and Sheikh Dr Suad Al-Sabah. He also praised the historic relations between both countries that go back 120 years to 1899.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah thanked, as representative of the organization, the publishers, academic professors, and judges of this special prize, noting that this award aims to reinforce the understanding among English speaking countries in the Middle East. He added that, since establishment, the prize aims at encouraging reading and knowledge worldwide. He expressed hope that these winning books would contribute in giving a more in-depth explanation on the current situation in the Arab world. Further, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah expressed pride in the growing success of the prize every year, noting that since its inception 21 years ago, the prize had discussed 1,200 books on the Middle East. In the meantime, the head of the jury panel Francis Gay hailed the role the charity plays in boosting cultural researches over the past two decades and expressed her personal appreciation for the efforts exerted by Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah in this regard. — KUNA



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah awards a winner.

# Trio kill their friend in Kabd desert over personal dispute

## Businessman questioned on suspicions of swindling KD 20 million



KUWAIT: Pictures taken during a fire drill Kuwait Fire Service Directorate carried out at Al-Raya Towers yesterday.



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Three youths killed their friend over a personal dispute in Kabd Saturday night. The murder was committed in the desert, as one of the suspects lured the victim by inviting him to meet to bury the hatchet. An informed source said the suspects stabbed the victim, and when he

attempted to escape, they chased him in their vehicle and ran over him several times. The sources said two of the suspects almost fled Kuwait, but detectives were able to arrest them before they boarded the aircraft.

### Businessman detained

A well-known businessman (S S) was detained at a

Jahra police station on charges of swindling KD 20 million. A Qatari had filed complaints against him.

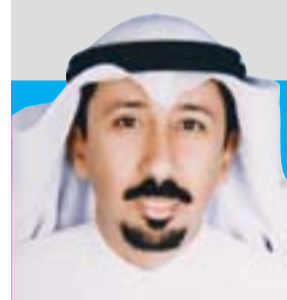
### Fire drill

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) carried out an exercise at Al-Raya Towers as part of a series of training programs at high rise buildings. Firemen

from three fire stations as well as interior ministry officers participated. The exercise mimicked the scenario of a fire at the 43rd floor, so 2,000 employees were evacuated and water was pumped to the floor. The entire drill lasted 30 minutes. The exercise was done under the supervision of Colonel Ahmad Hayef Al-Rasheedi.

In my view

## John's diaries on Kuwait



By Talal Al-Ghannam

**G**ood morning dear brothers and sisters. It has been a while since I last wrote an article in my prestigious Kuwait Times daily. In this article I would like to talk about diaries written by an old American friend of mine named John. I have known him since I was in the United States in the 1980s, and I invited him to visit Kuwait and become acquainted with its traditions and culture.

John was very excited to have been given this invitation to visit Kuwait, a country he had always dreamt of seeing closely and getting to know about its vast development, especially after the liberation. As soon as John arrived at the airport, he began questioning me about things he believed were wrong on a journey to a country labeled in olden times as the Pearl of the Gulf.

The first thing John noticed at the airport was bad treatment of a foreigner at the passport counter by an officer. That officer was yelling at the foreign tourist, telling him to queue in the right lane, when that tourist didn't know that in the first place. John asked me how can this happen right at the entrance of a country, as this place is supposed to be the first gate for a tourist to see for himself what comes next.

The next stage started right after we exited the airport's gate heading to the parking lot, when he noticed many cars parked in handicapped spots without an official handicapped sticker, and saw healthy and fit people walking out of their cars and leaving those in need of those parking spaces stranded and having to wait till the fit b\*\*\*\*s return and vacate the spaces. He asked me whether the fine imposed on these irresponsible persons is severe enough to deter them, but I told him it is only KD 50. He began shaking his head and said it is considered a crime in the US if a fit person occupies a handicapped person's specified spot.

After that we rode the car to the hotel, when John noticed the reckless driving and flashing of high beams of light on other cars. He asked me why everyone is in a hurry. Why do they drive maniacally? Why do they flash their high beams? Why do they drive on the shoulder of the road? Why do they drive fast? Why are they impatient? Questions I could not answer and kept quiet.

Before reaching the hotel John asked me if we could stop at a cooperative society to buy some groceries. Right after we left the store, he noticed some cars were blocking other cars, while the drivers of the blocked cars were waiting for those maniacs to come and remove their cars. I again kept quiet. Later, John noticed many cars parked on the pavement and on the green landscaping, and asked me why do they do this? Why do they ruin these nice sceneries and destroy the infrastructure? Don't they pay taxes to the country? I said no, there are no taxes imposed on services here and that is why they are irresponsible.

The next day we went to The Avenues mall, where John noticed some families dining at a restaurant where their maids are kept away from them on other tables, while others were deprived of meals and were watching the kids playing. He asked me why don't their maids sit with the families at the same table to eat? Why are they kept away from them? I said there are many families who do this, yes, but there are many other families who treat their workers like members of the family.

John's one-week-trip was filled with bad memories and kept me silent most of the time.



## Bahrain FM extols Kuwait's role in resolving Gulf row

**MANAMA:** Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad Saturday commended His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's significant role in resolving the inter-Gulf standoff. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 15th Manama Dialogue Conference held in Bahrain, the Bahraini minister said His Highness the Amir has started good offices since the outbreak of the crisis. He underscored the significant role of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries, Egypt and Jordan in safeguarding regional security and stability and finding enduring solutions to regional problems. Since the region is of strategic importance at political, security and economic levels, world countries should work with its countries to maintain regional security and peace, he emphasized. On Iran, the Bahraini foreign minister said Tehran still poses a main threat to the region's security and stability by carrying on backing terrorism, adopting expansive policies, breaking international law and attacking oil facilities. He called on the international community to exert more efforts to stop Iran's interference in the internal affairs of the region's countries and to respect their sovereignty and independence. Co-organized by the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the 15th version of the Manama Dialogue Conference kicked off in Manama on Friday. —KUNA

## Kuwait Navy conducts drill today

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti Navy announced it will carry out exercises with live ammunition at the sea shooting range from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm today. Kuwait Army said in a statement that the drills will be held at approximately 16.5 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Jelaiaa all the way to Qarouh Island and six nautical miles east Ras Az Zour all the way to Umm Al-Maradem Island. Seagoers are advised to steer clear of the aforementioned areas, the statement noted. —KUNA



KUWAIT: A map showing the location of the shooting range (in red). — KUNA

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Namibia first female candidate vows to 'restore dignity'

Johnson unveils manifesto for Brexit Britain



NAGASAKI: Pope Francis arrives to hold Mass at a baseball stadium yesterday. —AFP

Pope assails 'crime' of nuclear weapons

Pontiff visits Hiroshima and Nagasaki, meets elderly survivors

NAGASAKI: Pope Francis yesterday described the use of nuclear bombs as "a crime", as he took his appeal for an end to atomic weapons to Hiroshima in an emotional meeting with survivors. The visit came hours after a highly symbolic stop in the city of Nagasaki, where Francis railed against all nuclear weapons, including their use as a deterrent. At least 140,000 people died after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, with another 74,000 killed after a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki three days later.

"In barely an instant, everything was devoured by a black hole of destruction and death. From that abyss of silence, we continue even today to hear the cries of those who are no longer," Francis said at the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima. "With deep conviction, I wish once more to declare that the use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today, more than ever, a crime not only against the dignity of human beings but against any possible future for our common home," he added.

He first signed the book of remembrance, saying he would "grieve in solidarity" with the victims, receiving warm

applause from the assembled worshippers. He then clasped hands with several elderly survivors, some of them overcome with emotion on meeting the 82-year-old pontiff and sharing their harrowing testimony. Francis has made the call for a world without nuclear weapons a central theme of his four-day trip to Japan, starting his visit in two cities synonymous with the horrors of the atomic bomb.

He said he felt a "duty to come here as a pilgrim of peace" and paid tribute to the "strength and dignity" of those who survived the attack and the physical and emotional toll of the aftermath. Like in Nagasaki earlier yesterday, he laid a wreath of white flowers as a tribute and bowed his head in prayer before a moment of reflection with deep bells tolling in the background to remember those killed in the catastrophe.

True peace is 'unarmed'

Survivors from Hiroshima described to the pope their personal experiences and backed his abolitionist message, including Yoshiko Kajimoto, who was 14 at the time of the attack. She recalled

"people walking side by side like ghosts," telling Francis: "No one in this world can imagine such a scene of hell."

The ageing survivors of the attacks have expressed fear that the memory of the bombings may disappear after their death, and some hope the pope will bring renewed attention to their stories. "I believe that passing on the experience of Hiroshima to the next generation is the final mission assigned to us A-bomb survivors," survivor Koji Hosokawa told Francis in testimony read out as he was unable to attend. In Hiroshima, the Argentine pontiff repeated his insistence that there was no place in the world for nuclear weapons, even as a deterrent.

This marks a break with past pontiffs - in a 1982 UN speech, Pope John Paul II described nuclear deterrence as a necessary evil. "How can we propose peace if we constantly invoke the threat of nuclear war as a legitimate recourse for the resolution of conflicts?" Francis said. "A true peace can only be an unarmed peace." In Nagasaki earlier, he also took aim at the arms industry, describing money spent and made on weapons as an "affront crying out to Heaven".

'Fondness and affection'

The Argentine pontiff is fulfilling a long-held ambition to preach in Japan - a country he wanted to visit as a young missionary. "Ever since I was young I have felt a fondness and affection for these lands," said Francis when he arrived in Japan. As in Thailand, the first leg of his Asian tour, Catholicism is a minority religion in Japan. Most people follow a mix of Shinto and Buddhism, with only an estimated 440,000 Catholics in the country.

Christians in Japan suffered centuries of repression, being tortured to recant their faith, and Francis paid tribute in Nagasaki to the martyrs who died for their religion, saying they had inspired him as a young Jesuit. Francis returns to Tokyo yesterday night where he will today meet victims of Japan's "triple disaster" - the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown. He is also scheduled to deliver a mass at a Tokyo baseball stadium, meet Japan's new Emperor Naruhito and hold talks with Japanese government officials and local Catholic leaders. —AFP

Iran vows to punish 'mercenaries' behind street violence

TEHRAN: Iran vowed yesterday to severely punish "mercenaries" arrested over a wave of street unrest sparked by a fuel price hike, as much of the country came back online after a week-long internet blackout. Authorities say calm has been restored and have announced plans to hold a pro-government demonstration to condemn the "rioters" at Tehran's Enghelab Square on Monday afternoon.

The protests first flared on November 15, hours after a surprise announcement that petrol prices were being raised by as much as 200 percent with immediate effect. Highways were blocked, banks and petrol stations set on fire and shops looted as the demonstrations turned violent and spread to dozens of urban centers across the country.

Citing law enforcement officials, Fars news agency said yesterday that 180 ringleaders had been arrested over the street violence, which it has blamed on enemies abroad. "We have arrested all stooges and mercenaries who have explicitly made confessions that they have been mercenaries of America, of Monafeghin and others," said Rear-Admiral Ali Fadavi, deputy commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guards. Monafeghin is a term Iran uses to refer to the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK) opposition in exile group,

which it considers a "terrorist" cult. The government said the fuel price hike would allow it to provide welfare payments to the needy in Iran, where many have struggled to make ends meet since the US reimposed sanctions after withdrawing from a landmark nuclear deal. Officials have confirmed five deaths in the unrest, while Amnesty International said more than 100 demonstrators were believed to have been killed and the real toll could be as high as 200.

'Coalition of evil'

Fadavi said about protest leaders that "we have arrested all of them and, God willing, the judiciary will give them maximum punishments". "We will certainly respond in accordance to the viciousness carried out by them," he told a news conference in Tehran. The Revolutionary Guards deputy commander was speaking at a gathering of female members of the Basij, a militia loyal to Iran's establishment.

On Friday, a Basij commander said the unrest sparked by the fuel price hike amounted to a "world war" against Iran that had been thwarted. Brigadier General Salar Abnoosh said interrogations had revealed that a "coalition of evil" of Israel, the United States and Saudi Arabia was behind the "sedition", according to ISNA news agency. The total number of people arrested over the unrest remained unclear, but the UN human rights office put it at more than 1,000 on Tuesday.

Mobile networks offline

At the height of the unrest, a near-total internet blackout was imposed in a step seen as aimed at curbing the spread of videos of the violence. The outage had helped to "dis-



TEHRAN: Basij women attend a press conference during Basij Week in the Iranian capital yesterday. —AFP

rupt the complicated" plans by Iran's enemies, Abnoosh said on Friday. Connectivity was back yesterday for much of the country except for its mobile telephone networks, said NetBlocks, a website that monitors global internet disruptions.

"In the 186th hour of #Iran's national internet shutdown, mobile connectivity remains scarce while fixed-line/wifi is still shut in several regions," it tweeted at 2:13 pm. NetBlocks said internet connectivity on the country's three main mobile service providers-MCI, Rightel and Irancell-was running at zero, one and 28 percent, respectively.

Iran's arch-enemy the United States on Friday slapped sanctions on the Islamic republic's telecommunications minister over the outage. It issued a call Saturday for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to suspend the accounts of Iranian government officials until coverage is re-established across the country. Since May last year when the US pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions, the Iranian rial has plummeted and inflation has soared. The International Monetary Fund expects the country's economy to contract by 9.5 percent this year. —AFP

US and France vie to bolster Gulf security

MANAMA: The United States and France are boosting Saudi Arabia's radar systems following crippling drone and cruise missile attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure in September, which Washington blames on Iran. The chief of the US Central Command and France's defense minister, whose countries have taken divergent approaches to Iran, also touted rival versions of maritime missions to protect Gulf waters at a Bahrain security forum on Saturday.

More than two months after the biggest assault on Saudi oil facilities, Riyadh and Washington have yet to provide concrete proof linking Iran to the attack while Saudi Arabia has provided few details about how it is addressing gaps in its air defenses. Tehran denies involvement in the strikes that initially halved the crude output of the world's top oil exporter and led the United States to send thousands of troops and military hardware to the kingdom.

"We continue to refine information on the attack against (Saudi state oil firm) Aramco and that will be released principally through the Saudis," said General Kenneth McKenzie, who oversees operations in the Middle East and South Asia. "We are working with the Saudis to increase the networking of their systems. That will make them better able to defend against this type of threats," he told reporters.

McKenzie said boosting the US military presence at Prince Sultan Air Base south of Riyadh, in addition to large bases in Qatar and Bahrain, would "complicate an adversary's ability to target you". French Defense Minister Florence Parly said Paris was separately sending Riyadh "a robust package of advanced warning", including radars, to confront low-altitude attacks. "It will be in Saudi Arabia in the coming days so it will be operational very, very rapidly. But there is an analysis to be done in order to better identify how to fill the gap," she later told reporters.

The Sept. 14 strikes heightened regional tensions following attacks on tankers in Gulf waters and other Saudi energy assets in the summer that Washington also blamed on Iran, a charge Tehran denies.

Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir told the IISS Manama Dialogue that Riyadh was consulting with its allies about what measures would be taken against Iran after the investigation concluded. He gave no timeframe. The event focused mostly on the Iranian threat but included no representatives from Tehran. It underscored differences between Western allies over how to deal with Iran since the United States quit a 2015 international nuclear pact. —Reuters

## International

# Sidama vote overwhelmingly to form autonomous region

## New Sidama region will be Ethiopia's 10th

**HAWASSA:** Ethiopia's Sidama people have voted overwhelmingly to form their own self-governing region as many of the country's ethnic groups demand greater autonomy under sweeping reforms led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The country's electoral board said on Saturday that provisional results showed 98.5% of voters had backed the change in Wednesday's ballot, with turnout reaching 99.7%.

The result grants the Sidama, who represent about 4% of Ethiopia's 105 million population, their own self-governing region - the country's 10th, control over local taxes, education, security and certain legislation. Ethiopia's constitution gives the right to seek autonomy to its more than 80 ethnic groups, but it is only under Abiy's political reform agenda that the government approved the Sidama request for a referendum.

The country, once one of Africa's most repressive nations, has been undergoing rapid changes since Abiy was appointed last year, promising to forge a more open society. But the greater freedoms have also allowed long-repressed ethnic tensions to boil over and emboldened powerful regional strongmen demanding more rights for their people. Last year, ethnic violence forced more than two million people from their homes and killed hundreds, according to the United Nations and monitoring groups.

Saturday's result may encourage the more than a dozen other ethnic groups that are considering requesting similar votes, a move that could threaten Abiy's push to unify the country ahead of elections

scheduled for 2020. The Sidama's new homeland will be carved out of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) region, the most ethnically diverse part of Ethiopia, bordering Kenya and South Sudan. Hawassa, 275 km south of Addis Ababa, will be the new regional capital.

A senior police official in Hawassa told Reuters celebrations had been banned on Saturday but that festivities would be organized once the final result had been announced. People refrained from celebrating publicly but many drivers sang and played music in their cars. Shortly after the results were announced, a group of young people gathered in Hawassa's central square to sing and dance. They were quickly dispersed by police with whistles, and heavy rain by nightfall kept many people indoors. "I have friends who died, were imprisoned and exiled for this cause," Unani Fikro, 24, a member of a Sidama activist group, said after the results were announced. "For me it's the day of resurrection," she said, tears rolling down her cheeks. Members of other ethnic groups living in the city said they feared the vote's outcome meant they could suffer discrimination or become marginalized.

"I'm afraid that the Sidama will come and hurt us ... they will take all the jobs and even if you file a complaint it will go unheard as you will be complaining to one of them," said Tsion, 28, a Hawassa resident who did not want to give her full name for fear of retribution. Ethiopia's Human Rights Commissioner Daniel Bekele, who visited more than 100 polling stations in



**HAWASSA:** A general view of a section of Hawassa city, the capital of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNAP). A referendum was held on November 20, 2019, in Ethiopia's ethnic Sidama region for a new federal state, a critical vote in a tense region that could embolden others to follow. — AFP

five cities and 15 rural towns across the Sidama zone referendum was peaceful and no major irregularities during Wednesday's vote said in a statement that the were reported. — Reuters

## Lebanon anti-graft protesters march for nature too

**BISRI VALLEY:** Surrounded by sweeping pines, lemon trees and bean stalks, hundreds of Lebanese protesters march along, chanting against a planned dam that would drown the valley under their feet. Unprecedented protests about corruption in Lebanon since October 17 have given new life to activism against the controversial structure planned for a lush valley south of Beirut.

Since the start of the year, the future construction site in the Bisri Valley has been cordoned off and several trees uprooted to make way for work to begin. But emboldened by the anti-graft protests, nature lovers have since November 9 ignored the gates and barged through them, hoping to save what remains of their country's ravaged ecosystem.

Environmental activists in Lebanon say they have their work cut out. They cite overflowing landfills, a polluted coast, quarries gnawing into mountains and state neglect compounding forest fires that hit the country last month before the mass protests began. Standing on a shack roof near the Bisri Valley, environmental activist Bassam Zeineddine encourages hundreds of fellow hikers who have come to show their support for the dam protest. "The trees are the only thing left that they haven't taken," he shouts, referring to the country's embattled officials.

"They've left us nothing else — not water, nor air," rails the member of the "Save the Bisri Valley" movement in a country where the coastline, rivers and air are all polluted. Protesters clap and cheer, before setting off to march around 20 kilometers, walking stick in one hand and billowing Lebanese flag in the other. Along earthen paths they head towards the heart of the valley, singing the national anthem before swiftly reverting to chants from recent anti-graft protests. "We pay taxes, but their pockets are full!" they intone.

### Chronic water shortages

The government says the Bisri dam is vital to tackling chronic water shortages. But activists say it will ravage most of the region's farmland and historic sites, and they also fear the consequences of building it on a seismic fault line. Deep in the valley during their hike, the protesters find a cement-making machine. Yellow diggers also sit idle, after several trucks left the site earlier following recent sit-ins, in what the activists say was a small victory. Nearby, walkers snap images of uprooted tree stumps. Roland Nassour, 27, says an ongoing survey of the valley has found several oaks and pines ripped from the soil, but that so far most of the valley's canopy has thankfully been spared.

"The environment is a key part of the revolution," says Nassour, who is also part of the movement to protect the Bisri Valley. On Monday, he was one of nine activists called in for questioning by police after the construction company complained that gates had been broken and signs ripped down. "We're proud of what we did," says Nassour. Construction of the Bisri dam is expected to cost \$617 million (560 million euros), with most covered by a World Bank loan.

The authorities and the World Bank have said the dam will meet the needs of 1.6 million residents suffering from water shortages in greater Beirut. They insist the structure will be safe and that measures will be taken to lessen seismic risks. The World Bank says the dam will have no impact on Lebanon's overall biodiversity, promising to offset any loss in Bisri with reforestation and "enhanced management" of the Chouf, a separate region nearby. They have also pledged to dismantle a small church and rebuild it somewhere else — a proposal rejected by activists.

### 'A champion polluter'

On the banks of a meandering river, the hikers catch their breath near some lemon trees and toppled granite columns thought to be from the Roman era. To the tune of famed Italian resistance song "Bella Ciao", they sing in the open to save the valley, accompanied by maracas and a harmonica. "We want nature, we don't want to sell it. We want flowers, we want plains, we want forests and fields," they chant. "We don't want a dam in Bisri. We want a nature reserve."

Clutching his walking stick, avid hiker Lucien says he has come to stress the need to "preserve a green Lebanon". "We need more nature reserves," says the 30-year-old who works in advertising. Mervat, a 59-year-old activist, said mismanagement of the forest fires in October provided a spark for the revolution. "Lebanon is a champion when it comes to pollution," said the former laboratory supervisor from the southern city of Sidon. "We want solutions, but the officials are not providing any." — AFP



**KITALE:** Village residents carry a victim rescued from a landslide in Nyarkulian village, some 100km northwest of Kitale, in Pokot South sub-county, West Pokot county. — AFP

## East Africa storms kill 39 in Tanzania and Kenya

**NAIROBI:** Heavy rains lashing East Africa have caused dozens of deaths, with 29 buried by landslides in Kenya, and 10 people drowned in a river in Tanzania, officials said Saturday. The landslides and floods come amid weeks of destructive rains and flooding across the wider East African region. At least 29 people were killed in Kenya when their homes were swept away in landslides during ferocious overnight rainstorms.

Their homes were hit in the early hours of Saturday amid torrential rains in the Pokot region, 350 kilometers northwest of the capital Nairobi. "We are saddened to confirm that 12 people from Tapach and Parua in Pokot South, and 17 from Tamkal in Pokot Central lost their lives," Kenya's Interior Minister Fred Matiang'i said in a statement. "Our profound sympathies go to the families and friends of those who have been affected."

Army and police helicopters have been sent, Matiang'i said, with efforts delayed because roads had been cut and bridges closed after streams turned into raging torrents. Two children were pulled out alive from the smashed wreckage of their mud-covered homes, and rescue efforts to dig bodies out of the dirt continued. "Massive landslides reported in various areas of West Pokot County following heavy downpour," Kenya Red Cross said in a message, adding its emergency response teams had deployed to help.

### Extreme weather

In Tanzania, at least 10 people drowned when they were swept away by a torrential river in the far west, in the Sengerema district of Mwanza. "We think there is a possibility to find more bodies," said Tanzanian Red Cross official Revocatus Kayanda, part of the team who recovered the victims. Violent downpours have also displaced tens of thousands in Somalia, submerged whole towns in South Sudan and killed dozens in flash floods and landslides in Ethiopia. Close to a million people in South Sudan alone are affected with growing fears of disease and starvation.

Floods hit East Africa regularly, but scientists say that it has been exacerbated by a powerful climate phenomenon in the Indian Ocean stronger than any seen in years. The extreme weather is blamed on the Indian Ocean Dipole — a climate system defined by the difference in sea surface temperature between western and eastern areas of the ocean. The ocean off East Africa is currently far warmer than usual, resulting in higher evaporation and consequent rain over the continent. — AFP



**VALLEE DE BISRI:** A Lebanese protester rests with national flag beside her as she takes part in a 20km march in the Bisri Valley, southwest of the capital Beirut to protest against the construction of a dam in the area. — AFP

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## International

# British PM promises Brexit for Christmas in manifesto

## Conservatives vow not to raise taxes

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will promise to bring his Brexit deal back to parliament before Christmas when he launches his Conservative Party's manifesto yesterday, the cornerstone of his pitch to voters to "get Brexit done". With less than three weeks before Britain heads to the polls on Dec 12, the governing Conservatives and opposition Labor are trying to tempt voters with different visions but several pledges to spend more on public services.

Johnson's manifesto aims at drawing a distinction with Labor, which has promised to raise taxes on the richest and big businesses to fund a big expansion of the state, by vowing not to increase taxes if the Conservatives win the election. Opinion polls show Johnson's Conservative Party commands a sizeable lead over the Labor Party, although large numbers of undecided voters means the outcome is not certain. "My early Christmas present to the nation will be to bring the Brexit bill back before the festive break, and get parliament working for the people," Johnson will say, according to excerpts of his speech that he will make at an event in the West Midlands region of England.

Contrasting with Labor's unabashed tax-and-spend approach, Johnson's manifesto - titled "Get Brexit Done, Unleash Britain's Potential" - will pledge to freeze income tax, value-added sales tax and social security payments. Johnson will also announce a 3 billion pounds

(\$3.85 billion) National Skills Fund to retrain workers and an extra 2 billion pounds to fill pot-holes in roads. He will also pledge to maintain the regulatory cap on energy bills.

Finance minister Sajid Javid told Sky News that the Conservatives' plan will be accompanied by a very detailed financing document and that the governing party would balance day-to-day spending and keep debt low. But Labor spokesman Andrew Gwynne said Johnson's plans were "pathetic". "This is a no hope manifesto, from a party that has nothing to offer the country, after spending ten years cutting our public services," Gwynne said.

Think tanks like the Institute for Fiscal Studies have raised questions about the credibility of plans to fund investment from both the Conservatives and Labor. Held after three years of negotiations to leave the European Union, the December election for the first time will show how far Brexit has torn traditional political allegiances apart and will test an electorate increasingly tired of voting. In a heated campaign where the Conservatives have been criticized for disseminating misleading social media posts, Johnson, 55, will say he will "turn the page from the dither, delay and division" of recent years.

Labor has said it will negotiate a better Brexit deal with the EU within six months that it will put to the people in a new referendum—one which will also offer the choice of remaining in the bloc. Corbyn has said he



**LONDON:** Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson reads a copy of the 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto while travelling on a train to Telford in central England yesterday. —AFP

would remain neutral in such a vote, something his finance policy chief John McDonnell described as the Labour leader adopting the role of "an honest broker". Johnson will criticize the stance. "We now know the

country can be carbon (neutral) by 2050 and Corbyn neutral by 2020, as the leader of the opposition has decided to duck the biggest issue facing our country today," Johnson will say. —Reuters



## Labor leader to be neutral in 2nd Brexit vote

### News in brief

#### US teacher faces backlash

**TEXAS:** A Latino civil rights group on Friday called for a Texas teacher to be banned from instructing students after she was shown on video appearing to tell a Latino high school pupil to "speak English; we're in America." The video, which was posted online by local television, shows a white, female substitute teacher at the predominantly Latino Socorro High School near El Paso, Texas, making the comment on Tuesday as she asks the male student to hand over his mobile phone in a classroom. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) said the comment harked back to last century when, until 1969, Texas law banned Spanish from being spoken in public schools. "It is abominable that this institutionalized racism against the Hispanic community in Texas hasn't ended," said LULAC National President Domingo Garcia in a statement calling for the teacher to be banned. —Reuters

#### Plane crash kills 23

**GOMA:** Twenty-three bodies were recovered yesterday after a small plane crashed on takeoff into a densely populated area of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo, rescue workers said. "We are up to 23 bodies now," Goma rescue service coordinator Joseph Makundi told AFP. Goma airport official Richard Mangolopa said no survivors were expected from the disaster. The Dornier-228 aircraft had been headed for Beni, 350 kilometers north of Goma when it went down in a residential area near the airport in the east of the country. "There were 17 passengers on board and two crew members. It took off around 9-9.10 am." Busy Bee airline staff member Heritier Said Mamadou said. Busy Bee, a recent company, has three planes serving routes in North Kivu province. One of the company's maintenance workers at the site quoted by news site actualite.cd blamed a "technical problem". —AFP

#### DR Congo floods kill dozens

**KINSHASA:** Dozens of people have died in flooding in the Democratic Republic of Congo when the Congo River and its tributaries burst their banks, a charity and media reports said on Saturday, as heavy rains also lashed east Africa. Twenty five people were reported to have been killed in the north-western province of Equator bordering Congo-Brazzaville, Congolese media reports said. "We declare that the province of Equator is disaster stricken," provincial interior minister Jean Julie Mwamolanda told news site news.cd. A spokesman for the Catholic charity Caritas-Congo said that "local authorities have recorded ten deaths in the province of North Ubangi". More than 180,000 people were in need of humanitarian assistance in the same northern region which borders Central Africa, which has also been hit by rains and floods in the past month. —AFP

## Life on Detroit's 8 Mile Wall, a vestige of US segregation

**DETROIT:** As a child living in Detroit, Teresa Moon didn't know anything about the concrete stone wall she could see from the kitchen window in her family's home. Sixty years on, in that same kitchen, she knows all about the Birwood Wall, or the 8 Mile Wall, which was built in the 1940s to separate her black neighborhood from a housing project aimed at white families.

"We live in a community that is about building confidence, about ownership about being proud of who you are. Why would my parents tell me something about that?" Moon confides, haltingly. "That would kind of dispel all that — like, I got a wall to keep me separate from other people," said the charismatic 66-year-old former city worker.

Moon has become something of the spokeswoman for the "8 Mile" neighborhood - named for the road that long separated the predominantly black city from the mainly white suburbs. 8 Mile earned pop culture fame thanks to white rapper Eminem, whose biopic was named for the neighborhood. But, Moon points out,

he wasn't from the area — he grew up in the nearby city of Warren. "A lot of people claim 8 Mile because it's something to claim," she says.

### Not an accident

The entire Detroit area was propelled for decades by the auto industry, but Motor City is now one of the poorest major urban centers in America. Moon moved to 8 Mile when she was six, at a time when racial segregation was still the norm in the United States. Despite the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and the constitutional abolition of slavery in America, laws remained in place that mandated the separation of races.

In some states, those laws remained in effect in the late 1950s and 1960s. But even after that, the specter of segregation effectively kept some places segregated for decades to follow. Some still are separated. "Detroit is the most segregated metropolitan area in the country," says Eric Williams, a lawyer for the non-profit Detroit Justice Center. "That doesn't happen by accident. It just doesn't. (...) There are tons of neighborhoods in Detroit that just simply did not allow black people to live there."

### Blacks couldn't 'become more'

Moon recalls that when her family moved to their home in 8 Mile, seven of them had to live in three rooms. She only met white kids for the first time when she went to junior high school. "That's the

missioned by the news media including AFP, put the turnout in the French capital at 49,000. Feminist collective #NousToutes ("All of Us") meanwhile said 100,000 marched in Paris and 150,000 across France, hailing it as "the biggest march against gender-based violence in French history". Caroline De Haas, one of the Paris organizers, said "the level of awareness is moving at breakneck speed".

### 'We are in revolt!'

In Italy, tens of thousands of people, mainly women, marched in the capital Rome. March organizers "Non Una Di Meno!" (Not One Less!) say 94 women have been killed by their partners or former partners this year. The procession moved through the city's old quarter behind a large banner that read: "Against your violence, we are in revolt!" Banners from political parties and unions were absent at the request of the organizers and many of those taking part wore pink, the color of choice for the demonstration. "We are the fierce and powerful voice of all those women who no longer have a voice," said one banner. A float that played music along the route also broadcast the names of women killed by their part-



**DETROIT:** In this photo taken on Oct 24, 2019, children play near the Birwood Wall constructed in the 1940s to divide the white and black population. —AFP

ners or ex-partners this year. "Everywhere in the world, women are revolting against patriarchal, racist, institutional, environmental and economic violence," said a statement from Non Una Di Meno. At 4:30 pm the marchers sat down on the

photo in Collier's. Detroit's black 8 Mile neighborhood had already existed for decades. But in the midst of a postwar housing boom, developers were attracted to the area, and wanted to build a white neighborhood. "That was the concept - if you live near black people, then your neighborhood is never going to be good. So let's build a wall," explains Moon. After a lengthy silence, she summarized the notion, calling it "crazy" - and emotionally punctuating her thought with an expletive. —AFP



**PARIS:** People take part in a protest to condemn violence against women on Saturday. —AFP

ground and remained silent for a few minutes in memory of the women who had been killed. Italy's Economy Minister Roberto Gualtieri on Saturday announced 12 million euros would be released to help the children of women killed by their partners. —AFP

## Pope Francis calls for nuke abolition

**NAGASAKI:** Pope Francis yesterday called for the abolition of nuclear weapons during a visit to Japan's western cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the only two cities in the world subjected to atomic bombing during World War Two. Francis, the first pope to visit Nagasaki in 38 years and only the sec-

ond in history, told a gathering in a park at the blast site that nuclear weapons are indefensible. The city "makes us deeply aware of the pain and horror that we humans are capable of inflicting upon one another," he added.

Here are facts about the bombings of August 1945. Japan surrendered on August 15, less than a week after the Nagasaki bombing, putting an end to the war. Among the potential targets had been Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto, but then Secretary of War Henry Stimson, who had known and loved the key cultural centre, persuaded President Harry Truman against bombing it.

### Hiroshima

Hiroshima was the headquarters of some military units and a major supply base. War planners calculated that the surrounding mountains would concentrate the force of the bomb and enhance its destructiveness. At 8:15 am on August 6, 1945, an American B-29 Superfortress bomber named "Enola Gay" - for the pilot's mother - dropped a 10,000-pound (4,536-kg) uranium-235 bomb on Hiroshima, instantly killing about 78,000 people. By year-end, about 140,000 were dead, from an estimated population of 350,000.

The bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy", exploded about 600 meters (1,969 ft) above

the centre of the city, unleashing a surge of heat reaching 4,000 degrees C (7,200 F) across a radius of about 4.5 km (2.8 miles). In 2016, Barack Obama, the first incumbent US president to visit Hiroshima, gave a speech emphasizing nuclear disarmament and met bombing survivors, embracing one elderly man, who wept.

### Nagasaki

Three days after the Hiroshima event, at 11:02 a.m. on August 9, the United States dropped a 10,000-pound (4,536-kg) plutonium-239 bomb, nicknamed "Fat Man", on the major industrial and port city of

Nagasaki, whose hilly geography concentrated the blast. It exploded about 500 meters (1,640 ft) above the ground, instantly killing about 27,000 of an estimated population of 200,000. By year-end the number of deaths from acute radiation exposure reached 73,884.

### Total killed

By Aug 2019, Japan had recognized the total of deaths from radiation illness and injuries in Hiroshima as 319,186 and in Nagasaki as 182,601. New names are added on the bombing anniversaries each year. —Reuters



## International

# Maltese businessman Fenech seeks pardon in return for murder info

## Economy minister briefly questioned over the investigation

**VALLETTA:** Prominent businessman Yorgen Fenech, arrested by Malta police as a person of interest in the murder of an anti-corruption journalist, has asked for a pardon in return for information about the case, police sources said on Saturday. He is the second man to seek a pardon after Melvin Theuma, under arrest on suspicion of having been a middleman in the murder, made a similar request earlier in the week. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat has already agreed to give a pardon to Theuma if he gives full information that could be used in court.

Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed by a car bomb on Oct 16, 2017 and three men are awaiting trial accused of having set off the bomb, but police have yet to identify who commissioned the murder. Fenech was intercepted on his yacht as he tried to leave Malta on Nov 20, shortly after news of Theuma's arrest was made public. Maltese Economy Minister Christian Cardona was briefly questioned on Saturday in connection with the murder investigation, an official source close to the minister told Reuters.

The Economy Ministry later said in a statement, "Chris Cardona was asked to provide some clarifications, including on speculations that were made about him in the past." It made no comment on the nature of the speculations. Cardona had been a frequent target of Caruana Galizia's blog posts, and had sued her after she accused him of visiting a brothel while on official business abroad. He has always denied the accusation.

Maltese media reported that Theuma had incriminating

recordings about the murder in his possession and that these had now been handed to a magistrate. The police have not confirmed the reports. Lawyers for Theuma and Fenech have not yet made any official comment on the case. Caruana Galizia's family have asked Muscat to distance himself from the investigation due to a potential conflict of interest in view of Fenech's links to the prime minister's chief of staff Keith Schembri and Tourism Minister Konrad Mizzi.

Muscat rejected suggestions on Friday that he should not be the person who decides on pardons in the case. "It is obvious I do not shelter anyone, I will do whatever is necessary, when it is necessary," Muscat said. A Reuters investigation last year revealed that Fenech was the owner of a mystery Dubai company called 17 Black which emails named as one of two sources of income for secret Panama companies set up for Schembri and Mizzi.

Mizzi had been energy minister when a power station contract was awarded to a group led by Fenech. It is not known whether any funds actually changed hands. Mizzi and Schembri have always denied wrongdoing and Muscat has repeatedly resisted calls for their dismissal. "The prime minister has no place anywhere near the investigation and we trust that he will now distance himself from it," Caruana Galizia's family said in a statement on Friday. "Too many people have worked too hard for too long for justice. The prime minister should not derail, in one final attempt, full justice for our wife and mother," they added. — Reuters



VALLETTA: Protesters hold up placards and pictures of the late journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia as they gather outside the prime minister's office in Valletta, Malta. — AFP

## Namibia first female candidate vows to 'restore dignity'

**WINDHOEK:** Calm and confident, Esther Muinjangue, Namibia's first woman to run for president, says she feels a "wind of change" softly blowing through the southwest African country which goes to the polls on Wednesday. From her modest home in a quiet suburb of the capital Windhoek, Muinjangue spoke to AFP about her bid to "restore dignity" to the country's 2.45 million inhabitants - struggling through an economic recession after nearly 30 years of independence from South Africa. "You hear a lot of people complaining about the (ruling) SWAPO-led government," she said on Saturday, before heading into the final day of campaigning for her National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO) party.

"There was apathy among the youth," added the 57-year-old former social worker. "But now you see at every rally... more and more young people coming on board." Namibia's South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) has remained in power since its founder Sam Nujoma won the first democratic election in 1990, after decades of guerrilla war against colonial rule. But President Hage Geingob, elected in 2014, has faced increasing discontent amid SWAPO's inability to redistribute wealth to the majority black population.

### 'Empty glass'

Namibia "was like a full glass of water," said Muinjangue, but "the first president brought it down half, the second drank further" "So when Hage took over we were already in the mess that we are in today." Despite vast mineral wealth, abundant fish reserves and a growing tourist industry, Namibia remains the world's second most unequal country after South Africa, according to the World Bank. Low commodity prices and drought caused the economy to slump in 2016, and Geingob has come under fire for expanding his cabinet at the expense of other sectors. Muinjangue is campaigning on a promise to cull the bloated government and invest more in education, health and affordable housing. She said Namibia has resources to take care of its needs, but corruption has taken root. "Top leaders... are selling the land, they are selling the country, they are selling mines to foreigners." NUDO won just two percent of the vote in 2014, when SWAPO's Geingob swept to victory with more than 87 percent. But Muinjangue was confident her party would perform better this time and that discontent with the regime could drive more voters towards the opposition and break SWAPO's two-thirds parliamentary majority.

## Business executives caught up in Spain's spy tapes scandal

**MADRID:** Top Spanish executives have come under scrutiny following a string of leaked recordings as a scandal triggered by a "blackmailer" policeman that has shaken the country's elite seeped into the business world. Government ministers and the royal family have been embarrassed in recent years by covert recordings made by retired police chief Jose Manuel Villarejo, who is now behind bars awaiting trial over decades of alleged dirty work for firms or rich individuals. The scandal has recently ensnared the leaders of Spain's biggest companies, starting with Francisco Gonzalez, long-time chairman of BBVA, who is accused of hiring Villarejo in 2004 to spy on rivals to halt a takeover bid by construction firm Sacyr.

Gonzalez, who retired late last year and also stepped down as the bank's honorary chairman in March, is one of 10 BBVA officials under investigation as part of the probe. BBVA, Spain's second-largest bank, is also under formal investigation. Accused of corruption and unlawful disclosure of secrets, Gonzalez testified Monday at a Madrid court as part of the probe, later telling reporters that the bank and its management had always acted with "integrity".

### Iberdrola and ACS

Further covertly-recorded conversations leaked to the press this week have turned the spotlight on Ignacio Galan, chief executive of Spain's top energy firm, Iberdrola. According to details published Monday in two online newspapers, Galan allegedly used Villarejo's services around 2009 to gather compromising personal information on Real Madrid boss Florentino Perez, who



WINDHOEK: Namibian party National Unity Democratic Organization (NUDO) presidential candidate Esther Ujuiua Muinjangue addresses her supporters during a presidential campaign rally at the UN plaza in Windhoek. — AFP

### 'Expecting miracles'

"We are expecting a lot of miracles to happen this year," said Muinjangue. As a member of Namibia's minority Herero group and daughter of an exiled politician, Muinjangue learnt to challenge the status quo against a backdrop of tradition. "I have never been conforming to the norms of my community," she said, describing it as an environment "where women are expected to have their places in the kitchen". Wearing a traditional Herero dress, Muinjangue spoke of women's empowerment, gay rights and legalizing abortion in Namibia. Her ascent to the NUDO presidency touched off a "paradigm shift" that prompted members of the majority Herero party to question "their old way of thinking".

### 'Same as the Holocaust'

Aside her new role as party leader, Muinjangue continues to fight for reparations for the German-led slaughter of thousands of Herero and Nama people who rose up against colonial rule in 1904-08. Germany - which controlled Namibia before South Africa took over in 1915 - has so far failed to officially apologize for the massacre and refused to pay any compensation. Muinjangue, whose grand-father was "the product of a German soldier" and a Herero woman, said the case deserves "exactly the same" treatment as the Holocaust.

She blasted SWAPO for being soft-handed in its negotiations with Germany. While Germany formally handed back Herero and Nama remains to Namibia in 2018, it maintains bilateral aid makes up for compensation. "Being a social worker, social work is a value-based profession, and one value of social work is social justice. "So for me it's more about social justice. It's more about why is the German government treating our issue different from the issue of the holocaust - which is exactly the same." — AFP

also heads construction giant ACS. The suspected aim was to stop ACS from mounting a hostile takeover of Iberdrola. Perez immediately vowed to take legal action against those responsible for the alleged spying, including the "president of Iberdrola and members of his entourage". At the same time, ACS said board member Manuel Delgado had resigned. The firm did not say why but one of the leaked recordings included a compromising conversation, allegedly between Delgado and Villarejo.

Following an internal inquiry, Iberdrola in October acknowledged that between 2004 and 2017, it had on 17 different occasions used the services of Cenyt, a business company run by Villarejo that in theory carried out market studies. Last month, Iberdrola opened a new internal probe following fresh media revelations. "The scope of Villarejo's spying, which touched as much on the business world as on politics... leaves a bitter taste," even if it is "not a huge surprise," the Cinco Dias business daily wrote Tuesday.

### An unassuming spy

Villarejo, 68, joined the police in 1973, two years before the death of Spain's longtime dictator General Francisco Franco. For decades, the stocky, bespectacled man with a penchant for flat caps secretly used recorders in his informal chats with politicians, judges, business people, police officers and prosecutors. He allegedly earned considerable money by threatening or blackmailing people.

Under the government of former conservative premier Mariano Rajoy (2011-2018), information obtained by Villarejo is believed to have been used against political rivals. Even Spain's former King Juan Carlos I has not been spared. In a recording allegedly made by Villarejo and leaked in 2018, the monarch's former mistress Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein claimed he had pocketed money from a high-speed train contract with Saudi Arabia. In a statement published in August, Villarejo threatened to make further revelations about Spain's big firms. — AFP

## US woman fights charge of going topless at home

**WASHINGTON:** A Utah woman who stripped to her waist while working in her own home is fighting multiple counts of lewdness that could lead to a jail term and placement on a sex offender registry. Tilli Buchanan, who is 27, says she and her husband were doing renovation work in their garage when plaster dust prompted both to remove their upper garments, according to a letter from her lawyer, David Lane, to state prosecutors.

When her three stepchildren-aged nine, 10 and 13 - saw them, they expressed shock. Buchanan told them that as a feminist she believed that she had as much right as her husband to go topless. But word of the incident reached the children's birth mother-who considered the incident

"alarming"-and eventually came to the attention of social services workers investigating a different matter, the Salt Lake Tribune reported.

That led to the filing of three charges of lewdness in front of children against Buchanan, leaving her facing a possible year in prison and 10 years on the sex-offenders registry. Being on that registry has debilitating effects, restricting areas where one can live, harming employment prospects and raising the possibility of losing custody of one's children. Buchanan's lawyer is demanding that the charges be dropped and her record expunged. In a letter to prosecutors he gave them until the end of next week to respond.

"Because Tilli Buchanan is a woman," Lane's letter states, "her bare chest is censured as being inherently pornographic and perverse, while her husband's bare chest is celebrated as an emblem of strength and pride." "Tilli Buchanan is being singled out for prosecution solely on the basis of sex." The judge in the case has said a ruling will not come before early next year. Utah is regularly ranked as one of the most conservative states in the U.S. — AFP

## Tanzania holds local elections, without opposition

**DAR ES SALAAM:** Tanzania yesterday held local government elections, viewed as a test case ahead of national polls next year, with the main opposition party boycotting the ballot citing violence and intimidation. The long-ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party of President John Magufuli is therefore set to sweep the board. The nationwide polls, with over 19 million registered voters, elect the lowest rung of local government leaders. The posts, for the chair of villages and streets, are critical for organizing public meetings and mobilizing grass-root support campaigning.

They hold considerable power. Elderly people in Tanzania do not pay for medical services, but need to have the endorsement from a local leader to access it. Chadema, the main opposition party, said in November it would not be taking part because its candidates were too fearful, or were disqualified from running by stringent rules they say were used to block them. Five other smaller parties have also joined the boycott.

### 'De facto one-party system'

Chadema say their activists have been kidnapped and beaten, and at least one has blamed authorities for an attack in 2017, which saw him shot multiple times. Several have disappeared and turned up murdered. "Our party believes it is wiser not to support such electoral cheating," Chadema president Freeman Mbowe said in November. "To continue to participate in elections of this kind is to legitimize illegality."

In the economic capital Dar es Salaam, many poll

centers were closed because the CCM candidate stood unopposed, and was therefore automatically elected, an AFP reporter said. Three out of Tanzania's 26 mainland regions - Katavi, Ruvuma and Tanga - will not hold polls at all due to the opposition boycott. In a few voting stations, candidates from small opposition parties are standing. Rights groups say the intimidation of political opponents has escalated sharply under Magufuli, a strongman elected in 2015 whose administration has wielded wide-ranging laws to silence government critics.

Political analysts say the vote offers a preview of the bigger polls set for 2020. "The sign of rain is clouds," said Deus Kibamba, head of the Tanzania Citizens' Information Bureau, a research think-tank. "To me, what happens in the local elections is a picture of the general election." Magufuli, who is expected to run for another five-year term in 2020, has overseen a democratic backslide in Tanzania, according to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Free media has been cowed by draconian cybercrime laws, critical newspapers and bloggers have been silenced, and opposition activists harassed unlawfully, the rights groups say. "This so-called multiparty system in which people are beaten, thrown in jail or killed for their opinions is worse than a one-party state," said Elizeus Yanga, a high school teacher from the north-western Mwanza region. "Magufuli has done everything to make Tanzania a de facto one-party system."

In the last local elections, in 2014, Magufuli's CCM took almost three-quarters of the more than 12,000 posts. Chadema won 15 percent. "Why is there this mistreatment of opposition parties, which are already weak?" Kibamba questioned, saying that the ruling party would still dominate in free and fair polls. "The opposition has been banned from rallies and other political activities in the last four years," Kibamba added. Preliminary results are due today. — AFP



ARUSHA: People queue to vote at a polling station as a police officer stands guard during the local elections in the town of Arusha, north Tanzania yesterday. — AFP

## Analysis

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ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
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## US grapples with 'ghost guns' amid epidemic of violence

After his mother dropped him off at school, Nathan Berhow pulled a .45-caliber pistol out of his backpack, opened fire and killed two classmates, all using a weapon he'd assembled at home. Such guns are sometimes called "ghost guns" - unregulated, easy to put together and almost impossible to trace because they have no serial number. The parts are readily available online, with no need for a background check.

After opening fire at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, near Los Angeles, Berhow shot himself fatally in the head. Three people were wounded in his rampage. The authorities do not know how Berhow obtained the gun. The boy's father, who died in 2017, liked hunting and owned six legally acquired guns, which were seized and destroyed after his death.

The United States has lived through a sharp rise in mass shootings in recent years, alarming the public and triggering new debate on how to control this epidemic of violence. But the administration of President Donald Trump has opposed any new gun control restrictions.

### '80 percent guns'

There is nothing illegal about ghost guns, which are not to be confused with guns that have had their serial number erased. They are also called "80 percent guns" because the parts are acquired separately and require a bare minimum of work to make them operational. There are kits to make pistols and even AR-15s, the weapon used in several recent mass shootings. They escape regulation because of one part, the only component that is really regulated in the US. For handguns, it's called the frame, and for rifles it's known as the receiver.

"That one piece is the component that is subject to a background check, and is the one that has to be serialized under federal law," said David Pucino, with the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Violence. "You can purchase all those other parts and they're not considered a firearm," he added. "What companies do is sell the frame, then, with a little bit of work left to do on it. And what they do is they leave a few holes left to be drilled in the frame or in the receiver. And they call this 80 percent completed. And if they had bought it with those holes drilled out, it would have been serialized" and required a background check, Pucino said.

Frames made with 3D printers can be adapted to take the parts of an AR-15 while also dodging the law. In the US, hundreds of thousands of these are made but there is no statistic on how many because there is no registry of them. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms says 30 percent of weapons found at crime scenes in California have no serial number and thus cannot be traced in a criminal probe.

### Small fraction

New Jersey has banned the use of gun parts without serial numbers, while California has passed a law that will come into force in five years and bars anyone without a gun sales license from marketing them. These steps will help limit the spread of ghost guns but the Giffords Center says only a national law on serial numbers can address the problem. Mark Tallman, a professor in security studies at Colorado State University, says ghost weapons go back to the early days of the country and their existence does not have much effect on crime rates.

"Most of the commercial guns in the United States are unregistered, and most of America's gun crimes are undertaken by offenders who are already unable to pass background checks to buy them," said Tallman. "Traffickers can also buy 'normal' guns and use inexpensive tools to destroy their serial numbers, making them almost as difficult to trace as a homemade 'ghost gun.' So, the overall impact of homemade guns on this complicated dynamic is still difficult to assess," he added.

Pucini said he fears that more ghost guns will be used in school shootings because sellers do not check the age of buyers. But Tallman said the increase would not be due just to these weapons. "In my opinion, it's not realistic to expect a huge reduction in shootings just because we crack down on homemade guns, because many shootings were already happening before the 'ghost gun' craze, and many shootings still involve 'normal' guns," he said. — AFP

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



Iraqi demonstrators stand next to the smoking remains of an Iraqi anti-riot vehicle during a demonstration in the southern city of Basra yesterday, as protesters cut off roads and activists call for a general strike. — AFP

## Iraqi parties cling to lucrative posts

While noisy protests rage on Iraq's streets, in the backrooms of power political leaders are quietly hashing out ways to keep their posts and the huge financial rewards they bring. The demonstrations rocking the capital and Shiite-majority south since early October are the biggest grassroots movement the country has seen since the 2003 US-led invasion that ended the Saddam Hussein regime. Despite a death toll that has topped 350, the youth-led protests continue against the government of a country that anti-graft watchdog Transparency International ranks as the 12th most corrupt in the world.

Widespread anger over dismal public services and youth unemployment at 25 percent has fuelled the movement which demands nothing less than the ouster of the entire ruling class. Even the country's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, has acknowledged it is time for change - but the ruling elite begs to differ. While Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi has announced a massive recruitment drive and a cabinet reshuffle to appease demonstrators, insiders say these steps are a smoke-screen for the usual horse-trading between parties. "They are still dividing up the pie as usual," a senior government source told AFP.

The pie is Iraq's bloated public sector, the country's largest employer by far, which is almost exclusively funded by the oil revenues of OPEC's second-biggest producer. Since 2003, the public sector payroll has tripled and yearly spending on their wages has grown nine-fold to nearly

\$36 billion, according to a recent study by Iraqi analyst Ali Al-Mawlawi for the London School of Economics.

### Plush state posts

In a nation with a badly underdeveloped private sector, working for the government means job security - but often also an opportunity to make some illicit money on the side. Officials are known to demand bribes of up to tens of thousands of dollars to provide state contracts or even just a signature on a public document - or to arrange another lucrative post for a friend or relative. In a country where one in five people lives below the poverty line according to the World Bank, the system dividing up the spoils has fueled the anger on the streets while, insiders say, politicians have responded with business as usual. "Political parties refuse to leave the cabinet because they'll lose all their gains," a high-ranking member of the ruling coalition told AFP. A leaked list of appointments to the cabinet and as directors-general in ministries revealed many relatives of the firebrand Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr and Hadi Al-Ameri, a pro-Iran paramilitary chief whose bloc makes up the second leg of the embattled government.

Ameri's brother, Faleh, was named the head of the foreign ministry's international organizations department, and his sister was also appointed within the same ministry. Neither had previously held public office or diplomatic positions, according to an Iraqi diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity. Sadr, a main sponsor of the cur-

rent government, initially called on Abdel Mahdi to resign but has since toned down his demands.

The cleric's cousin Mohammad Jaafar Sadr was recently named ambassador to London, and nephew Ahmed Sadr became first secretary, a post that typically requires "13 years in public service", according to the diplomat. Political appointees are usually "incompetent and have never taken a decision", he added.

### 'Hardest nuts to crack'

Amid the expected cabinet reshuffle, positions are already being "bought", the senior Iraqi official said. "A political party gets allotted a certain ministry, then sells that ministerial position to the highest bidder," the official said, describing one transaction worth \$20 million. It's a familiar script: The candidate pays the party for the post, then uses it to usurp as much public money as possible, part of which pays off the debt.

The system is so entrenched, observers say, that there is little that Abdel Mahdi can do to stop it. "Payroll reform is among the hardest nuts to crack because it undermines the vested interests of so many political actors and ordinary citizens," wrote Mawlawi. At the same time, the parties jostling over ministerial positions cannot topple the premier, in large part because he has the backing of powerful neighbor Iran, said an analyst close to the political class. "Ameri isn't satisfied with Abdel Mahdi, but he can't withdraw support in parliament because Iran has put a veto on this option," the analyst said. — AFP

## At impeachment hearings, 'American Dream' looms large

As impeachment hearings play out in Washington, high-level officials, many of them immigrants or children of immigrants, who have testified before Congress are being forced to defend their loyalty to the United States. Ukrainian-born Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, a National Security Council expert, rebuffed attacks by proudly stating at the proceedings: "The uniform I wear today is that of the United States Army." Like many of his peers who have testified, he embodies the "American Dream", as an immigrant who rose to the top.

Having displayed exemplary service to their country, they boast of patriotic gratitude for the United States, which gave them opportunity - and for some, refuge from oppression. But that attitude has given them little cover from attack as they participate in the impeachment investigation against Donald Trump, spurred by a phone call in which he asked Ukraine to investigate one of his potential 2020 presidential election opponents.

Vindman, whose family fled anti-Semitism in the

## Uncomfortable return to work for officials assailed by Trump

The White House's uniformed Ukraine expert was attacked online by his own employer. The acting US ambassador to Ukraine had his credibility aggressively questioned on live television by the president's allies. And then those two key witnesses in President Donald Trump's impeachment inquiry, and others like them, went back to their jobs. The scandal engulfing Trump has created an awkward and unprecedented predicament - how diplomats and other national security professionals can carry on their work when their ultimate boss, the president, is assailing them.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman - a National Security Council expert who said he had told his father, a Soviet refugee, that he had nothing to fear by telling the truth - remains in his position at the White House, whose official Twitter account quoted his superior as questioning his judgment. With Vindman enduring social

Soviet Union to New York when he was just three, has been subject to sharp criticism from the president and his allies. As a respected member of the White House National Security Council, he testified before the House Intelligence Committee on Tuesday wearing his dress blue uniform displaying his combat infantry badge, campaign ribbons and a Purple Heart received for wounds suffered by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

Following his testimony, which touched on the pressure the president's cohorts had placed on Kiev, Trump cast doubts on his allegiance. One guest commentator on the conservative TV channel Fox News even accused him of being a spy for Ukraine. During the hearing, an attorney for the House Republicans questioned him at length about the fact that a Ukrainian official had offered him the position of minister of defense in Kiev. Vindman explained that he never knew if the offer was serious and immediately declined.

Repeating multiple times that he is an American, he told the Intelligence Committee that "as a young man I decided that I wanted to spend my life serving the nation that gave my family refuge from authoritarian oppression".

### What 'makes America great'

Two days later, former national security council expert Fiona Hill, who was Vindman's superior, echoed the same message. Almost "everyone immigrated to the United States at some point in their family history. And

media taunts over his Ukrainian ancestry, the US Army said it was providing support to ensure that the Iraq War veteran is well protected.

Bill Taylor - the acting US ambassador in Kiev, a post he also held a decade earlier - painted a damning, if dispassionate, picture that supported the key charge that Trump was strong-arming Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, to dig up dirt on domestic rival Joe Biden. Representative Jim Jordan, a staunch supporter of Trump, derisively said that he "can't believe" that Taylor was the Democrats' "star witness". Taylor then returned to Ukraine, where he again served as the face of the United States.

### No interlocutor?

He issued a statement hailing the release of three vessels seized a year earlier by Russia, saying: "I congratulate President Zelensky and his foreign policy team for their recent accomplishments." The US ambassador to the European Union - Trump donor Gordon Sondland - similarly flew back to Brussels hours after he testified that Trump ordered a delay in a summit to press Zelensky to announce a probe. A Washington-based foreign diplomat said the scandal had palpable effects on dealings with Ukraine, which is fighting

this is for me what really makes America great," said Hill who was born in England and became an American "by choice" in 2002.

"This country has offered me opportunities I never would have had in England. I grew up poor with a very distinctive working-class accent. In England in the 1980s and 1990s, this would have impeded my professional advancement," she said. She herself has been described by far-right detractors as a "globalist" and "mole" of George Soros, the billionaire philanthropist who is often the subject of anti-Semitic campaigns.

### 'It's very intimidating'

Hill joked about the matter but said she was furious that the former ambassador to Kiev, Marie Yovanovitch, who was born in Canada to parents who fled the Soviet and Nazi regimes, suffered such attacks. Yovanovitch was called back to the United States in May, after a smear campaign orchestrated by Donald Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani. Her absence, Democrats say, gave Trump and his allies freer rein in the country.

Less than an hour into the hearing, the president erupted spectacularly on Twitter with an attack on the highly regarded former envoy. Asked what effect Trump's tweet might have on her and other witnesses, Yovanovitch appeared unnerved. "It's very intimidating," she told the panel, after also speaking of her "gratitude for all that this country has given my family and me." — AFP

Russian-backed separatists in its eastern region.

The diplomat said that there "really isn't an American interlocutor" on Ukraine after the resignation of envoy Kurt Volker and the public dressing-down of Taylor. Jonathan Katz, a former State Department and USAID official who has worked on Ukraine, wondered how Kiev would know whom to trust, especially after witnesses said Trump put his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, in charge of policy.

"It certainly undercuts their ability to carry out the national security duties in a way that they typically would be able to," Katz, now a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, said of officials caught up in the scandal. He said there was no precedent for the US president to go after career diplomats or civil servants, who are accustomed to bipartisan support. "I am 100 percent certain that none of these people who have been testifying would think a year ago that they would be in this position," Katz said. "When you feel like you're doing the best job you're doing for the United States and you have the president acting out of his own interests and not only undermining them but using political assassination, it has a deep impact on these people's careers and lives and families," he added. — AFP

## Business

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# Zain launches first 5G roaming service in MENA between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia

**Bader Al-Kharafi: Momentous stride reinforces Zain's global position at forefront of 5G technology**



**KUWAIT:** Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi (second right) with Eaman Al Roudhan, Scott Gegenheimer (second left) and Nawaf Al-Gharabally (left) during 5G test.



**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa announces a regional first as its operations in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia successfully launch the first 5G roaming service in the MENA region, with download speeds reaching as high as 500 Mbps for both outbound and inbound roaming.

Zain has been one of the most ambitious 5G operators in the region, with its operation in Kuwait announcing the commercialization of the service in May, and Zain Saudi Arabia following in October with the launch of what was and remains the largest 5G network deployment in the region, and third largest in the world.

Zain Kuwait and Zain Saudi Arabia between them count over 550 4G and 3G roaming agreements in over 215 countries, with this latest milestone 5G roaming

**Bader Al-Kharafi:** "Empowering nations and improving the customer experience is something that Zain is passionate about"

agreement opening countless opportunities to further enhance the mobile experience for Zain customers as they travel the world, and as 5G becomes more widespread with the advent of more 5G devices.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, and Vice-Chairman of Zain Saudi Arabia commented, "This momentous stride taken on our 5G journey reinforces our global position at the forefront of the implementation of this exciting technology. It is through the vision and support of the country's lead-

ership in markets such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia that we can make such rapid progress in this nascent area, and in turn expedite our 5G roll out in support of both the New Kuwait 2035 Vision and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030."

Al-Kharafi continued, "Empowering nations and improving the customer experience is something that Zain is passionate about, and with the advent of 5G we see a whole new world of opportunities to achieve this. We are transforming into a digital lifestyle provider and are confi-

dent that our early investment in 5G will help us consolidate this position and drive us to even greater heights."

The roaming agreement between Zain Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sets the ground for further 5G roaming agreements within the Zain Group and beyond. Zain's pioneering approach to 5G means as soon as compatible devices begin to ship in commercial numbers the mobile operator's networks will be ready and capable to provide 5G services to customers immediately.

Al-Kharafi concluded, "The launch of 5G roaming reconfirms our success in achieving greater integration, extracting synergies and expertise between our key regional operations." Zain joins a very select few operators globally to have tested and introduced international 5G roaming and remains the only one to establish 5G roaming between two countries in the MENA region.

## Tesla's cybertruck orders near 150,000

**LOS ANGELES:** Tesla's new electric pickup truck has secured almost 150,000 orders, the company's chief executive Elon Musk boasted on Twitter, just two days after its big reveal went embarrassingly wrong. The billionaire Tesla co-founder floundered on stage in California on Thursday when the vehicle's armored glass windows cracked in a demonstration intended to prove their indestructible design.

Shares in the company plunged 6.1 percent following the truck's bumpy launch and several lackluster reviews. But on Saturday Musk tweeted that Tesla had already received 146,000 orders from prospective owners. "146k Cybertruck orders so far, with 42% choosing dual, 41% tri & 17% single motor," he wrote. The demand comes despite the product receiving "no advertising & no paid endorsement".

### Strong consumer data

The industrial-looking Cybertruck is covered in the same steel alloy Musk plans to use for his SpaceX Starship rocket and will be able to go from 0 to 100 kilometers per hour in about three seconds, the Tesla chief executive claimed in his presentation. He said the entry-level model will have a starting price of \$39,900 and a 400-kilometer range, while a deluxe option will be able to travel twice the distance and will sell for \$69,900. No date has been given for its release, but analysts said it would not be ready before the end of 2021 at the earliest. Its space-age design is unlikely to challenge top-selling models by Ford and other conventional car companies, analysts warn.

Meanwhile, Wall Street stocks cut their losses for the week following solid consumer data that lifted indices after three down sessions. But Tesla shares plunged following a bumpy launch of an electric pickup truck. Investors welcomed a University of Michigan report which showed higher consumer confidence in November, while shares of Nordstrom and Gap after earnings reports.

"The market is focused on the health of the consumer going into the holiday shopping season," said Adam Sarhan of 50 Park Investments. "US consumers make up two thirds of the economy so the fact that the consumer spending is so strong, both on Main Street and Wall Street, especially as we head into the holiday season, is significant." The broad-based S&P 500 ended up 0.2 percent, but ended the week down 0.3 percent.

London was the standout equity performer in Europe on Friday, rising well over one percent, while Frankfurt and Paris advanced more modestly as they had to absorb a sobering set of data showing the euro-zone's economy has almost stalled after successive months of manufacturing decline. Stocks have been under pressure much of the week amid rising uncertainty over US-China trade talks. There were more ambiguous statements on Friday.

US President Donald Trump told Fox News the two sides are "potentially very close" to finalizing a deal but that he was "not anxious" to make one. Earlier, Chinese President Xi Jinping said he hoped a deal was close at hand but that he was "not



**HAWTHORNE:** Tesla co-founder and CEO Elon Musk unveils the all-electric battery-powered Tesla's Cybertruck at Tesla Design Center in Hawthorne, California. —AFP

afraid" to "fight back" if necessary. The grinding US-China trade dispute has hung over markets for more than a year. Word of preliminary agreement in early October helped lift stocks to records but markets have pulled back somewhat this week as the two sides have struggled to finalize the deal.

### All-electric pickup?

Meanwhile, Tesla slumped 6.1 percent after its launch of an all-electric pickup truck drew several lackluster reviews, with

analysts saying the space-age design was unlikely to challenge top-selling models by Ford and other conventional car companies.

The launch also included an embarrassing moment for Chief Executive Elon Musk, who was heard using an expletive when the vehicle's supposedly indestructible windows cracked after being struck with a steel ball. Some "important unanswered questions" hang over the vehicle, said Deutsche Bank, including whether the design was "too polarizing" and whether it would be able to

carry heavy loads without requiring customers to opt for higher-cost trims.

"Will commercial buyers trust Tesla's build quality?" Deutsche queried. "While the materials used appear robust, there could be questions about the truck's durability when used under work conditions, especially in light of its seemingly unibody construction. "And the shattering of the truck's unbreakable glass windows during the live demonstration was not a good start. — Agencies

NBK Weekly Market Report

Trade war weighs on sentiment; the Euro-zone PMI disappoints

KUWAIT: Last month, we saw the most powerful central bank in the world cut its benchmark overnight lending rate...

Most policymakers noted the October cut was appropriate given the current global weakness, and trade was mentioned as a major risk hindering global growth.

The US economy is in a very strong position, with a healthy labor market and strong spending appetite from consumers whose activity accounts for about 70% of GDP.

Tariff deadline weighs

Investors have turned cautious this past week amid concerns that the world's largest economies will fail to conclude a trade deal before the year is over.

Stocks have now receded from those highs as doubts grow about a resolution, sending the S&P 500 on track for its first weekly drop after six weeks of solid gains.

Solid inflation

Remarkably stable inflation in Canada has caused many to expect fewer cuts and a slower pace of reduction by the Bank of Canada.

The central bank has remained on the sidelines in terms of monetary policy since October 2018 even as the Federal Reserve eased, and recent figures may still give the bank a reason to pause when considering cuts in its meeting next month.

Europe and UK

PMIs across France, Germany, and the Euro-zone were released on Friday and many missed expectations. The French flash services PMI came in at 52.9 versus expectations of 53.0.

Monetary policy

The newly appointed ECB President Christine Lagarde delivered her first major policy speech at the European Banking Congress in Frankfurt on Friday.



growth in advanced economies. Lagarde has called on European governments to boost public investment to rebalance the region's economy away from exports and towards domestic demand.

UK General Elections

The vote to choose a government to run the UK is supposed to be held every five years. Yet, as Brexit continues on its unprecedented nature, the general election marks

the third since 2015. A total of 650 people will be chosen as MPs to decide laws and policies with Brexit naturally holding the spotlight.

VIVA partners with Intigral to introduce Jawwy TV Home

KUWAIT: VIVA, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait...

Jawwy TV is a class leading entertainment platform, including a selection of the best Arabic, western, Turkish and kids' entertainment and sports content...



Jawwy TV offers features such as parental control and rewind TV, and it is available in both English and Arabic.

In this regard, Mrs. Haneen Al-Fulaij, Chief Consumer Officer at VIVA said: "This strategic partnership with Jawwy TV is a key step in the delivery of our vision for a new era in entertainment across Kuwait."

tomers with cutting-edge products and services that cater to their needs and aspirations."

On his end, Hamoud Al Rumayan, Chief Executive Officer at Intigral stated: "We are very excited to be entering into this partnership with VIVA, giving audiences in Kuwait access to thousands of hours of movies and TV series."

Ahli United Bank announces winners of Al Hassad draw

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced on the 20th of November 2019 the winners of its weekly draw of Al Hassad Islamic account which is the very first draw account in Islamic banking in Kuwait...

20 other winners who won prizes of KD1,000 are as follows: Khayriya Mohd Al Buzhor, Meshal Mubarak Al Khashab, Fahad Matar Aldhufairi, Najat Jawad Al Ashwak...

On the occasion Ahli United Bank congratulated its winning customers, and commented that there are many chances to win waiting for our customers.

4 quarterly mega prizes of KD 250,000 that will help the lucky winners achieve their dreams and aspirations in addition to the monthly draw to win a prize of KD 100,000.

Al-Hassad Islamic Account presents also 21 weekly prizes comprised of a grand prize of KD 10,000 and 20 prizes of KD 1,000 each.

It is worth mentioning that there is possibility to open the account online for non-customers and there is possibility to transfer the salary to Al Hassad account.

Every KD 50 invested for at least 15 days entitles the customer to one chance in the each draw. The longer the customer keeps his balance the bigger the changes of participation in the draw.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes US Dollar, Euro, Sterling Pound, Canadian dollar, Turkish Lira, Swiss Franc, and US Dollar Buying.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes Japanese Yen, Indian Rupees, Pakistani Rupees, Srilankan Rupees, Nepali Rupees, Singapore Dollar, Hongkong Dollar, Bangladesh Taka, Philippine Peso, Thai Baht, and Malaysian Ringgit.

GCC COUNTRIES

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes Saudi Riyal, Qatari Riyal, Omani Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, and UAE Dirham.

ARAB COUNTRIES

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes Egyptian Pound - Cash and Egyptian Pound - Transfer.

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes Yemen Riyal, Tunisian Dinar, Jordanian Dinar, Lebanese Lira, Syrian Lira, and Morocco Dirham.

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr Selling Rate

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes US Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Sterling Pound, Euro, Swiss Frank, Bahrain Dinar, UAE Dirhams, Qatari Riyals, Saudi Riyals, Jordanian Dinar, Egyptian Pound, Sri Lankan Rupees, Indian Rupees, Pakistani Rupees, Bangladesh Taka, Philippines Pessso, Cyprus pound, Japanese Yen, Syrian Pound, Nepalese Rupees, Malaysian Ringgit, Chinese Yuan Renminbi, and Thai Bhat.

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes Turkish Lira and Singapore dollars.

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY BUY SELL

Table with 3 columns: Currency, Buy, and Sell. Includes British Pound, Czech Korune, Danish Krone, Euro, Georgian Lari, Hungarian, Norwegian Krone, Romanian Leu, Russian ruble, Slovakia, Swedish Krona, Swiss Franc, Australian Dollar, New Zealand Dollar, Canadian Dollar, US Dollars, US Dollars Mint, Bangladesh Taka, Chinese Yuan, Indian Rupee, Indonesian Rupiah, Japanese Yen, Korean Won, Malaysian Ringgit, Nepalese Rupee, Pakistan Rupee, Philippine Peso, Singapore Dollar, Sri Lankan Rupee, Taiwan, Thai Baht, Vietnamese Dong, Bahraini Dinar, Egyptian Pound, Iranian Riyal, Iraqi Dinar, Jordanian Dinar, Kuwaiti Dinar, Lebanese Pound, Moroccan Dirhams, Omani Riyal, Qatari Riyal, Saudi Riyal, Syrian Pound, Tunisian Dinar, Turkish Lira, UAE Dirhams, and Yemeni Riyal.

Business



# Ooredoo Kuwait organizes the 'Business to Digital' conference

## Kuwait App Market launched

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, the first to launch innovated digital services in Kuwait, organized the "Business to Digital" conference in its second year yesterday, under the Patronage of Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan and with the attendance of Deputy Director-General of the Central Agency for Information Technology, Dr Ammar Al-Hussaini. This event was held under the supervision of Ooredoo Business and FASTtelco Business, a subsidiary of Ooredoo Kuwait.

This event comes in tandem with Ooredoo's strategy of being a leader in the market in terms of Digital Transformation. In the evening, the conference witnessed a special event with the launch of the Kuwait App Market in its second year. The market embraced the creativity of a large number of young Kuwaitis who have designed unique, successful applications which included the most prominent local applications such as TAPCOM, Daresni, Alhesba, Careem, Mashkor, Paydo, Collab, Sakan and Hesabi Pay.

The one-day event took place at the Al-Raya Hall, attended by the country's most prominent guests and attendees from the leading IoT/ICT companies such as Huawei, Hewlett Packard, Fortinet, Dell EMC, Cisco, and Ericsson. The "Business to Digital" conference discussed ICT and Security solutions and offered a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise about the latest business technologies under one roof.

During his speech, Deputy Director-General of the Central Agency for Information Technology, Dr. Ammar Al-Hussaini, said: "We witness today a rapid development and great challenges in technology field which require to keep up with the change and overcome the challenges."

"We are keen to develop the capabilities and skills of information technology workers in government agencies to support the process of digital transformation in Kuwait," he noted, adding "The results of this joint initiative recently announced in cooperation with Microsoft where Government employees will be able to enhance their digital and technical skills related to cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and develop modern and intelligent applications that have become essential to our daily lives." Dr. Hussaini praised Ooredoo's efforts in embracing young founders of the Kuwaiti applications.

Chief Business Officer at Ooredoo Kuwait, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, said that Ooredoo believes in the importance of keeping up with the latest developments in the telecommunications technology sector, which is the key to supporting many vital sectors "We are witnessing a change in the living style and the big shift in the completion of our daily change through digital transactions by applications in our smartphones."

He affirmed that the success of Ooredoo results from providing all the latest in the field of information technology to support companies and individuals, adding "Today, Ooredoo is the first international hosting center in Kuwait to host several government companies and institutions in all sectors. The company is unique in providing advanced security systems and in adopting global communication services in Qatar, which is witnessing rapid developments in this sector as the main provider of the 2022 World Cup."

In his turn, Corporate Communications Senior Director at Ooredoo Kuwait, Mijbil Al-Ayoub stated that the Business to Digital Conference in its second year in a row confirms Ooredoo's commitment to provide full support to all parties and sectors related to the development of new systems and support young people towards more success in innovations.

Al-Ayoub added, "Ooredoo is working to enrich it by providing the best solutions and communications infrastructure and security systems and to offer new solutions to support His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the vision of new Kuwait 2035 and transforming it into a financial and commercial center," Said Ayoub.

Bilal Agha, Marketing Director- B2B at Ooredoo Kuwait presented Ooredoo Kuwait's Ooredoo Business to Digital Transformation Strategy and discussed Ooredoo Kuwait's different business



products and smart solutions. He added "We at Ooredoo are providing the pillars to support businesses in their digital journey which are the infrastructure, security, and connectivity".

In the session, Alain Sanchez, Fortinet, EMEA CISO, talked about the future of Managed Security Services and how the evolution of the Cyber Security landscape calls for the next generation of Managed Network Services. He stressed the importance of digital innovation and how it is creating increased risk and disruption infrastructure to support digital changing rapidly in expanding attack surface, advanced threats using AI& ML, and Eco-system complexity.

"We believe Ooredoo has what it takes to deliver the next generation of Managed Network Services, where Ooredoo Kuwait captured growth in a highly penetrated mar-

ket and in choosing quality over quantity and targeting the high-end segment of Digital Kuwait. Also, Ooredoo has a deep knowledge of Kuwait business and people and was awarded the Communications Department of the Year, Best digital service award, and the best 4G-LTE Internet. Ooredoo puts security at the center and investing and enabling great security solutions and innovations to be at the service of Kuwait innovative clients," said Sanchez.

Rafat N Tashman, Huawei, Chief Business Solution Director discussed the 5G Motivating Enterprise Solutions saying that 5G presents a 10-year Cumulative Revenue Opportunity of USD 30 Billion in Kuwait (2020-2030). He explained that the 5G Value Proposition for Businesses Built Around has four themes. "First: IoT Support where 5G will unleash a host of new experiences based on IoT across thousands of connections.

Second, Dedicated Bandwidth, which allows 5G to enable real high speeds with, dedicated bandwidth access that can enable real-time solutions and transactions. Third, the digital Services that the real taste of 5G could only be experienced with genuine digital services that help make businesses more agile and "on the go".

For his part, Sandeep Pezhery, Hewlett Packard Enterprise- Aruba, Golden Senior SE, said that category leaders are taking advantage of the experience and digital era...delivering smart experiences by blending mobile, cloud, and IoT. "We pride ourselves on organic development led by icons of the industry. And over the years, we've complimented our innovation with several strategic acquisitions including joining forces with our parent company, HPE.

These moves gave us the ability to extend our edge architecture to deliver a breadth of



IT solution that includes wireless, switching, security, SD-WAN, intelligent network insights, endpoint management, and security cameras. Also, integrated hardware, software, and cloud services.

Per Uppstrom, Head of Sales Engagement IoT, Middle East & Africa at Ericsson, OoredooIoT Connect enables the growth of IoT by lowering the barriers of cellular connectivity. "Cellular connectivity is the key to success where it optimizes for long battery life, high bandwidth, high device density, and use case. Global coverage lets you tap into existing global network infrastructure covering 95% of the population and the use case flexibility can handle more diverse use cases than any competing wireless technologies. As for security and reliability, it provides reliable, secure and resilient connectivity for all types of IoT devices and the standardized works the same way all across the

activity of young Kuwaitis who have design unique and successful applications.

Sulaiman Al-Homoud, Marketing Manager-B2B at Ooredoo Kuwait, said that seven Kuwaiti applications took part in Kuwait App Market. "Ooredoo aims to support the youth through the organization of the Kuwait App Market which includes the most prominent local applications that expanded in the Gulf and the Arab region," he added. Al-Homoud revealed that Ooredoo Offered to Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to be in Nojoom Kuwait's Largest loyalty program to earn points and enjoy its exclusive benefits, noting that Ooredoo believes in SME's to be the future of Kuwait.

During the event, Faisal Al-Mahmeed, Sales Consultant and Coach at Prime Sales, discussed the importance of sales strategy which is fundamentally the most vital requirement of an organization in order to sell its products and gain profits. He explained how to achieve the best results and the best effectiveness in the sale after applying all the sale strategies and steps, adding "Prime Sales is training and providing solutions to achieve the best results and to have insights and essentially indulge in the activity."

In his turn, Khaled Nuseibeh, General Manager GCC at Careem, started his presentation with the beginning of Careem app and how it participates in the Kuwaiti market, saying "We have been able to expand our services in the Kuwaiti market by providing high-quality services and facilitating the lives of people by booking a taxi and pay for it with one click." Nuseibeh revealed that Careem added additional services to the Middle East, such as Careem Bus service, a 13-seat minibus that was launched in Cairo to ease congestion and soon this service will be launched in other cities near the future.

"Careem also launched Careem now, for food delivery and Careem Pay that allows subscribers to transfer credits from one to another to be used for more rides. At the end of the event, a panel discussion was held to share the expertise of the success of Kuwaiti apps. Khaled Al-Otaibi, Founder of Talabat.com, One of the founders of Al-Hisba App, shared his success story with his Talabat App that sold for 51 million Kuwaiti Dinar.

In addition to his application "Al-Hisba" offers users easier ways for property evaluation depending on size and location. The app also can collect data on all the auctions in Kuwait. For PayDo, Saad Al-Khattaf, PayDo Co-founder, said that PayDo helps businesses transform into online commerce with a global reach, where they specialize in a variety of online marketing services, including paid advertising, mobile advertising, display advertising, and Video Advertising.



solutions from the edge to the cloud, for wireless and wired. Now we are designing for the complexities of IoT." He added that Hewlett Packard Enterprise has become a go-to brand for networking and network engineers across the globe, noting, "The edge is the future! From our proven heritage in mobile-first networking, we are leading the innovation at this re-defined edge.

We are working towards an Intelligent Edge, where the experience economy will become a mainstream movement across industries and where fully converged systems will be able to deliver on the complete needs for networking, computer storage, and cloud-connectivity. We are investing \$4B over the next 4 years to deliver on this vision."

Meanwhile, Ahmed Al Shinnawy, CISCO, Consulting System Engineer, discussed Cisco Meraki- Cloud Managed network solutions saying that it is a complete cloud-managed

world," he added. He noted that OoredooIoT Connect is making cellular IoT easy to adopt, to use and to scale, where the IoT Connect creates ecosystem value, easily turn all connected concepts into reality for Enterprise, scale IoT revenue locally and globally for service providers, and can gain speed and scale through ecosystem collaboration for partners.

The conference was concluded with a raffle draw which took place by Ooredoo for the audience where they had the chance to win iPhone 11 smartphone devices. In addition to an exhibition that was held at the forum in which Ooredoo's main partners participated to showcase their latest products and services. Ooredoo Kuwait also held the Kuwait App Market in its second year, on the sidelines of the "Business to Digital Forum". The Kuwait App Market comes in line with the company's strategy to support the cre-

ation of young Kuwaitis who have design unique and successful applications.

During the event, Faisal Al-Mahmeed, Sales Consultant and Coach at Prime Sales, discussed the importance of sales strategy which is fundamentally the most vital requirement of an organization in order to sell its products and gain profits. He explained how to achieve the best results and the best effectiveness in the sale after applying all the sale strategies and steps, adding "Prime Sales is training and providing solutions to achieve the best results and to have insights and essentially indulge in the activity."



## Business

# UK's Labor targets 'tax and wage cheat' multinationals

## Labor seeks new tax on multinational companies

LONDON: Britain's opposition Labor Party held a rally outside an Amazon depot on Saturday as it highlights its promise to target multinational firms it accuses of dodging taxes and cheating workers should it win next month's general election. In its manifesto launched, Labor unveiled a plan to spend almost 83 billion pounds (\$106 billion) on a program of widespread nationalization and free public services with the revenue coming from taxes on high earners and corporations.

Labor said its "Fair Tax Program" would ensure the City of London financial district, big businesses and those who dodged tax paid their share. "I'll quite simply say this: if you're trading in Britain and making money in Britain, pay your taxes in Britain, and that is exactly what we're proposing," Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn

said outside the Amazon depot in Yorkshire, northern England. In remarks published before his visit, Corbyn referred to a "tax and wage cheat" culture among multinational corporations.

"Of course we want jobs in this country, of course we want people working in this country," Corbyn said. "What is a problem is if they decide to domicile their company somewhere else in order to pay tax at somebody else's tax rate, and that ends up underfunding our public services." Amazon rebutted Labor's comments. "The government wrote the tax laws and they are designed to encourage investment, and we are investing heavily in creating jobs and infrastructure across the UK - more than 18 billion pounds (\$23 billion) since 2010," an Amazon spokesman said.

### Vested interests

Labor is lagging Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party by about 10 points or more in the polls but it hopes that targeting "vested interests" will win over voters ahead of the Dec 12 election. "Jeremy Corbyn is lashing out at businesses because he is desperate to distract from the fact that he has no credible plan to get Brexit done," Conservative Party Chairman James Cleverly said.

The party has earmarked tech firms such as Amazon, Alphabet's Google and Facebook for additional taxes, saying it would bring in measures to stop multinationals avoiding tax through profit-shifting schemes. It said this would bring in 6.3 billion pounds in 2023-4. Other planned measures include establishing an inquiry into

the finance sector, introducing a 20% Offshore Company Property Levy, and scrapping non-domiciled status, which allows some people resident in Britain to limit the tax they pay.

Taxation of multinational giants has become an international issue since Reuters revealed in 2012 how companies like Amazon and Starbucks use inter-company payments to lower tax liabilities. Other countries have already introduced taxes on digital companies - France for instance applies a 3% levy to revenue from digital services earned by firms with more than 25 million euros in French revenue and 750 million euros (\$830 million) worldwide. US President Donald Trump has described such taxes as "foolishness". — Reuters

## Oxford Business Group launches 'publication' on country's economy

KUWAIT: Kuwait's plans to move to a knowledge-based, private sector-led economy with reduced reliance on oil and gas revenue are mapped out in a new report by the global research and advisory firm Oxford Business Group (OBG). The Report: Kuwait2019 explores the measures that the country is introducing to enhance its business environment in a bid to attract a targeted \$200bn in FDI between 2020 and 2035 as part of a broader diversification drive.

Investment is being sought, in particular, for a planned revamp of the country's transport and logistics networks. OBG looks in detail at the air, land and marine transport development programs within the New Kuwait 2035 vision which form a key part of the national push to become a regional center for transportation. Other works heightening construction activity are also analyzed, including the ambitious, 700,000-inhabitant Silk City mega-development in the north and a raft of schools and hospitals which are either under way or in the design phase.

In addition, OBG shines a spotlight on the Islamic financial services sector, which has expanded in recent years in line with the country's emerging status as a hub for sharia-compliant banking, insurance and investment products. Kuwait's economic diversification drive includes reducing its dependence on crude oil exports and shifting, instead, to higher-value outputs. OBG's report offers wide-ranging coverage of the raft of mega-projects in refining, petrochemicals, new oil-field development and mature oilfield recovery that will take these plans forward and help the country to develop its manufacturing industry.

It will also highlight moves under way to strengthen support for small and medium-sized enterprises as a means of ensuring future growth is sustainable. Commenting ahead of the launch, OBG's Editor-in-Chief Oliver Cornock said Kuwait's national plan to create a new economic model was gathering momentum, supported by a return to growth in 2018 and forecasts of increased GDP expansion this year.

"Kuwait is moving forward with its bid to bring the private sector on for board for infrastructure development, with a sizeable project pipeline providing myriad opportunities for investors," he said. "An improved business climate with less red tape, together with strong macroeconomic fundamentals, is expected to support its efforts to attract investors and create new public-private partnerships."

Jana Trecck, the Group's Managing Director for the Middle East, agreed that Kuwait was well positioned to use its oil wealth as a launch pad for diversifying the economy and increase inflows. "Kuwait's major infrastructure drive includes several projects that will support its plans to carve a niche as a regional trade and transportation hub, further boosting connectivity and strengthening partnerships," Trecck said. "A move by the GCC to forge closer ties with China, together with regional integration, is likely to heighten investor interest."

The Report: Kuwait2019 contains a viewpoint by HII the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, together with a detailed sector-by-sector guide for investors. It also features a wide range of interviews with other high-profile personalities, including: Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General, Supreme Council for Planning and Development; Hashem Hashem, Deputy Chairman and CEO, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation; Meshal Althman, Director-General, Public Institution for Social Security; and Mazin Al Nahedh, CEO, Kuwait Finance House.

Other highlights include a banking roundtable, containing the views of several high-level representatives from the sector, and an interview with Mohammad Y Al Hashel, Governor, Central Bank of Kuwait. The Report: Kuwait2019 marks the culmination of more than 12 months of field research by a team of analysts from Oxford Business Group. The publication assesses trends and developments across the country, including those in macroeconomics, infrastructure, banking and others. The Report: Kuwait2019 has been produced with the Kuwait Direct Promotion Investment Authority, EY and ASAR Legal. It is available online and in print.

## Huawei launches flagship headset FreeBuds 3

KUWAIT: The innovative technology developer, Huawei Consumer Business Group Kuwait (CBG) has launched its flagship headset, the HUAWEI FreeBuds 3, a true wireless stereo product with a proprietary chip Kirin A1, on Thursday, 21 November, 2019 at the Huawei Experience Store (HES), in the Avenues Mall, Phase IV, Electra.

Attended by Kuwait's top media, the launching event announced the most advanced earphones from Huawei, the HUAWEI FreeBuds 3, and was a chance for local media and public to experience the outstanding features of the headset, in which it picks up the human voice efficiently for call quality that feels like a face to face conversation and supports active noise cancellation for an immersive music experience. Mentioning some of the main features of the brand-new HUAWEI FreeBuds 3:

### Intelligent noise cancelling

Keeping user behavior in mind, HUAWEI's FreeBuds 3 is designed to provide active noise cancellation features, even in noisy environments without compromising on comfort. The noise reduction effect is further complemented by the Open-fit TWS design, which makes the earphones more comfortable to wear.

### Ultimate performance

The HUAWEI FreeBuds 3 houses the proprietary Kirin A1 chipset, the world's first Bluetooth 5.1 and Bluetooth Low Energy 5.1 wearable chip designed by Huawei. The chip will ensure a stable and seamless connection to provide an overall enhanced experience, including better anti-interference, lower latency while in game, more stable connection and smooth and stable call experience anytime, anywhere.

### Booming Bass

Premium quality music is one of the core focus

## Jazeera Airways launches direct flights between Kuwait-Karachi

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, launched its direct flights to Karachi, serving Pakistan's most populous city with a weekly flight starting from November 21, 2019. The new service in the first in two decades between Kuwait and Karachi, and the second for the airline to Pakistan. It supports the growing trade relations between both countries. In 2018, Kuwaiti exports to Pakistan crossed the \$1.5 billion mark, mainly driven by oil exports, while exports from Pakistan to Kuwait reached \$180 million. Kuwait is home to over 130,000 Pakistani citizens.

Jazeera Airways CEO, Rohit Ramchandran, said: "We are very pleased to have launched our new service to Karachi and offer our customers direct and transit routes to Pakistan's premier economic and social hub. The launch comes as part of our strategy to cater to the

## Al-Tijari announces Al Najma, 'Salary & Cash on Top' winners

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank conducted the weekly draws on Al Najma Account and the draw on the "Salary and Cash on Top" campaign. The draws were conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Ahmed Al-Hamad. The results of the draw were as follows: (1) Al Najma weekly account - the prize of 5,000/- Kuwaiti Dinars and was for the share of Mr. Mohammad Mahmoud Mohammad Al-Sayed. (2) The 'Salary & Cash on Top' campaign prize of 1,000/- Kuwaiti Dinars and was for the share of Bandar Jazzaa Al-Enezi.

The Bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000/-, monthly prize of KD 20,000/- and a semi-annual prize



areas of the HUAWEI FreeBuds 3. To deliver studio-grade music, the HUAWEI FreeBuds 3 is manufactured with customized acoustic components and innovative architecture developed by Huawei.

### Long-lasting battery

Based on Huawei's famed fast charging technology, the FreeBuds 3 offers 2W SuperCharge technology. It supports both wired and wireless charging,

allowing users to charge up with either a USB Type-C wire or a wireless charger. Customers who pre-order the most advanced earphones from Huawei, the HUAWEI FreeBuds 3 for KD 49.900 from Huawei Experience Store (HES), at the Avenues Mall and other Retail Channels in Kuwait, until 25 November 2019 will receive complimentary Huawei Wireless Charger, Silicone Case and 6 Months accidental warranty.

## Interview with Jiang

**Question: What's so special about the new HUAWEI FreeBuds 3?**

The new earphones are equipped with intelligent noise canceler and it works with the Huawei chip like the smart phone which also has the chip. It also has wireless charger, which is very fast and convenient in charging the earphones.

**In which colors are FreeBuds 3 available?**  
We have them in two colors: black and white. But we have more colors for the cover of the earphones, which are very beautiful.

**Does it work with both Android and IOS?**  
Yes, certainly it works with both systems.

**What about the price?**

It's only KD 49.9 which is a competing price in the Kuwaiti market.

**What is your target?**

As it was with the HUAWEI WATCH GT 2 - to bring people in Kuwait a good experience, and to provide new technology and we hope all people will love it and enjoy its amazing features.

**How long can the charge last?**

The HUAWEI FreeBuds 3 can be charged within 30 minutes. And can be used up to 4 hours with one single earphone. Then the case of the earphones also can charge them up to 4 times. So, it can last up to 20 hours.



large expatriates and business communities in Kuwait as well as connect customers from our network to popular business, tourism and religious destinations in the Middle East and Europe through Kuwait."

Commenting on behalf of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait, the Charge d'Affaires, Ashar Shahzad, said: "It is a matter of great pleasure and pride that Jazeera Airways is starting flights from Kuwait to Karachi on 21 November 2019 as its second destination in Pakistan. Currently, there are no direct flights between Kuwait and Karachi. We are hopeful that the new direct route will enhance trade, political, social and cultural relationship between the two countries. We are thankful to

Jazeera Airways for this and wish them success in its all operations."

Jazeera Airways flies to Karachi's Jinnah International Airport, Pakistan's busiest airport. The scheduled flights leave on Thursdays from Kuwait on flight J9 507 at 10:00 pm local time and return from Karachi on flight J9 508 at 3:30 am of the next day (Friday). The total duration of the flight is 2 hours and 45 minutes from Kuwait to Karachi, and 3 hours and 30 minutes from Karachi to Kuwait. Bookings for Kuwait-Karachi flights are open and available on [jazeeraairways.com](http://jazeeraairways.com). Fares start from KD32 for a one-way flight on Economy Class and KD71 for a return flight on the same class.

of KD 500,000 in addition to the largest prize - linked bank account payout of KD 1,500,000.

Al Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

As regarding "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees as well as the retirees and which is valid until 31 December 2019 and the mechanism of joining this campaign for availing its benefits, the Bank explained that Kuwaiti employees with a salary of KD 500 & above whether newly recruited or in service can transfer their salary to the Bank and avail the benefits of this campaign by getting instant cash gift of KD 250 or an interest free loan 5 times the salary up to KD 10,000, add to this they will automatically enter the

weekly draw on KD 1,000.

As for the expatriate customers categorized under Premier Banking Account with a salary KD of 1,700 and above, they will get instant cash gift. The retirees with pension KD 1,000 & above will also get an instant cash gift of KD 150 when transferring their pension to the Bank and automatically enter the weekly draw on a prize of KD 1,000 and avail the benefits of this campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees working in private & public sector as well as the retirees. Further, the campaign provides customers with the opportunity to get additional benefits and take advantage of the advanced & unrivalled services & products the Bank provides to its customers to meet their needs and expectations.

Customers can obtain further information on Al-Najma Account by either calling the Service Center on 1888225 or by visiting the Bank's website [www.CBK.com](http://www.CBK.com) and they can also visit their nearest CBK branch where the Bank staff will be ready to serve them and respond to their queries. Furthermore all details & information related to the latest offers & services launched by the Bank is also available on the Bank's social sites.

What's On

# Arab Youth Survey wins 'Best Campaign' at MEPRA Awards

ASDA's BCW's pioneering thought leadership initiative, the 11th Annual Arab Youth Survey 2019, was named Best Campaign in the Middle East at the Middle East Public Relations Association (MEPRA) Awards 2019, held in Dubai on November 20, 2019. Titled "A Call for Reform", this year's edition of the Survey also won gold for 'Best Use of Data and Insights', and took silver for 'Best Non-Profit/Humanitarian/Charitable Campaign'.

The largest survey of its kind, has been providing insights into the hopes and aspirations of the Arab world's most important demographic - its youth, since 2008. In 2019, the survey addressed topics such as religion, role of government, mental health and drug abuse. This year's findings have driven dialogue at special survey events around the world, including Chatham House in London, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington DC, and two events conducted by leading Washington DC publication 'The Hill'.

ASDA's BCW won a total of 10 awards on the night, including three golds, four silvers, and three bronzes, at a gala ceremony and dinner held in Dubai at the Atlantis, Palm Jumeirah. ASDA's BCW's work with real

estate developer Marjan in promoting the New Year's Eve Fireworks at Ras Al Khaimah's Marjan Island won gold for 'Best Real Estate or Construction Campaign' as well as bronze for the 'Best Travel or Tourism Campaign'.

The Agency's work with Ford Middle East for its breast cancer awareness campaign "Warriors in Pink 2018: Stories of Courage" won silvers for 'Best Healthcare Campaign' and 'Best Use of Influencers' and bronze for 'Best Non-Profit/Humanitarian/Charitable Campaign', while the campaign for the IPO of Network International won a silver for the category, 'Best Financial Services Campaign' and a bronze for 'Best Use of Traditional Media (Consumer/Trade)'.

Sunil John, Founder of ASDA's BCW and President, BCW Middle East, said: "We are delighted to be recognised for the work we do for our clients, and for our own thought leadership platform, the annual Arab Youth Survey. To win Best Campaign in the Middle East and be recognised at the MEPRA Awards is always special, as this is the forum in which we are judged by our peers in the region's public relations industry."

MEPRA is the Middle East region's leading body for public relations and communication professionals and



students. The MEPRA Awards provides an opportunity to communications specialist across the region to showcase their finest work and be recognised among

peers. The 2019 MEPRA Awards saw more than 70 agencies and in-house communications teams compete in 47 categories.

## Jumeirah Hotel & Spa presents Friday Family Brunch

Nestled in Garden Cafe overlooking the gardens, the Friday Family Brunch is orchestrated by the award-winning restaurants presenting their signature culinary selection and taking guests on a delightful journey of exploring international flavours, while your little ones enjoy an array of exciting kids' activities and their very own buffet sections. The brunch will have an International buffet set up with chefs and interactive cooking stations, some of them which will display a selection of premium Oysters, a fine selection of artisanal cheese, and more.

Assistant Director of PR and Communications, Yasmine Ismail said, "Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa has provided guests with unparalleled luxurious experiences and will continue to exceed expectations this year. The Family Friday Brunch concept provides an avenue of memorable family experiences as the name suggests, for guests to savour our signature cuisines and offerings by our award-winning restaurants. We look forward to providing imaginative and exhilarating experiences that our guests will cherish". Add a special touch to your weekend and experience a memorable brunch every Friday from 1 pm to 4.30 pm at the Garden Cafe at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa.



## Boecker co-sponsors Horeca Kuwait 2020

Preparations for the Horeca Kuwait 2020 exhibition are steadily progressing and attracting more companies to take part in it as an event providing a golden opportunity to scientifically exchange expertise that would match the local market needs and future expansion plans. The exhibition is due to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Co at Mishref International Fairgrounds in the period of January 20-22, 2020.

In this regard, the organizer, Leaders Group company stressed that Boecker's diamond sponsorship signifies the exhibition's growing significance in various food and hospitality-related economic activities and that Boecker is one of the most important companies specialized in providing cleanliness, food safety and environmental health solutions in the Arab region.

On his part, Boecker's administrative associate, Ibrahim Hilal announced his company's intention to join other companies specialized in hospitality, hotel equipments, food industries, transport, gas and design taking part in Horeca 2020 exhibition and stressed that Horeca Kuwait was a leading specialized exhibition that provides golden opportunities to display various vital lines or products and services that would enhance the progress Kuwait was witnessing in the fields of hospitality and food industries as well as supporting the state plans to diversify income resources and create more job opportunities.



Ibrahim Hilal

Ibrahim added that ever since its establishment 26 years ago, Boecker has been providing the best health service solutions in various Middle Eastern countries including Kuwait, Qatar, KSA and Jordan. He also stressed that Boecker would highlight and display its creative solutions in pest control, infection control plans and biosecurity services and products related to hospitality and restaurants.

He added that all Boecker development had been achieved through coping with the latest technologies and practices in the field and matching the specifications specialized international organizations such WHO, FAO and WTO. In addition, Hilal said that Boecker is so keen on taking part in Horeca Kuwait to manifest its specialties as a main partner and sponsor. Notably, Boecker teams will provide participants and visitors with applied demonstrations and explanation of the best health solutions throughout the exhibition.

## KIB launches 'KIB financial literacy kit for kids'

On the occasion of World Children's Day and as part of its leading financial literacy program, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has launched its first book entitled 'KIB Financial Literacy Kit for Kids'. As part of its participation in the event, KIB's book debuted at this year's Kuwait International Book Fair, in partnership with That Al Salasil bookstores.

During the book fair, KIB's designated booth offered a number of entertainment and educational activities for children. Additionally, KIB also hosted a fun, interactive storytelling session aiming at laying the groundwork for children's financial literacy development; an age-appropriate way to instill essential knowledge and help guide kids in a positive direction. The kit was distributed for free amongst visitors at the book fair, aiming at enriching financial and economic knowledge amongst diverse segments of the community.

On his part, Senior Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia said: "Financial literacy is an important pillar of our social responsibility program, continuously solidifying financial inclusion amongst youth and students is a



priority we embed into our community efforts. And so, we've developed a kit that introduces children to the concept of savings, the banking system, budgeting, money and its many usages, using playful illustrations to make it easy to understand."

Najia also noted that KIB focuses on decreasing financial exclusion that seems to be deep rooted in the community, instead encouraging children and parents alike to have discussions about money to help youth understand money management, savings and ultimately make them more financially literate.

Through this kit, the Bank seeks to help parents recognize the importance of imparting financial literacy amongst their children to ensure their financial security in the future. It is worth noting that KIB's financial literacy program aims at spreading economic awareness across all segments of the local community, particularly children and youth. The program seeks to motivate students and children in order to develop a promising, financially-savvy generation that is able to drive national development in the future.



## Birthday Greetings



Mohsin Irfan, turns 4, God bless you and may you have prosperous future ahead. Best Wishes and love from papa, mama, ami, abu, aunties, uncle and cousin brothers Abdullah, Osama, Ali, Umar, Hassan, Talha and sisters Fatima, Ayesha, Meeqat, Aamina.

## Notice

The TIES Center cordially invites you to Tafseer class (Divine Wisdom from the Last Testament) on November 25, at 7pm (today). In this class, we will focus on verses 3 and 4 of Surat Al-Mujadilah (She who argued). We will discuss why some men during the period of ignorance (Jahiliyya) used to forbid themselves from their wives by likening them to their mothers, the atonement for that sin and its reasons, and how Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) addressed the situation of a man who was unable to make amends. Finally, we will see how Khawla was willing to fulfill the conditions of her husband's atonement and discuss spousal compassion and the benefits of atonement. Come and learn more about the Book of Allah (SWT) in a serene, friendly and encouraging environment.

Health & Science

# For cancer patients, Nobel's medical research far more than prize-worthy

WASHINGTON: When Shaun Tierney was diagnosed with an aggressive form of kidney cancer in 2007, the prognosis was grim. Twelve years on, the 64-year-old is still living an active life, and even participating in marathon walks for cancer research - an outcome made possible by work that was awarded this year's Nobel prize in medicine.

Tierney's case is a telling illustration of how seemingly esoteric scientific research makes its way from the lab to the real world - a journey that can save lives. "It's an exciting time," said Tierney's doctor, oncologist Toni Choueiri, who works at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and is a professor at Harvard Medical School.

"We're not curing everyone. Definitely not. But this is crazy-this is a disease that went from a death sentence. 'Go do your work, start having your will ready etc.' to people living years." Americans William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza, and Britain's Peter Ratcliffe, were awarded the Nobel last month for their work on how human cells sense and adapt to oxygen. They began their research in the early 1990s, and the first therapeutic applications appeared in the mid-2000s.

Tierney, a former design engineer, was embarking on a new chapter with his wife as an empty nester when he was diagnosed with stage four renal cell carcinoma. His hopes of surviving five years at the time? Just three to five percent. "Our legs were cut out from beneath us," Tierney said. But that changed when he received Sutent, one of a then-new class of drugs called angiogenesis inhibitors that stop the growth of new blood vessels that feed cancer cells. The development of the treatment

that has prolonged Tierney's life was a direct result of the trio's Nobel-winning research.

**In the lab**

Kaelin, who runs a laboratory at Dana-Farber and also teaches at Harvard, first started studying oxygen sensing because he was investigating a rare, inherited condition called Von Hippel-Lindau's (VHL) disease. The illness causes its carriers to develop tumors, such as kidney cancers, that overproduce distress signals associated with having a lack of oxygen. One of these signals is a protein called vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). It stimulates the growth of new blood vessels, thus spreading the cancer. Kaelin uncovered the process by which the gene responsible for VHL disease regulated VEGF and made sure it was not overproduced. This gene is responsible for some types of kidney cancer that occur even in people not born with VHL disease, because it can sometimes mutate over time in the kidney. Sutent is now one of several approved VEGF inhibitors designed to treat these cancers.

**'Very rough'**

It's not been an easy ride for Tierney: the drug has toxicities and his treatment is "very rough," in his words. After first blasting the site with radiation for several weeks, he began taking Sutent orally, initially on a standard course of 28 days treatment and 14 days recovery. At first the side effects, including severe diarrhea and weight loss, proved too debilitating, leading Choueiri to experiment with different dosing schedules, settling for the past four years on five days treatment,



BOSTON: Photo shows Dr William G Kaelin (right) and Dr Toni K Choueiri (left) posing with patient Shaun Tierney at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

cer will eventually progress." The reasons aren't fully clear but are probably linked to a tumor's genetic make-up - one reason why Tierney has volunteered for studies to try to solve the question. Choueiri says he often has to prescribe patients a combination of VEGF inhibitors as well as immunotherapy drugs - an even newer class of treatment that turn the body's own natural defenses against the cancer.

**'Move the ball forward'**

According to Kaelin, researchers can go farther down the pathway of oxygen-regulating drugs. He is working with a company called Peloton on a new treatment that acts on an earlier link in the chain of this pathway and inhibits not just VEGF but other cancer-causing substances. Early trials are promising, but the work continues. For Kaelin, a physician-scientist who works both in the lab and with patients, that work is particularly rewarding. "To now think that I along with many, many, many others who worked in the field, I have been able to move the ball forward and get a better therapy for these patients is just amazing," he said. Tierney counts himself lucky to have benefitted from various innovations, and is determined to make the most of his time - regularly taking part for example in kidney cancer research fundraising efforts like charity walks. "My prolonged survival allowed me to see all of our three children marry, start families, buy houses, and become real decent, great adults," he said. He was also able to meet his six grandchildren. "My kind of number one goal right now, the longer I survive, is to just imprint as many memories as I can on these children," Tierney says. — AFP

followed by nine days rest and recovery. Tierney is something of an outlier in that he has been exceptionally receptive to the drug, but many are not so lucky, says Choueiri. As Kaelin explains, "Most but not all patients benefit. Even in the group that benefits, many of them will benefit for months or a few years and then the can-

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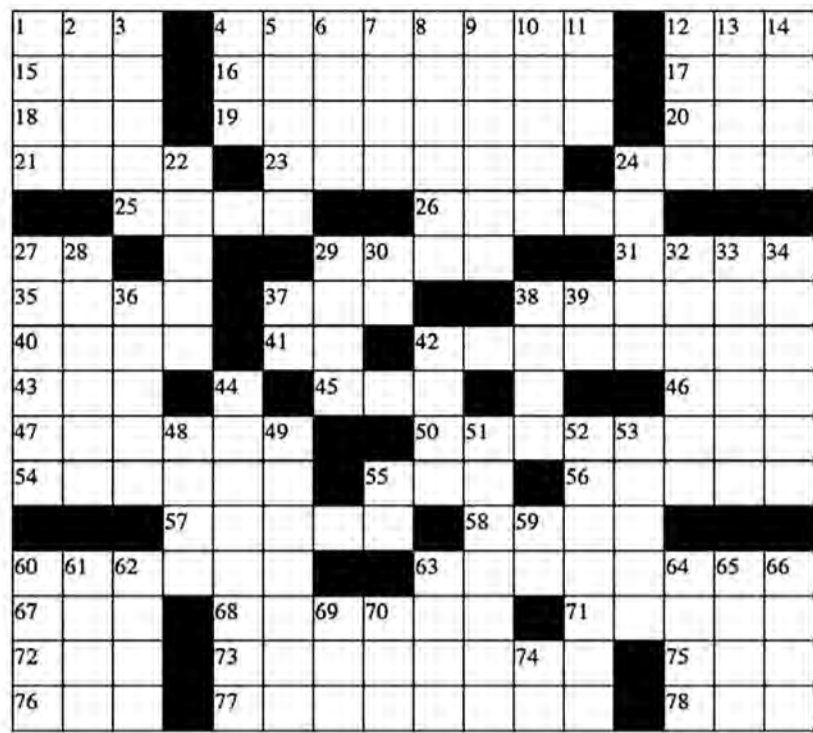
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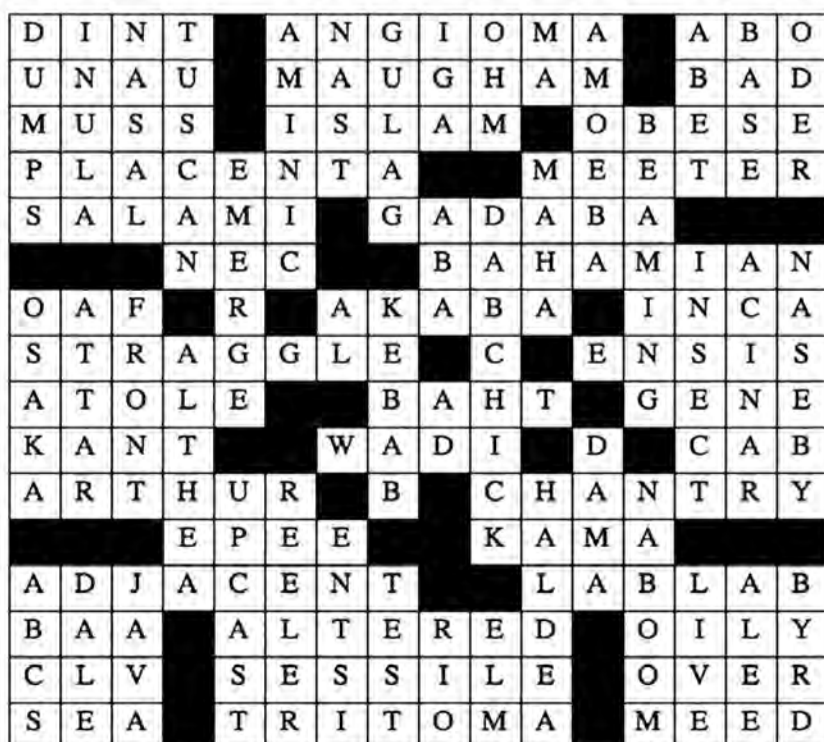
ACROSS

1. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
4. A naturally occurring estrogenic hormone.
12. How long something has existed.
15. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
16. The state of being present.
17. Goddess of fate.
18. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
19. A salt or ester of vanadic acid.
20. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
21. By bad luck.
23. Characterized by absence of emotional agitation.
25. United States publisher of magazines (1898-1967).
26. The Uralic language spoken by the Yeniseian people.
27. A bachelor's degree in science.
31. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
35. A sudden short attack.
40. A French abbot.
41. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
43. An alliance made up of states that had been Soviet Socialist Republics in the Soviet Union prior to its dissolution in Dec 1991.
45. The law enforcement agency in the Justice Department.
46. A unit of length equal to one thousandth of an inch.
47. (ecology) The process by which a plant or animal becomes established in a new habitat.
50. Capable of being weakened.
54. A large bonnet that shades the face.
56. Concerning or dwelling or situated in a wood.
57. United States conductor (born in Japan in 1935).
58. A mark left by the healing of injured tissue.
60. An ornamental jewelled headdress signifying sovereignty.
67. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
68. An artificial language used for trade between speakers of different languages.
71. Any of various cycads of the genus *Zamia*.
72. A doctor's degree in education.
73. Large arboreal boa of tropical South America.
75. Black tropical American cuckoo.
76. An associate degree in applied science.
77. A great raja.
78. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).

DOWN

1. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
2. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
3. Of or relating to alga.
4. An oral poliovirus vaccine (containing live but weakened poliovirus) that is given to provide immunity to poliomyelitis.
5. Remove from memory or existence.
6. 100 sene equal 1 tala.
7. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
8. From sins, as in religious dogma.
9. (Sumerian) Consort of Dumuzi (Tammuz).
10. The cardinal number that is the sum of seven and one.
11. Towards the side away from the wind.
12. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
13. German tennis player who won seven women's singles titles at Wimbledon (born in 1969).
14. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
22. Leather with a napped surface.
24. The location of something surrounded by other things.
28. The wood of the sabicu which resembles mahogany.
29. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
30. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
32. (used of arms and legs) Bent outward with the joint away from the body.
33. Decorate with, or as if with, gold leaf or liquid gold.
34. Spider monkeys.
36. Realistic Norwegian author who wrote plays on social and political themes (1828-1906).
37. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
38. Area around the altar of a church for the clergy and choir.
39. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
42. A city in Tuscany.
44. A tranquilizer (trade name Valium) used to relieve anxiety and relax muscles.
48. Wearing footwear.
49. Enduring strength and energy.
51. A cry of praise or adoration (to God).
52. A festival featuring African-American culture.
53. The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
55. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
59. A ductile malleable reddish-brown corrosion-resistant diamagnetic metallic element.
61. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
62. Acute lung injury characterized by coughing and rales.
63. French couturier whose first collection in 1947 created a style (tight bodice and narrow waist and flowing pleated skirt) that became known as the New Look (1905-1957).
64. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
65. (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea.
66. A quantity that is added.
69. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
70. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
74. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a time when you will find a personal relationship is on solid ground. Expressing affections or appreciation should be simple. These good vibrations can do much for your disposition. Activity in projects or groups can have positive results. Unexpected expenses turn up again and again. Do not pay for everything yourself today. It may be time for someone else to help take on that responsibility. You are able to tap into a wellspring of inspiration at this time. Your dreams seem set to become reality and success with your goals is near. You have a great deal of energy that can make you attractive to the opposite sex.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Now is an excellent time to advertise your skills or talents. Find ways to promote and bring attention to the advancements you have made to the company for which you work. One way to do this is to volunteer to teach or conduct an orientation program for new employees. You might seek a recommendation for taking on the position of job interviewer when there is a job fair. These are just a few of the ways to gain a more prestigious job identity or if you like your position, perhaps a raise in pay. Teaching, learning, communicating, and social contact have a way of outlining new directions in your life now.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Someone could challenge your ideas and perhaps find them unconventional. It may not be easy to find new and suitable solutions to problems now. It will not be the first time you have been challenged, and you may even do it to someone else tomorrow. Now is a good time to think through some of your own methods in dealing with the young or inexperienced. Give yourself time to think about this and adjust some of the ways in which you criticize or correct others. Some choices, the obvious path that is opening up for you, may grate against your own sense of freedom and independence. Success and security at the expense of originality may be too great a price to pay. Look for a middle road. Relax and enjoy communication with loved ones tonight.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You work with real imagination and understanding in areas of the mind that are the most personal or private: in-depth psychology. You are like a midwife of the spirit, assisting at the birth of each individual going through a spiritual or rebirth process. You could work with a person that needs to have someone interview and match requirements for employment, acting talent, technical abilities, etc. You know people and this is where your talent shines. Whether you are in a job this day, on call, or just around people that know you are a caring person, you will find many opportunities opening up to be of help to others.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This could be a difficult time to relax. You should experience a successful day with opportunities to give your input and bring attention to your skills. There could be surprises when it comes to money. Keep an eagle eye on spur-of-the-moment spending. You may be so busy or have your mind so cluttered you make quick decisions when other situations come to your attention. This is definitely a positive time for new beginnings in connection with budgeting situations and managing your financial affairs. You may even want a financial counselor in this case. There could be some difficulties surrounding a loved one this evening. If you cannot remain objective, keep notes and detach your emotions for now.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are able to feel the trends and make the right moves. Use this time to help you and your company to expand and grow successfully. This is a time to get ahead by taking action. You may be surprised at the support and recognition you receive as you seek to find ways to make new business happen. Any dealings with clients should go well today. Encourage your wise co-workers to make suggestions and provide a suggestion box for them so that no person has to be identified with a particular comment unless they want. You are in a creative as well as a competitive phase and you are pleased with the results of everyone's efforts. You could have deep insights at this time. Some sudden inspiration may resolve a long-standing worry.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your intense analytical approach to life may cut through to the heart of things and afford you some intelligent and useful information. You have real vision with moments of insight and clear-seeing that allows you to work to the best of your abilities. You work effectively in a group situation this day. Others accept your guidance as you evaluate and help to implement specific plans that eventually solve many problems. You dream of a world where unity and harmony are a reality. It would not be unusual for you to join in some political or community work. Your imagination will drive you to make your dreams a reality. Get outside this evening and be a witness to the wonders of nature. Enjoy a bit of stargazing this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

There is much contemplative thinking about the way you fill your days. Questions of attitude, approaches to problem solving and the methods for handling problems are in high focus. Perhaps you will have many jobs or be forever going through changes and adjustments. These highs and lows you have been experiencing lately will finally become balanced. You have a particular expertise that will come in handy when you are ready to settle down: the ability to prosper. You are warm and friendly to everyone. As you settle down in your life choices, you will begin to notice that you will become a good mentor to people.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You feel a love of order and an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. Problems are valued for the lessons they represent, rather than perceived as obstacles. A drive to probe and penetrate may find you examining and working through some strong internal changes. Push too hard and you could be too dominating and even oppressive to yourself and others. Now may be the time you are thinking of changing jobs, asking for a raise or wanting to make a move. There is no better time than the present to get things rolling-start first by discussing it with your loved one. Work together and create a plan.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may feel like talking with your co-workers and neighbors a bit more than usual today. Perhaps there is some outdoor activity about which a plan is evolving and taking shape: one of competition. You will often become happily lost in fun conversations. You can also demonstrate a great understanding of the needs of others. If you fancy taking a small gamble, then today is the day to act. Don't get too crazy and bet your hat-a small bet could be fun and fruitful. You always seem to maintain a good, positive mental attitude. This is a time to help find or teach positive ways to help others in learning to rise above the stresses and to become more creative about solving any problems.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You seem less critical of others and more accepting of interruptions and delays at this time. Part of your day may normally consist of hurry-up-and-wait sort of situations. Today seems more packed than usual. You continue to amaze others with the productive things you pull out of your pocket or purse to keep you occupied while you do the waiting game. You appear perhaps more charming and refined than usual this afternoon as a party begins. Now is the best time to enjoy someone new. Perhaps you are attending a family barbecue, a neighborhood block party or some kind of circus show.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a good day to get things done. Good eye-hand coordination and a sustained effort make almost any task run well. You may feel like exercising or getting out and around town this afternoon. There may be items to purchase and a group meeting to attend before you head back home. You look for fresh challenges to light your fires now. You have lots of energy, a powerful urge to be first. A very active day is forecasted for you. You move around doing many things for others, as well as for yourself. Working with the handicapped or with children can be expected. Those of you who are involved in creative activities-teaching or otherwise-will be particularly inspired. Relax this evening! Your luck is good.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Old West 2

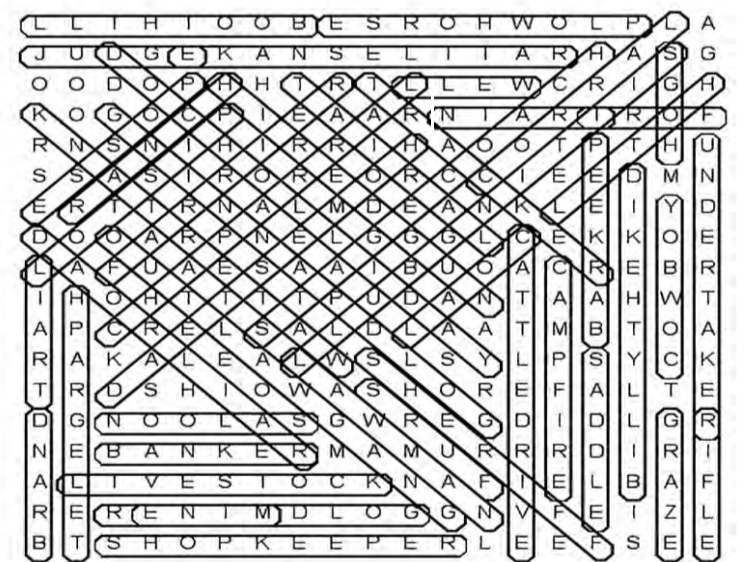
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 30 letters spell a Will Rogers quotation.



- |               |               |             |                  |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| ASSAY OFFICE  | DOCTOR        | MINE SHAFT  | SCOUTS           |
| BANK ROBBER   | DRESSMAKER    | OUTLAWS     | SHOOTOUT         |
| BARN          | FENCE         | PELTS       | SHOTGUN          |
| BLACKSMITH    | GENERAL STORE | PIGS        | SPURS            |
| BOOTS         | GOLD NUGGET   | PIONEERS    | STIRRUP          |
| BUCKBOARD     | GUNSLINGER    | POST OFFICE | TOWN HALL        |
| BUNKHOUSE     | HATS          | RANCH HAND  | TRADING POST     |
| CALAMITY JANE | HIRE HAND     | REVOLVER    | TUMBLEWEED       |
| CHAPS         | HORSES        | RUSTLER     | WAGON            |
| COAL OIL      | ICE HOUSE     | SADDLER     | WANTED POSTER    |
| COWPOKE       | LIASSO        | SALOON GIRL | WHISKEY          |
| DAVY CROCKETT | MARSHALL      | SCHOOLHOUSE | WILD BILL HICKOK |

Yesterday's Solution

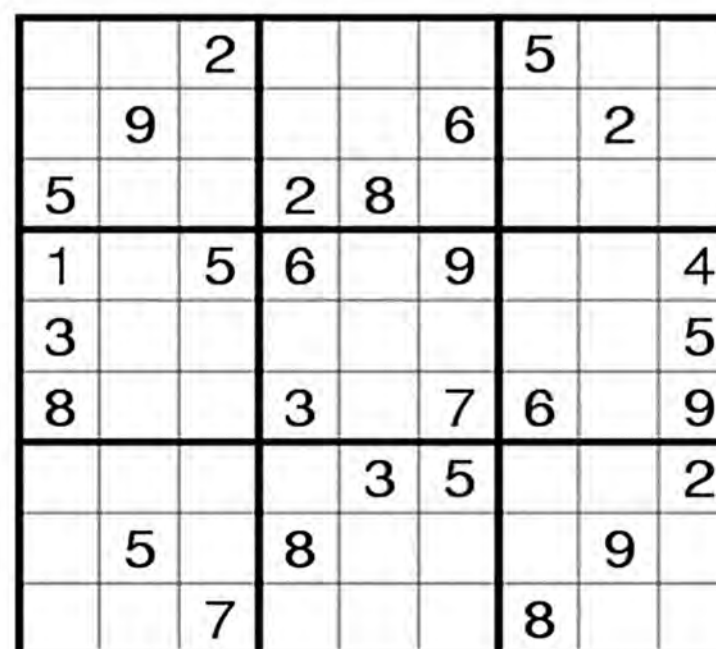
Old West 1



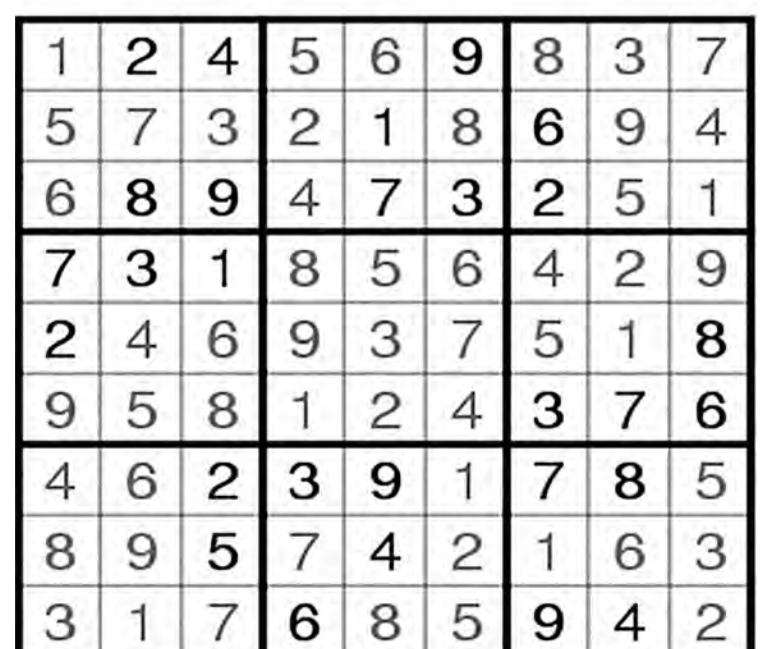
- |               |              |             |              |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| BANKER        | FARRIER      | LAWMAN      | SALOON       |
| BARKEEP       | FORT         | LIVESTOCK   | SHERIFF      |
| BILLY THE KID | FURS         | MINER       | SHOPKEEPER   |
| BOOT HILL     | GOLD MINE    | OUTLAW GANG | SITTING BULL |
| BRAND         | GOLD PANNING | PISTOL      | STAGECOACH   |
| CAMPFIRE      | GRAZE        | PLOW HORSE  | TELEGRAPH    |
| CATTLE DRIVE  | HIRE GUN     | POSSE       | TRACKER      |
| CHAPARRAL     | HOGS         | RAILROAD    | TRAIL        |
| COAL          | HOMESTEAD    | RANCH       | TRAIN        |
| CORRAL        | HOTEL        | RATTLESNAKE | UNDERTAKER   |
| COWBOY        | JUDGE        | RIFLE       | WATER TANK   |
| DOC HOLLIDAY  | LARIAT       | SADDLE      | WELL         |

The hidden message is: A GOOD HORSE MAKES SHORT MILES

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019



Revelers performing the fake lion game take part in the first edition of the Grand Carnival of Dakar, in Dakar. — AFP



## Foot fetish: Nibbles a specialty at Indonesian restaurant

As he scarfed down a traditional Indonesian meal, Adi Karyanov got himself the two-in-one special at a new restaurant offering pedicures by fish. The tables and chairs at Soto Cokro Kembang in Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta sit in ankle-deep water, home to thousands of little fish that nibble dead skin off the feet of diners. "I felt the fish biting my feet—it was ticklish but nice," Karyanov said. "They make it fun to eat here. It's kind of unique."

Many spas across southeast Asia have for years touted a fishy pedicure as an unproven but novel way of treating various skin conditions. But restaurant owner Imam Nur, who opened in June, has gone a step further by offering it alongside his traditional Javanese "sole food". Nur credits his father for coming up with the idea for the open-air restaurant, which has some 7,000

Red Nile Tilapia swimming around its patrons.

"We initially opened this restaurant just for locals living nearby," he said. "But what's happening now is beyond what we had initially planned. It's become like culinary tourism. Many people are coming here from different cities." Pressing fish into service to remove dead skin is not without controversy.

Some cities in North America and Europe have banned it over concerns about bacterial outbreaks, while People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has warned over both the health risks and possible cruelty to animals. Still, visitors like Anna Widia were keen to give the fish treatment a whirl. "I've never seen any place like this," she said. "And it's big enough to bring the whole family." — AFP



These pictures show Indonesian diners having lunch while fish bite their feet at a fish pool restaurant at Wedomartani village in Yogyakarta. — AFP photos

Lifestyle | Awards



Taiwanese actor CHEN Yi-wen



Taiwanese actress YEO Yann-yann



Taiwanese Director John Hsu



Taiwanese actress Winnie Chang

# TAIWAN FAMILY DRAMA WINS CHINESE 'OSCARs' AMID BEIJING SNUB



Taiwanese actor Fandy Fan



Taiwanese actress Eleven Yao



Taiwanese actress Gingle Wang

Taiwanese family drama "A Sun" won top prizes at the Golden Horse film awards Saturday in a year marked by the conspicuous absence of talent from China amid plummeting ties between Taipei and Beijing. Dubbed the Chinese-language "Oscars," Golden Horse got into trouble with Beijing after a Taiwanese director called for the island's independence in an acceptance speech at last year's ceremony.

There were no mainland films in this year's nomination list after China's national film board ordered the country's directors and stars to boycott the event. Acclaimed Hong Kong director Johnnie To has resigned as head of the jury citing contractual obligations as several Hong Kong films reportedly also dropped out under pressure from Beijing.

In another move likely to annoy Beijing, Taiwanese composer Lu Lu-ming on Saturday voiced support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests, dedicating his best original film song to "Hong Kongers who insist on ideals, and may you live safely and freely." The night's biggest winner was Taiwanese director Chung Mong-hong's "A Sun," which scooped best picture, best director, best actor, best supporting actor and best editing awards.

"I thought it would take several more years for me to win best picture. I am very happy ... although the movies I made haven't made any profit," Chung said after receiving the award from Oscar-winning director Ang Lee. Singapore-based Malaysian Yeo Yann-Yann was crowned best actress for playing a married teacher struggling with family and work woes who develops a forbidden relationship with a male pupil in the Singaporean drama "Wet Season".

"It's not easy going down the path in the entertainment (industry) in Singapore and Malaysia ... but I will continue walking the path," she said at the ceremony in Taipei's Sun Yat-sen memorial hall. Also on Saturday, China kicked off its top biannual films fest Golden Rooster Awards featuring some of the best known Chinese-language cinematic talents. Following Beijing's boycott, Golden Horse reportedly lost a number of international sponsors, although only Italian luxury sports car brand Maserati confirmed its decision to cut sponsorship ties to uphold Beijing's "one China" principle.

China considers democratic Taiwan as part of its territory awaiting reunification, by force if necessary, even though the two sides have been governed separately for the last seven decades. Beijing has been ramping up military, diplomatic and economic pressure on Taiwan ever since President Tsai Ing-wen was elected in 2016, because her party refuses to recognize that the island is part of "one China". Pressure is building once more as Taiwan heads towards new elections in January, with Tsai seeking to defeat an opponent who favors much warmer ties with China. — AFP



Taiwanese actress Pink Yang arrives on the red carpet of the 56th Golden Horse film awards, dubbed the Chinese 'Oscars', in Taipei.



Taiwanese actress Wen Chen-ling



Taiwanese actress Hsieh Ying-hsuan



Taiwanese actor Liu Kuan-ting



Taiwanese actor Tuan Chun-hao



Taiwanese film director Ang Lee



Taiwanese film director Toon Wang — AFP photos



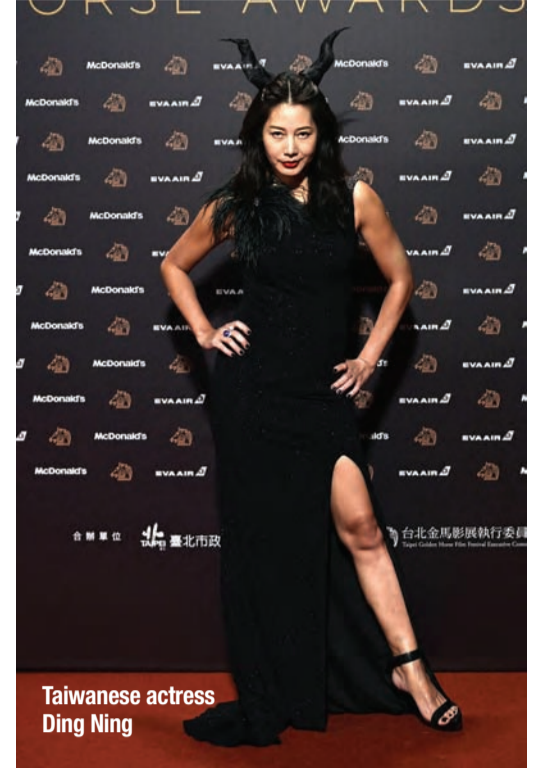
Taiwanese actress Lee Chien-na



Taiwanese actors Wang ko-yuan, left, Jake Hsu, right, and actress Veronica Chen



Taiwanese actress Lu Hsueh-feng



Taiwanese actress Ding Ning

### Winners of Golden Horse Film Awards in key categories

- Best Feature Film: "A Sun"
- Best Director: Chung Mong-hong, "A Sun"
- Best Leading Actor: Chen Yi-wen, "A Sun"
- Best Leading Actress: Yeo Yann-Yann, "Wet Season"
- Best Supporting Actor: Liu Kuan-ting, "A Sun"
- Best Supporting Actress: Winnie Chang, "The Teacher"
- Best New Director: John Hsu, "Detention"
- Best New Performer: Fandy Fan, "We Are Champions"
- Best Documentary: "Your Face"
- Outstanding Taiwanese Filmmaker of the Year: Tang Shiang-chu. — AFP

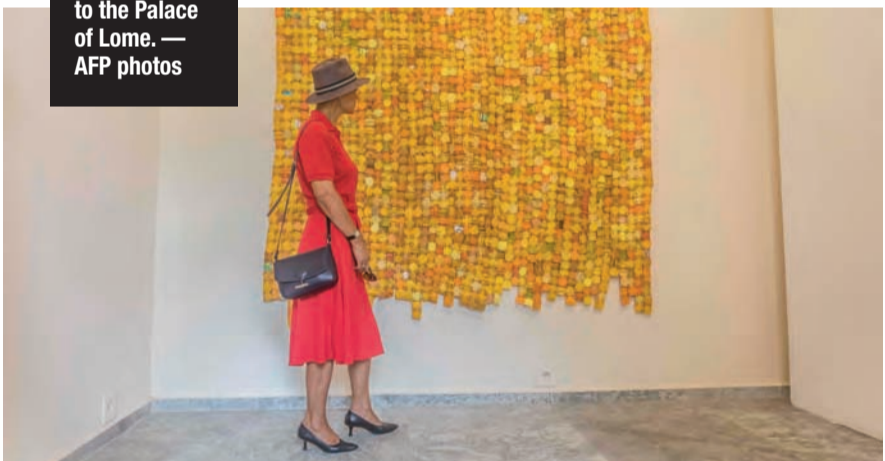


Taiwanese actress Samantha Ko

## Togo turns ex-colonial palace into flagship art centre



Visitors look at the works of local artists to the Palace of Lome. — AFP photos



Togo on Friday opened a flagship art centre in the former seat of colonial power after a multi-million dollar refurbishment aimed at making it a major cultural draw in West Africa. Built over a century ago, the Palais de Lome was home to both French and German colonial rulers until becoming the residence of the Togolese presidency-but was abandoned in the early 1990's. Togo's government commissioned architects in 2014 to renovate the palace, venerated as a treasured historic monument in the tiny West African nation, which is seeking to attract visitors and boost tourism.

"For the first time in its history, this place where power was exercised will be open to the general public so that they can discover its rich historical, cultural and environmental heritage," the palace director, Sonia Lawson said. The palace's impressive architecture within an 11-hectare park, offers an array of tropical trees and over forty species of birds. The palace "will serve as a place for exhibitions, shows, art galleries and restaurants," Lawson said, exhibiting the works of artists and designers from Togo and across the continent. — AFP



Museum director Sonia Lawson

The former Palace of Governors of Lome



# Extreme surfers

## catch record waves in Portuguese town

Surfers ride a wave during a free surfing session in Nazare.



52 years old American (Hawaii) legend of big waves surfer Garrett McNamara poses before a free surfing session.

**B**ig wave surfers have been flocking to a formerly sleepy Portuguese fishing town, chasing monster waves that are some of the highest ever surfed. Earlier this month the news broke that a set of fearsome 20-metre waves were coming to the small town of Nazare on Portugal's Atlantic coast. The message spread like wildfire and soon extreme surfers and sports fans—as well as keen photographers—arrived at the town's Praia de Norte beach.

They gathered on the roof of a red lighthouse, listening to the deafening roar and watching in awe as the waves smashed against the cliffs. From the viewing point you cannot see where the waves end, giving the illusion the colossal walls of water could engulf their audience. But the masses just missed out on seeing French surfer Justine Dupont have the ride of her life on November 13.

It could be a new surfing world record set by a woman. "I began riding the wave, I felt I was going faster than usual, and that it was steeper," the 28-year-old surfer tells AFP. "I had the feeling it was never ending... I could fly away!"

**'It's mad!'**

The massive wave has not been measured yet, but is expected to be at least 20 meters high. It will have to exceed the 2018 mark of 20.72 meters set by Brazilian surfer Maya Gabeira, also in Nazare, to become a record. The verdict, judged by the governing body the World Surf League, will not be given until spring next year. Dupont has spent four winters chasing the extreme waves in Nazare.

She said the seaside town with a population of 15,000 has become a surf haven over the last few years. "It's mad!" she said. "Two years ago we went to see the sea by

the lighthouse, there were no cars parked—now, you can't drive." The monster waves have always crashed at the town's beach, but surfers had previously ignored Portugal and gravitated towards beaches in California and Hawaii.

Nazare was put on the surfing map in 2010 when the town's mayor launched an initiative to attract surfers during the winter. "We were looking for someone who could develop big wave surfing" said Pedro Pisco, a local sports minister. He asked for help from Garrett McNamara, who until last year held the world record for the highest wave ever surfed.



**'Now it's crowded'**

"No surfer considered Portugal a great surfing destination, but I was looking for a 100-foot (30-metre) wave," Hawaiian surfer said. A Nazare bodyboarder invited McNamara to the town, wanting to find someone who could take on the spectacular waves. In November 2011, McNamara broke a Guinness World Record after riding a 78-foot wave. Today, at the age of 52, the surfer is considered a "god", said Anne-Marie Sana-Boisson, who owns a market stall in Nazare.

She said the town has changed rapidly over the last four years—and not necessarily for the better. "At first there was a few people but now it's crowded." She said many buildings are being constructed and sold, making it "hard to find houses". But she admitted the town has become "more dynamic". And, she adds, not everything is closed over winter as it was before. —AFP



Brazilian surfer Rodrigo Koxa rides a wave.



France's surfer Justine Dupont rides a big wave during a free surfing session in Nazare.



British surfer Andrew Cotton rides a wave.



Brazilian surfer Lucas Chumbo rides a wave.

# Classifieds

Monday, November 25, 2019

**Kuwait Times**  
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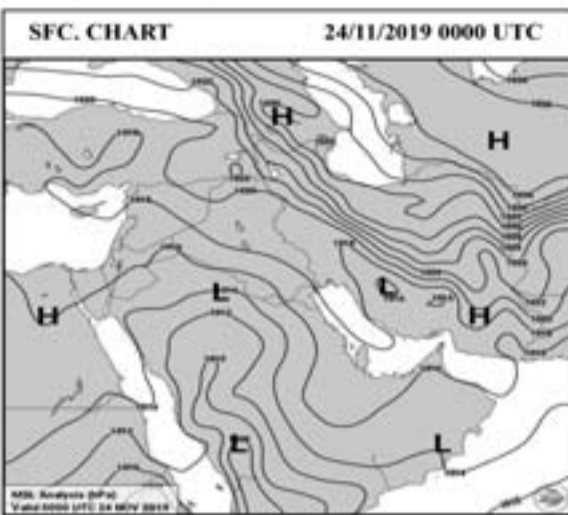
## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

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

**BY NIGHT:** Cold and Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	22 °C	18 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	24 °C	13 °C
ABDALY	25 °C	12 °C
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C
JAHRA	24 °C	14 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C
SALMIYAH	22 °C	20 °C
AHMADI	22 °C	21 °C
NUWAISIB	25 °C	16 °C
WAFRA	24 °C	14 °C
SALMY	25 °C	11 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	11/25	Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	25 °C	14 °C	SE	12 - 45 km/h
Tuesday	11/26	Mostly Sunny with a chance for fog forming at night	24 °C	15 °C	SE	08 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	11/27	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery later on	26 °C	16 °C	SE	12 - 45 km/h
Thursday	11/28	Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	22 °C	14 °C	SE	12 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:56
Sunrise	06:19
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:50
Isha	18:11

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	24 °C
MIN. Temp.	08 °C
MAX. RH	60 %
MIN. RH	16 %
MAX. Wind	S 18 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, **ABDUL HAKKIM S/O ABDUL SALAM MOHAMED KULAN-GARA VEETIL**, residing **VANIYANNUR IRINGAVOOR, P.O. MALAPPURAM, KERALA, INDIA**, holder of Indian Passport No. **M4643084** issued at KUWAIT on 22/01/2015, do hereby change my name to **GIVEN NAME: ABDUL HAKEEM S/O ABDUL SALAM MOHAMED KULAN-GARA VEETIL**. As per my Adhaar No. **966409058992** for all purpose, I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents. **(C 5475) 24-11-2019**

I **Janma** Mallick Basha, holder of Indian Passport No. **L0033431** do hereby change my name to given name: **Janma**, surname: **Samsutheen**, as per my Adhaar No. **922101305645** for all purpose, I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents. **(C 5474) 21-11-2019**

## MATRIMONIAL

**Pakistani** parents looking for Dr or PhD or Engineer or CA upto 34 employed in Kuwait or UAE or Oman or Qatar or Bahrain or UK to wed their daughter Dr 30 working with Kuwait Ministry of Health. Contact: 67057325. Please email full particulars to: [he\\_is\\_needed@hotmail.com](mailto:he_is_needed@hotmail.com) **(C 5474) 21-11-2019**

Airlines	Flights
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22456700
Air India EXPRESS	22438185/4
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 25/11/2019				Departure Flights on Monday 25/11/2019			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	JZR	212	Jeddah	13:45
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	UAE	877	Dubai	14:00
JZR	1338	Al Najaf	00:10	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	ZAV	4131	Dubai	14:00
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	QTR	1078	Doha	14:25
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	KAC	364	Colombo	14:35
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:35
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	JZR	222	Riyadh	14:45
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	14:50
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	618	Doha	14:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	JZR	152	Mashhad	14:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
JZR	502	Jeddah	02:55	KAC	118	New York	15:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	516	Tehran	15:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	JZR	1336	Al Najaf	15:50
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	546	Cairo	16:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	732	Cairo	16:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:25	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	KAC	502	Beirut	16:15
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10	SAW	705	Damascus	17:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	JZR	116	Doha	17:05
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:10
KAC	352	Kochi	05:25	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:35
KAC	552	Istanbul	05:45	JZR	124	Dubai	17:40
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR	104	Bahrain	18:00
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	1339	Al Najaf	18:05
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	KAC	158	Istanbul	18:10
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	JZR	302	Istanbul	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	MSR	875	Cairo	18:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	UAE	870	Dubai	19:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	RJA	640	Amman	19:05
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	GFA	217	Sharjah	19:20
RBG	211	Luxor	07:25	ABY	123	Dammam	19:25
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	744	Bahrain	19:40
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
MSC	401	Alexandria	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45
IRA	601	Tehran	08:10	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
JZR	102	Bahrain	08:15	JZR	1340	Al Najaf	20:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KNE	381	Taif	20:00
ETD	9873	Tbilisi	08:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	NIA	1501	Asyut	20:10
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:10
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
KAC	334	Trivandrum	09:00	KAC	620	Doha	20:30
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	KAC	174	Munich	20:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	JAV	621	Amman	20:45
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	RBG	219	Sohag	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	IAW	157A	Al Najaf	21:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
AXB	395	Kozhikode	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	168	Paris	21:20
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
THY	1282	Trabzon	11:05	KAC	164	MXP	21:40
NIA	1401	Sohag	11:35	KAC	622	Doha	21:50
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
AXB	789	CNN/Bahrain	12:10	KAC	564	Amman	21:55
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	IAW	157B	Al Najaf	22:15
JZR	1334	Al Najaf	12:35	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	SVA	514	Riyadh	22:25
KAC	742	Dammam	12:55	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:35	SVA	502	Jeddah	22:45
				JZR	128	Dubai	22:50
				MSC	411	Asyut	23:15
					614	Cairo	23:30



A laborer arranges tomatoes in crates at a market in Lahore yesterday. — AFP

## UAE eyes new space tourism, mining frontiers

**DUBAI:** The United Arab Emirates, which sent its first astronaut into space this year and has plans to launch a probe to Mars, is looking at other new frontiers - space tourism and mining. But first, says the chief of the Emirates Space Agency, there needs to be regulation. Within a few months the UAE will enact its first space law, he said, designed to attract investment and regulate the activities and services of companies operating in the country. "It was approved by the government and now is in its final stage of issuing," the space agency's director general Mohammed Al-Ahbab told AFP.

The UAE, whose colossal skyscrapers and mega-projects put it on the world map, hopes otherworldly new industries could be the key to its economic future. The country already has the most diverse economy in

the oil-reliant Gulf, but the once-booming property, tourism and trade sectors that have made it a regional powerhouse have sagged in recent years. So now it is looking beyond Earth itself, with typically grand ambitions for a country whose cities rise out of the desert.

The new law, drafted by the agency, would address future space tourism or mining projects. "We think it's going to come to (fruit) within the next 10 years," Ahbab said of the sector. "There is no project today because the technology is not yet there, but we're looking ahead of time and putting together those regulations."

In March, the space agency signed a memorandum of understanding with Richard Branson's space tourism company Virgin Galactic for cooperation on various plans, including potential tourism flights. "We look for-

ward to working with the UAE Space Agency and other partners in the UAE," Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides said at the time. The new law will also regulate UAE-developed satellites to make sure they adhere to international space treaties. "This is a legal document to regulate the space industry... for example registering your satellite and making sure you have the proper licensing," Ahbab said.

Ahbab said the UAE has 10 functioning satellites in orbit and plans to launch another eight in the next few years. The existing satellites, he said, were under the jurisdiction of other government entities, including the telecommunications authority and the finance ministry. "But now we're transferring all the data to the space agency," he said. The UAE launched its national space strategy earlier this

year, setting out a framework for its activities in the sector over the next decade. In September it celebrated the milestone of sending the first Emirati into space. Hazza Al-Mansouri was part of a three-member crew that blasted off on a Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan. He returned home to a hero's welcome after an eight-day mission in which he became the first Arab to visit the International Space Station, where he took part in scientific experiments including a time-perception study.

In 2020, the UAE aims to become the first Arab country to launch an unmanned probe, named Hope, which will travel to Mars before returning to Earth the following year. The UAE is also planning to build a "Science City" to replicate conditions on Mars, where it hopes to build a human settlement by 2117. —AFP

## Lebanon detains youths for...

Continued from Page 1

After nightfall yesterday, hundreds gathered in protest centers in Beirut, the northern city of Tripoli and in Tyre.

In Beirut's Martyrs' Square, hundreds of women and men demanded their rights, some waving the national red and white flag or chanting "Revolution, Revolution!" Lebanon's protests have brought together people of all ages from across the political spectrum, tired of what

they describe as sectarian politics three decades after a civil war. In the latest show of unity, a festive mood had reigned in the afternoon as Lebanese came together in public spaces across the country on the second day of the weekend.

North of the capital women prepared traditional salads to share, while a group of men danced on the beach south of the city, state television footage showed. The demonstrators managed to bring down the government less than two weeks into the protests, but it remains in a caretaker capacity and no new cabinet has since been formed. The Free Patriotic Movement party that Aoun founded is now led by his son-in-law, outgoing foreign minister Gibran Bassil, one of the most reviled figures in the protests. — AFP

## MP calls for pardoning activists...

Continued from Page 1

does not stipulate the need for the attendance of ministers for the sessions to be in line with the constitution. The issue remains highly controversial and the Assembly is not expected to meet.

## Duterte strips VP critic of...

Continued from Page 1

impulsive response to her repeated criticism of his drug war.

Amnesty International said Rodredo's proposals to reform the initiative were never given a real chance. "In only a few weeks, Vice President Robredo was able to confront the government with the staggering scale of its own crimes," Executive Director Butch Olan said in a statement. "That is why she was sacked," he added.

Duterte took issue Tuesday with Robredo's meeting US embassy and United Nations drug experts. "I do not trust her," Duterte told reporters, calling her a "scatterbrain" who could inadvertently share sensitive security matters with outsiders. After the public tongue-lashing, Robredo said the president should fire

her if she didn't have his trust. Robredo, who was elected separately from the president, surprisingly accepted on Nov 6 Duterte's offer of the post despite warning it was a trap.

Critics said the appointment was never a legitimate effort to include her. "From the start Robredo was set up to fail," said opposition lawmaker Edcel Lagman. "The President cannot allow her to succeed... where he himself has failed." Duterte had previously derided the capability of Robredo to lead the country - which she would have to do if the president dies or cannot function.

The drug war is overwhelmingly backed by Filipinos, but critics allege it is a war on the urban poor with the side effect of unleashing a rush of killings linked to everything from personal disputes to political rivalries. Police say they have killed just over 5,500 alleged dealers and users who fought back during arrest, but watchdogs say the true toll is at least four times higher. International Criminal Court prosecutors have launched a preliminary probe of the killing, and the UN's top rights body voted in favor of an in-depth review. — AFP

riots. "Our demands are clear," said a demonstrator, his face wrapped in a black scarf. "The downfall of this corrupt government."

Iraq is the 12th most corrupt country in the world, says Transparency International, a key driver of the popular anger behind the mass protests. The activists accuse elites of awarding public sector jobs based on bribes, nepotism or sectarianism, while ignoring a painful youth unemployment rate of 25 percent. Iraq's cabinet is currently discussing the 2020 budget before it is submitted to parliament and government sources say it is expected to be one of the country's largest yet.

Yesterday's violence came a day after the surprise visit of US Vice President Mike Pence to Iraq, where he dropped in on American troops stationed in the country's west and met top leaders in the Kurdish region in the north. He did not, however, meet officials in Baghdad, with officials citing "security reasons". Washington and Baghdad have been close allies since the US-led 2003 invasion that toppled ex-dictator Saddam Hussein, but ties are now at their coldest in years, officials from both countries have said. — Agencies

## Schiff says next step underway in Trump impeachment probe

**WASHINGTON:** Democratic US lawmakers have begun the next step in the impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump - writing a report on their findings - but still could take more testimony and hold additional hearings, the chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee said yesterday.

Representative Adam Schiff, whose committee is leading the inquiry that threatens Trump's presidency, said the panel has started work on the report after two weeks of public hearings with testimony from current and former US officials. The panel has held five public hearings and has no more scheduled.

The report is an important step toward a possible vote in the Democratic-led House on articles of impeachment - formal charges - against the Republican president. If those are approved, the Senate, controlled by Republicans, would then hold a trial on whether to convict Trump and remove him from office. Republicans have shown little inclination toward removing Trump, who is seeking re-election in 2020.

The inquiry centers on a July 25 phone call in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate political rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden as well as a discredited conspiracy theory promoted by Trump that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 US presidential election. Hunter Biden had worked for Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company.

"We don't foreclose the possibility of more depositions, more hearings. We are in the process of getting more documents all the time. So that investigative work is being done," Schiff said on CNN's "State of the Union". "What we're not prepared to do is wait months and months while the administration plays a game of 'rope a dope' in an effort to try to stall. We're not willing to go down that road," Schiff said.

Democrats have accused Trump of abusing his power by pressuring a vulnerable US ally to interfere in an American election by digging up dirt on his domestic political opponents. Biden is a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to face Trump in the Nov 2020 election. With the first party nominating contests set for February, "there's an urgency to make sure the election and the ballot box have integrity," Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell, an Intelligence Committee member, told the "Fox News Sunday" program.

Trump's administration has refused to provide documents requested by House Democrats and blocked witnesses from testifying, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former national security adviser John Bolton and acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. The president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, also has refused to cooperate. Bolton and other officials have sought court rulings on whether they should comply with a congressional subpoena or honor the Trump administration's order not to testify, a process that could take months.

### Republicans defend Trump

Trump has said he did nothing wrong and dismisses the inquiry as politically motivated. Many Republicans in Congress have rallied to his defense and assailed the Democrats leading the inquiry. There were "no impeachable offenses" and no direct evidence against the president, Representative Elise Stefanik, a Republican Intelligence Committee member, told the Fox News program "Sunday Morning Futures".

Schiff said the committee is learning more every day but the evidence already collected is so "overwhelming and uncontested" that Democratic lawmakers decided to begin writing a report on the findings for transmission to the House Judiciary Committee, which would draft any articles of impeachment. "Even as we compile this report, even as we submit evidence to the Judiciary Committee, we're going to continue our investigation," Schiff said on NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

The Judiciary Committee could conduct more proceedings if needed, including hearings, that allow Trump and his counsel to participate. The panel would draft any articles of impeachment against Trump before they would go to the full House for a vote. Democrats also are looking into whether Trump's decision to withhold \$391 million in security aid to Ukraine was intended to pressure Kiev into conducting the two investigations that could benefit Trump politically.

The money - approved by the US Congress to help Ukraine combat Russia-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country - was later provided to Kiev in September after the controversy had spilled into public view. Schiff said his committee has been in touch with federal prosecutors in Manhattan about the possibility of getting witness testimony from Lev Parnas, an indicted Ukrainian-American businessman who has ties to Giuliani.

Parnas, who has already been subpoenaed for documents, had worked with Giuliani at a time when Trump's lawyer was pushing for Ukraine to conduct the two investigations. A lawyer for Parnas has said he would comply with the document request and is willing to appear before the House panel. — Reuters

## 9 killed in Iraq as unrest...

Continued from Page 1

At least 15 protesters were wounded, police and medical sources said.

In the oil-rich southern city of Basra, demonstrators blocked main roads, including those leading to the ports of Umm Qasr and Khor al-Zubair. Clashes also pitted protesters against security forces overnight in Karbala, one of Iraq's two Shiite holy cities. The two sides lobbed Molotov cocktails at each other from behind barricades set up in small alleyways. "They're throwing Molotov cocktails at us and at midnight they started shooting live rounds," one demonstrator said about the security forces.

In the night-time clashes, the streets were lit only by fires from the makeshift incendiary weapons, and by green laser pointers used by demonstrators to harass



VENICE: A person carries another across a flooded arcade yesterday during a high tide 'Acqua Alta' meteorological phenomenon with a high of 140 cm expected. —AFP



Sports

# Over 2,600 participants recorded for FSHN's ninth RunKuwait race

RunKuwait 2019 to offer more than 500 free treatment sessions for children with special needs at CERC



**KUWAIT:** Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) concluded yet another successful RunKuwait race in support of children with special needs for the ninth year on Saturday, 23rd November. More than 2,600 participants registered in the race to support one cause, raising awareness and funds towards the treatment of children with special needs.

The RunKuwait initiative in its ninth year raised more than KD 40,000 which is estimated to provide more than 500 treatment sessions at no cost for the children treated at the non-profit Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC). These free of charge sessions are in addition to the subsidized ones, which are offered on a case-by-case basis, where up to 90% of the costs are also covered by the center.

For the ninth consecutive year, we

organize this charity race in order to support the treatment of children with special needs at FSHN's Children's Evaluations and Rehabilitation Center (CERC). We would like to extend our greatest gratitude to our participants and sponsors for joining us this year and supporting our cause as well as believing in it. Your constant support allows us to continuously offer the utmost levels of medical care to our children with special needs at CERC and help them connect with the community on a deeper level.

We look forward to seeing you all next year.

In its early years, the RunKuwait initiative was successful in gaining community's empathy and support, which led the FSHN team to direct all the initiative's efforts and funds towards the children with special needs treated at CERC. The unit offers

services for children in a number of areas which include physical therapy, speech pathology, counselling/behavior therapy and occupational therapy.

The race participants and their families, friends and supporters were welcomed with a number of fun-filled activities at the race village including warm-up exercises. All attendees were served refreshments and snacks throughout the day, offered by the event's sponsors and participating companies.

RunKuwait's race this year was supported with generous contributions from the following sponsors: Agility as the Founding Partner, INTERSPORT and ASAR Legal as the Gold sponsors and EQUATE as the Silver sponsor. The media sponsors for the RunKuwait initiative this year were Marina FM, AlAnba newspaper, Kuwait Times

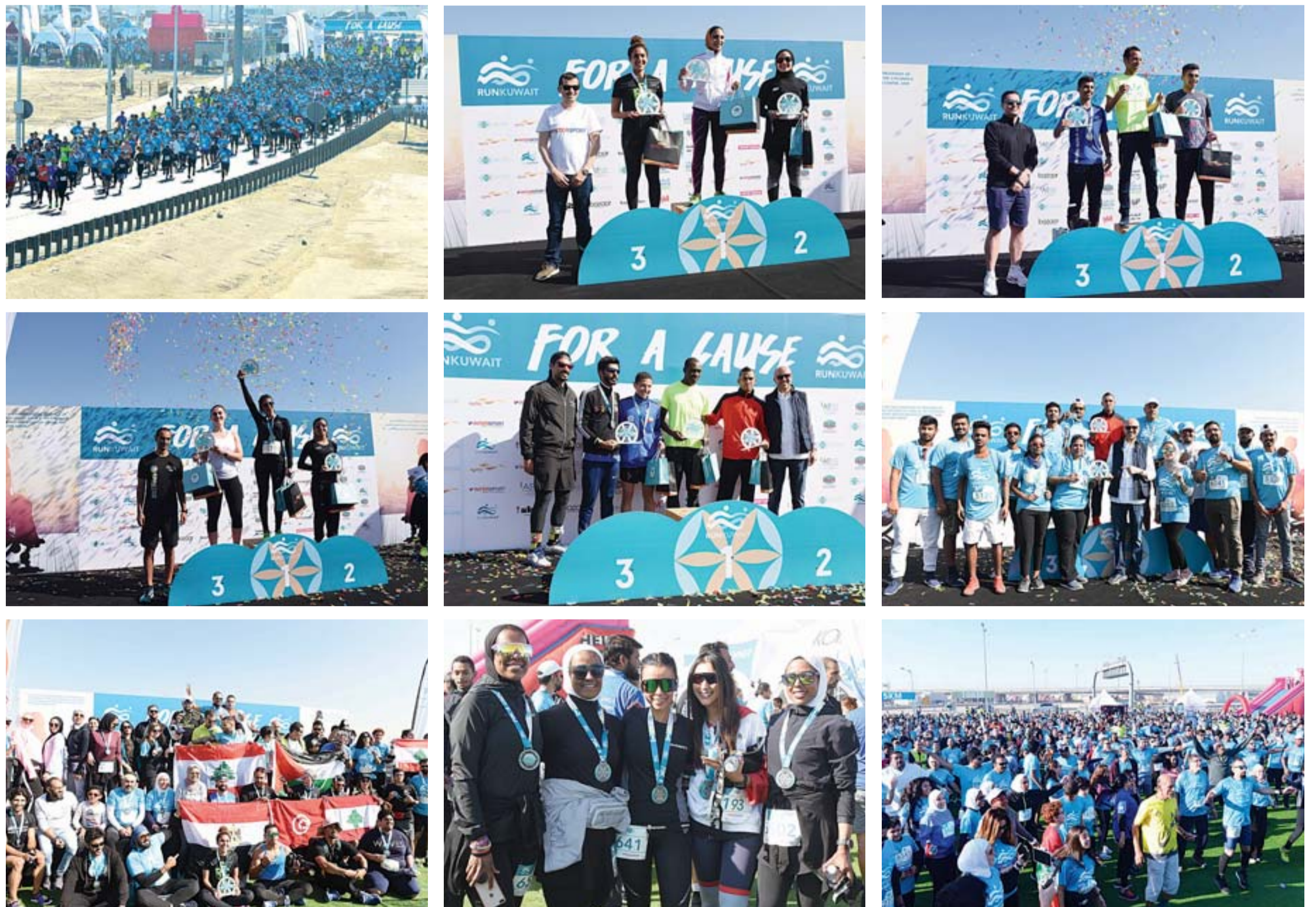
newspaper, Bazaar magazine, Al Rai newspaper & TV, The Talk magazine Arab Times Newspaper, Al Seyassah News, M2R, and 248am blog. The initiative was also supported by Mullenlowe Blu.

First, second and third place winners were awarded across different categories for the 5KM & 10KM race including, male and female. The serious athletes were able to complete the 10KM race distance within 32 minutes. The winners announced for the male category were Philip Ekwom (first place), followed by Husam Aleissa (second place) and Mohammad Montaser (third place). The winners announced for the female category were Dorra Alsebouei (first place), followed by Taiba Alnouri (second place) and Virginia Esteban Serrano (third place).

The sports enthusiasts who opted for a

shorter race distance, 5KM, were also awarded within the same categories. The first place winners in the male category included, Ahmed Bakthe (first place), Omar Qanbar (second place) and Ahmed AlMana (third place). The winners in the female category included Asmaa Metawea (first place), Noura Adel (second place) and Shoug Al Sabah (third place). Everyone who joined the race, whether to compete or simply support the cause, received their participation medal as they crossed the finish line and returned to the race village to join in the relaxing sports activities.

For additional information about RunKuwait and how to continue contributing to the initiative, please follow the official social media account, @RunKuwait on Instagram and Facebook.



## Sports

# Paine wants Gabba kickoff to all Test series after crushing win

## Magnificent century by Babar Azam as Pakistan head for second Test in Adelaide

**BRISBANE:** Australian captain Tim Paine said he would prefer all home Test series to begin at the Gabba after his side recorded a dominant win over Pakistan in the first Test yesterday. The Australians went one up in their two-Test series when they won the opening match at the Brisbane fortress by an innings and five runs late on the fourth day for their 29th consecutive Test victory at the venue dating back to 1988.

"We like playing here and we've done well here for a long time, so we'd like to start here against anyone," Paine said when asked whether India should open next

year's Test tour in Brisbane, the traditional start to an Australian summer.

On India's last tour of Australia, the first Test was moved to Adelaide where the tourists won by 31 runs. Pakistan were left chasing the match once they were bowled out for 240 in their first innings having won the toss and elected to bat.

Australia replied with 580 on the back of big centuries by man-of-the match Marnus Labuschagne and opener David Warner. Australia's top three of Joe Burns (97), Warner (154) and Labuschagne (185) scored 436 runs, with Paine saying the team now had the benefit of stability at the top of the order.

"We've known Burnsie's a top-quality opening bat for a long time and it's great having him back in the side opening with Davey (Warner)," Paine said. "It's been hard to have stability because we haven't been performing as we'd like ... but I think we've got a pretty good group at the moment and can still get a lot better as well."

After beginning their second innings 340 runs behind Australia and then losing three cheap wickets in the afternoon session on Saturday, the Pakistanis put up stern resistance yesterday before finally succumbing late in the final session.

### AZAM CENTURY

Babar Azam scored a magnificent century and Mohammad Rizwan fell five runs short of his first as Pakistan were dismissed for 335 late on the fourth day. Leg-spinner Yasir Shah also made his highest Test score with a fighting 42 to allow the Pakistanis to head to the second Test in Adelaide with some momentum despite the loss.

But there was to be no denying an Australian attack yesterday which probed and struck at vital moments, whenever Pakistan seemed to be getting the upper hand. Josh Hazlewood was the pick of the Australian bowlers with 4-63, while Mitchell Starc took 3-73, Pat Cummins 2-69 and Nathan Lyon 1-74.



**BRISBANE:** Pakistan's batsman Imran Khan (L) plays in the air off Australia's paceman Mitchell Starc (R) on day four of the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday. —AFP

Pakistan captain Azhar Ali said his team had been on the back foot early and not been able to recover. "When we won the toss, we wanted to score big in the first innings, but I think on the first day we won two sessions but we lost one very badly," he said.

"I think if you lose one session very badly in Test matches it is always very hard to come back from that, especially in Australia." But he said he was proud of the way they had fought back. "I'd have to say the way we batted in the second innings, particularly the way Babar

and Rizwan batted, they really showed great fight," he said.

Earlier, Azam reached his second Test century — and his first in Australia — with an impressive knock. The elegant right-hander had been in excellent form in the lead-up games, but was out to a disappointing shot in the first innings for just one.

He was a different player in the second innings, however, and never looked in trouble until he edged Nathan Lyon to wicketkeeper Tim Paine to fall for 104. —AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the first Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday:

Pakistan 1st innings 240	
Australia 1st innings 580	
Pakistan 2nd innings (overnight 64-3)	
Shan Masood c Paine b Cummins	42
Azhar Ali lbw Starc	5
Haris Sohail c Paine b Starc	8
Asad Shafiq c Smith b Cummins	0
Babar Azam c Paine b Lyon	104
Iftikhar Ahmed c Paine b Hazlewood	0
Mohammad Rizwan c Lyon b Hazlewood	95
Yasir Shah c Wade b Hazlewood	42
Shaheen Afridi c Cummins b Hazlewood	10
Imran Khan c Wade b Starc	5
Naseem Shah not out	0
Extras (b9, lb9, nb1, w5)	24
Total (all out: 84.2 overs)	335
Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Azhar), 2-25 (Sohail), 3-25 (Shafiq), 4-93 (Masood), 5-94 (Iftikhar), 6-226 (Azam), 7-305 (Rizwan), 8-324 (Yasir), 9-331 (Shaheen), 10-335 (Imran)	
Bowling: Starc 16.2-1-73-3 (1nb), Cummins 21-6-69-2 (5w), Hazlewood 21-3-63-4, Lyon 21-3-74-1, Labuschagne 5-0-38-0.	
<b>Result:</b> Australia win by an innings and five runs	

## India crush Bangladesh in day-night Test to sweep series

**KOLKATA:** Paceman Umesh Yadav claimed five wickets as India thrashed Bangladesh in just over two days of their first day-night Test to sweep the series 2-0 yesterday. Bangladesh were bowled out for 195 in less than an hour of the first session on day three in Kolkata, as India won by an innings and 46 runs to record their 12th-straight Test series triumph on home soil.

It was a memorable pink-ball international debut for India, who become the only team to win four consecutive Tests by an innings margin. Virat Kohli's side — which has now won seven Tests in a row — consolidated their top position in the world Test championship with three successive series sweeps.

Mushfiqur Rahim made a valiant 74 before falling to Yadav, and the innings soon folded as Mahmudullah did not return to bat after he had retired hurt on

39 on day two. India took 8.4 overs to wrap up the game at Eden Gardens with Yadav taking all the three wickets to fall yesterday afternoon.

Ishant Sharma led the pace charge with impressive match figures of 9-78 to flatten the Bangladesh batting that fell for 106 in their first innings of the opening day. "With the way these guys are bowling now, they can pick up wickets on any surface — whether we play at home or we play away," a victorious Kohli said.

"I think it is all about the mindset... these guys are very hungry, they are at the top of their game. I feel that we are in the right kind of space right now to capitalise on opportunities and everyone is enjoying playing in this team and I think that's the standout feature about us."

Kohli played a key part with his 136 in India's 347 for nine declared on Saturday as they managed a lead of 241 runs. The tourists were in early trouble at 13 for four in the final session on day two when Mushfiqur resisted India's persistent pace attack.

Ishant trapped Shadman Islam lbw for nought and then claimed skipper Mominul Haque, who got a pair of ducks. The spearhead quickie, who claimed five wickets in the first innings, bowled at a



**KOLKATA:** India's cricketers celebrate after winning the match during the third day of the second Test cricket match of a two-match series between India and Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens cricket stadium in Kolkata yesterday. —AFP

lively pace as one of his rising deliveries hit Mohammad Mithun on the helmet.

Bangladesh were forced to take two concussion substitutes in Mehidy Hasan and Taijul Islam for Liton Das and Nayeem Hasan who were hit on the helmet by Shami on day one. Mushfiqur was also at the receiving end of a nasty hit

from Yadav, but went on to play a fighting knock.

Kohli completed his 27th century before falling to a stunning catch by Taijul off Ebadat Hossain. India won the opening Test also inside three days, as well as the preceding Twenty20 series 2-1. —AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on day three of the second and final Test between India and Bangladesh in Kolkata yesterday:

<b>Bangladesh 1st innings 106</b> (Shadman Islam 29; I. Sharma 5-22)	
<b>India 1st innings 347-9 dec</b> (V. Kohli 136; Al-Amin 3-85, Ebadat 3-91)	
Bangladesh 2nd innings (overnight 152-6, Mushfiqur 59)	
Shadman Islam lbw b Ishant	0
Imrul Kayes c Kohli b Ishant	5
Mominul Haque c Saha b Ishant	0
Mohammad Mithun c Shami b Yadav	6
Mushfiqur Rahim c Jadeja b Yadav	74
Mahmudullah retired hurt	39
Mehidy Hasan c Kohli b Ishant	15
Ebadat Hossain c Kohli b Yadav	0
Al-Amin Hossain c Saha b Yadav	21
Abu Jayed not out	2
Extras (b8, lb9, w5)	22
Total (all out, 41.1 overs)	195
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Shadman), 2-2 (Mominul), 3-9 (Mithun), 4-13 (Imrul), 4-82 (Mahmudullah, retired not out), 5-133 (Mehidy), 6-152 (Taijul), 7-152 (Ebadat), 8-184 (Mushfiqur), 9-195 (Al-Amin)	
Bowling: Ishant 13-2-56-4, Yadav 14-1-53-5, Shami 8-0-42-0 (w5), Ashwin 5-0-19-0, Jadeja 1-0-8-0.	
<b>Result:</b> India won by an innings and 46 runs	
<b>Series:</b> India won the two-match series 2-0	

## Kuwait to host first Arab juniors boxing championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Boxing Federation Secretary General Salem Al-Azmi said Kuwait will host the first Arab Juniors Boxing Championship from January 23 until January 29, 2020.

Al-Azmi welcomed the brotherly teams who will participate in the Arab championship, adding that having the Arab Federation asking KBF to organize the most important regional and continental championships is considered a renewed confidence in Kuwait youth ability to organize major events, adding that invitations will be sent to all federations, to make sure the largest possible participation.

Salem Al-Azmi said the Federation's Board of Directors started preparation early to ensure that it comes out as hoped for, and to follow the huge success the Asian championship enjoyed in August, when 150 boxers represented 21 countries.

He said the board of directors is keen on providing all means that will bring out the Arab championship in way that reflects the bright image of Kuwait sport. He said the success is not that of the board of directors, rather it is for all Kuwait youth. He lauded the support KBF receive from Kuwait Olympic Committee and its Chairman Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad and Public Authority for Sport led by its Director General Dr Humoud Fulaiteh.



Salem Al-Azmi

## Watling's double ton have England reeling

**MOUNT MAUNGANUI:** England were battling for survival after Mitchell Santner took three cheap wickets following a match-turning double century by BJ Watling in the first Test against New Zealand yesterday.

After New Zealand declared at 615 for nine on day four in Mount Maunganui, England were 55 for three at stumps, needing a further 207 on the final day if they are to make the Black Caps bat again.

Watling swung the match firmly New

Zealand's way with his Test best 205 and a record-breaking partnership with Santner who scored a maiden century and then capped his remarkable day by taking three wickets for six runs.

"It's not going to be easy to get seven wickets on that (pitch)," Santner said. "It's nice to get some footies (footmarks) and the cracks are starting to open. It's nice to see some spin now and hopefully get a roll tomorrow." England wicketkeeper Jos Buttler blamed scoreboard pressure for the tourists' predicament after they had held the upper hand when New Zealand were 197 for five before Watling's marathon effort kept them in the field for a tiring 201 overs.

"That's a big learning point for us. Just when you think you're getting to the place you need to be, and doing the hard work,

there's a lot more hard work to come," he said. "New Zealand played a very patient game with the bat and showed us how to play that patient game of batting on flat wickets and setting your sights high."

After more than two days in the field, much of it watching Watling and then Santner take the game away from them, England had an uncomfortable two hours batting with openers Dom Sibley (12) and Rory Burns (31) as well as nightwatchman Jack Leach (nought) all falling to Santner.

Sibley's wicket was the first by a New Zealand spinner on home soil since March 2018 with 101 consecutive Test wickets in 11 innings in between having all fallen to seamers. Watling shared a 116-run partnership with Colin de Grandhomme and then put the home side firmly in charge as he rewrote the record books with Santner.

weights in the history of boxing have made more than 10 consecutive title defences.

Wilder waited patiently for his big moment and when it came, with just nine seconds left in the round, it was stunning. He followed a pawing jab with a crushing straight right that sent Ortiz's head snapping back and his body crashing into the ropes before landing on the canvas.

"That was a punch intended to hurt for sure," said the American. "I got him at the right angle, my feet were planted perfectly and I felt the torque." Ortiz tried to get up but he clearly could not continue. The fight was officially stopped at 2:51 of the seventh.

It was a repeat of their 2018 fight where Wilder had battled adversity to deliver a 10th-round stoppage. Wilder's win now sets up another money-spinning rematch with Tyson Fury scheduled for February.

If he comes through that a unification showdown against the winner of next month's rematch between Anthony Joshua and Andy Ruiz in Saudi Arabia for the other three major heavyweight belts could follow.

The fights with Fury, and Ruiz or Joshua, would generate millions for Wilder. The last two years in

heavyweight boxing have provided plenty of rousing match-ups and renewed enthusiasm in contrast to the previous 15 years or so which were dominated by the Klitschko brothers.

"I am looking for a unification bout," Wilder said. "I want one champion, one face, one name that goes by Deontay Wilder. The heavyweight division is too small to have so many belts lingering around. It should be just one champion and I think I am the perfect man for that job."

The 40-year-old Ortiz, who was coming off three straight victories, was trying to become the first Cuban to win the world heavyweight title.

"This is boxing. I told everyone it wasn't going to go 12 rounds," said Ortiz. Ortiz won most of the early rounds. He was the aggressor from the opening bell as he tagged Wilder with a left hook to the face in the opening round.

Ortiz also suffered a cut to his right temple area in the opening round due to an accidental clash of heads. But there was little blood flow and his corner did a good job of containing it as the rounds continued. —AFP

## Sports

# Nadal-inspired Spain to face Canada in Davis Cup final

## Shapovalov and Pospisil sent Canada into their maiden Davis Cup showpiece

**MADRID:** Rafael Nadal inspired Spain into their first Davis Cup final since 2012 as he teamed up with Feliciano Lopez to secure a dramatic last-four victory over Britain in Madrid. The hosts trailed 1-0 after Lopez's singles defeat by Kyle Edmund on Saturday, but Nadal thrashed Dan Evans before partnering Lopez in a 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (10/8) win in the deciding doubles over Jamie Murray and Neal Skupski.

Spain will face Canada in the final after the North Americans won their semi-final against Russia, which was also decided in the doubles rubber. "It was a very special moment for us, a very unique opportunity," said the 38-year-old Lopez. "We have a great opportunity to win this tournament here at home."

Denis Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil sent Canada into their maiden Davis Cup showpiece by edging out Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublev. Five-time champions Spain were indebted to world number one Nadal for a virtuoso display as the 33-year-old continues his hunt for a fifth Davis Cup crown, having first lifted the title himself in 2004.

"This competition is always dramatic, especially with the new format," said Nadal. "It's really, really special. Thank you to Feli (Lopez) and to the crowd who were amazing as well."

Spain lost their last Davis Cup final to the Czech Republic six years ago. Edmund had earlier justified the decision of British captain Leon Smith to select him ahead of three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray by seeing off Lopez 6-3, 7-6 (7/3).

But Nadal swatted aside Evans 6-4, 6-0 to set up the doubles showdown. Murray and Skupski more than held their own in the face of a partisan home crowd and a pumped-up Nadal at the Caja Magica, but saw a break point come and go in the 11th game of the first set before losing a tie-break.

The Britons saw four set points pass them by in the

second set, including three in the breaker, with Nadal saving one by producing an incredible lob on the stretch. A place in the final was sealed on a second match point.

"Rafa (Nadal) plays like this from the first round in every tournament. It's one of his powers," said Spain captain Sergi Bruguera.

Earlier on Saturday, the 20-year-old Shapovalov had drawn Canada level by beating Khachanov after Rublev's win over Pospisil in the opening match. The Canadian pair then edged out Khachanov and Rublev in a thrilling deciding-set tie-break.

"I thought both teams played phenomenal," Canada captain Frank Dancevic said. "The Russians threw everything they had at us, it was just a matter of who came up with the better shots. There was no room for error today — they went for their shots, went big in the big moments, and here we are into the final."

It was their third Davis Cup semi-final, after previous last-four defeats in 1913 and 2013. "We've got a huge day, a historic day for us tomorrow, and we're going to leave it all out there," said world number 150 Pospisil. Canada secured a 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5) victory on their second match point to finish a tie which lasted six and a half hours.

Earlier, Shapovalov had seen off Khachanov, Russia's leading player in the absence of world number four Daniil Medvedev due to exhaustion, in a dramatic match.

The left-handed rising star, who reached his maiden Masters final in Paris earlier this month, saved three successive break points while serving for the match. The in-form Rublev had made it four singles wins from as many matches this week by brushing aside Pospisil 6-4, 6-4.

Canada have reached the final despite being without the injured Felix Auger-Aliassime, the world number 22,



**MADRID:** Spain's Rafael Nadal (R) and Spain's Feliciano Lopez return the ball to Great Britain's Jamie Murray and Great Britain's Neal Skupski during the semi-final doubles tennis match between Great Britain and Spain at the Davis Cup Madrid Finals 2019 in Madrid. — AFP

with Pospisil stepping up instead.

"I'm at a loss for words," Shapovalov said. "It's incredible how far we've come this week, with me and

Vasek playing on a different level. "It's unbelievable to see. And to clinch it like this, in the doubles, I wouldn't have it any other way." — AFP

## LaVine caps career night with winning 3

**CHARLOTTE:** Zach LaVine drilled a 3-pointer with 0.8 seconds remaining off a Coby White steal to cap a career-high 49-point night and help visiting Chicago rally past Charlotte. LaVine set a Bulls franchise record with a career-best 13 treys, as Chicago shot 22-for-47 (46.8 percent) from deep. Charlotte led 110-102 with 45.4 seconds left but was unable to hold on en route to its fourth straight defeat. After Tomas Satoransky hit a 3-pointer with eight seconds left to cut the deficit to 115-113, the Bulls overwhelmed Devonte' Graham on the ensuing inbounds pass. White slapped the ball to LaVine, who dribbled behind the 3-point line, turned and sunk a fade-away jumper.

### BUCKS 104, PISTONS 90

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 10 rebounds, and streaking Milwaukee continued its dominance over Detroit. Wesley Matthews contributed 13 points, Eric Bledsoe tossed in 11 and George Hill chipped in nine for the host Bucks, who pulled away in the final quarter to stretch their winning streak to seven games. Reserve Sterling Brown had seven points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Milwaukee swept the four-game regular-season series and a best-of-seven playoff series against Detroit last season.

### RAPTORS 119, HAWKS 116

Pascal Siakam scored 12 of his game-high 34 points

## Rangers rally from four down to sink Habs

**MONTREAL:** Jacob Trouba scored the game-winning goal midway through the third period to break a 5-5 tie, and the visiting New York Rangers rallied from a 4-0 deficit to defeat the Montreal Canadiens, 6-5, on Saturday night. Trouba fired a wrist shot from the right point that dribbled past a screened Carey Price and inside the right post for his third goal of the season. It marked the first time since Dec. 26, 1991, against the Washington Capitals that the Rangers won a game that they trailed by four or more goals. Brendan Lemieux scored two goals, and Trouba and Artemi Panarin each had a goal and an assist for New York.

### SHARKS 2, ISLANDERS 1 (OT)

Logan Couture scored the overtime winner for the second straight outing as host San Jose handed New York a rare setback. Though the Islanders fell, they continued their point-collecting run that began with the fifth game of the season. New York has gone 17 games without losing in regulation time, posting a 15-0-2 record in that span. Goaltender Martin Jones made 27 saves for the Sharks, who have won eight of nine games. Couture converted a play with Evander Kane halfway through the overtime frame for his fifth goal of the season. Couture beat Vegas in overtime on Thursday.

### BRUINS 5, WILD 4 (OT)

Torey Krug scored the game winner in overtime as Boston rallied from two goals down late in the third period to beat visiting Minnesota. David Krejci scored twice with the goalie pulled in the final 1:55 to force overtime. Jake DeBrusk and Brad Marchand also scored, as the Bruins won for the fourth time in five games and extended their season-opening streak of picking up at least one point at home to 13 games (9-0-4). Patrice Bergeron had four assists, and Tuukka Rask stopped 32 shots for Boston. Jason Zucker, Victor Rask, Eric Staal and Kevin Fiala scored for the Wild, who

in the final 6 1/2 minutes to help visiting Toronto hold off the upset-minded Hawks. The Raptors led 112-100 with 1:59 remaining but Atlanta fought back and cut the lead to 118-116 on De'Andre Hunter's 3-pointer with 11.5 seconds left. Toronto's Rondae Hollis-Jefferson was fouled and made one of two free throws with 4.5 seconds left, giving the Hawks a final chance to tie. But Atlanta's Trae Young missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer. PACERS

### 111, MAGIC 106

Aaron Holiday bombed in a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 8.7 seconds remaining, giving host Indiana a victory over Orlando in a battle of injury-plagued teams. Domantas Sabonis went for 25 points for the Pacers, who managed to open a four-game homestand with a win despite missing Malcolm Brogdon, a pregame scratch because of a bad back, and Victor Oladipo, who is still rehabbing a knee injury. The Magic lost for a second straight time on a four-game trip after learning earlier in the day that they'd lost Nikola Vucevic for at least a week with a severely sprained right ankle.

### SPURS 111, KNICKS 104

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 23 points as San Antonio Spurs snapped an eight-game losing skid with a victory over host New York in Madison Square Garden. DeMar DeRozan collected 21 points and nine rebounds and Patty Mills sank all five of his 3-point attempts to highlight his 17-point performance for the Spurs, who ended their worst slide since the 1996-97 season. Jakob Poeltl had 11 points and 10 rebounds as San Antonio posted its first win since a 121-112 victory against Oklahoma City on Nov. 7.

extended their points streak to five games (3-0-2).

### OILERS 4, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2

Connor McDavid scored two goals to extend his points streak to 10 games, and Leon Draisaitl had three assists to lead Edmonton to victory in Las Vegas. Draisaitl broke a tie with McDavid for the NHL lead for points (47) and assists (31), while the Oilers remained three points ahead of Arizona for first place in the Pacific Division. The red-hot McDavid has scored 12 goals to go with 11 assists during his 10-game scoring streak. Ethan Bear and Markus Granlund also scored goals, and Zack Kassian added two assists for Edmonton. Cody Eakin and Shea Theodore both scored goals for the Golden Knights, who lost their second straight game and for the seventh time in their last nine. Marc-Andre Fleury finished with 27 saves.

### COYOTES 3, KINGS 2

Phil Kessel, Lawson Crouse and Christian Fischer scored goals as visiting Arizona ended Los Angeles' five-game home winning streak with a victory. Goalie Antti Raanta made 43 saves as the Coyotes won for the fifth time in their last seven games and defeated the Kings for the second time in five days. It was Arizona's ninth victory over Los Angeles in the last 13 meetings between the teams. Anze Kopitar and Nikolai Prokhorin scored goals for the Kings, who lost despite having a 45-19 shots-on-goal advantage. Los Angeles was defeated in its own building for the first time in November and is now 7-5-0 at home this season.

### PREDATORS 4, BLUES 2

Juuse Saros stopped 24 of 26 shots, as visiting Nashville beat St. Louis to snap a six-game losing streak. Filip Forsberg, Mattias Ekholm, Colton Sissons and Calle Jarnkrok scored for the Predators, who prevailed for just the second time in their last 10 games. Saros won for the second time in eight starts this season. Viktor Arvidsson exited the game after absorbing two cross-checks from defenseman Robert Bortuzzo. The Blues suffered just their fifth regulation loss in 24 games.

### MAPLE LEAFS 5, AVALANCHE 3

Auston Matthews and Tyson Barrie had a goal and an assist each. Nicholas Shore, Kasper Kapanen and Zach Hyman also scored, and Toronto beat Colorado in Denver. Frederik Andersen stopped 34 shots to help new coach

### SUNS 100, TIMBERWOLVES 98

Devin Booker scored 27 of his 35 points in the second half and finished one assist short of his first career triple-double (he added 12 rebounds and nine assists) as Phoenix broke a season-long three-game losing streak with a narrow victory over Minnesota in Minneapolis. Kelly Oubre Jr. had 25 points, 11 rebounds and three 3-pointers, and Frank Kaminsky had nine points on three 3-pointers while making his third straight start.

### SIXERS 113, HEAT 86

Josh Richardson hit six 3-pointers and scored a season-high 32 points in his first game against his former team as host Philadelphia routed Miami. Richardson returned after missing the last two games with a right hip flexor strain to shoot 11 for 15. Joel Embiid had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Tobias Harris scored 19 points and Al Horford had 16. The Sixers have won four in a row and improved to 7-0 at home. Tyler Herro led the Heat with 20 points, Goran Dragic added 18, Bam Adebayo contributed 12 and Jimmy Butler had 11 on 4-for-13 shooting.

### LAKERS 109, GRIZZLIES 108

LeBron James scored 30 points, leading visiting Los Angeles to a victory over Memphis. Anthony Davis added 22 points, five blocks and three steals for the Lakers, who captured their seventh straight victory. Rajon Rondo had 14 points and six assists. Ja Morant led Memphis with 26 points, five steals and six assists, while Jae Crowder scored 21 points. Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 20 points and seven boards. The Grizzlies dropped their third in a row.—Reuters

Sheldon Keefe improve to 2-0 since taking over for the fired Mike Babcock earlier in the week. Nathan MacKinnon, Andre Burakovsky and Valeri Nichushkin scored goals, and Nazem Kadri had two assists against his former team. Pavel Francouz made 12 saves for Colorado in his return from a concussion. He relieved starter Philipp Grubauer, who allowed four goals on 15 shots.

### LIGHTNING 6, DUCKS 2

Brayden Point scored two goals, Nikita Kucherov and Anthony Cirelli each had a goal and assist, and Tampa Bay defeated visiting Anaheim. Victor Hedman had two assists, and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 36 saves for the Lightning, who played without leading scorer Steven Stamkos (lower-body injury). Hedman and Alex Killorn both extended their point streaks to seven games, matching the longest of their NHL careers. Derek Grant scored short-handed, Rickard Rakell also tallied and Ryan Miller made 21 saves in his sixth start of the season for Anaheim, which dropped to 1-5-3 in the past nine games.

### CANUCKS 2, CAPITALS 1 (SO)

Captain Bo Horvat scored in the seventh round of the shootout to lift the visiting Vancouver over Washington in an afternoon game. Neither team scored in the shootout until Horvat beat Washington goalie Braden Holtby (32 saves) in the seventh round. It was the fourth shootout goal of Horvat's career, with each serving as the game-winning tally. The Capitals thought they had scored in the fifth round when Lars Eller beat Vancouver goalie Jacob Markstrom (32 saves) with a shot. However, the officials reviewed the play and ruled that the puck hit the crossbar and did not go over the line.

### JETS 4, BLUE JACKETS 3

Andrew Copp scored with less than two minutes remaining, and host Winnipeg beat Columbus in a roller coaster of a game. With overtime looming, Columbus goaltender Elvis Merzlikins tried to pass the puck to a teammate, but Copp knocked it down and sent a shot that ricocheted off a defender and into the net with 1:54 remaining in regulation time. Connor Hellebuyck stopped all five shots he faced in a relief appearance to record the win for Winnipeg. Starting Jets goalie Laurent Brossoit left the game before the midway point of the third period due to an apparent injury, having stopped 27 of 30 shots.—Reuters

## Chelsea's fine performance at City fails to produce points

**MANCHESTER:** Chelsea's young side have made huge strides under Frank Lampard this season but having opened the scoring and dominated much of the first half at Manchester City before losing 2-1 on Saturday they will see it as an opportunity missed.

Chelsea took the lead through N'Golo Kante after 21 minutes after keeping City on the back foot for most of the opening exchanges, with Jorginho and Mateo Kovacic controlling proceedings from midfield. The visitors missed several chances to double their lead but were left to rue the inability to make their pressure count as a deflected Kevin De Bruyne strike got City back into the contest, before Riyad Mahrez scored what proved to be the winner.

The fact that City finished the match with less possession (46.7%) — the lowest recorded by a side managed by Pep Guardiola in any of his 381 games as a top-flight coach — than Chelsea shows the Blues more than matched the champions.

But it was not the first time Chelsea have tasted defeat this season in a match they could, and possibly should, have taken something from. Their 4-0 loss to Manchester United at Old Trafford on the opening day of the season would normally suggest an inept showing but Chelsea had more shots than the hosts, hitting the bar and post in the first half, and again more possession.

In their other league defeat, a 2-1 home reverse against Liverpool in September, Chelsea had double the efforts on goal of their opponents, but again came up just short.

"We had relative control of the game at 1-0," Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said after Saturday's match at the Etihad. "We were playing well, and throughout the game there were lots of positives, but we lost the game and it shows you that the finer details in these big games, in both boxes, can decide these ones.

"These teams, Liverpool and City, have been getting results as they work hard and get those finer details right in these games." Chelsea's campaign in Lampard's first season as a Premier League manager has to be judged a success so far as they came into the City game in third place having been unable to sign any players in the close season because of a FIFA transfer ban.

Yet, as Lampard knows, to match the likes of City and leaders Liverpool, his Chelsea side have to learn from these kind of defeats and ensure they get results, not just impressive performances, against the best the Premier League has to offer. — Reuters



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Aston Villa v Newcastle United FC	23:00	beIN SPORTS
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
spal v Genoa CFC	22:45	beIN SPORTS

**25** Over 2,600 participants recorded for FSHN's ninth RunKuwait race



**26** India crush Bangladesh in day-night Test to sweep series



**27** Nadal-inspired Spain to face Canada in Davis Cup final



## Al Hilal clinch record-equalling Asian title

Saudi giants end 19-year wait for their third continental trophy



SAITAMA: Members of Al-Hilal celebrate their victory and Asian club title on the pitch following their 2-0 victory in the second leg of the AFC Champions League final football match between Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds and Saudi's Al-Hilal in Saitama yesterday. — AFP

SAITAMA: Salem Al-Dawsari and Bafetimbi Gomis were the heroes as Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal beat Urawa Red Diamonds 2-0 yesterday and 3-0 on aggregate to claim a record-equalling third Asian club title in the AFC Champions League.

Al-Dawsari scored with 16 minutes left and top-scorer Gomis grabbed his 11th of the competition in injury time as the Saudi giants ended a 19-year wait for their third continental trophy, joining South Korea's Pohang Steelers as the only three-time Asian champions. Al Hilal, beaten by Japan's Urawa in the 2017 final, also became the competition's first West Asian winners

since Qatar's Al Sadd in 2011, torpedoing a run of victories by clubs from Japan, South Korea, China and Australia.

Al Hilal had the better of the opening half as they looked to build on their 1-0 win in the first leg, when Andre Carrillo scored the only goal.

Both goalkeepers were forced into action early on, but it was Urawa's Takahiro Sekine who had the best chance of the half when his point-blank volley was scrambled away by Hilal custodian Abdullah Al-Mayoof.

After the break tournament top-scorer Gomis, with

10 goals en route to the final, drew a reaction save from Shuzaku Nishikawa when he connected with a menacing cross at the near post.

Gomis found Nishikawa in his path once again when he chested down Sebastian Giovinco's cross and side-footed his volley straight at the Urawa goalkeeper.

However, they were ominous signs for the hosts and Al Hilal finally prised open the Urawa defence with a sweeping move on 74 minutes.

Man-of-the-match Giovinco provided the final ball for Salem who gratefully prodded home the winner after a sequence of passes that caught out the

backpedalling Urawa defenders.

Gomis came within inches of connecting with a diving header in the dying moments, but the towering forward was not to be denied later as he smashed in Al Hilal's second in the third minute of injury time.

The Saudi giants have endured a continental trophy drought since 2000 when they won the tournament for the second time, the first being in 1991 when it was called the Asian Club Championship.

They came close in 2014 and 2017 when they reached the final, only to be beaten by Western Sydney Wanderers and Urawa respectively. — AFP

## Man Utd pegged back by Sheffield United after dramatic comeback

SHEFFIELD: Manchester United and Sheffield United shared the spoils after a dramatic 3-3 draw at Bramall Lane yesterday, with the home side scoring a late equaliser after a three-goal blitz from the visitors in just seven minutes.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team, outplayed for 70 minutes by the promoted side, trailed 2-0 after a first-half goal from John Fleck and a second-half effort from Lys Mousset.

Chris Wilder's team had been hungrier and more incisive all over the pitch but, from nowhere, United were back in the game and when 19-year-old Brandon Williams scored in the 72nd minute.

Manchester United suddenly looked full of ideas, with the game turned on its head. Solskjaer threw on Mason Greenwood to replace Andreas Pereira, meaning United were operating with an attacking quartet of Greenwood, Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial and Daniel James.

Just five minutes after Williams' strike, Greenwood equalised from close range after Rashford's cross. With the home side rocking badly, United poured forward again. Rashford swept home in the 79th minute. The drama was not over, with Oliver McBurnie controlling the ball and firing past David de Gea to level at 3-3 in the 90th minute. The goal stood after a VAR check for handball.

The result means Manchester United are ninth in the Premier League table, nine points behind fourth-placed Chelsea while Sheffield United are sixth, a point ahead.

Earlier, Solskjaer's men were indebted to goalkeeper De Gea, who produced a stunning double-save to keep the score at 0-0 early in the game. First he got down low to his right to keep out a shot from John Lundstram before recovering seconds later to parry David McGoldrick's point-blank header.

Solskjaer's team looked rattled, with Williams, on just his second Premier League start, making a couple of early errors and Phil Jones, on his first league appearance of the season, looking like an accident waiting to happen.

Jones was at fault for the opener. A long ball down the right wing put him under pressure but he should have seen off Mousset. Instead, the Frenchman outmuscled Jones and cut the ball back for Lundstram, who saw his effort well saved by De Gea but the goalkeeper could do nothing to keep out John Fleck's follow-up.

Fred and Pereira were unable to establish any control in midfield. United's forwards were barely able to get into the game, mustering just one shot in the whole of the first half. Solskjaer replaced Jones with Jesse Lingard at half-time but Sheffield United deservedly doubled their



SHEFFIELD: Sheffield United's English-born Scottish striker Oliver McBurnie (2nd L) shoots past Manchester United's English defender Harry Maguire (R) to score their third goal during the English Premier League football match between Sheffield United and Manchester United at Bramall Lane in Sheffield, northern England yesterday. — AFP

lead in the 52nd minute. Manchester United lost the ball on the left and Fleck delivered an inch-perfect pass to Mousset, who bent a right-footed shot past the diving De Gea from outside the box.

To chants of "There's only one United," Sheffield continued to boss the match against their insipid opponents, who looked short of confidence. With the game

drifting, Manchester United found a foothold when a James ball into the box fell to Williams, who lashed home on the half-volley. Greenwood then levelled and Rashford gave the visitors an unlikely lead in a game in which they had largely been outplayed. But just when it appeared Manchester United had grabbed a morale-boosting win, McBurnie struck. — AFP

## Kipchoge, Muhammad win Athlete of the Year awards

MONACO: Eliud Kipchoge, the first man to run a marathon in less than two hours, and 400 metres hurdles world champion Dalilah Muhammad won the World Athlete of the Year awards yesterday.

Kipchoge, 35, claimed governing body World Athletics' year-ending prize in Monaco after making history last month when he ran the marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres (26.219 miles) in 1hr 59min 40.2sec.

The Olympic champion, who also holds the official world record of 2h01m39sec, won this year's London marathon in April before his incredible feat in an unofficial event in Vienna. American Muhammad won her award after a magnificent year that saw her set a world record of 52.20 seconds at the US Trials in Iowa in July — breaking a record that had stood since 2003 — before winning gold at the World Championships in Doha with a new world best time of 52.16sec.

The winners were chosen following a vote shared 50 percent by World Athletics, 25 percent by athletes, coaches and journalists and 25 percent by the general public. — AFP