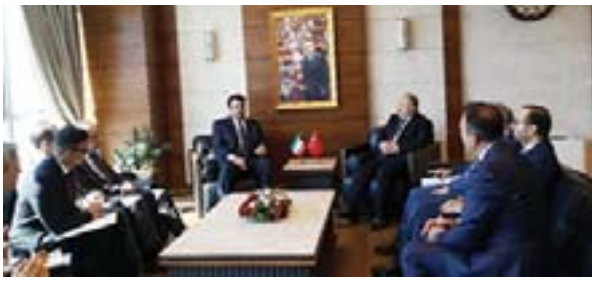


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# Seven killed as protests against government spread across Iraq

## Outrage as prime minister blames violence on ‘aggressors’



BAGHDAD: Protesters gather next to a burning building amidst clashes with Iraqi riot police during a demonstration against state corruption and poor services yesterday. — AFP

BAGHDAD: Popular protests multiplied across Iraq yesterday as demonstrators braved live fire and tear gas from security forces in rallies that have left seven dead in the past 24 hours. The demonstrations are the first major challenge to Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi, who formed his government a year ago this month and who controversially blamed the violence on “aggressors” among the protesters. Since they began Tuesday in Baghdad the protests have spread to other cities in the country’s south, with disparate crowds railing against state corruption, failing public services and unemployment.

Yesterday, a police officer and three protesters were shot dead and five were wounded in the southern city of Nasiriyah, a provincial health official told AFP, bringing the death toll in two days of violent protests to seven. In Baghdad yesterday, riot police attempted to disperse crowds in a half-dozen neighbourhoods using tear gas and firing live rounds into the air. Protesters regrouped and began heading towards the capital’s iconic Tahrir Square for the second day, but police had sealed off the area, several nearby roads and the adjacent Jumhuriya bridge.

Security forces feared protesters would cross the Tigris river into the Green Zone, which hosts government buildings and embassies and was walled-off until just a few months ago. In the southern neighborhood of Zaafaraniya, protesters were burning tyres on streets lined with police vehicles. “I came out today in support of my brothers in Tahrir Square,” said Abdallah Walid, 27. “We want jobs and better public services. We’ve been demanding them for years and the government has never

responded,” he said.

Journalists covering protests in central Baghdad said security forces had assaulted them and detained one of their colleagues. “No state would attack its own people like this. We’re being peaceful, but they fired,” said unemployed graduate Mohammad Jubury in the nearby Al-Shaab district. Some 60 people were wounded across Baghdad yesterday, including nine from bullet wounds and the rest from tear gas inhalation, medical sources said.

In addition to Baghdad and Nasiriyah, crowds also gathered in the holy city of Najaf and the flashpoint southern city of Basra, which was rocked by protests last year. Security forces used live rounds to break up the Baghdad, Nasiriyah and Najaf protests, much like the previous evening. Even after Tuesday’s Baghdad protest had been broken up, heavy gunfire could be heard well into the night, including in the Sadr City district, where a funeral was held for the protester killed in the capital.

The other demonstrator killed in the capital was wounded Tuesday and succumbed to his injuries yesterday. It was not clear if bullets were fired directly at protesters or into the air. Tuesday’s bloodshed drew condemnation from President Barham Saleh, who urged “restraint and the respect for the law”. “Peaceful protest is a constitutional right granted to citizens,” he said. The UN’s top official in Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, expressed “grave concern” yesterday, saying she “deeply regrets the casualties”. She urged authorities to “exercise restraint in their handling of the protests”.

Continued on Page 24

### News in brief

#### Traffic nightmare on 4th Ring Road

KUWAIT: Motorists were stuck for hours during the evening rush hour on Fourth Ring Road yesterday as two out of three lanes were closed due to road maintenance works. The ministry of public works is rushing to complete roadworks before the start of the rainy season. Partial road closures began in two phases from April from 6 pm till 6 am on weekdays and from midnight till noon on weekends. The roads involved include King Fahd Expressway (from the First Ring Road till Bayan Palace), First Ring Road, Fourth Ring Road, Sixth Ring Road and Doha Spur Motorway.

#### Iran allows women to pass citizenship

DUBAI: A top Iranian constitutional body has approved a law allowing Iranian women to pass their nationality to their children, state media reported yesterday. Human rights experts have said the measure could help thousands of children living in legal limbo by letting them acquire citizenship in Iran, one of about 25 countries that do not permit women married to foreigners to hand their nationality to their children. The Guardian Council had earlier objected to the proposed law on security grounds and required changes allowing background checks on foreign fathers of the children, according to local media reports. — Reuters

#### Iranian, Saudi oil ministers ‘friends’

MOSCOW: Iran’s oil minister sought to defuse tensions with Saudi Arabia yesterday, calling his counterpart in Riyadh “a friend” and saying Tehran was committed to stability in the region. The comment came at a top Russian energy conference chaired by President Vladimir Putin, where Iran’s oil minister Bijan Zanganeh met Saudi energy minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and OPEC’s Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo. “Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman has been a friend for over 22 years,” Zanganeh said. The two ministers were later seen holding hands together with Barkindo. — Reuters

#### Sanders treated for blocked artery

NEW YORK: Senator Bernie Sanders put his campaign for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination on hold “until further notice” yesterday, after being treated for a blocked artery following chest pains. “During a campaign event yesterday evening, Sen. Sanders experienced some chest discomfort,” Sanders’ senior advisor Jeff Weaver said in a statement. “Following medical evaluation and testing he was found to have a blockage in one artery and two stents were successfully inserted.” — AFP

## MoI to terminate expats working in ‘sensitive’ sectors

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: As part of the interior ministry’s plans to replace expatriate employees with Kuwaitis, it issued internal instructions to make lists of all expat employees pending terminating their contracts, said informed sources. The sources explained that many expat adminis-

trative employees at the traffic, citizenship and passport departments will be laid off in view of the availability of citizens qualified to replace them, in addition to the need to transfer extra Kuwaiti employees from other interior ministry departments to the abovementioned ones.

“The interior ministry believes that the traffic, citizenship and passport departments are closely linked to Kuwait’s security, and thus their staff members should all be citizens,” the sources explained, reminding of the previous involvement of expat employees in driving license forgeries. The sources added that all expat administrative employees in other interior ministry departments, with the exception of legal advisors, will be laid off within a maximum of two years.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti daily Al-Qabas quoted well-

## Modi hails toilet ‘milestone’ on Gandhi’s 150th

AHMEDABAD, India: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday declared the country of 1.3 billion people free of open defecation, and turned his sights towards eradicating single-use plastic next. Modi - whose claim has been challenged by experts - made his ambitious “latrines for all” pledge when he first took office in 2014 and his announcement late yesterday coincided with the 150th birthday of Mahatma

Gandhi, an icon not just for Indian independence but also sanitation.

“In 60 months, 600 million people have been given access to toilets, more than 110 million toilets have been built,” Modi said in a speech to 20,000 village chiefs in western Ahmedabad city in his and Gandhi’s home state of Gujarat. “The women of our country no longer have to wait for darkness to descend. Innocent lives of young children are being saved... the expense on healthcare has come down,” Modi added, calling the achievement a significant milestone for the vast developing country.

However, despite huge progress, experts have expressed skepticism about his bold claim, saying millions still

Continued on Page 24



NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures beside a portrait of independence icon Mahatma Gandhi at Parliament House yesterday to mark Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary. — AFP

## Eye-watering onion prices over India ban

MUMBAI/DHAKA: From Kathmandu to Colombo, it’s a kitchen nightmare: Onion prices have gone crazy. That’s because India, the world’s biggest seller of the Asian diet staple, has banned exports after extended monsoon downpours delayed harvests and supplies shrivelled. And dedicated buyers across the region, like Nepalese housewife Seema Pokharel, are flummoxed. “This is a terrible increase,” said Pokharel, out shopping for vegetables in Kathmandu. “Onion prices have more than doubled in the last month alone.”

Whether it’s Pakistani chicken curry, Bangladeshi biryani or Indian



DHAKA: A salesman prepares onions for sale at Kawran Bazaar wholesale market yesterday. — AFP

sambar, Asian consumers have developed a serious dependence on Indian onion supplies for go-to dishes. Shorter shipment times than from rival exporters like China or Egypt play a crucial role in preserving the taste of the perishable commodity.

But last Sunday New Delhi banned all exports from India after local prices jumped to 4,500 rupees (\$63.30) per 100 kg, their highest in nearly six years, due to the delay in summer-sown crop arrivals triggered by longer, heavier rains than

Continued on Page 24

## Rouhani didn’t take Trump call

PARIS: US President Donald Trump phoned his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the UN summit last month but he refused to take the call, a French diplomatic source said on Tuesday. The call happened on Sept 24, the source said, after French President Emmanuel Macron had shuttled between the US and Iranian leaders in a bid to arrange a historic encounter that he hoped would reduce the risk of all-out war in the Middle East. “In New York, up to the last moment, Emmanuel Macron tried to broker contact, as his talks with presidents Trump and Rouhani led him to think contact was possible,” the diplomatic source said.

Speculation was abuzz last month that the leaders could meet on the sidelines of the General Assembly. But Rouhani said he would only hold talks with the US if Trump lifted economic sanctions on Tehran.

Continued on Page 24



# Deputy Amir receives Kuwaiti ministers, outgoing US envoy



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince received as well Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Also at Bayan palace, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received Deputy Prime Minister, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh. Furthermore, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received the outgoing US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman. The meeting was attended by President of Protocols at the Crown Prince Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman.

## Kuwait Times staff express love for Amir

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Expressing our love for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the staff of Kuwait Times participated in the message of love and loyalty campaign. The campaign is organized by the Ministry of Education and aims to collect the highest number of signatures of Kuwaitis and expats expressing their happiness that His Highness the Amir is feeling well and will return to Kuwait soon.

Large numbers of Kuwait Times staff signed the form issued by the ministry of education, which is provided in both Arabic and English. Some of them also

added some words about their warm feelings and happiness that His Highness the Amir is in good health, realizing that these signatures will bring him joy.

These forms were first distributed in schools, with teachers and students participating with their signatures. The ministry later announced uploading the form on its official website, so individuals or institutions can print out the form, fill it with names and signatures, then send it to the education development and activities department of the education ministry. The form is also available at co-ops in various areas of Kuwait to make it easy for everyone to participate with their signatures.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Times staff sign a message of love and loyalty for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Citizens sign a message of love and loyalty for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Al-Adailiya Co-op Society yesterday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



## Kuwaiti, Turkish ministers explore business opportunities

ANKARA: Kuwait's Commerce Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan held talks yesterday with Turkey's Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank, exploring the prospect of joint projects between both countries. The Gulf state's ties with Ankara have remained on a steady upward trajectory, said the Kuwaiti minister during the talks that brought together delegations from both sides. He revealed that Kuwait is studying plans on how to benefit from Turkish-made technology, saying the Kuwaiti contingent got a first-hand look at the day-to-day operations in some of Ankara's most tech-savvy firms. He pinpointed the petrochemical and pharmaceutical industries as

lucrative fields with ample opportunities for joint projects, pointing out that Turkish firms have long dabbled in infrastructure endeavors across Kuwait.

On the political front, the Turkish minister praised Kuwait's contributions towards stability in the region, naming the conflict in war-torn Yemen and its efforts to quell a Gulf diplomatic row as cases in point. He said his country looks forward to better ties with Kuwait some 55 years after diplomatic relations began in earnest, highlighting Ankara's profound desire to undertake industrial projects in Kuwait. Roudhan arrived in Turkey earlier yesterday on an official visit to Turkey to discuss trade and investment with emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The visit aims to promote the experience sharing in the development and management of SMEs and industrial zones, as well as investment in industry and technology, according to a statement by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Kuwait's exports to Turkey amounted in value to \$157.369 million last year while its imports hit \$699.441 million. — KUNA



ANKARA: Kuwait's Commerce Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan meets with Turkey's Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank. — KUNA



## Local

# Arabs seek British role to support their causes: Kuwaiti Ambassador

Arab envoys attend dinner on the sidelines of the Conservative Party's annual conference



MANCHESTER: A group photo taken during a dinner held on the sidelines of the annual conference of UK's Conservative Party. — KUNA photos



The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Khaled Al-Duwaisan delivers his speech.

**MANCHESTER:** The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Khaled Al-Duwaisan said that Arab states look forward to a British role that would support the Arab causes, mainly the Palestinian cause. This came during a speech Duwaisan delivered at a dinner held by Arab ambassadors accredited in the UK Tuesday night. The dinner was held on the sidelines of the annual conference of the ruling Conservative Party in attendance of a large

number of British MPs and politicians. In his speech, Duwaisan appreciated the British stand toward the Palestinian cause, most notably the refusal of moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He pointed to the "honorable position" adopted by the British parliament in 2014 to recognize the Palestinian state, noting that although it was a symbolic vote, it was "an important and courageous step."

Ambassador Duwaisan stressed the importance of the meeting, saying it is an

"important occasion" to present the views of representatives of Arab countries on international issues of common interest with Britain, foremost the Palestinian issue. Meanwhile, the Arab League's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Ibrahim Mohieddin stressed the importance of Arab-British relations and the desire of both sides to strengthen them at all levels. He further indicated that despite the British government's refusal to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, it still refuses to recognize a Palestinian state too. "The British

government's excuse not to recognize Palestine as an independent state is that the time is not right," he said and expressed surprise at those calling for a two-state solution and recognizes only one state of Israel.

In the meantime, Director of the Board of Governors for the Middle East in UK's Conservative Party Charlotte Leslie praised her country's strong relations with the Middle Eastern countries. She hoped for strengthening these relations further after the completion of the exit procedures from

the European Union. In a speech, Leslie said that British politicians and MPs, especially the Conservative MPs, could not understand the current developments and changes in the region without the long-standing friendship between the Board of Governors for the Middle East and Arab countries. She expressed the hope that her country would succeed after its exit from the European Union in building wide relations with all countries of the world based on respect for the rule of law. — KUNA

## Saudi names road after late Kuwaiti ruler

**JEDDAH:** Saudi Arabia has named a road in its southwestern city of Abha after the late Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to commemorate his memorable contributions. The initiative is a token of appreciation for the late Kuwaiti Amir's political accomplishments and a testament to the admi-

ration he has garnered from the Saudi people, the secretary of the kingdom's Asir region Dr Waleed Al-Humaidi told state-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA) yesterday. The bustling road dotted with national landmarks in this southern Saudi city now carries the name of the late Kuwaiti Amir, he said. — KUNA

## Suad Al-Sabah Publishing awards winners in India

**KUWAIT:** Suad Al-Sabah Publishing and Distribution House distributed awards to winners competing in fields of Arabic poetry, writing and sermon at Farook College in Calicut city, India. The international workshop, titled 'Reading Arabic Language and Literature: A Functional Approach,' was organized by the Department of Arabic Studies at Farook College, in collaboration collaborated with Ansar Arabic College, Suad Al-Sabah Publishing and Distribution House said in a statement in Kuwait yesterday. Dozens of students competed,

varying in topics of Arab, Islam and Indian issues. First place was Heba Rashid, who won in the field of Arabic sermon, second came Mohammad Komat and thirdly Shadia Sebi. In the Poetry section, first place was Mohammad Shafee, second was Mohammad Sinan, followed by Mohammad Ansarki, and in Master studies, first place went to Mohammad Azhar and second was Bashnin Al-Huda. Dr Suad Al-Sabah is a Kuwaiti poet and writer who is recognized for her cultural, literary and intellectual contributions. — KUNA



Winners awarded during the workshop. — KUNA photos

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## Local

# Zain Group's report on Child Online Safety highlights risks facing children

Published in collaboration with Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development

**NEW YORK:** The Co-Chairs of the Broadband Commission Working Group on Child Online Safety, Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, and the World Childhood Foundation USA (Childhood) announced the publication of a new report on Child Online Safety: Minimizing the Risk of Violence, Abuse and Exploitation Online. The report is a collective effort and draws upon the expertise of the Broadband Commissioners and experts from around the world. The report was presented at a high-level meeting at the UN, entitled 'Children and the Digital World: Threats and Opportunities.' Queen Silvia of Sweden, Founder of Childhood attended and delivered a keynote address.

Broadband connectivity brings many benefits to children, including access to education and entertainment, it also has a dark side to it as it exposes children to major risks and threats online as well as different forms of violence and exploitation, such as child sexual exploitation and abuse, bullying and radicalization, among other critical vulnerabilities. The new Child Online Safety report gathers the available evidence on the scale and nature of the risks and harms children face online and provides actionable recommendations for how to prioritize children's online safety. The report was developed under the leadership of Dr Joanna Rubinstein, President and CEO of Childhood USA, and Zain Group CEO of Operations, Scott Gegenheimer who co-chair the working group.

A key point made in the report is that we need to prioritize child online safety, especially in anticipation of the expansion of the broadband in the developing world where most children live today. All the stakeholders, governments, regulators, operators, Internet service provider, NGOs and civil society and academia have to join forces in implementing common strategies to make the Internet safer for children in order to help prepare future generations to thrive in

the digital space. These steps include incorporating measures addressing child online protection in the national broadband plans, ensuring that applications and services are age-appropriate and save per design, and that we deploy technology-driven solutions to improve child online safety.

Commenting on the publication of the report, Dr Joanna Rubinstein commented, "Millions of children are online every day using digital devices. They benefit from getting access to information, education and entertainment. However, they are also exposed to abuse and exploitation including sexual abuse, bullying and even radicalization. It is our duty to prevent this from happening and requires collective action. This report demonstrates the necessity of taking action now and sheds light on how we can take practical steps to address the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 calling on ending all forms of violence against children by 2030."

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - which this year celebrates its 30th anniversary - represent the global commitment to a better future for all, especially to children. In 2018, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development established the Working Group for Child Online Safety with the primary objective to raise awareness of the online risks and threats to children.

"There is a clear and urgent global need to work together to ensure that connectivity embellishes our children's experience of the world, rather than impairs it," said Doreen Bogdan-Martin,

Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU." Today's new report and Declaration by the Broadband Commission Working Group on Child Online Safety are welcome and valuable contributions to the global store of best practice, as well as serving as important new inputs to ITU's Child Online Protection Framework."

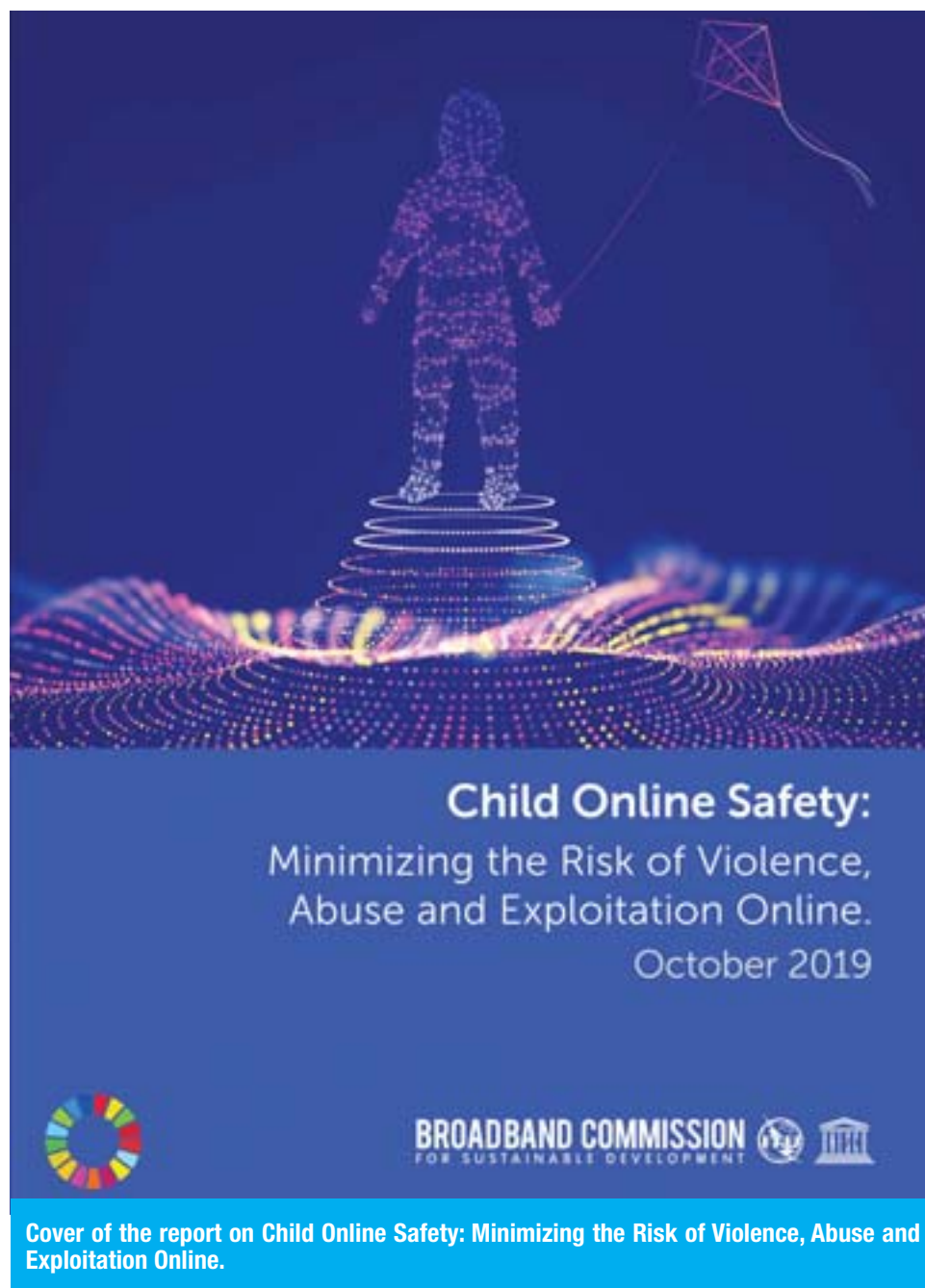
Scott Gegenheimer said, "Child Online

Safety is a topic that is of great importance for Zain and we are committed to playing our key role in addressing this on a global level. Our region has conflicts and challenges that are quite unique compared to other places in the world as well as the highest share of youth in the world, coupled with a rising broadband connectivity rate. It is imperative for organizations which are based in the region, to be at the forefront of the effort to protect the most vulnerable victims both in the physical world as well as in cyberspace."

Zain continues to champion the cause of child rights and protection given that challenges in tackling the dark side of connectivity are mounting. The report aims to raise the prioritization of child online safety among all key stakeholders and decision makers including in governments, the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and academia. Zain has been bold and unapologetic in shedding light on topics related to child abuse and the need to stamp it out, which can sometimes be considered a taboo topic in region.

The Internet has already transformed our lives at an unprecedented pace and scale. For children in developed countries, the digital world is the one they are born into and live within every single day. The Internet and its associated technologies are completely integrated into the way they live their lives across a very broad spectrum of activities. Governments, academia, civil society and the private sector must invest in and accelerate the development of scalable solutions to address abuse and exploitation of children online. Achieving the SDGs for children by 2030 requires innovation and collective action.

Broadband connectivity is a key enabler for children's future, as it ensures that all children have an equal opportunity to thrive, so that no child is left behind. It also plays a critical role as an enabling component as well as helping fuel the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals.



Cover of the report on Child Online Safety: Minimizing the Risk of Violence, Abuse and Exploitation Online.

## Zain, Mentor Arabia to host Queen Silvia of Sweden in Lebanon

**BEIRUT:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, and MBC Al-Amal last month announced a strategic partnership to support Mentor Arabia Foundation. At a press conference in the Four Seasons hotel, Beirut, the three entities revealed the first visit to Lebanon of Queen Silvia of Sweden, President of Mentor International, scheduled for October 15, 2019.

Mentor Arabia's mission is to empower Arab children and youth and prevent them from risky behaviors through policies, capacity development, advocacy, awareness campaigns, knowledge and partnerships. As part of their regional partnership, Zain Group and MBC Al-Amal agreed to collaborate with Mentor Arabia in different programs aimed at supporting the work of Arab youth in the community.

Queen Silvia's visit will include Queen Silvia launching the Youth Mentoring Platform initiative, a partnership between Mentor Arabia and the American University of Beirut (AUB). The program aims to create a "dialogue space" for youth to express their views with respect to challenges they may face and exploring possible opportunities, solutions, and enabling factors to maximize their potential.

A gala event is set to be held on October 15 attended by Queen Silvia and diplomatic, corporate, media, academic and social figures, will feature the revelation of further youth-oriented initiatives and cooperation details. The event will also include the presentation of the Mentor Arabia Young Entrepreneurs Award to one female and one male recipient. This award recognizes and encourages young Arab leaders who have made exceptional contributions in social, humanitarian or development work, which have impacted society positively.

During the press conference, Lebanon Minister of Social Affairs, Dr Richard Kouyoumjian commented, "Governments around the world should support the work of NGOs that empower young people and strengthen their capacities to protect them from dangerous behaviors, while at the same time developing their communities."

Waleed Al-Khashti, Zain Kuwait Chief Communications Officer who represented Zain at the press conference commented, "As a leading telecommunications operator across the region, Zain feels a deep sense of responsibility to play a role in guiding and inspiring our youth to make good decisions in reaching their potential. We are also passionate about their protection from harm in the physical sense as well as in cyberspace."

Thuraya Ismail, Executive Director of Mentor Arabia said, "The core of everything we do is to make a difference in young people's lives and so far, we have been able to make significant progress in this area; thanks to the support of outstanding people and organizations."

Mazen Hayek, spokesperson of MBC Group said, "Our partnership with Mentor Arabia translates MBC's efforts to empower Arab youth and motivates



BEIRUT: From the press conference.



Waleed Al-Khashti speaks during the press conference.

them to reach their potential. Our consistent message at the MBC Group remains inspired by our institutional motto: 'We see hope everywhere'."

The famous Egyptian singer Abu, a member of Mentor Arabia friends' committee, emphasized on "the role of art in raising more awareness on the dangers of risky behaviors and to widen the public interest in organizations such as Mentor Arabia because of their positive impact on society in all its categories".

Established in 2006 with its regional head office in Beirut, Lebanon, Mentor Arabia Foundation, is a non-



(From left) Mazen Hayek, Thuraya Ismail, Dr Richard Kouyoumjian, Waleed Al-Khashti, and Egyptian singer Abu.

governmental organization, and part of Mentor International, founded in 1994 and headed by Queen Silvia of Sweden. The Foundation has eight national chapters in Europe and USA.

Mentor Arabia Foundation is led by a board of

reputable trustees, chaired by Prince Turki Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and consists of representatives from multiple esteemed regional and international organizations alongside leading public figures, youth, specialists and scientists.



# Municipal panel invites govt officials to discuss Failaka Island, Entertainment City development

## Student faces legal action after spreading ‘holiday’ rumors

By Meshaal Al-Enezi, A Saleh and Agencies

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council's Capital committee yesterday put on hold a decision to allocate unused and unmaintained locations on Failaka Island – part of the island's development efforts – pending the presence of representatives from the Cabinet and the island's development team. The committee also postponed discussing the Entertainment City's development project to invite the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) and the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to attend the meeting.

In addition, the committee's chairman Hassan Kamal said that the committee discussed a request by Kuwait Ports Authority to add new commercial activities at the authority's administrative building in Shuwaikh Port, a proposal to fence jogging lanes in Adailiya, another to build multilevel parking at Kuwait University's Khaldiya campus and deducting 3000 sq m from the Ministry of Public Works' sewage pump in Daiya to build a main drainage transfer plant. Meanwhile, Municipal Council member Abdul Wahhab Buresli proposed turning the former NGO buildings in Shuwaikh into a hotel in order to help achieve His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's vision of turning Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub. Buresli noted that those locations are close to Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre and that Kuwait will need a hotel complex to serve large delegations due to visit Kuwait as per the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

### Integrated camping zone

In the meantime, Kuwait Municipality's Deputy Director General for Hawally and Ahmadi governorate affairs Fahd Al-Shutaili said the coordinates of 34 campsites were sent to the Defense Ministry, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and Environment Public Authority for approval, adding the municipality has added new sites and cancelled others, Al-Rai daily reported yesterday. He said there is a plan to allocate an integrated

camping zone with a co-op society, and invest in it by renting it to citizens and expats. Shutaili said Kuwaitis can book or choose any camp regardless if they are a member of a co-op society, because camps are not exclusive for shareholders only. But co-ops can designate a day for them, adding fees will be taken from citizens. He said co-ops have sites according to rules, and the municipality decided to expand those to include small camps for marketing and entertainment services for citizens. He said 18 distinguished sites were allocated for co-ops and can be increased if necessary. Shutaili said applying the plan and its success will fight commercial camps, in addition to reducing prices and the flexibility of removing them at the end of the season, while protecting the environment and allowing all to rent camps at weekends.

### New patent

The energy and construction research center at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) was awarded a new patent for inventing a new method to evaporate stainless steel and use it as a paint for metal surfaces to protect them from erosion and rust. In this regard, KISR researchers Nasser Al-Sayegh, Mariam Adnan and Feras Al-Zobi stressed that the new method involves evaporating stainless steel to manufacture the paint, then condensing it on contact with metal surfaces in nanometer layers.

### Student spread 'holiday' rumors

A student faces legal action after he was identified as the person who spread rumors that went viral on social media about today allegedly being given as a holiday, Al-Rai reported yesterday. A government source said official holidays are announced through official channels and concerned government departments, denying rumors that today will be a holiday in anticipation for the return of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Kuwait. The source said if today was to be a holiday, the Civil



KUWAIT: This archive photo shows an aerial view of Failaka Island. —KUNA

Service Commission would've been asked to announce it. He said the public should get accurate information from official sources. The source said the student who circulated the rumor regarding the holiday will face legal action.

### Alert level down

A police source said Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah issued a circular to ease alert orders from full to partial and from partial to none, Al-Anbaa daily reported yesterday. The circular was issued after evaluation of the security situation. As for leaves, the sources said they are not being issued except in cases determined by assistant undersecre-

taries until further notice.

### Airport staff allowance

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) decided paying a unified allowance to 750 Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) employees due to work at Kuwait International Airport starting from November 2019. Notably, DGCA had sent CSC a memo with all the conditions of paying the allowance and how much it would be per employee, bearing in mind that the allowances will be paid to staff members in the operations, engineering and security sectors at all the airport facilities, and that the allowance will vary between KD 150-350 according to the grade and job description.



A makeshift room is removed during a Hawally Municipality campaign yesterday.



KUWAIT: Senior Interior Ministry officials are seen inside a helicopter during a tour to inspect traffic flow around Kuwait.



This photo provided by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows the view from the helicopter of traffic flow taken during the tour.

## Interior Ministry inspects traffic flow

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Naham, accompanied by Public Works Ministry Undersecretary Ismail Ahmad, Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs and Operations Maj Gen Hatim Al-Sayegh, Public Authority for Roads and Transportation's (PART) Acting Director General Suha Ashkanani, Public Works Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for

Maintenance Sheikh Abdelaziz Al-Sabah and other officials, inspected main and side roads to check traffic flow and maintenance work. Traffic flow around Shadadiya University was also checked, as traffic police cars patrolled the area.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS) said a fire broke out in trees in the yard of a Naseem school and firemen dealt with it without the need for evacuation. No injuries were reported, and an investigation

was opened to reveal the cause of the fire.

Separately, the violations team at Hawally Municipality issued 80 warnings for violations in investment building basements, besides issuing 30 citations for building rooms with light material used commercially contrary to the license. Fines for such violations vary between KD 1,000 per meter to KD 5,000 on ground floors or roofs, besides KD 1,000 for basements and KD 800 for car parking basements.



KUWAIT: People buy fish at the Fish Market in Sharq yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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Greece struggles to cope as migrant arrivals soar

## White US ex-cop guilty of murder for shooting black neighbor

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SEOUL: People watch a television news screen showing file footage of a North Korean missile launch, at a railway station in Seoul yesterday. North Korea fired two missiles into the sea a day after Washington and Pyongyang announced they would resume stalled nuclear talks later this week. —AFP

# North Korea fires ballistic missile

## Most provocative test since talks with US began

SEOUL: North Korea fired what may have been a submarine-launched ballistic missile from off its east coast yesterday, a day after it announced the resumption of talks with the United States on ending its nuclear program. If confirmed, it would be the most provocative test by North Korea since it started the talks with the United States in 2018. Analysts said it was likely a reminder by Pyongyang of the weapons capability it had been aggressively developing as it gears up for the new round of talks. A State Department spokeswoman called on Pyongyang to “refrain from provocations” and remain committed to the nuclear negotiations. South Korea’s military said it had detected the launch of one missile that flew 450 km and reached an altitude of 910 km. It was likely a Pukguksong-class weapon, as the North’s earlier submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) under development were known.

South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo told a parliamentary committee that the Pukguksong, or Pole Star in Korean, has a range of about 1,300 km and that the missile’s trajectory may have been raised to reduce the distance it travelled. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that, according to initial intelligence, the missile was a submarine-capable ballistic missile launched from a platform at sea.

South Korea expressed concern and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe condemned the launch, saying it was a violation of UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea rejects UN Security Council resolutions that ban Pyongyang from using ballistic missile technology, saying they are an infringement of its right to self-defense. Talks aimed at dismantling North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs have been stalled since a second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam in February ended without a deal.

The two leaders then met at the Demilitarized Zone border between the two Koreas in June and pledged to reopen working-level talks within weeks. In a brief statement posted on the foreign ministry’s website late on, China welcomed the planned talks between the United States and North Korea. “It’s hoped that the two sides can move towards each other and achieve positive results from the dialogue,” a ministry spokesperson was quoted as saying. The ministry did not give any comment on Pyongyang’s missile launch.

### Sea launch

South Korea’s military said the missile was launched eastward from the sea northeast of Wonsan, the site of

one of North Korea’s military bases on the east coast. Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said it appeared that one missile was launched and had split in two and then fallen into the sea. The Japanese government had said earlier it appeared North Korea had launched two missiles, one of which fell inside Japan’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). South Korea’s Jeong, asked about Japan’s earlier assessment of two missiles, said the missile might have had at least two stages that separated in flight.

North Korea had been developing SLBM technology before it suspended long-range missile and nuclear tests and began talks with the United States that led to the first summit between Kim and Trump in Singapore in June 2018. State news agency KCNA released photos and a report of leader Kim Jong Un in July inspecting a large, newly built submarine, seen as a potential signal that Pyongyang was continuing with its development of an SLBM program.

The latest missile launch was the ninth since Trump and Kim met in June, but the others have been of short-range land-based missiles. David Wright, missile expert with the Union of Concerned Scientists, put the range of the missile tested yesterday at about 1,900 km at standard trajectory. Hours before yesterday’s

launch, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said in a statement the working-level talks with the United States would be held on Saturday - a development that could potentially break what had been months of stalemate.

North Korea’s previous missile launch was on Sept 10, also hours after Choe had expressed Pyongyang’s willingness for talks with the United States. Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said: “North Korea tends to raise the stakes before negotiations in an effort to win unearned concessions.” Trump has played down North Korea’s recent series of short-range launches, saying in September the United States and North Korea “didn’t have an agreement on short-range missiles” and that many countries test such weapons.

Vipin Narang, a nuclear expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the timing of the latest launch enhances leverage for the North and also signals Pyongyang is in for the long haul in its talks with Washington. “The risk is that testing such a system causes the US to walk away before this weekend, but Kim probably bet that the US is so invested in the talks taking place and making progress ... that the US won’t walk away.” —Reuters

## In Syrian camp, an uncertain future for foreign IS orphans

AIN ISSA: Sitting in a wheelchair beside a metal fence in a camp in northern Syria, nine-year-old Ruqaya Mohammad raises a scarf over her face to hide from journalists. The Egyptian girl lost her left eye, her legs and both her parents during battles against the Islamic State group in their last Syria redoubt in March.

She now lives in a large tent along with 23 other orphaned children of foreign IS fighters in a camp for the displaced in Ain Issa, under the care of older camp residents. Aged 18 months to 13-years-old, the children were born to parents from Russia, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Egypt and Iraq. “Among the children, Ruqaya moves me the most,” said Sara al-Abdullah, a 37-year-old who helps look after the orphans.

“She always looks withdrawn, shy, and sad,” said the widowed mother of three, one of nine women residents of the Ain Issa camp paid a small fee to help look after the children. Outside the tent, tiny children’s tops and trousers have been slung across the metal fence to dry. Inside,

young boys dip flatbread into bowls of soft aubergine stewed in tomatoes. A volunteer tries to coax a young child into opening his mouth, while another woman feeds an infant with a milk bottle. A small boy dashes across the tent and throws himself excitedly into a pile of bedding.

### Marred childhood

The volunteers say some of the children are still visibly scarred after living with their late parents under IS. “They play at shooting each other or planting mines in the earth,” Abdallah said. Clutching bits of wood they pretend are guns, she says they throw themselves into imaginary battles, emulating the cries of IS jihadists. “All that is ingrained in their heads. There’s nothing to help them forget,” said Abdallah. “They don’t study, or go and play with the little ones. It’s been taken away from them.”

IS overran large parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq in 2014, declaring a “caliphate” and imposing their brutal interpretation of Islam on millions. US-backed Syrian fighters in March expelled them from their last patch of territory in the eastern Syrian village of Baghouz. After years of leading the fight against the jihadists, Syria’s Kurds hold thousands of suspected foreign IS members in detention and camps: men and women, but also some 8,000 children - more than half of whom are under the age of five.



AIN ISSA: Ruqaya Mohammad, a nine-year-old Egyptian girl among 24 orphaned children reportedly linked with foreign fighters of the Islamic State (IS) group, covers her face as she sits in a wheelchair at a camp in the northern Syrian village of Ain Issa. —AFP

The United Nations says hundreds of them are unaccompanied. The 24 orphans in Ain Issa were among the tens of thousands of people to stream out of Baghouz in the last weeks of the battle, after months of food shortages and heavy bombardment. “They were in a pitiful state. They went to hospital and got better,” said Ain Issa camp manager Jalal Iyyaf. But the camp has received no aid for the orphans and is struggling to provide for them, he told AFP in his office. “We ask for

clothes, food, drink as well as help to rehabilitate them, rid them of IS ideology,” he said.

Back in the tent, Suad Mohammed Ameen, 20, pulls a T-shirt over a toddler’s head. The children she helps need food and clothes - but also psychological support, she said. “The toughest part is when they tell me their fathers and mothers were killed in front of them, or how they lost their siblings,” she said, a fuchsia pink headscarf framing her face. —AFP

## Cockroaches, ants and crickets: Healthy snacks that taste like chips

SARCHI: At his home in rural Costa Rica, biologist Federico Paniagua joined his family at the dining table to devour several types of insects that he raised on his farm and whose flavor he compares to potato chips. The head of the University of Costa Rica’s Insects Museum decided three years ago to replace animal protein in his diet with crickets, ants, cockroaches, beetles and other insects - and wants to encourage others to do the same. “Insects are delicious,” he said in an interview at his farm in Sarchi, about 30 miles from the capital San Jose.

“You can sit and watch a soap opera, watch the football game, do any activity with a plate full of insects. Eat them one by one, with a glass of soda... they’ll go down well,” said Paniagua. The United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has counted more than 1,900 insect species that are edible. Especially in Asia and in Africa, the tiny creatures are touted as delicacies packed with vitamins, minerals and energy. Their proponents also note that bugs emit fewer greenhouse gases and less ammonia than cattle or pigs and require significantly less land and water than cattle. —Reuters



## International

# With parks, saunas and churches, Russian soldiers in Syria to stay

## Thousands of Russian service personnel now deployed in Syria

**TARTUS:** Looking out over a park planted at Russia's naval facility in the Syrian port of Tartus, the base commander points to a row of trees. "These plants will have time to grow," the Russian says, his eyes shielded from the Mediterranean sun by a desert camouflage cap. Four years after they intervened in Syria in support of President Bashar Al-Assad, Russian military forces are showing no signs of leaving the country. Just the opposite in fact. On a recent Russian defense ministry tour of Syria, journalists from AFP and other media saw Moscow's forces digging in for a long stay-cementing a presence that will have implications across the Middle East.

At the base in Tartus, a sprawling complex on the coast of the eastern Mediterranean, Russian warships and submarines were on full display. But reporters were also shown gymnasiums where off-duty soldiers lifted weights, bakeries serving Russian pastries, traditional wooden saunas known as banyas and even onion-domed Orthodox Christian chapels filled with icons. "Every necessary comfort" is provided to the Russian soldiers, an officer says.

Moscow launched its campaign in support of Assad at the end of September 2015, at the height of a civil war that saw jihadists and other rebels take control of large parts of the country. Russia's intervention marked a turnaround and pro-regime forces have since retaken much of the territory once outside government hands. Officially, some 63,000 Russian servicemen have passed through Syria during the campaign, including soldiers, sailors and pilots who at the peak of a bombing campaign were carrying out more than 100 sorties per day.

Hundreds of private Russian military contractors are also believed to have operated in Syria, with reports of them serving on the front line alongside pro-regime troops. The conflict has been a crucial training ground

for Russian forces abroad and testing opportunity for arms like Moscow's Kalibr missiles and modernized Tu-22M long-range bombers. Some 3,000 Russian service personnel are now deployed in Syria, at facilities like Tartus and the Hmeimim airbase near Assad's home town of Latakia.

### 'Good tactics but no strategy'

Moscow has signed 49-year leases on the two facilities, giving Russia its first long-term military presence in the Middle East. Russian President Vladimir Putin—on a mission to expand Moscow's global influence—has said his forces will stay in Syria as long as necessary. "Our military is there to ensure Russia's interests in an important region of the world," Putin said during one of his marathon televised phone-ins last year. "With these bases, Russia has consolidated its position" in Syria as long as Assad is in power, Russian defense analyst Alexei Malashenko says.

The bases are not the only payoff from Russia's gamble in backing Assad. Alongside Turkey and Iran, it is now playing a crucial role in international talks on the country's future, while developing closer ties with both Ankara and Tehran. Away from the bases, Moscow's presence is being felt across the country. Russian military vehicles patrol along roads where posters show Assad and Putin side-by-side. In the countryside west of Damascus, reporters were shown a Syrian army battalion wearing fresh uniforms and bullet-proof vests being trained by Russian advisers.

In second city Aleppo—where Assad's forces retook full control in 2016 after years of heavy fighting—Russia has provided high-voltage cables and pipes that have brought electricity and running water back to some devastated neighborhoods. Reconstruction efforts have so far been modest, with the international community wary of financing Assad. But the UN estimates the



**TARTUS:** Russian submarines are pictured at the Russian naval base in the Syrian Mediterranean port of Tartus. —AFP

costs of Syria's post-war reconstruction at \$400 billion and Moscow is well-positioned to play a prominent role in rebuilding the country.

Still, challenges remain and Malashenko warns that nothing is certain in Syria. The northwestern province of Idlib on the border with Turkey remains outside government control despite a bloody regime offensive. And

hopes for a long-term political solution are low, despite the UN's announcement this month of the creation of a new constitutional committee. By so clearly backing Assad, Malashenko says, Russia may have left itself vulnerable. "Russia has no other way out. It has good tactics but no strategy," he says. "It is one step ahead, but nobody knows what's going to happen next." \_ AFP

## An Islamist dilemma after rise of populists in Tunisia

**AL-ALIA:** The annoyance among voters in the hilltop town of al-Alia shows the dilemma facing Tunisia's moderate Islamist Ennahda party as it seeks to win Sunday's parliamentary election after years of sharing power with the secular political elite. Ennahda's fate will not only resonate in Tunisia. Its effort to chart a moderate path is being watched across an Arab world that has for decades failed to peacefully accommodate its Islamist and nationalist movements.

"Ennahda's sympathizers abandoned it because of its concessions and only its own people are left," said Mohammed Amin, 35, a truck driver sitting under a tree near an Ennahda election stand opposite the town hall. Ennahda's national vote share has steadily fallen since Tunisia's first free election in 2011, raising questions over its strategy and ideology as it seeks to recover from a presidential vote last month in which it came third. Where once it could rely on the support of

Tunisia's socially conservative, less developed interior, it now faces a challenge from populist outsiders who challenge the main parties over poverty. Having disappointed Islamists by rebranding itself a "Muslim democrat" party, and poor Tunisians by joining governments that failed to improve their lot, it is trying to woo back its base. But after years in government making the compromises it saw as necessary to maintain social order and tackle deficits, it cannot easily regain its old, popular image as a party of revolution without rejecting its own recent history.

It has embraced Kais Said, a socially conservative law professor who as an independent candidate got most votes in the first round of the presidential election, formally backing him in the Oct. 13 second-round runoff. In doing so, it is also positioning itself against Said's opponent, the television mogul Nabil Karoui, who faces trial for tax evasion and money laundering, which he denies. Karoui has for years used his television station and his anti-poverty charity to develop an image as the champion of Tunisia's poor, though his rivals paint him corrupt for his personal wealth and ties to the old ruling elite.

### Concessions

In al-Alia, a party stronghold in one of the regions where its vote has fallen

most steeply, Ennahda activists blamed Karoui for their problems. "He worked for three years targeting poverty and he is what led to the reverses for all parties, not just Ennahda," said party member Mehdi al-Habib. Last week veteran Ennahda leader Rached Ghannouchi ripped into Karoui at a news conference, promoting the advantages of any future alliance between Said and Ennahda MPs. The parliamentary election has long been Ennahda's focus because the party that gets most seats stands the best chance of choosing a prime minister and forming a government, while the president's powers are relatively limited.

Banned before the 2011 uprising, Ennahda emerged afterwards as the strongest party, seen by opponents as reactionary and dangerous, and by supporters as the voice of the revolution. However, its election victory that year with 1.5 million votes, 37% of the total, led secular Tunisians to push back, unnerved by headline Islamist attacks and the example of Egypt where the Muslim Brotherhood had taken charge.

With Tunisia dangerously polarized, and facing an economic crisis, Ennahda adopted moderate social positions and joined secular parties in a series of coalitions that tried to tackle public debt. Party leaders believe those decisions helped avert unrest of the kind that accompanied the Brotherhood's rise



**TUNIS:** Tunisian legislative candidate Basma Khalfaoui (left), the widow of murdered Tunisian leftist leader Chokri Belaid, campaigns in Tunis' Cité Helai district. —AFP

and fall in Egypt, and economic disaster. But they also diluted its identity and tied it to unpopular government policies. By 2014 Ennahda's share in the parliamentary election was down to 28%, with 947,000 votes, and last month its presidential candidate took only 12%, with 434,000 votes. —Reuters

## 'House of torture' puts focus on Nigeria Islamic schools

**KANO:** Horrific revelations of torture and abuse at a compound billing itself as a Quranic reform school in northern Nigeria have shone a spotlight on Islamic institutes unregulated by the authorities. Last week police in the city of Kaduna raided a building to find hundreds of men and boys - some reportedly aged as young as five - held in atrocious conditions at a facility proprietors described as a religious school and rehabilitation centre. Inmates were discovered chained to metal railings and with their hands and feet shackled together. Some bore scars from alleged beatings while other recounted being sexually abused.

"If they caught you if you want to run away from this place, they would hang you, they would chain you," one of the victims Abdallah Hamza said. The shocking revelations made headlines but activists insisted they were symptomatic of abuses that have long-riddled a system beyond official control. Private Islamic schools - known locally as Almajiri schools - are widespread across mainly Muslim northern Nigeria, where poverty levels are high and government services often lacking.

The authorities have estimated

that there are more than nine million students enrolled at the institutions. "The latest example from Kaduna represented the worst of the system and very inhumane conditions," Mohammed Sabo Keana, team lead at the Abuja-based Almajiri Child Rights Initiative NGO said. "But they are a clear manifestation of what a lot of children go through - including being made to beg on the streets, subjected to violence, sleeping in the worst conditions imaginable and living with terrible sanitation levels."

### 'Place of human slavery'

Activists have long pushed the government to reform or end the Almajiri system, arguing that it fails to provide children with the basics of an education. In June Nigeria's presidency said that it wanted ultimately to ban the schools - but insisted it would not be doing so anytime soon for fear of creating "panic or a backlash". Now calls for change look likely to grow in the wake of the latest scandal. In a statement on the case the office of President Muhammadu Buhari - himself a Muslim from northern Nigeria - denounced the facility "as a house of torture and a place of human slavery". "We are glad that Muslim authorities have dismissed the notion of the embarrassing and horrifying spectacle as (an) Islamic School," the statement said.

But it steered clear of mentioning any move to prohibit the schools and insisted that enforcing free compulsory education was a

"panacea". "To stop unwanted cultural practices that amount to the abuse of children, our religious and traditional authorities must work with the federal, state and local governments to expose and stop all types of abuse that are widely known but ignored for many years by our communities," it said.

### 'Stay in line'

Defenders of the Almajiri system argue that it can offer poor families services the Nigerian state woefully fails to provide. Millions of children in the country go without any education despite primary school nominally being free. Retired civil servant Yusuf Hassan runs the Almajiri Foundation in the northern city of Kano that has looked to improve the system. He insisted that most schools are not like the one uncovered in Kaduna and instead blamed so-called "rehabilitation centers" where families send relatives considered delinquent or drug addicts.

"Some parents who have children that are difficult to manage at home take them to such rehabilitation centers," he said. "Some of the centers end up chaining the kids because they know they will run away." Hassan blamed a lack of any government medical or psychiatric care to help tackle widespread drug addiction in northern Nigeria and said a first step should be to separate rehab centers from schools. But even some of those who have lived through the brutal treatment meted out in such institutions have argued they can be a force for good. —AFP

## Coming home? 132,000 descendants of Spain's Jews seek nationality

**MADRID:** More than 500 years ago, they faced a bleak choice: convert to Catholicism or be burned at the stake. The only other option was exile. For Jews living in Spain at the time, 1492 was a year burned into historical memory when their community of at least 200,000 people were forced into exile. Now, more than five centuries later, over 132,000 of their descendants have taken advantage of a limited-term offer of Spanish nationality that expired on Monday. The law, which was passed by parliament in October 2015, sought to address what the government has described as a "historic mistake" by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

Known as Sephardim - the Hebrew term for Jews of Spanish origin - many of the exiles fled to the Ottoman Empire or North Africa and later to Latin America. Under the legislation, those able to prove their Jewish heritage and their "special connection" to Spain were able to apply for citizenship, with justice ministry saying it received 132,226 applications. More than half of them were filed in the past month, when the ministry received some 72,000 applications.

"They said you didn't need a lawyer but without one, it would have been impossible," said Doreen Alhadeff, a resident of Seattle who obtained Spanish nationality for herself and two grandchildren. But it was a long and complex process, that involved demonstrating proof of Sephardic origin through genealogical documents or through the local Jewish community. Those documents then had to be taken personally to Spain to be approved by a local notary - a process Alhadeff says cost her around \$5,000.

"I felt they had taken something important away from my family, and I wanted to get it back," said this 69-year-old who says she remembers hearing Ladino spoken as she grew up, a 15th-century language fusing Hebrew and Spanish that is still spoken today. Others are still waiting to see if their application will be accepted, among them the French writer Pierre Assoline, who has written many books, including one about his Sephardic origins entitled: "Return to Sepharad" - Hebrew for Spain. —AFP

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# The toxic cocktail that fuels South Africa's xenophobia

## A witch's brew of unemployment, inequality and poverty

**JOHANNESBURG:** A witch's brew of unemployment, inequality and poverty, mixed with South Africa's violent past, are to blame for attacks on foreigners that so tarnished the country's image last month, experts say. The deadly assaults rocked South Africa's relations with its neighbors but especially with Nigeria, whose president, Muhammadu Buhari, begins a state visit here today.

At least 10 South Africans and two foreigners were killed after mobs descended on foreign-owned stores in poor districts in and around Johannesburg. Analysts told AFP that the violence - the latest in a rash of such attacks over the past decade - is mainly rooted in a sickly economy and faltering politics, stirring rivalry for jobs, especially in manual labor. South Africa is a magnet for poor migrants from neighboring Mozambique, Lesotho and Zimbabwe, but even further afield, including Nigeria and even South Asia.

"South Africa has a terrible combination of extremely high unemployment... and the highest inequality rate in the world," said Nicolas Pons-Vignon, economic researcher at Johannesburg's Wits University. Competition for jobs, social services and housing "create a fertile terrain for mobilization along identity lines,"

he said. Reliable figures are sketchy, but the last census in 2011 counted just over 2.1 million "international migrants", around four percent of South Africa's population at the time. Joblessness hit a record 29 percent this year, reaching above 50 percent for youth.

### Political rhetoric

Loren Landau, a researcher for the African Centre for Migration & Society, said the country's politicians were also indirectly to blame for stoking the mood. "It's anti-immigrant but it's not an immigrant issue," Landau said. Rhetoric tinged with xenophobia ran high in the runup to elections this year. Both the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and rival Democratic Alliance (DA) pledged to crack down on irregular migrants.

Politicians are failing to create jobs, and "when you don't have things to offer, you turn to blaming others," Landau said. Human rights lawyer Sharon Ekambaram pointed out that most tensions played out in densely populated, poorly serviced townships. "We cannot understand the xenophobia of today without locating it in deep, deep poverty" and the government's failure to "transform society" after apartheid, she told AFP.

### Violent history

Another factor is South Africa's own troubled past, whose trauma is felt today, said Verne Harris, head of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. "In 1994 we inherited a deeply wounded society," Harris said. "Old patterns of power, property and wealth haven't been fundamentally transformed. That translates into deep-seated anger and high levels of violence." That brutality is also a legacy of the anti-apartheid struggle. "Townships were deeply politicized and organized by groups that used violence as part of their anti-apartheid campaign," said Landau.

Those people remained and "didn't give up their violent ways." But researcher Savo Heleta also noted the irony of xenophobia in a country that was helped by other African states during the struggle. Many gave the ANC arms, money and political support, allowing it to topple the regime and win every election since. The liberation movement was an illustration of "African unity", said Seleta, who works for the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth. "There is a failure to speak about this solidarity."

### 'Failure of the state'

Successive governments have since failed to fill

the gaps in social provision created by white supremacy. "In many of our communities, failures of the state have led people to rely on informal systems of power," said Harris. With rampant crime levels and a thin police force, those who cannot afford to live in privately secured areas are confronted with thugs and mob justice. Gang leaders use the hardship of townships to stoke anti-foreigner sentiment and "reinforce their authority at the local level," said Landau. "And they get away with it," he added. Amnesty International has condemned the government's failure to prosecute suspected perpetrators of xenophobic crimes.

The attacks are "a direct consequence of years of impunity and failures in the criminal justice system," it said in a statement earlier this month. Former president Jacob Zuma has been charged with 16 counts of corruption during his time in office. The accusations prompted his resignation last year, although prosecution has been sluggish. "South Africa is a very bad example of people doing terrible things and getting a get-out-of-jail-free card," said Heleta. "When no one gets arrested, that's when people start to realise that they can do terrible things." —AFP

## What's that sound? 'Marsquake' heard

**WASHINGTON:** NASA on Tuesday released two audio clips of seismic activity on Mars after an "exquisitely sensitive" detector was set down on the planet's surface late last year. The quakes, far too quiet to be picked up by the human ear, were recorded by the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) in May and July. Scientists hope that studying how seis-

mic waves move through the planet's interior will reveal the deep inner structure of Mars for the first time. About 20 so-called "marsquakes" have been detected so far by the dome-shaped SEIS, which is carried by NASA's InSight lander that arrived on Mars in November.

The audio - a low, rumbling noise - has been speeded up and processed to be audible through headphones. One quake was magnitude 3.7 and the other was magnitude 3.3. "Both suggest that the Martian crust is like a mix of the Earth's crust and the Moon's," NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said. "Mars, with its cratered surface, is slightly more Moon-like, with seismic waves ringing for a minute or so, whereas quakes on Earth can come and go in seconds." The SEIS was developed by the French space agency CNES and partners. —AFP

## Finland sword attacker acted alone, motive still unknown

**HELSINKI:** The man suspected of carrying out a deadly sword attack at a Finnish vocational college acted alone, police said yesterday, as they continued to search for a motive behind the rampage. One woman died and 10 people were injured, including the suspect, on Tuesday when a student at Savo Vocational College in Kuopio, east-central Finland, attacked his teacher and classmates with a "sabre-type bladed weapon", according to police and eyewitnesses. Officers shot the suspect twice, injuring him seriously. A woman was found dead at the scene, police said.

"The police's current view is that the suspect acted alone with no organized crime involvement, for instance," detective chief inspector Olli Toyras of the National Bureau of Investigation said in a statement. Police have yet to question the suspect, who remains in intensive care. "It's our main priority to interview him," deputy chief inspector Jarkko Timonen said. A search of the suspect's residence on Tuesday revealed equipment for making incendiary devices, police said.

Although Finnish law forbids police from identifying a suspect before trial, media outlets named the man as 25-year-old Joel Otto Aukusti Marin. Public broadcaster Yle said a



KUOPIO: Police enter a student dormitory in Sarkiniemi in Kuopio, Finland in order to search a suspect's home, a day after he perpetrated a deadly attack in which one person died and 10 people were injured. — AFP

police source confirmed that Marin was the suspect. Neighbors at Marin's student residence described him as a "quiet and closed" man with long, blonde hair, according to newspaper Helsingin Sanomat. "I asked him if we have a problem, as we never speak," one unnamed neighbor told the paper. "He replied that he's a very shy person," the neighbor said.

### Victims mainly women

Kuopio University Hospital said most of the injured were women. The victims were aged 15-50. Six patients remained in hospital yesterday, two in intensive care in a serious but

stable condition, authorities said. Meanwhile more witness reports emerged of the attack, with an unnamed female classmate describing the attacker as a "smart nerd".

On Tuesday he entered class carrying a long bag, she told the newspaper Ilta-lehti. "He pulled a sword out of it, which didn't even look real. He lifted it up and hit the teacher," injuring her hand. The teacher ran into the back room with the attacker chasing her, as the students began to panic. "Some just fled. But the situation didn't sink in for everyone," she said. "Then he started swinging the sword at the students too." — AFP



SPACE: In this handout picture provided by NASA, clouds drift over the dome-covered seismometer, known as SEIS, belonging to NASA's InSight lander, on Mars. NASA released two audio clips of seismic activity on Mars after an 'exquisitely sensitive' detector was set down on the planet's surface late last year. — AFP

## Inmate with rare medical condition executed in US

**WASHINGTON:** A convicted murderer with a rare medical condition was executed Tuesday in Missouri despite his assertion that lethal injection would cause him terrible suffering. Russell Bucklew - who was found guilty of killing his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend in 1996, then abducting and raping her - was pronounced dead at 6:23 pm. Bucklew, 51, suffered from cavernous hemangioma, a blood vessel condition that hindered his breathing. For the past year, he had been using a tracheotomy tube.

His lawyers had said his execution could be horrific if done by lethal injection. "His face is swollen by the bulging, blood-filled tumors in his face, head and throat," the lawyers wrote in a petition asking Missouri's governor to commute the sentence and have Bucklew serve a life term instead. "These unstable tumors are highly likely to hemorrhage during the stress of the execution, causing Russell to

cough and choke on his own blood."

Governor Mike Parson, a Republican who supports the death penalty, turned down the request Tuesday morning. Bucklew was the 17th inmate put to death in the US this year. "We mourn the unnecessary, unlawful execution of Russell Bucklew tonight," Cassandra Stubbs, the director of the Capital Punishment Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement. Authorities in Missouri had twice set dates for his execution, in 2014 and 2018.

Both times, the US Supreme Court ordered last minute stays. Some former prison wardens came out in favor of Bucklew's request, saying they wanted to spare their colleagues the risk of a messy, botched execution.

"Participating in executions places a tremendous weight on the shoulders of the execution team," they said in a court brief. "When as here, an execution is unlikely to go smoothly, and is likely to result in unnecessary pain and suffering, the burden of participation becomes unbearable."

In April, the US Supreme Court rejected arguments over how cruel it would be to execute Bucklew by lethal injection. "The Eighth Amendment does not guarantee a prisoner a painless death," the majority judges said in a 5-4 ruling. The amendment outlaws "cruel and unusual punishments." — AFP

## White US ex-cop guilty of murder for shooting black neighbor

**WASHINGTON:** A former Texas policewoman was convicted of murder Tuesday for shooting dead a neighbor in his own home in what her lawyer said was a "tragic mistake." The case sparked outrage as it became a flashpoint over police violence and racial bias because Amber Guyger is white, while her victim was black. Guyger, who worked in Dallas, claimed that she believed she had returned to her own apartment on September 6, 2018 and that she thought Botham Jean, 26, was an intruder. In fact, the 31-year-old had entered Jean's unlocked apartment, located in the same building but one floor above hers.

"We the jury unanimously find the defendant, Amber Guyger, guilty of murder as charged in the indictment," the jury foreman announced. After the verdict was read, Jean's mother, Allison Jean, stood and looked upward as she celebrated the decision, raising her arms high and wide. "I cannot sleep, I cannot eat, it's just been the most terrible time for me," she later told the jury that will decide on Guyger's sentence. "I try to busy myself to try to get this out of my head. It is very difficult."

The jury, which retired on Monday, deliberated for five hours before delivering its guilty verdict. Guyger, who was off duty after a nearly 14-hour shift, lived in apartment 1378 on the third floor, while Jean lived in apartment 1478 directly above her. "She knows she's made a tragic mistake, but it's not out of evil," Guyger's lawyer, Robert Rogers,



Dallas Police Department officer Amber Guyger

told the court when the trial opened, describing it as human error and an act of self-defense. Guyger-a police officer for four years until her sacking following the shooting-sobbed when she took the stand last week.

### Appeals for justice

"I ask God for forgiveness, and I hate myself every single day," she said, voice trembling. "I wish he was the one with the gun who had killed me. I never wanted to take an innocent person's life." After hearing the verdict, Guyger stood as the jury filed out of the courtroom and then sank into her chair. Prosecutor Jason Hermus said Jean, a native of the Caribbean island of St Lucia who worked for an accounting firm, "paid the ultimate price" for Guyger's errors. "She walks past 16 different apartments and fails to register the number four on any one of them," Hermus said during the testimony phase of the trial last week. Prosecutors played Guyger's frantic 911 call, in which she repeatedly tells a dispatcher she is in the wrong apartment. — AFP

## 10-fold surge in South Africa teens treated for HIV

**PARIS:** The number of young people in South Africa receiving treatment for HIV has increased 10-fold within a decade, a major new study has found. South Africa has the largest number of HIV-positive people in the world, with around 7.2 million carrying the virus, which causes AIDS. Researchers studied more than 700,000 young people receiving treatment for the infection and found 10 times the number of adolescents aged between 15-19 being treated compared with 2010.

Authors of the study, published in The Lancet HIV journal attributed the rise partly due to the success of AIDS prevention programs that result in better detection and treatment rates. However they found that fewer than 50 percent of young South Africans who present for HIV care go on to initiate antiretroviral therapy, which can prevent transmission and stops a patient developing AIDS.

"Despite the upswing in numbers initiating therapy, barriers persist that prevent many adolescents from starting treatment," said Mhairi Maskew from the University of Witwatersrand and the report's lead author. These include concerns about stigma, a pervasive sense that clinics cannot guarantee patient confidentiality and increased domestic responsibilities for young people, especially in families where children have lost parents to HIV and AIDS.

The study found that while those diagnosed with HIV were roughly split by gender, nine in 10 people actively receiving treatment were girls. The authors said this was consistent with far higher rates of sexually-transmitted HIV infection in young women compared to young men. AIDS deaths have declined globally since the peak of the epidemic in the early 2000s, but an international AIDS commission warned last year of a resurgence if the world's booming adolescent population weren't protected. — AFP



# Custom, caste deny land rights to Asian women, indigenous people

## Indigenous communities have legal rights to only 10% of land

**UDAIPUR:** Women, lower-caste and indigenous people across Asia are failing to benefit from land reform laws because of custom and deep-rooted social biases, land rights activists said yesterday. Globally, indigenous communities have legal rights to only 10% of land, according to Washington, DC-based advocacy group Rights and Resources Initiative.

“Land conflicts in Asia are increasing in coverage and intensity, not only because of clashes with industry, but also because of social exclusion, discrimination and historical disenfranchisement,” said Nathaniel Don Marquez, of ANGOC, a non-profit network for agrarian reform in the region. “Recognition of indigenous lands has become increasingly difficult as commercial pressure on land grows, and land reforms fail to recognize how assets are controlled in households where women are excluded,” the executive director said.

A recent survey by ANGOC of eight Asian countries including the Philippines, India and Bangladesh found land reform laws that recognized indigenous

rights and women’s rights were not implemented in full, and that land had not been redistributed. When indigenous people claim their land rights, they are often met with violence, said Marquez. The Philippines



was ranked as the deadliest country for land rights activists last year, by Britain-based Global Witness. In India, land titles are almost always in a man’s name. Indian women own just 13% of farmland despite mak-

ing up more than a third of the agricultural workforce, according to census data.

Amendments in 2005 to the country’s Hindu Succession Act, which governs inheritance among Hindus who make up about 80% of the population, made women’s rights equal to those of men, yet customary laws and tradition have denied women these rights, said Ginny Shrivastava, an Indian women’s rights activist. “There is a mindset that land must be in the name of men,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation at a land forum in Udaipur city in the western state of Rajasthan.

“With increased migration of men to cities for jobs, there is increasing feminisation of agriculture across Asia. Yet women’s ownership of land remains unequal,” she said. Women are often pressured to give up their right to ancestral land at the time of marriage, she said. While widows can legally inherit their husband’s property, in Rajasthan widows are customarily not allowed to leave the house for a month, or even a year, and so can miss the deadline to transfer the title

within 30 days of a death, she said.

“Simply having something in the law is not enough. Gender audits of land laws are needed to identify the gaps in implementation and address them,” she said. Lower-caste Dalits and indigenous Adivasis are also kept from owning land because of deep-rooted biases, even though India banned caste-based discrimination in 1955, said Sujatha Surepally, a Dalit activist. At least half of India’s lower-caste population is landless. “They do all the work, yet they own so little land, despite state laws to give land to the landless,” she said.

A year-long global peace march from Delhi to Geneva, that kicks off in the Indian capital on Wednesday, aims to highlight the struggles over land, said Rajagopal PV, president of Ekta Parishad, an Indian human rights advocacy group. “The land, the forests belong to the people who have tended to them for generations,” he said. “We have the old problems of poverty and injustice, along with new and escalating problems such as the effects of global warming that hurt them the most,” he said. — Reuters

## Greece struggles to cope as migrant arrivals soar

**SKALA SYKAMINEAS:** The hulking Greek coastguard officer gazed intently as another group of migrants, the fifth of the day, boarded a minibus after landing on a beach on the island of Lesbos. “We’re taking it day by day,” he sighed, amid talk of a new refugee crisis, four years after nearly one million asylum seekers arrived on Europe’s doorstep, sparking EU-wide panic.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) announced on Tuesday that arrivals by sea from Turkey to Greece, mostly Afghan and Syrian families, increased to 10,258 in September. It said this was the highest monthly total since 2016, when the EU reached an accord with Turkey to stem the flow of arrivals. The surge has left an already overburdened Greek asylum camp network – which the UN terms “inhumane” – struggling to cope.

“In the last couple of months (there has been) an incredible contrast... a huge increase, quite sudden,” said Patrick Foley, emergency response coordinator for the Swedish NGO Lighthouse Relief that operates in the north of Lesbos, where most asylum seekers land. “Each month is typically more than the month of the previous year”. In May, the NGO was helping around 70 people land safely on Lesbos beaches and giving them temporary shelter.



LESBOS ISLAND: A woman migrant reacts, following a rescue operation by a Frontex patrol vessel, at the port of Skala Sikamias, on the island of Lesbos yesterday. — AFP

of these numbers.

In addition to poor hygiene and frequent outbreaks of violence, many of the residents sleep in tents and complain of having to queue for hours to obtain food, take a shower or use a toilet. “Keeping people on the islands in these inadequate and insecure conditions is inhumane and must come to an end,” the UNHCR said Tuesday.

On Sunday, a fire killed a woman in the Lesbos camp of Moria, sparking brief rioting between asylum-seekers and police. “We urge the Greek authorities to fast-track plans to transfer over 5,000 asylum seekers already authorized to continue their asylum procedure on the mainland,” the UNHCR said in a statement. “In parallel, new accommodation places must be provided to prevent pressure from the islands spilling over into mainland Greece, where most sites are operating at capacity.”

EU Migration Commissioner Dimitris

Avramopoulos is set to visit Greece and Turkey this week with the foreign ministers of Germany and France to discuss the situation. Greece’s minister for migration also travels to Ankara on Wednesday for talks with the Turkish interior minister. Many in Greece say Turkey is not doing enough to keep its end of the bargain in thwarting attempts to cross the Aegean Sea, which result in hundreds of deaths annually.

But according to Foley, it appears that fear of arrest in Turkey spurs many migrants – Afghans in particular – to head to Greece as fast as possible. “A lot of people coming from Afghanistan (spend just) a couple of weeks in Turkey and then make the crossing. A lot of people are becoming afraid of deportation from Turkey,” he said. Foley notes that migrants and refugees are “somewhat” aware of the grim conditions that await them in Greek camps even before attempting the perilous crossing. —AFP

## Osmani, the woman taking on Kosovo’s ‘nasty’ politics

**PRISTINA:** Looking back to her childhood in conflict-wracked Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani remembers listening quietly as dozens of men gathered in her father’s living room to discuss the political future of the breakaway Serbian province. Two decades later, the 38-year-old is determined to be the one leading the meetings as she bids to become Kosovo’s first female Prime Minister in October 6 elections. It would be a radical change in a patriarchal society where men reign supreme in politics, business and often in the home.

But Osmani says her gender is an asset. “I can do it precisely because I am a woman,” she said from the headquarters of her party, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). The curly-haired law professor-turned-MP is hoping to ride a wave of disappointment in the men who have mired the young democracy in corruption and poverty since its 2008 independence. The former province is still led by the ethnic-Albanian guerillas who fought Serbia during the 1998-99 war and for whom gender equality is not a priority.

While a quota ensures women’s rep-

resentation in parliament, leadership positions overwhelmingly remain the playground of men. Men run all of Kosovo’s 38 municipalities, while the previous 21-member cabinet boasted a single female minister. President Hashim Thaci also has only one woman in his cadre of political advisors. While parliament did appoint a female president, Atifete Jahjaga, in 2011, the people have never elected a woman to lead the government.

### ‘Nasty’ politics

Osmani wants to upend those norms with the backing of one of Kosovo’s largest and oldest parties, whose founder, Ibrahim Rugova, is considered the “father of the nation”. Analysts say she has a strong chance of taking home a large share of votes on election day. Yet Kosovo’s fractured political scene means no party is likely to win an absolute majority, leaving Osmani to forge a coalition to oust the establishment PDK, in power since 2007.

While her party once allied with the PDK, Osmani appears to be ruling that out under her watch. “We will remove from power those who have strangled Kosovo,” she told supporters during a campaign event on Tuesday night in western Pec. “On October 6, we will send the PDK and its corrupt partners into a long opposition.” After studying international law in the US and working as a professor, Osmani became a law-maker in 2011, coming face to face with what she describes as Kosovo’s “nasty” political scene. —AFP



PRISTINA: Vjosa Osmani, election candidate for prime minister from the opposition party Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) gestures as she speaks during an interview with AFP in Pristina. —AFP

## Peru: 2 decades of political upheaval

**LIMA:** President Martin Vizcarra’s dissolution of Peru’s parliament Monday is the latest in a series of political crises to rock the country over the past two decades. Here is a recap:

**Fujimori impeached**

In November 2000, Congress impeaches corruption-accused President Alberto Fujimori, elected 10 years previously, on the grounds of “permanent moral incapacity.” He had resigned by fax from Japan the previous day. He would be sentenced in April 2009 to 25 years in prison for corruption and human rights abuses during his time in office.

**Social crisis**

Opposition leader Alejandro Toledo scrapes through presidential elections in June 2001, starting a crisis-filled term. The country is paralyzed by weeks of strikes in May-June 2003, when Toledo declares a state of emergency. His cabinet quits in June 2003. In December, Toledo demands the resignation of his entire government to defuse a politically damaging sex scandal involving his prime minister, Beatriz Merino.

**Garcia back**

The July 2006 presidential vote returns Alan Garcia to power, despite criticism over his first 1985-1990 term marked by four-digit inflation, leftist insurgencies and rampant corruption. In October 2008, Garcia’s entire 13-member cabinet resigns in a bid to avert an opposition censure resolution in Congress over the granting of concessions to Norwegian company Discover Petroleum.

**Left in power**

In June 2011, leftist ex-military man Ollanta Humala narrowly wins presidential elections over Keiko Fujimori, daughter of the jailed ex-



LIMA: Police forces are deployed in downtown Lima, in the surroundings of the Peruvian Congress building after Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra dissolved the parliament. — AFP

president. He is Peru’s first leftist president in 36 years. The first year of Humala’s presidency is marked by dozens of social conflicts that leave several people dead and lead him to declare a state of emergency three times. In July 2012, he shakes up his cabinet for the second time since taking office. In March 2015, Congress sacks prime minister Ana Jara over allegations that the national intelligence agency had spied on lawmakers, reporters, business leaders and everyday citizens for years.

**President quits**

Ex-Wall Street banker Pedro Pablo Kuczynski narrowly wins the June 2016 elections against Keiko Fujimori, whose right-wing Popular Force party retains a large majority in Congress. In March 2017, prosecutors order investigations into his possible links to a wide-ranging scandal involving Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, accused of paying millions of dollars in bribes to Peruvian officials between 2005 and 2014. He survives a Congress impeachment vote in December 2017, after support from lawmakers led by Kenji Fujimori, brother to Keiko. Days later, Kuczynski pardons Alberto Fujimori. Thousands of people protest. A day before a

second impeachment vote in Congress, Kuczynski resigns in March 2018. He is replaced by his deputy, Vizcarra.

**Suicide, arrests**

In November 2018, Keiko Fujimori is taken into custody pending the outcome of a probe into claims she accepted illicit Odebrecht funding for her party. In April 2019, Garcia commits suicide as police are about to arrest him on allegations of taking Odebrecht bribes, which he denied. In May 2019, Humala and his wife are charged with allegedly laundering assets as part of the Odebrecht scandal. In July 2019, Toledo is arrested in the United States after years on the run following accusations that he also took a massive payout from Odebrecht.

**Parliament dissolved**

Vizcarra dissolves parliament on September 30, 2019 after Congress blocks a raft of anti-corruption reforms, and calls elections for January. Shortly afterwards Congress votes to suspend Vizcarra for one year on the grounds of “moral incapacity.” There are protests in support of Vizcarra across Peru, while the presidential palace says it has the support of the police and army chiefs. —AFP

## Mom knows best? Boris says mother backs him on Brexit

**MANCHESTER:** It’s a bitter issue that has divided families, Britain’s prime minister included. But Boris Johnson yesterday revealed that while he may have fallen out with his brother and sister over Brexit, at least his mom agrees. “I know there are some keen students of alleged divisions in my family on matters of the EU but I want you to know, conference, that I have kept my ace up my sleeve, my mother voted Leave,” he told the Conservative Party conference in Manchester, north west England.

Johnson’s father Stanley, a keen supporter of leaving the EU after initially backing Remain, was seen laughing in the crowd, appearing to mouth the words: “I did not know that.” Jo Johnson quit his brother’s government last month over its plans to leave the EU on

October 31 “come what may”. Their sister Rachel, also a vocal critic of Brexit, has alleged that the prime minister might be pursuing a no-deal Brexit on behalf of speculators betting on a weak pound.

“She’s wrong but... I’m not going to get dragged into conversations about my beloved family,” he told LBC radio. The family rift has added a Shakespearean subplot to the Brexit crisis consuming the country, echoing similar household feuds across Britain. Johnson generally steers clear of talking about his family, and very rarely discusses his mother, Charlotte Johnson Wahl.

She and Stanley Johnson divorced in 1979, and she has battled with serious mental health problems throughout her life, which saw her in and out of hospital when the future prime minister was a child. Rachel Johnson wrote in the Sunday Times that her mother was “32, had depression and galloping obsessive compulsive disorder... and was finding things hard, trying to combine her painting and looking after Alexander (Boris), 10, me, 9, Leo, 7, and Joseph, 2.” During her career, Charlotte Johnson has painted portraits for actress Joanna Lumley, author Jilly Cooper and journalist Simon Jenkins. —AFP



## Analysis

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**ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN**

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FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
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COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.

E mail: info@kuwaittimes.com

Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## Nike risks being burned by scandal

With Nike-backed athletics coach Alberto Salazar subjected to a four-year suspension for doping, the US sportswear giant risks being caught up in the scandal - its CEO is even quoted in the suspension ruling. Citing experiments with testosterone, fat-burning amino acid injections and falsified medical documents, the American anti-doping authority USADA published a list of blemishes on the record of the highest-profile track and field coach in the world.

In that document - prepared by an independent panel for USADA - was none other than Mark Parker, the CEO of Nike, which has backed Salazar for decades. Parker was copied on several emails about research done by Salazar and the Nike Oregon Project (NOP), a group created in 2001 by the three-time New York Marathon winner to promote elite long-distance running in the US. The alleged enhancing program was for athletes competing at 5,000 m, 10,000 m but not for sprint races, according to the agency.

In a 2011 email to Parker, Salazar explains he had given one of the NOP coaches a test injection of a liter of an amino acid and dextrose (glucose) mixture - a dose clearly above what would be allowed under World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regulations. And in another email to Parker two years later, Jeffrey Brown, a doctor who worked with the NOP, described experiments with testosterone gel. Parker responded to Brown, "It will be interesting to determine the minimal amount of topical male hormone required to create a positive test."

Nike has not responded to requests for comment by AFP. A spokesman for the brand told the Wall Street Journal, "Mark Parker had no reason to believe that the test was outside any rules as a medical doctor was involved." These tests were ostensibly carried out in response to Salazar's concern that an athlete might be sabotaged by someone secretly contaminating them with the gel. "Mark's understanding was that Alberto was attempting to prevent doping of his athletes," the Nike spokesman told the WSJ.

Salazar's best-known athlete is Britain's Mo Farah, who won four gold medals at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics at 5,000m and 10,000m. Farah has never tested positive and said in response to Salazar's ban he had left the NOP in 2017 and that he has "no tolerance for anyone who breaks the rules or crosses the line".

### 'Swooshes on time bombs'

Nike stock fell 1.75 percent Tuesday, minimally more than the overall market movement (-1.28 percent), the day after the company closed the session on the highest price in its history. The brand has posted glowing results for several quarters, bolstered by its reorientation towards online sales and its performance on the Chinese market. Could the Salazar slam the brakes on Nike's upward movement?

"Nike's history is full of supporting dopers, of doped federations," former runner Lauren Fleshman, who was sponsored by Nike for more than nine years until 2012, said on Twitter Tuesday. "They look the other way even when it's clear to everyone else that something is rotten," she said. "They put swooshes on the time bombs. And when they blow, Nike is often the last to leave."

Nike continued to officially support cyclist Lance Armstrong in 2012 immediately after the publication of USADA's report showing damning evidence of doping against him and his team - before dropping him a few days later. In June 2016, Nike maintained its contract with tennis player Maria Sharapova, who was suspended for two years for doping. The clothing brand also stood by basketball player Kobe Bryant, who was accused of rape in 2003, and golfer Tiger Woods, who was involved in a adultery scandal in 2009.

In the world of athletics it has stood by US sprinter Justin Gatlin, who served a ban for doping before returning to win world titles. In September 2018, Nike made waves when it released an advertising campaign featuring US football player and activist Colin Kaepernick, criticized for kneeling during the US national anthem at games in protest at racism. "Nike is having a public reckoning right now," tweeted Fleshman, who competed at 5,000m in three world championships.

She also recalled that Nike was revealed to have been penalizing pregnant athletes, a policy it revised in May after coming under pressure from track veteran and new mother Allyson Felix. And she criticized their ads, including one featuring Serena Williams and other female athletes in light of the recent scandal. "If you make ads about moms kicking ass but you suspend pregnant women without pay while preventing them from making money elsewhere - If you make ads about the purity of sport while funding the underbelly that erodes it - that's a problem." — AFP

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



French cattle breeder and tobacco producer Patrick Maury, providing tobacco leaves to France Tabac plant, checks his production in Mazeyrolles, southwestern France on Sept 20, 2019. — AFP

## Final puffs for France's last tobacco factory

Gerard Chanquoi looks sadly at the conveyor belts of France's sole remaining tobacco processing factory as they whirl for the last times ahead of its final closure, a victim of changed economic times and a different public health landscape. Anti-smoking campaigners may cheer its demise, but for its workers and local tobacco growers, the closure of the France Tabac factory after 34 years of operation is a devastating blow to the Dordogne region of southwest France.

"It's a fine mess," lamented Chanquoi, 61, who has worked for over 30 years at the factory in the town of Sarlat-la-Caneda. "It makes you well up a bit, it's hard. I am at the end of my career, but for my friends... who have a decade of career ahead of them, it is tough," he added. In its heyday after opening in 1985 in one of France's main tobacco growing regions, the factory was a mainstay of the local economy, extending over 10 hectares and processing 20,000 tons of tobacco leaves from France and Europe every year.

"Our know-how is recognized across all of Europe," said Chanquoi, looking ruefully at an almost empty warehouse where only years ago bundles of processed tobacco would have stretched to the ceiling. "This used to be a hive of activity." The homegrown tobacco used in cigarettes like Gauloises, beloved of French film icons and philosophers, used to be a symbol of France. But the country's last cigarette factory, la Seita in Riom in the

Puy-de-Dome region, closed in 2017 and the Gauloises brand is now produced in Poland.

The number of smokers in France remains above the average for a developed country, with 32 percent of adults aged between 18-75 smoking in 2018, according to official figures. But the number of people describing themselves as daily smokers has fallen sharply in recent years as the price of cigarettes has risen.

### 'Doomed'

The production line at the factory in Sarlat-le-Caneda finally came to a halt just before midday on Monday. Some workers remain in the plant this week for a final clean-up before a meeting with the director next week ahead of being laid-off. The factory's director Eric Tabanou said that announcing the closure to the employees was painful, while insisting there was no other option. "We stood up in front of 200 employees. It was dramatic... The factory was on borrowed time, the end was inevitable," Tabanou said.

Trouble began in 2010 when the European Union announced that, as part of its drive to cut smoking, tobacco producers would no longer receive subsidies from the bloc. "Tobacco production diminished from year to year and certain products were not in line with the demands of the market," Tabanou said. "Also, we had to submit to increased competition from tobacco manufac-

turers who would do anything to save a single cent."

In 2016, the factory was processing over 5,300 tons of tobacco a year, far below the 20,000 tons processed in the 2000s. "French production makes up just one percent of Europe's output, and it is doomed," Tabanou said. French tobacco will now be processed outside the country, notably in Croatia. "It is the turning of a page in our agricultural history," Jean-Jacques de Peretti, the mayor of Sarlat-la-Caneda, said when the closure was announced in late August.

### 'New opportunities'

But some producers hope that all is not lost, and say they will focus on the high-end market and also producing the raw material needed to create vaping cartridges. "It is a tough blow, but we will try and find new opportunities," said Patrick Maury, who grows tobacco and also runs a dairy farm in Mazeyrolles, around 35 km from Sarlat. "Along with my son, we need this crop to live, it makes up 40 percent of our revenues," he said.

Laurent Testut, head of the local Perigord Tabac cooperative, said the industry had managed to adapt before, for example by moving to lighter tobacco blends in line with changing tastes and regulations. "We risk having to come closer to world prices, but it is up to us to focus on production niches. We have some leads already," he said. — AFP

## Hidden for 21 yrs, Ethiopian crown set to return home

A priceless 18th-century Ethiopian crown is set to be returned from the Netherlands to Addis Ababa after a onetime refugee found it in a suitcase and hid it in his apartment for two decades. The ornate gilded copper headgear, featuring images of Christ and the Twelve Apostles, was unearthed after refugee-turned-Dutch-citizen Sirak Asfaw contacted Dutch 'art detective' Arthur Brand. Brand, dubbed the "Indiana Jones of the art world" for his discoveries of missing works, said the crown, which is currently being held in a secure location, would soon be handed to the Ethiopian authorities.

Speaking at his apartment in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam, Sirak told AFP the remarkable story of how he came into possession of the crown - which experts say belongs to a series of some of Ethiopia's most important cultural artifacts. Sirak, a former Ethiopian refugee who today works as a management consultant for the Dutch government, fled the country during

the late 1970s during the so-called "Red Terror" purges.

Once settled in the Netherlands, Sirak used to receive a stream of Ethiopians including pilots and diplomats, along with people who had fled a continuous cycle of hardship in Africa's most ancient country. Then, in April 1998, while looking for a document, Sirak stumbled upon the crown in a suitcase left behind by one of his visitors. "I looked into the suitcase and saw something really amazing and I thought 'this is not right. This has been stolen. This should not be here. This belongs to Ethiopia'," he said.

### 'It would just disappear'

Sirak said he confronted the suitcase's owner - whom he did not identify - and told him that the crown "will not leave my house unless it goes back to Ethiopia". Shortly afterwards Sirak posted a message on an Ethiopian chat group on the Internet - still a new phenomenon back in 1998 - asking what people thought he should do with "an Ethiopian artefact". But he did not get a satisfactory answer "and I did not want to return it to the same regime that had made it possible for the crown to get stolen," he said.

The former refugee decided to become the crown's de facto guardian "until such time it could go back". For 21 years the crown was hidden in his apartment as Ethiopia continued to be ruled by an iron-fisted one-party government.

and live without a roof over your head." Last week, Norway announced a \$150-million contract with Gabon to reduce its carbon emissions. The initiative comes under the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), a UN-launched scheme aimed at encouraging Western help for cash-strapped forest custodians.

But the fight against climate change spurred little enthusiasm among local people who spoke to AFP. A retired cook, Luc Boudzanga, said he had no pension. To get by, he had to grow food on land where such activities are banned. "We eat thanks to the forest," Boudzanga says before heading off along the edge of the park, machete in hand. "Otherwise, how would we survive?"

### High-wire act

It is not just poor people who eye the forest as a resource - loggers and miners, too, argue that the trees and the mineral-rich land below deserve to be used, a position fiercely opposed by green campaigners. Faced with these competing pressures, the government has to perform a tightrope act. Under the 10-year deal signed on Sept 22, Gabon - which is still almost 90 per-



In this photograph taken on Sept 27, 2019, Dutch-Ethiopian Sirak Asfaw (left) and Dutch art detective Arthur Brand pose with an 18th-century Ethiopian crown at an undisclosed high-security storage facility in the Netherlands. — AFP

cent covered in forest - will become the first African country to be paid for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change. Norway will pay Gabon \$10 for every ton of carbon not emitted, relative to the Central African country's annual average between 2005-2014, and up to a maximum payout of \$150 million over 10

years. The country's forestry minister is British-born Lee White, who rose to prominence as a feisty environmental campaigner, and then as a spell as former director of the national parks. He took office after a scandal erupted over a huge, illegally-logged haul of kevazingo, a rare tropical hardwood. — AFP



Two forest rangers walk on a road in the Akanda forest, a national park a few kilometers from the city centre of the capital Libreville on Sept 27, 2019. — AFP



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NEW YORK: Traders work during the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) yesterday at Wall Street in New York City. —AFP

# Global sell-off accelerates on weak US data

## Wall Street drops more than 1% on domestic growth worries

**NEW YORK/LONDON:** Global stock markets dropped sharply yesterday after worse-than-expected US data revived worries about the impact of the trade war on the global economy. US stocks fell more than 1 percent for the second straight session yesterday, hitting a fresh one-month low, as September's weak private payrolls report added to concerns of a slowdown in the world's largest economy.

US private employers hired fewer-than-expected workers in September, the ADP National Employment Report showed, pointing to weakness in the labor market. The report, a precursor to the Labor Department's more comprehensive jobs report due tomorrow, followed a contraction in US manufacturing activity to its lowest level in more than a decade.

That hit investor faith in the strength of the domestic economy, a key reason for a rally in the benchmark index this year, wiping off the third-quarter gains on the S&P 500 and Dow. Both indexes slipped below their 100-day moving averages for the first time in about a month yesterday, seen as a strong technical support level that could presage further losses.

The dollar dropped against the euro and yen yesterday, in line with falls in equities and Treasury yields, amid worries about global growth following data a day earlier that showed a sharp decline in US manufacturing activity.

"With the ADP report, the initial reaction was mild relief that the numbers weren't worse because yesterday the horrible ISM (manufacturing) data had a pretty weak employment component," said Erik Bregar, director and head of FX strategy at Exchange Bank of Canada in Toronto.

"But that initial move is fading now. Arguably, something is not right here. The US. ISM report proved that and I really

wonder when the Fed's going to stop pretending that everything is okay," he added. US manufacturing contracted at the fastest pace in more than a decade in September, making the United States the latest country to suffer a manufacturing downturn amid a trade war between Washington and Beijing. Many analysts, however, say the dollar's higher yield and the relative strength of the US economy should make its setback temporary. Non-farm payrolls data due on Friday should give more insight into the health of the US economy. In morning trading, the dollar fell 0.3 percent against the yen to 107.39 yen, reflecting investor demand for safer assets after the manufacturing data heightened concerns about the health of the global economy. The benchmark index is now about 4 percent below its all-time high hit in July, after coming within striking distance of it two weeks ago. "The weakening conditions in Europe and the slowdown in China, it's all adding up to the same thing essentially: worries that the global economy is slowing and giving investors reason to pause and take profits," said Robert Pavlik, chief investment strategist manager at SlateStone Wealth LLC in New York. The industrial and materials sectors dropped about 1.5 percent each, posting the biggest declines among the 11 major S&P sectors.

The Federal Reserve, which cut interest rates for the second time this year in September, has indicated it would rely on economic data to determine future rate cuts. The Fed's next policy meeting will be held at the end of the month.

At 10 am ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 333.54 points, or 1.26 percent, at 26,239.50, the S&P 500 was down 37.60 points, or 1.28 percent, at 2,902.65. The Nasdaq Composite was down 106.61 points, or 1.35 percent, at

7,802.07. The FTSE 100 opened lower yesterday, on track for its biggest one-day decline since mid-August, amid growing concerns over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's "final Brexit offer", while weak US economic data added to global growth worries. The only bright spots on the blue-chip index were Flutter Entertainment and Tesco. The FTSE 100 was down 1.2 percent by 0752 GMT. The index is headed for its worst day since Aug. 14, when the US Treasury bond yield curve inverted for the first time since 2007, and raised fears of a recession. The more-domestically focused FTSE 250 fell 0.8 percent.

The main index, falling for a third consecutive day, is looking at its sharpest weekly drop since May as the UK market faces not only worries over growth due to the U.S.-China trade dispute, but also mounting uncertainties at home over Brexit. Johnson will present on Wednesday his final Brexit offer to the European bloc and said that, if Brussels does not engage, Britain will stop talking and leave on Oct. 31. Analysts largely expect Brussels to reject the offer, leaving open options ranging from a no-deal departure to another delay.

Ford Motor Co shares fell 3.6 percent after the carmaker reported an about 5 percent fall in US auto sales for the third quarter. Shares of General Motors Co dipped 3.5 percent ahead of its quarterly auto sales report. In a bright spot, homebuilder Lennar Corp gained 1.6 percent after the company reported a better-than-expected profit as cheaper mortgage rates led to higher demand for its homes.

Asian markets were weaker overnight and Europe tumbled, with London shedding more than 2.4 percent as investors took flight on news that US manufacturing activity fell to its lowest level since June 2009.

## US oil drilling slowdown hits wider economy

**LONDON:** A downturn in oil and gas drilling is making a small but significant contribution to the overall slowdown in US business investment and economic growth, intensifying the much bigger problems caused by the trade war with China.

As domestic oil and gas production grows and becomes increasingly important to the US economy, the fortunes of the industry increasingly have macroeconomic as well as microeconomic implications. The last slump in oil and gas drilling contributed to the mid-cycle economic slowdown in 2015/16, which helped fuel the political discontent that resulted in the election of populist President Donald Trump to the White House.

Now the pattern risks being repeated as oil and gas companies cut back on new well drilling and completions in response to lower oil prices, with ripples felt throughout the entire supply chain.

Total business fixed investment was up by 2.6 percent in the second quarter of 2019 compared with a year earlier, but sharply down from the recent peak of 6.9 percent seen between the second quarters of 2017 and 2018. Fixed investment in industries other than mining, oil and gas had grown by 3.0 percent in the second quarter, down from 6.0 percent a year earlier, according to preliminary estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

But investment in mining, oil and gas fell by 7.7 percent compared with growth of almost 28 percent in the second quarter of 2018 ("National income and product accounts", BEA, Sept. 26).

Mining and oil and gas investment had slowed to a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of \$114 billion in the second quarter of 2019, down from \$124 billion in the second quarter of 2018.

Given the continued slide in oil and gas prices as well as the number of active rigs drilling, investment is set to fall even further in the third and fourth quarters of this year. During the last downturn, investment slumped from a peak of \$173 billion in the fourth quarter of 2014 to just \$63 billion in the second quarter of 2016. The current downturn is much milder, so far, so the hit to the economy is unlikely to be as severe. But it is interacting with and compounding the slowdown caused by tariffs and uncertainty associated with the trade war with China. —Reuters

## Kenya finds \$71m in suspect cash as it retires old notes: CB head

**NAIROBI:** A Kenyan anti-corruption drive uncovered the equivalent of tens of millions of dollars in unexplained wealth when it retired old banknotes, the central bank said yesterday, adding much of the cash appeared to have been gained in "the criminal area".

The East African nation has a diverse, fast-growing economy, but foreign investors have long complained of widespread graft and weak application of anti-money laundering laws.

On June 1, the central bank set a Sept 30 deadline for everyone to convert their old 1,000 shillings note, worth about \$10, into new ones after it became the banknote of choice for criminals of all types in the East Africa region. Those exchanging large amounts were required to explain how they acquired the cash. The move was designed to stop the flow of proceeds of crime, like cor-

ruption and counterfeiting of bank notes, through the financial sector.

Bank governor Patrick Njoroge said notes worth 7.4 billion shillings (\$71.29 million) were not exchanged, rendering the cash invalid and hitting the suspected corrupt owners hard. "These are people for the most part that maybe had some concerns in terms of going through the checks," he told a news conference.

The money is equivalent to a quarter of the annual budget of the government's top hospitals in the country, Njoroge said. It also marks the first time in the country that the corrupt have been made to lose a huge chunk of their wealth, with the biggest ever corruption fine handed out by the courts standing at 52 million shillings, he added. Commercial banks, who processed amounts up to five million shillings, flagged some 3,172 transactions as suspicious and reported them to the authorities during the conversion exercise over the four months. Njoroge said that information will be used by other investigative agencies, including the tax authority, to uncover more cases of handling of proceeds of crime.

"You have those that didn't want to pay taxes and were working in the sort of criminal area. Those to begin with have just been taxed the full value of their wealth," he said. Very large amounts above five million had to be converted at the central bank.

The process of invalidating the old notes, known as



NAIROBI: Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) Governor Patrick Njoroge displays a roll of shredded old generation Sh1,000 banknotes at a press conference in Nairobi yesterday. —AFP

demonetization, had not resulted in inflationary pressure or weakening of the foreign exchange rate, Njoroge said. In 2016, India abruptly scrapped high-value currency notes, throwing its cash-based economy into a crisis. Njoroge said Kenya had learned lessons from the chaos in India and that's why there was a four-month window. The effort to stamp out corruption will be sustained, Njoroge said. "It cannot be that we glorify people who are involved in crime. It cannot be," he said. —Reuters



# Ooredoo Kuwait wins ‘Best Digital Service’ award for ANA at Telecoms World Mideast

## ANA, first operator to provide personalized mobile plans to enrich customers’ digital lives

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait is proud to announce that it won the ‘Best Digital Service’ at the prestigious Telecoms World Middle East Awards 2019 that took place earlier last week at The Conrad Hotel in Dubai. Entering its fifteenth consecutive year in Dubai, Telecoms World Middle East is the go to event for CxOs from across the TMT industry who want to learn how technology, innovation, variation and partnerships can transform and diversify the future of TMT. The winners are selected through a judging committee based on strict conditions and criteria.

Ooredoo was able to secure the award for Best Digital Service for ANA, the first operator to provide personalized mobile plans to enrich customers’ digital lives in partnership with Matrixx Software, a Silicon Valley-based company that spe-

cializes in advanced mobile software, to digitally transform the mobile experience for mobile customers in Kuwait. ‘ANA’ specializes in helping mobile customers buy, manage, share and pay for digital services.

Ooredoo was the first operator in the Kuwait market to launch such a service, which provides an all-digital, individually customized mobile product that gives customers complete control of their mobile plans and digital worlds, and makes it easier to buy, use and pay for Ooredoo services directly from their mobile phones. ‘ANA’ is the ideal platform for the Kuwait market and help provide consumers with smart and new communication technology in line with the plans of digital transformation and the vision of New Kuwait 2035.

This achievement is a testament to Ooredoo’s leadership in keeping up with the competitive telecommunications sector. Marketing Communications Director at Ooredoo Kuwait Yousef Al-Shallal said, “This award is a culmination on the unique relationship we have with our customers. We respect our customers and are committed to providing them with everything that enriches their experience. We continue to offer them the best in line with our core values of caring, connecting and challenging. Today, the awards are a testament to the fact that we have challenged ourselves to become the best and we dedicate this award to all our customers that have given us their trust over the year.”

“ANA enriches our customers’ digital experiences with the freedom to choose and customize the digital package that fits

their needs through features like eSIM, roaming and booster packs. Customers can create their own mobile number, make appointments, track health, pay bills, and much more. We are proud to push the digital experience boundaries for our customers, bringing the best of Silicon Valley through our partnership with Matrixx”. Al-Shallal further added, “Kuwait’s first all-digital, individually customized mobile product is a true reflection of our digital transformation strategy that we are pursuing in Ooredoo Kuwait and living up to our vision of enriching people’s digital lives”.

Ooredoo is keen to use ANA to help empower a growing population of young, digital savvy customers with the latest technology, in line with Kuwait’s wider digital transformation plans related to New Kuwait 2035.



Yousef Al-Shallal

## Scandal-hit head of Japan’s Kansai Electric has no plans to resign

TOKYO: The president of Japan’s Kansai Electric Power Co has no intention of resigning, he said yesterday, after admitting that he and 19 company employees had received payments and gifts worth 320 million yen (\$3 million).

The scandal, at a time when the Japanese public’s trust in nuclear power companies is already at rock-bottom, suggests that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s push for better corporate governance still has a long way to go in the world’s third-largest economy. Shigeki Iwane, who admitted last week to receiving payments, told a news conference he wanted to stay in his position and regain the public’s confidence.

“I want to fulfil my responsibilities by taking leadership in finding the cause of what happened and taking preventive measures,” Iwane told a news conference broadcast live on NHK. Kansai Electric earlier announced that its internal investigation found that 20 executives, including Iwane, had received cash, gift certificates and business suits from Eiji Moriyama, the now deceased deputy mayor of Takahama, where the company has a nuclear power station.

The report did not give an overall total of how much had been paid, but Iwane has previously said he and the others received 320 million yen in cash and gifts over a seven-year period. Moriyama exerted influence over local government officials, the internal report said,



TOKYO: Shigeki Iwane bows in front of reporters during a press conference.

and sought to influence them to support the local economy and use local businesses as suppliers.

The payments raise governance concerns because they were disclosed only after the matter was raised by the local tax bureau, said Moody’s analyst Yukiko Asanuma. “The cash payments ... add to existing negative public sentiment around nuclear power generation,” Asanuma said.

### Box of sweets

Iwane said yesterday that he was once given a gift by Moriyama that he thought contained sweets.

“When I opened it, I found gold coins in it. I tried to return the box but was told by our staffers it is difficult to return gifts to him. So I kept it in a safety box at our office,” he said.

Iwane said that none of the executives had any intention of keeping the gifts and many had returned them to Moriyama. Kansai Electric has long been reliant on nuclear power. Before the 2011 disaster at the Fukushima nuclear plant operated by Tokyo Electric Power, Kansai relied on nuclear reactors for nearly half of its electricity generation. The Fukushima disaster, in which three reactors suffered a meltdown after a massive earthquake and tsunami, shattered public trust in nuclear power. Kansai Electric operates three reactors, the most among Japanese utilities.

The mayor of Osaka, the largest shareholder in Kansai Electric, is considering seeking a management reshuffle at the utility, the Mainichi newspaper reported on Tuesday. The city of Osaka owns close to 7.3 percent of Kansai Electric, Refinitiv data shows. — Reuters

## GM temporarily lays off 6,000 workers in Mexico

NEW YORK: General Motors has laid off 6,000 workers in Mexico temporarily due to a US labor strike, which has disrupted production at two plants south of the border manufacturing pickup trucks, the company said Tuesday.

The layoffs affect the Silao assembly and transmission plants in central Mexico, where work has been “disrupted as a result of a parts shortage related to the UAW strike,” a GM spokesman said. The Silao workers are expected to return to their jobs after the strike, the spokesman said.

GM’s Mexican arm notified workers at the Silao assembly plant that they had been placed on indefinite, mandatory vacation and would receive 55 percent of their pay, according to an internal document obtained by AFP. However, the company emphasized

that no one was permanently laid off.

“There are no layoffs for the moment.... We are evaluating the situation day to day and hope to restore normal operations soon, in a matter of days,” spokeswoman Teresa Cid told AFP. The two plants in Silao, Guanajuato state, produce GMC and Chevrolet pickup trucks.

The moves come on top of the furlough of more than 3,000 workers in Canada and at an Ohio plant where GM operates a joint venture with Isuzu to make diesel engines. Nearly 50,000 US workers are on strike at GM due to a United Auto Workers conflict over the labor contract, now in its third week.

Workers launched the strike on September 16 after contract talks failed to yield an agreement on wages, health benefits, temporary workers and job security.

The strike also comes against the backdrop of GM’s decision last November to effectively shutter five plants in North America. A report Tuesday from JPMorgan Chase estimated that the strike has so far cost GM \$1 billion, adding that the company has the potential to recover some of the lost profits in the fourth quarter if the strike ends soon. — AFP



United Auto Workers have been on strike at GM for three weeks, prompting furloughs at facilities in Canada and now Mexico. — AFP

## Eurozone bond yields inch up on ECB Draghi’s call for fiscal stimulus

LONDON: Eurozone bond yields inched up yesterday after another speech from outgoing ECB Chief Mario Draghi calling for fiscal stimulus to boost the region’s sluggish economy. The most effective treatment for the euro zone’s sluggish economy would be investment-led stimulus at the euro area level, Draghi said in a speech on Tuesday evening in Athens.

While bond yields tumbled last week as inflation expectations fell, calls for fiscal stim-

ulus are weakening demand for fixed income as investors also believe that European Central Bank monetary policy easing may have run its course for now.

However, euro zone finance ministers are not planning any joint spending, while lead economy Germany has been dragging its feet about providing fiscal stimulus to its economy, which is on the brink of recession. Uncertainty over the future of the ECB stimulus package announced on Sept 12 also continue, as Bundesbank head Jens Weidmann reaffirmed his opposition on Tuesday to relaxing the terms of the quantitative easing program so that the ECB can buy even more government debt.

“He will leave the ECB at end of October and a lot of people will say to Draghi (that) he is the only ECB president who wasn’t able to raise rates,” said DZ Bank rates strategist Sebastian Fellechner.

Most 10-year government bond yields in the region were up 1 to 2 basis points. Germany’s 10-year benchmark yield edged up to -0.55 percent, rising for a sixth session in a row. Fellechner added that the speeches could lead to euro zone states understanding the need for fiscal stimulus. He added that significant stimulus is more likely in 2020 than this year, and analysts say Germany may eventually have to boost spending if the economy worsens.

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said that Germany would be able to counter an economic crisis if there were one, although he doesn’t expect a downturn as bad as in 2008/2009. Meanwhile, the first quote for the ECB’s new benchmark rate ESTR was released at -0.549 percent, 9.8 basis points below the last EONIA reading. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will unveil his final Brexit offer to the European Union yesterday. — Reuters

### EXCHANGE RATES

#### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

##### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.900
Euro	335.240
Sterling Pound	376.550
Canadian Dollar	231.860
Turkish Lira	53.960
Swiss Franc	309.230
US Dollar Buying	297.600

##### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.830
Indian Rupees	4.295
Pakistani Rupees	1.963
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.670
Nepali Rupees	2.676
Singapore Dollar	221.260
Hongkong Dollar	38.885
Bangladesh Taka	3.596
Philippine Peso	5.870
Thai Baht	09.992
Malaysian ringgit	77.980

##### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.361
Qatari Riyal	83.798
Omani Riyal	792.463
Bahraini Dinar	810.150
UAE Dirham	83.068

##### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.100
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Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.705
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.225
Tunisian Dinar	110.870
Jordanian Dinar	430.500
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.367

#### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

##### Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	304.740
Canadian Dollar	230.725
Sterling Pound	375.885
Euro	333.495
Swiss Frank	307.075
Bahrain Dinar	810.415
UAE Dirhams	83.370
Qatari Riyals	84.610
Saudi Riyals	82.160
Jordanian Dinar	431.105
Egyptian Pound	18.729
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.672
Indian Rupees	4.308
Pakistani Rupees	1.949
Bangladesh Taka	3.609
Philippines Peso	5.872
Cyprus pound	18.130
Japanese Yen	3.815
Syrian Pound	1.595
Nepalese Rupees	2.697
Malaysian Ringgit	73.635
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	43.065

##### Selling Rate

Thai Bhat	10.935
Turkish Lira	54.365
Singapore dollars	220.536

#### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

##### CURRENCY

	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.367179	0.381079
Czech Korune	0.004902	0.014202
Danish Krone	0.040551	0.045551
Euro	0.325643	0.339343
Georgian Lari	0.101569	0.101569
Hungarian	0.000901	0.001091
Norwegian Krone	0.029346	0.034546
Romanian Leu	0.053234	0.070084
Russian ruble	0.004661	0.004661
Slovakia	0.009123	0.019123
Swedish Krona	0.026847	0.031847
Swiss Franc	0.300252	0.311252

Australian Dollar	0.196331	0.208331
New Zealand Dollar	0.184186	0.193686

<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.225306	0.234306
US Dollars	0.300800	0.306100
US Dollars Mint	0.301300	0.306100

<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002937	0.003738

Chinese Yuan	0.041285	0.044785
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036792	0.039542
Indian Rupee	0.003644	0.004416
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002740	0.002920
Korean Won	0.000243	0.000258
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069125	0.075125
Nepalese Rupee	0.002629	0.002969
Pakistan Rupee	0.001343	0.002113
Philippine Peso	0.005701	0.006001
Singapore Dollar	0.214687	0.224687
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001322	0.001902
Taiwan	0.009689	0.009869
Thai Baht	0.009631	0.010181
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013

<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.802596	0.810668
Egyptian Pound	0.018669	0.022029
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000215	0.000276
Jordanian Dinar	0.425139	0.434139
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000261
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021246	0.045246
Omani Riyal	0.786813	0.794726
Qatar Riyal	0.083091	0.083927
Saudi Riyal	0.080220	0.081520
Syrian Pound	0.001293	0.001513
Tunisian Dinar	0.102302	0.110302
Turkish Lira	0.046556	0.056401
UAE Dirhams	0.082379	0.083207
Yemeni Riyal	0.000991	0.001071



## Business

# Nord Stream 2 pipeline could bypass Denmark: Gazprom

## Russia ready to extend Ukraine gas deal for short term if needed

**MOSCOW:** Russian energy giant Gazprom said yesterday its controversial Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline set to supply Europe could bypass Danish waters if Copenhagen continues to withhold permission. The almost-completed project's final major hurdle is obtaining an agreement from Denmark that the Baltic Sea pipeline can cross its exclusive economic zone, which is outside its territorial waters.

"If they don't approve it... we will go around Denmark's economic zone," Gazprom chairman Viktor Zubkov said at a Moscow energy forum, quoted by TASS news agency. If Denmark withholds permission, the project "will be more costly and will take longer," he said, criticizing Copenhagen's stance since the pipeline will provide "gas for Europe." The building of the pipeline has sparked concerns about Western Europe's increasing dependence on Russian gas.

It has also raised fears that Moscow will be able to increase pressure on Ukraine as Europe will be less reliant on the country for transiting supplies. Its proponents-led by Germany, the EU's biggest economy-say the pipeline will provide reliable supplies at an acceptable price. Gazprom had said in a statement on Tuesday that the pipeline is 83 percent complete, with more than

2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles) laid. "We have practically reached... Denmark's economic zone," Zubkov said, adding that if Copenhagen gives the green light, the project could be completed in "four to five weeks."

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak at the same forum said he was still counting on Denmark granting approval. "We don't see any basis not to give such a permit," he said.

Half of the 9.5-billion-euro (\$10.6-billion) project is financed by Gazprom, with the rest covered by its European partners: Germany's Wintershall and Uniper, Anglo-Dutch Shell, France's Engie and Austria's OMV. US President Donald Trump has threatened to hit Nord Stream 2 and those tied to it with sanctions, saying it makes Germany "a hostage to Russia."

President Vladimir Putin meanwhile said that Russia was ready to extend Moscow's current gas contract with Ukraine for a short time if needed and that Russia would also be ready to work with Ukraine on European Union gas rules. Speaking at an energy conference in Moscow, Putin said Denmark was under pressure not to approve Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline project to Germany, but that other routes could be used for the pipeline if needed. — Reuters



**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin (first) delivers a speech during a session of the 2019 Russian Energy Week forum in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

## UK retail king Tesco says CEO to check out in 2020

**LONDON:** Britain's biggest retailer Tesco said yesterday that CEO Dave Lewis will step down next year, after declaring his mission "complete" to turn around the group's fortunes. Lewis, who has axed thousands of jobs in a radical overhaul of the supermarket chain since arriving five years ago, is leaving for personal reasons and will be replaced by Walgreens Boots Alliance executive Ken Murphy, Tesco said in a statement. Former Unilever director Lewis was parachuted into Tesco in July 2014 to help turn around the group, which at the time was mired in an accounting scandal and fierce competition in home market Britain.

"My decision to step down as group CEO is a personal one," he said in a statement alongside the publication of the group's first-half earnings. "I believe that the tenure of the CEO should be a finite one and that now is the right time to pass the baton. "Our turnaround is complete, we have delivered all the metrics we set for ourselves. The leadership team is very strong, our strategy is clear and it is delivering."

### 'Bombshell' news

News of his shock exit shocked investors, but shares nevertheless rose two percent to 244.30 pence on the London Stock Exchange, which was generally lower. "Tesco has dropped a bombshell on investors by announcing the departure of boss Dave Lewis," said Markets.com analyst Neil Wilson.

"Job done, I'm off-can't say fairer than that. Profits are back up. Dominant position in UK grocery market re-established." Under his tenure, Lewis spearheaded the purchase of British wholesaler Booker last year, which transformed Tesco into the nation's top food business. He clinched a purchasing alliance with French peer Carrefour to increase both companies' leverage with suppliers in the competitive supermarket sector. And he launched a new discount food store chain in Britain, named "Jack's", as it faces fierce pressure from German-owned discounters Aldi and Lidl. Tesco has also weathered poor consumer sentiment in its Brexit-facing home market, and intense competition also from US online titan Amazon.

"Strategically, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the Booker acquisition was a masterstroke, while the tie-up with Carrefour and the launch of Jack's provide tantalising opportunities," said Interactive Investor analyst Richard Hunter.

"The legacy he (Lewis) leaves is one of a company



In this file photo taken on September 30, 2019 people walk past Tesco Express in central London. — AFP

whose turnaround has been impressive to watch," he added. More than 10,000 jobs have been axed in a massive cost-cutting drive, since Lewis took charge with the brief to save £1.5 billion.

### 'Outstanding job'

"Dave has done an outstanding job in rebuilding Tesco since 2014 and he continues to have unwavering support from the board," said Chairman John Allan. Turning to the new CEO, he said: "Ken has values which align with our own, strong strategic and operating acumen, and is proven at the very top of a large and respected multinational retail group."

"I firmly believe we have the right person for the job," Lewis will depart in the summer, while Murphy's start date will be given at a later date due to contractual commitments.

Murphy is currently executive vice president, chief commercial officer and president of global brands at Walgreens Boots Alliance. Turning to its earnings performance, Tesco said that its first-half net profits slid four percent to £324 million (\$398 million, 364 million euros) from a year earlier.

However, it had rebounded into annual net profit last year on strong sales and restructuring following a net loss of £40 million in 2016/2017 — when it was hurt by costs arising from the accounting scandal.

Prior to the arrival of Lewis, Tesco was already



Tesco CEO Dave Lewis

undergoing a major rehaul. It shuttered its failed US division Fresh & Easy in 2013 and exited Japan in 2011. Tesco is the world's third-biggest supermarket chain after France's Carrefour and global leader Wal-Mart of the United States, and also has global operations dotted elsewhere including China, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Slovakia and Thailand.

Last year's £3.7-billion purchase of Booker handed Tesco Britain's largest cash-and-carry operator which sells goods to more than 503,000 customers—including grocers, pubs and restaurants. — AFP

## Norway sovereign fund scales back plans to dump oil investments

**OSLO:** Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's biggest thanks to petrodollars, is scaling back plans to dump stakes in oil and gas companies, the government has revealed. Originally, the fund—which manages more than \$1 trillion in assets—had envisaged pulling out of 134 companies involved in oil and gas exploration and production.

Norway is the biggest oil and gas producer in western Europe and the plans were seen as a major blow to the fossil fuels industry and welcomed by the environmental lobby. But Oslo has now opted for a much more modest pull-out and would sell stakes in 95 companies involved in the so-called upstream activities of exploration and production.

Downstream activities, such as refining and marketing, and "integrated companies" involved in downstream and upstream activities, would remain unaffected, the finance ministry said in a statement late Tuesday. That means that majors such as ExxonMobil, Shell, Total and BP will be spared.

Acting on a recommendation of the Bank of Norway, which manages the fund, the ministry said it had reassessed the classification of companies involved in upstream activities. As of mid-September, a total of 95 companies were categorized as such, equivalent to about 0.8 percent of the fund's holding in equities, corresponding to about 54 billion Norwegian kroner (5.4 billion euros, \$5.9 billion).

"The phase out will be made gradually over time," the ministry added. Sovereign funds are state-owned investors in various kinds of assets that aim to generate revenue for government programs and pensions. Oil and gas represent almost half of Norway's exports and 20 percent of the state's revenues. The oil revenues are placed in the sovereign wealth fund—commonly referred to as the "oil fund" but formally known as the Government Pension Fund Global—which Oslo then taps to balance its budget. — AFP

## Greek unions stage fresh strike against labor reforms

**ATHENS:** Greek workers staged a fresh 24-hour strike yesterday against government plans to deregulate the labor market, paralyzing road and rail transport, closing banks and shutting down news outlets. Buses and trams stayed in their depots, the Athens metro was shut down and ferries serving islands on both sides of Greece stayed in port. The action also hit rail services, including to Athens airport.

Banks were closed yesterday and Poesy, the journalists' union, said there would be no news bulletins over the 24-hour strike period. The strike caused long traffic jams in Athens as the GSEE, the largest union representing private-sector workers, organized a rally in the city center to protest the planned legislation. It denounced "the suppression of collective conventions" and what it said was an assault on the unions. This was the second strike in a week against the planned reforms of conservative Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, which he argues will open the way to investment and encourage growth of more than two percent. A strike last week hit transport, hospitals, schools and the courts.

The unions say the proposed reforms will undermine collective agreements and make it harder to organize strikes. The proposed law would require a more-than 50 percent turn-out of the workforce in any strike vote for it to be valid. Union leaders have also denounced a law passed in August which they say makes it easier to sack people in the private sector. Adedy, the federation of public-sector unions, which organized last week's strike, called on its members to join yesterday's action. Mitsotakis came to power in July, replacing the left-wing government of Alexis Tsipras. — AFP

## WTO to back US tariffs on Europe in clash over Airbus subsidies

**BRUSSELS/LONDON:** The World Trade Organization was poised yesterday to open the door to hefty US tariffs on European goods over illegal subsidies for Airbus, pushing a 15-year-old row over support for plane giants to the center of fraught global trade relations.

The Geneva body said it would publish at 4 p.m. local time (1400 GMT) its decision on a U.S. request to impose up to \$11.2 billion in tariffs on European Union goods, but people close to the case expect WTO arbiters to award about two-thirds of that.

The WTO has found that both Europe's Airbus and its US rival Boeing received billions of dollars of illegal subsidies in the world's largest corporate trade dispute, a legal marathon dating back to 2004.

The cases are expected to lead to tit-for-tat tariffs, beginning with the US measures, deepening transatlantic trade tensions and posing new problems for businesses and markets already roiled by a trade war between Washington and Beijing. A three-person WTO arbitration tribunal is expect-

ed to announce that the United States suffered harm equivalent to roughly \$7.5 billion a year from discounted European government loans for the Airbus A350 and A380 passenger jets, according to the people close to the case. Such a decision that would allow Washington to target EU goods worth the same amount.

The focus of nervous global financial markets will then shift to Washington where the US Trade Representative is expected to move quickly to narrow down a preliminary list of goods in line for tariffs, a US source said. The agency's provisional list of products that are eligible to be targeted with tariffs up to 100 percent covers goods with an annual trade value of \$25 billion and ranges from Airbus jets themselves to helicopters, wine, handbags and cheese.

Before any tariffs can be imposed, the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body must formally adopt the arbiters' report in a process expected to take between 10 days and 4 weeks.

Its next scheduled meeting is on Oct.



**BERLIN:** Jose Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (right), World Trade Organization (WTO) director-general Roberto Azevedo (left) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (center) arrive for a press conference following talks at the Chancellery in Berlin on Tuesday.—AFP

28, but Washington could request a special meeting 10 days after the arbiters' report is published, suggesting an earliest possible final nod on Oct. 12. The WTO's decision on EU retaliation rights related to Boeing subsidies is expected early in

2020. On Tuesday, the head of Irish budget airlines group Ryanair urged the United States and EU to pull back from the brink of a tariff war and said neither side's aviation industry would survive a long dispute.— Reuters



## Business

# Turkish Airlines, UN Alliance of Civilizations form joint platform

## The ‘Sport for Peace Awards’ project expected to have extensive global impact

**KUWAIT:** Reaching to more countries and international destinations than any other airline in line with its goal to fly every corner of the world, Turkish Airlines carries its active stance in the development of its flight network to collaborating with prominent global brands, organizations and NGOs to reach different societies and communities around the world. On September 25, the national flag carrier took another step in this direction as it put its signature to an important collaboration with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the leading United Nations platform for intercultural dialogue and cooperation.

The signing ceremony of this significant step, “Sport for Peace Awards” project, took place on 24 September 2019, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, in the presence of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, and Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General. During the ceremony, the agreement was signed by Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayci, and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations High Representative, Miguel Angel Moratinos, along with the attendance of officials from both sides.

Turkish Airlines plans to draw the eyes of the international community to a global mission with UNAOC, the organization based in New York with a mission statement of bridging divides and promoting a culture of peace among people and nations. For the joint project under the name of “Sport for Peace Awards”, the unifying effect of sport and its power of inspiring and bringing people together from all around the world for promoting more inclusive and peaceful societies became the driving force. During the project, an award ceremony will be held for the sport for peace and development initiatives selected by an international jury to promote international recognition and visibility, while prominent names from sports, art and business worlds along with opinion leaders will be brought together to draw the eyes of the world to global opportunities and challenges.

During the signing ceremony of this strategic cooperation, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayci said: “We connect all corners of the world with each other as we fly our passengers to 316 destinations in 126 countries. These connections are more than just passageways for the transportation sector. As the flag carrier airline that utilizes Turkey’s unique geography that bridges the East and the West and brings them together on an intersection point for centuries,



NEW YORK: Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayci, and UN Alliance of Civilizations High Representative, Miguel Angel Moratinos, during ceremony.



we reach different communities and build bridges between different societies and civilizations with these connections along with our numerous collaborations with prominent brands, organizations and NGOs. We see this as a highly significant mission assigned to us by this unique geography where we breathe in over the centuries. In order to properly carry out this mission and to further strengthen our capability in this regard, we continue to work on various projects by dwelling on more innovative and far-reaching options more particularly.

Thus, following our meetings with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations during the past months, we are so proud and happy to be here today to enter into such a significant collaboration for an important project we think that will be highly beneficiary in the presence of our President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres.

As Turkish Airlines, who has been accepted as a perma-

nent supporter of sports both on local and international scale, we strongly believe that sports has a strong unifying power on different societies and communities from all around the world. From this point of view, we are sure that this strong feature of sports will enable us to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda to provide an important added value to the world peace via this valuable project.

As one of the partners of this joint strategic initiative, we are confident that “Sport for Peace Awards” project will exceed its goals when it comes to attracting international interest and it will improve the social awareness of the international community by creating a high awareness platform.”

During the meeting with UNAOC High Representative, which took place at the Headquarters of Turkish Airlines, Istanbul, back in February, several project ideas that can be undertaken with UNAOC and the national airline were on

the table. Considering that Turkish Airlines is known as a friend of sports and athletes due to its support for sports on an international level with its various sponsorships, the agreement was that the project’s concept should be about sports. Both parties agreed to a collaboration called “Sport for Peace Awards” to encourage and support sports since it is accepted as an universal and unifying tool that encourages peace, tolerance, mutual understanding and empathy that helps to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which was adopted back in 2015. The Turkish Airlines and UNAOC collaboration demonstrates the pivotal role of private sector in delivering the SDGs by promoting public-private partnerships and aligning the 2030 Agenda with corporate social responsibility strategy. The flag carrier airline will take an active role in the communication and media strategy of the project while reaching vast viewership across local, national and global levels.

## Apollo Tyres brought by Al Shaya Al Sagar, sharpens focus on SUV segment

**KUWAIT:** Apollo Tyres introduced the new all-terrain SUV tyres, Apollo Apterra AT2, for the off-road enthusiasts. This all-terrain tyre complements Apollo’s existing Apterra range including specialised Highway Luxury (HL), Highway Terrain (HT), High Performance (HP) and the All-Terrain (AT) tyres for the SUVs. Satish Sharma, President, Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa (APMEA), Apollo Tyres Ltd unveiled the tyre in the presence of the Members of the Press, company’s Business Partners and the Sales/Marketing team.

Designed and developed as a collaborative effort between the two Global R&D Centers-in Enschede, the Netherlands and in Chennai, India-and a cross-functional team comprising members from R&D, Manufacturing, Service, Business Quality and Marketing, Apterra AT2 will be produced at the company’s Vadodara unit in Gujarat. With an unmatched On & Off-road traction and durability, this tyre has been thoroughly tested in different geographies like South Africa, the US, Middle East, India and SE Asia before being introduced today.

Commenting on the launch, Satish Sharma, President, Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa (APMEA), Apollo Tyres Ltd said “We are sharpening our focus on the SUV segment, with specialized tyres for different terrains and applications, as the SUV vehicle segment is growing faster than passenger cars.”

Kuwait: Ashish Tandon, AlShaya AlSagar General Manager said, “The excellent test results, and the global efforts that have gone into developing the Apollo Apterra AT2, gives us the confidence that this tyre will set a new benchmark in the all-terrain tyre space in Kuwait, and will further propel our leadership in the SUV segment.” Kuwait: Biju Nair, Divisional Manager in the Federal Trading Company owned by Al-Shaya Al-Sagar Group said “We in FTC are to glad to be representing a fast growing Tyre Company like Apollo Tyres. Apollo Tyres is looking at catering to increasing all-terrain market and is introducing 8 sizes in phase 1, which are targeted towards vehicle like Range Rover Sport, Evoque, Ford Endeavour, Toyota Fortuner, Mitsubishi Pajero, Isuzu MU7 and others. Another 6 sizes of Apollo Apterra AT2 would be added in phase II to cover over 90 percent of the all-terrain vehicle market.

Equipped to handle obstacles both on-road and off-road, the Apollo Apterra AT2 is designed to outperform on all terrains. It has a patented tread design with 3D interlocking sipes, tread with DPF technology and the shoulder design with SAW-Tooth technology, which provides a higher level of traction. Triplex casing and high tensile steel belts make the tyre highly durable and impact resistant. The herringbone grooves of the tyre ensure efficient water drainage on wet roads and provide better control during off-roading. The wider tread width provides stability during cornering. Even being an aggressive product for On/Off application the product still conforms to global regulation especially for NVH.

The people who belong to this community are the ones who go the distance to make it through some of the harshest roads globally to get breathtaking views and lifetime worth of experiences.

## Gulf Bank caller system enhances user experience

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank is launching its updated interactive voice recording (IVR) service, introducing both new features and increasing security. The new IVR service is designed to enhance customer experience by connecting callers to their desired point of contact more efficiently. Gulf Bank callers can also now authenticate their mobile banking through the IVR system, as well as activate their Gulf Bank cards.

The new IVR system aims to increase customer satisfaction, offering customers clear and direct IVR func-

tions that expedite the process of providing customers with their desired services. By offering more direct and accessible menu items, calls are routed to the correct point of contact from the start of the phone call, increasing customer satisfaction and ensuring customers’ needs are met quickly.

One of the many benefits of Gulf Bank’s updated IVR system is an added layer of security. Consumers can now set a security number for the phone service, to reap the full benefits of safe and secure banking with the added convenience of carrying out their transactions at the time and place of their choosing. Gulf Bank callers can now authenticate their mobile banking through the IVR system, as well as activate their Gulf Bank cards, including debit, credit and prepaid cards. The new IVR system also enables customers to carry out most transactions without having to speak to a customer service representative, saving customers both time and effort.

transform business models.

Alaeddine Karim brings over 20 years of experience in Business Management and Technology industry leadership. His broad executive management experience has spanned several industries including Public Sector, Retail and Travel, Small and Medium Business Segment, as well as startups.

“Microsoft’s mission is to empower every organization and individual to achieve more, and we have a longstanding commitment towards the growth and prosperity of Kuwait,” said Alaeddine Karim. “Technology is at the heart of this effort, as we believe that digital transformation powered by the intelligent cloud has extraordinary gains to offer every industry. With Microsoft’s breadth of innovations coupled with our expertise; I look forward to working closely with our customers on their ambitions and transform Kuwait into a leading regional financial, cultural and institution-

“At Gulf Bank, we always aspire to create new levels of both security and convenience for our customers. The new interactive voice recording system was designed to do just that - offering our customers a banking experience tailored to their needs,” said Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank. “Not only does the new IVR system offer our clients a quicker turnaround and enhanced user experience, but it is also more secure than ever.”



Ahmad Al-Amir

## Microsoft appoints Alaeddine Karim as country manager for Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** Microsoft yesterday announced the appointment of Alaeddine Karim as the Country Manager of its operation in Kuwait.

In his new role, Karim will spearhead Microsoft’s efforts to enable public and private organizations in Kuwait to drive their digital transformation agendas and better engage their customers, empower employees, optimize operations and

### KAMCO GCC Markets Monthly Report

## GCC markets remain volatile amid rising geopolitical risks

**KUWAIT:** Geopolitical events in the GCC during Sept-19 tested investors’ confidence in regional markets after the sharp decline following the attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities. The performance of GCC indices remained mixed, characterized by steep volatility especially during the second half of the month. The attacks pushed the Saudi benchmark’s YTD-19 performance towards the red for the first time this year at a yearly intraday low of 7,589.5 points. However, TASI saw a quick reversal to record the second highest monthly gain of 0.9 percent. On the other hand, Kuwait recorded a decline of 4.4 percent after investors booked profits following elevated valuations.

This decline along with Abu Dhabi’s -2.1 percent and Bahrain’s -1.1 percent decline more than offset gains in other markets resulting in a 1 percent decline in the MSCI GCC Index in Sept-19. In terms of sector performance, Banks, Basic Materials and Real Estate stocks continued to slide during the month while consumer sectors, including Food Beverage & Tobacco, Retailing, Pharma and Consumer Services, and Telecoms saw a low single-digit gains during the month. Shares of a majority of the banks declined that

was partially offset by 12.1 percent gain in shares of ENBD that reached a 12-year high level after the bank increased the foreign ownership limit in its stock to 20 percent and announced its intention to raise to 40 percent. The performance of telecom stocks remained mixed but the overall sector was buoyed by 8.3 percent gain in shares of STC.

Global markets remained largely positive after a volatile Aug-19. Performance for almost all the major markets were positive with low single digit gains as markets overlooked recent political events including in the US and UK as well as US China Trade war. The broader MSCI World Index gained almost 2.0 percent during the month taking cues from positive performance of both Emerging Market indices as well as developed market benchmarks.

### Boursa Kuwait

Boursa Kuwait remained in the red for the second consecutive month during September-19 and recorded the biggest monthly decline in the GCC as investors booked profits. All the three Kuwaiti indices witnessed declines during the month primarily led by large-cap stocks. This was reflected in the 5.4 percent decline in the Premier Market Index with all the index constituents seeing declines for the second consecutive month. Shares of KFH in the Premier Market witnessed the biggest decline of 9.8 percent. The Islamic lender is in talks to acquire Bahrain’s AUB and finalized a share swap deal with the later’s investors valued at \$8.8 billion. Burgan Bank followed and was the second biggest decliner in the 19-stock index falling 8.9 percent during the month. The Main Market index, meanwhile, recorded a relatively smaller decline of 1.6 percent resulting in a decline of 4.4 percent for the All Share Index. Declines during the month pushed Kuwait to the sec-

ond position in the GCC after Bahrain in terms of YTD-19 returns that stood at 11.8 percent for the All Share Index as the 17.2 percent gains for the Premier Market index was offset by 0.5 percent decline in the Main Market Index. In terms of sector performance, only the Insurance sector recorded gains during the month at 3.2 percent after 9.3 percent and 4.3 percent gain in shares of Gulf Insurance Group and Warba Insurance more than offset decline in shares of Kuwait Insurance and Wethaq Takaful.

Nevertheless, the Banking index continues to lead in the Kuwait in terms of YTD-19 returns that stood at 19.5 percent followed by Financial Services and Telecom indices at 13.6 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively. Trading activity surged during the month as compared to August-19. Monthly value traded increased by 53 percent to reach KD 750 million in September-19 as compared to KD 490 million during the previous month. Monthly volume also increased but at a slightly slower pace of 20.3 percent to reach 3.1 billion shares. KFH once again topped the monthly value traded chart with KD 179.5 million worth of trades followed by NBBK and AUB-Bahrain at KD 101.9 million and KD 95.0 million, respectively. On the monthly volume chart, AUB-Bahrain topped with 347 million shares followed by KFH and A-Ayan Leasing at 265.9 million shares and 177 million shares, respectively.

The monthly gainers chart was topped by Tahssilat with a gain of 51 percent followed by KMEFIC and Al-Masaken International Real Estate with gains of 41.9 percent and 41.8 percent, respectively. On the decliners side, Warba Capital topped with a fall of 36.2 percent followed by Amwal International Investment and Al-Argan International Real Estate with declines of 34.5 percent and 23.8 percent, respectively.



Alaeddine Karim



What's On

# Indian Embassy celebrates 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi



The Embassy of India in Kuwait celebrated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi yesterday, 2nd October 2019, at its premises, in the presence of the Members of Diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti dignitaries and businessmen, journalists and members of the Indian diaspora. Dr Samira Ahmad Al-Sayer Omar, Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) was the Chief Guest of the occasion, and Dr Tarek Elsheikh, Representative of UN Secretary General and Resident Coordinator was the Guest of Honor. Celebrations started with the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honor, accompanied by the Ambassador of India, garlanding and paying tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. The dignitaries then addressed the gathering and underscored the prominence and relevance of Gandhian principles in today's times. Mahatma or 'Great Soul' as Indian Father of the Nation is revered across the world, led India's non-violent Freedom Movement, and became a beacon of hope and inspiration to millions across the globe. A brief cultural program comprising rendition of Gandhi's favorite Bhajans by children from the Carmel School Kuwait and a performance by Mubarak Al-Rashid, a well-known Kuwaiti singer, was also organized by the Indian Embassy on this important occasion.



## Burgan Bank: Golden sponsor of British Academy of Sports & International Arts carnival

Burgan Bank, one of the highest contributors to progress in society, recently sponsored British Academy of Sport and International Arts annual Carnival 2019. The latest sponsorship of the open event day reinforces the Banks belief in nurturing sports & art, creativity and developing children's inherent talents further to build a healthy and thriving community. Driven to support initiatives that empower every generation through innovative platforms, Burgan Bank encourages the growth of self-expression, discovery and overall well-being at a young age. The 2019 carnival extravaganza which took place at the British Academy campus, included a diverse range of activities that was both engaging and rewarding for the families and their kids ranging from kickboxing, karate, zumba, gymnastics, a magician show followed by stage, game performances and a raffle draw. The event was open to children and nationalities from all schools in Kuwait provided the opportunity for children and their parents to learn about the different sports and arts courses avail-

able while meeting with the professional coaches and teachers. The British Academy of International Arts offers various courses such as musicals, arts and crafts, classical ballet to name a few and organizes examinations, summer camps, Oscars, productions, concerts and carnival. And the British Academy of Sport is the only academy in Kuwait which offers courses for more than 11 sports activities for children and adults including swimming, roller-skating, basketball, badminton, football and many more. Burgan Bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural and health driven initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community.





By Faten Omar

Dr Jaseem Al Hashel MD, FRCP, FAHS, Consultant Neurologist, Kuwait Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, and President Kuwait Neurological Society said, "In Kuwait, migraine prevalence and disability imprints on the Kuwaiti population are underreported. The neurological disease is a debilitating condition and yet, is often mistaken by others as a mere headache. The World Health Organization classifies severe migraine attacks as among the most disabling illnesses, comparable to dementia, quadriplegia and active psychosis. Many governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders do not

He added "There are multiple drugs that been used in the past that been discovered by an incident not desig-

Regarding the cost of the drugs, he said that the cost is relatively expensive, costing 204 KD per month. "The patient must continue the treatment for at least for 6 to 9 months. After that, they can discuss with their doctor if they need to keep taking it or not." He explained that the drug can take only a week (to see results and it is main-



tained if you keep injecting it. "The most interesting about this drug is that it is the first time in the history of migraine treatment to achieve a rate of 100% response with 0 attacks per month. But it worth noting that there is no cure for migraines, migraines usually run in the genes but you are now able to treat the syndromes. We believe that improving public awareness of migraine through health education and the media is key to reducing the misdiagnosis and result in a better quality of life."

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

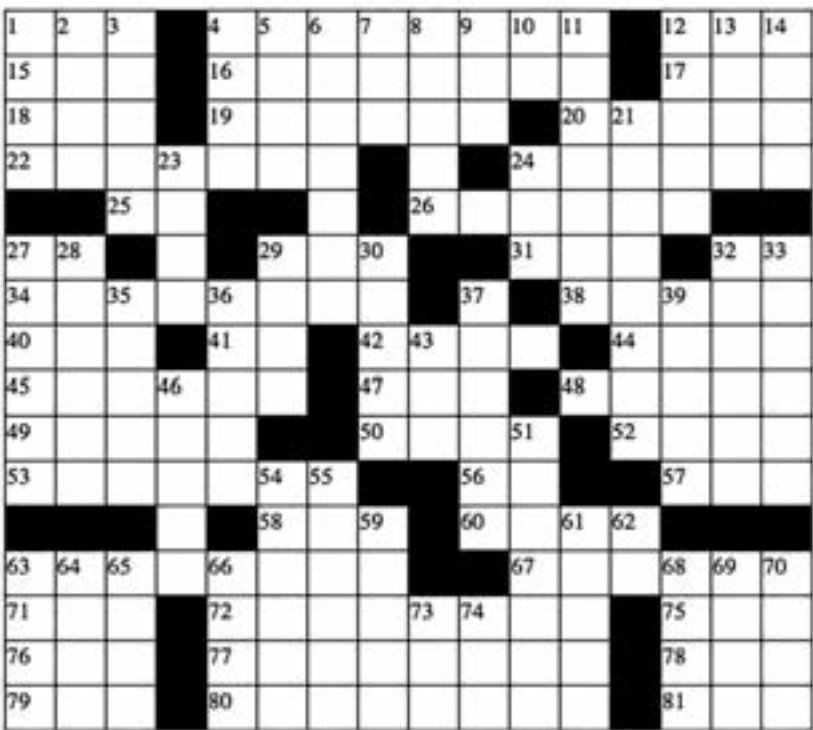
**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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



CROSSWORD 2323



ACROSS

- 1.A depression in an otherwise level surface.
- 4.A gene that causes normal cells to change into cancerous tumor cells.
- 12.A master's degree in education.
- 15.A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- 16.A great raja.
- 17.An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- 18.Having undesirable or negative qualities.
- 19.A person responsible for the editorial aspects of publication.
- 20.A cushion on a throne for a prince in India.
- 22.Italian (Roman Catholic) theologian remembered for his attempt to reconcile faith and reason in a comprehensive theology (1225-1274).
- 25.An associate degree in nursing.
- 26.A card game for 2 players.
- 27.A New England state.
- 31.American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- 34.Of or relating to the process of hearing.
- 38.West Indian evergreen with medium to long leaves.
- 40.Being six more than fifty.
- 41.A doctor's degree in optometry.
- 42.(old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
- 44.Fossil fuel consisting of carbonized vegetable matter deposited in the Carboniferous period.
- 45.A city in southern Texas on the Rio Grande.
- 47.An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
- 48.Deciduous shrub of North America.
- 49.Fill with high spirits.
- 50.A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
- 52.A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
- 53.French artist who immigrated to the United States.
- 56.A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
- 57.The syllable naming the sixth (submedian) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
- 58.(Greek mythology) The winged goddess of the dawn in ancient mythology.
- 60.Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- 63.Small sweet triangular nut of any of various beech trees.
- 67.A large sandwich made of a long crusty roll split lengthwise and filled with meats and cheese (and tomato and onion and lettuce and condiments).
- 71.A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 72.Modify the temperature of, as of air.
- 75.A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 76.Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
- 77.An ice containing milk.
- 78.A local and habitual twitching especially in the face.
- 79.A local computer network for communication between computers.
- 80.A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 81.Anterior pituitary hormone that stimulates the function of the thyroid gland.

DOWN

- 1.A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 2.A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- 3.A city in Veneto.
- 4.A sign of something about to happen.
- 5.A quantity of no importance.
- 6.The third month of the civil year.
- 7.Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.
- 8.The act of groping.
- 9.The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- 10.A Mid-Atlantic state on the Atlantic.
- 11.With eagerness.
- 12.Minute two-winged mosquito-like fly lacking biting mouthparts.
- 13.Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- 14.The lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
- 21.An agent that counteracts or neutralizes acidity (especially in the stomach).
- 23.The basic unit of money in Peru.
- 24.The cry made by sheep.
- 28.A small island republic on the Tuvalu islands.
- 29.(Roman mythology) A princess of Tyre who was the founder and queen of Carthage.
- 30.An area of sand sloping down to the water of a sea or lake.
- 32.Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
- 33.A woman's large folded hooded.
- 35.English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- 36.A genus of delicate ferns belonging to the family Osmundaceae.
- 37.A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
- 39.Of a strong pink to yellowish-pink color n l.
- 43.A fixed charge for a privilege or for professional services.
- 46.The principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a social group.
- 51.Any of various herbaceous plants whose leaves or stems or flowers are cooked and used for food or seasoning.
- 54.Mint plants.
- 55.(informal) Someone with a habitually sullen or gloomy expression.
- 59.Of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor.
- 61.The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
- 62.An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- 64.English essayist (1775-1834).
- 65.Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
- 66.A fastener for a door or lid.
- 68.A United Nations agency created by a multinational treaty to promote trade by the reduction of tariffs and import quotas.
- 69.Wading birds of warm regions having long slender down-curved bills.
- 70.(used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
- 73.A master's degree in business.
- 74.United States architect (born in China in 1917).

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Over seems to be the story for you this day. This is not a bad thing, but it will delay the end results that you thought you would achieve this afternoon. Of all days, this is a good day to begin again on some project. Making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you discover can be very insightful. You are having new thoughts and sudden insights—you may get an unexpected boost in the way you think, speak or write. Communications are simplified and connections of all kinds are furthered—often at the expense of tradition or established order. Friends play an extremely important role at this time and someone invites you to dinner.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Career decisions that point to real success may go against your sense of values. You may not be able to appreciate this particular way or road to success. Your idea of success may be to live off of the land and provide enough goods to support yourself. You are anxious to build up savings and are admired by many when your goals are known. You may benefit from a senior or one in authority. Take time to see the long-term results and transfer your attention to this viewpoint. Consider meditation before action as decision making will become clearer. You will be successful and your ability to communicate and express ideas to others will be accepted.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a real time to buckle down and strengthen your career. You may consider ways to rid your personal space and goals of those unnecessary elements that simply add to your frustrations and block your movement. You may be thinking that a couple of your co-workers could go find jobs somewhere else but you must learn the lessons they have to teach you—then you will be free to bring them on as life friends. Your sense of responsibility is strong and will see you through any rough times. Your career could assume a more determined and solid form—a firm foundation. You are favored this day. Good luck and positive actions are in the forecast. This is one of your best overall days. It is also a good day for love. A weekend trip could be planned.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Requesting a loan is a positive today. You have good practical job-related thoughts and ideas. Use that ability you have to communicate with superiors or describe what you see. If you must make a career decision today, your decisions are clear-cut. You make your way through ideas, concepts and your ability to be expressive to others. You may have to give instructions to new people or relate a machine problem to repair people. Be patient with yourself and just tell the process. Do not relay what you think but only what steps create the end result. Ideas of group cooperation could further your career. You are able to meet new people and make your talents known to others.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Although most of us shy away from challenges whenever possible, one cannot escape all of them. Challenges help us grow and they create opportunities to discover things about ourselves and others. Challenges also help us to improve our skills. Today there may be a disagreement with what you say or think. This is where you fall headlong into a challenge and in the end, it may be best to agree to disagree—time changes many things. Approaching a situation later, from a different angle, may be helpful. There is much on your mind today. Your attitude is good, as usual, and you can be a mentor to others in how to get through a challenging workday with a smile. Family is the main interest this evening and laughter fills the air.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your approach to any problem is always original and you could invent things or discover new places or develop new ways of motivation. This is the best time to make progress, push forward and rise to prominence. It will be hard for you to do wrong—all the energies are working in your favor. You may suddenly decide to marry or take on a new role in the community or with other people. Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues. You will be in demand and recognition will be imminent. Your desires are strong—romance is very possible. Enjoy the art of dancing this evening—feel the freedom of movement in harmony with rhythms and sound. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Circumstances may appear to work against you, but if you really step back and look at the whole picture, you will find you have more control than you thought. Take your time in making decisions. You will thrive on a chance to display and test your talents. Those who lack confidence and experience welcome your kind words and courtesy. Learn techniques that will relieve stress. Responsibilities and outside pressures are just a part of life; knowing when to create change and how to always maintain your positive thoughts are important in maintaining a sense of wellbeing. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into your self-image or into your ideals and dreams. There are breakthroughs in compassion.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Strict responsibilities seem to become more relaxed today. Whether you teach or you guard or you guide, this is a day for a little more relaxed frame of mind. You seem compelled to investigate some questionable activity but all you really need to do is to go with the flow. You may benefit from a senior advisor or you may be the advisor. However, you will find your attention diverted several times today by unimportant matters. You enjoy the exciting life you lead but quiet times are appreciated. A kick-start regarding a hobby is an attention grabber this afternoon. Years ago you spent lots of time with this hobby and now you may become acquainted with someone that has your same interest.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today brings about a situation where you must have statistics and examples to be convincing. You will be successful with this endeavor because you do your homework—don't worry so much. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others; people that work with you give higher-ups a good report. You know just what to do to please a customer and can act without haste. You may find you are valued because of your ability to act and get things done. You are called on to make use of your professional proficiency and common sense. Your need to be respected will be recognized at this time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Extra work that promises to compensate you well is very attractive. Meetings are productive and you will find yourself in the front of the room, often deliberating and presenting ideas. You are at your mental best. You may have the last say in a round table discussion and an issue you tried to press from the past will get a lot of interest now. Your logical abilities are finely tuned to the subject at hand. Now there is a need to buckle down and gain the confidence of others. You have an opportunity to make one of your wise decisions this afternoon but it will be important to hear all the possibilities before making your decision.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are driven and passionate in your pursuit of a lighter weight and a lighter frame of mind regarding some of your work. You possess, at the core, an intensity that burns strong. Use that intensity to succeed in your weight loss and take your frame of mind to a bookstore and enjoy thumbing through the comedy subjects. This is a good time to take risks. This effort to improve mind and effort sets the example for others and secures your intention. You prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up now with new approaches. This evening you are in a rare mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own better qualities.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You have a natural sense for communicating with others, particularly those younger than yourself. The young people clearly do not like the old rules and you will work very hard to find ways to make the work flow faster with fewer rules. You might make notes of the rules dropped and praise the effort of the young people to adapt. This is a fortunate time, when things open up in a very natural way—answers are within your reach. Your charm and agreeable manner add to the general aura of good luck just now. Invest in art, jewelry or collectibles. Seek favors from those in authority. At this time, you are driven by a thirst to know and are learning ways to surrender your mind to a universal mind. Performing arts is in your future.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Geometry

Find and circle all of the Geometry words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.

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

ACUTE	EQUATION	PERIMETER	SIDE
APOTHEM	EQUILATERAL	PERPENDICULAR	SLANT
AREA	FACE	POLYGON	SLOPE
BASE	FORMULA	POLYHEDRON	SOLIDS
BISECT	HEIGHT	PYRAMID	SPHERE
CHORD	HYPOTENUSE	PYTHAGORAS	SQUARE
CIRCLE	INTERSECT	QUADRILATERAL	THEOREM
CIRCUMFERENCE	ISOSCELES	RADIUS	TRANSVERSAL
CONE	LEGS	RHOMBUS	TRAPEZOID
CONGRUENT	MIDPOINT	SCALENE	TRIANGLE
COORDINATES	OBTUSE	SECANT	VERTEX
CYLINDER	PARALLELOGRAM	SEGMENT	VOLUME
DIAMETER			

Yesterday's Solution

Gardening

The hidden message is: WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM SO DOES HOPE

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

ANNUALS	GARDEN	ORGANIC	SEEDS
BEANS	FEAS	PERENNIAL	SHOVEL
BEETS	GLOVES	SOIL	SUNSHINE
BIENNIAL	GNOME	PITUNIAS	SPADE
BROCCOLI	GREENHOUSE	PINWHEEL	SUNSHINE
CARROTS	GROW	PITCH FORK	TOMATOES
COMPOST	HOES	PLANTING	TROWEL
CULTIVATE	HOES	RAKE	TULIPS
DAISIES	HORTICULTURE	RELAXING	VEGETABLES
DIGGING	HYDRANGEA	ROSES	WATER
FERTILIZER	LIACS	ROWS	WEEDS
FLOWERS	LILIES		WHEELBARROW
FUCHSIA	MARIGOLDS		

Daily Sudoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

## First Thai cave rescue movie promises thrills at Busan premiere

From flooded passages lit by headlamps to urgent voices echoing off cramped walls, the director of “The Cave”—the first big-screen retelling of Thai rescue operation—promises to capture the peril of the mission when it premieres at Busan International Film Festival. “No one is going to say, ‘Oh that looks like a set,’” Thai-Irish filmmaker Tom Waller told AFP ahead of the Saturday debut at Asia’s biggest film festival in South Korea. “Those who suffer from claustrophobia, there should be a warning... (you) might get a little bit anxious,” he joked.

The 2018 mission to extract 12 young Thai footballers and their coach—known as the “Wild Boars”—from Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand captivated people around the world. After wandering into the complex during the rainy season, the team were trapped by floodwaters for 18 days before they were sedated, fitted with masks, and dragged to freedom through kilometers of narrow passageways.

Waller’s challenge: to recreate the conditions of the dank, dark environment that made the rescue of the “Wild Boars” so harrowing and unprecedented. To do so he filmed in similar caves around Thailand and employed four of the rescue divers to star as themselves. “We had to deal with snakes, huge spiders,” Waller said. The movie is hitting theatres ahead of bigger and better-financed projects, and he hopes the festival will give the independent film the profile it needs to go truly global.



This photo shows Belgian diver Jim Warny, who took part in the Thai cave rescue mission in 2018, speaking during an interview in Bangkok. — AFP

“Us being shown at Busan first, it’s playing the film on a world stage,” Waller said, adding that it will debut in Thailand in November after a festival tour. Appetite for the incredible tale remains strong more than one year after the operation as companies pump out books, shows, and documentaries. In the pipeline is a Netflix production from the producers of “Crazy Rich Asians” for which the rescued footballers were reportedly paid \$100,000 each.

National Geographic is stepping into the competition with a documentary by the team behind the Oscar-winning film “Free Solo”. But Waller’s film will have the advantage of being first to screen, and is taking a cinema verite approach. Four divers from Canada, China, Finland, and Belgium are acting in it under their real names, as is an American journalist who covered the saga. Ireland-based Belgian diver Jim Warny, who helped pull the team’s coach out, said he had a flashback when they recreated the scene.

And he wants the film to inspire others to dream big. “I was afraid in the cave, I’m always afraid when I go cave diving,” he said. “I see it as a duty to show people that they can do amazing stuff against the odds.” — AFP



US - Palestinian model Gigi Hadid presents a creation by Chanel during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show at the Grand Palais in Paris. — AFP

## ESPORTS A HARD SELL IN GRADES-OBSESSED SINGAPORE

In a country highly focused on academic achievement, Singaporean Galvin Kang Jian Wen did something almost unthinkable—he stopped studying as a teenager to spend more time playing computer games. He defied parental and social disapproval after his high school finals to pursue his dream of becoming an eSports champion, but believes the sacrifice has paid off as he heads with his national team to Southeast Asia’s mini-Olympics.

Teenage gamers worldwide are shunning mainstream education in favor of spending hours tapping away on computers and phones, attracted by a booming eSports scene where prizes at major tournaments reach millions of dollars. But perhaps nowhere is the prospect of swapping textbooks for joysticks more daunting than in Singapore, which tops global education rankings and where striving for academic excellence is deeply ingrained in the national psyche.

Kang—who is his national side’s coach and competes in multiplayer battle game Dota 2 under the moniker “Meracle”—said his belief in his own playing skills was so great he had the courage to what most would not dare. “I stopped studying and went to pursue this passion of mine,” the 23-year-old told AFP at a Southeast Asian Games boot camp in Singapore, which was organized by the tournament’s eSports partner, gaming hardware company Razer. “Obviously (my parents) were not very happy about my decision because nobody wants their kids to stop studying.”

### Education pressure

He is the exception, however, in a country known for a strict education system, a focus on getting good exam results and where a growing number of students go on to university or another form of tertiary education. The pressure starts as early as primary school, and critics say it has contributed to the growing incidence of mental illness

among the young, although the government is seeking to make things easier through steps like reducing exams.

The focus on education and a choice of well-paying jobs in the affluent country mean few are willing to pursue a career in the fledgling eSports scene—Singapore has only around 15 professional gamers. “Singapore is very focused on study,” said the country’s eSports association president Ng Chong Geng, recalling how when he gave a talk at a university, not a single student expressed an interest in becoming a professional player.

“Now more or less everyone graduates with some sort of degree... If you try to be an eSports athlete you have to give up on a lot of other opportunities.” Players also complain the country’s system of conscription—male citizens

undergo two years of national service from the age of 18 — is a hindrance for promising gamers who need time to develop their skills.

### But after retirement?

Kang is not alone among players heading to the SEA Games, taking place in the Philippines in November and December, in having chosen to focus on gaming rather than study. “The thing that most changed me was quitting school so I can play for the whole day, play full time,” said 17-year-old Thai Dota2 gamer Nuengnara Teeramahanon, who quit school aged 16. “I just did not want to study any more, I just feel like it’s so boring.”

However, the lack of qualifications could be a disadvantage for players when they retire, which can come at a young age in eSports. In some games, players can be finished by 23 as their reactions slow. Players from nine countries will compete in six titles at the SEA Games—Mobile Legends, Arena of Valor, Dota 2, Starcraft II, Tekken 7, and Hearthstone. Supporters hope the tournament could be a step towards a spot at the Olympics although that seems unlikely any time soon, with the venerable institution so far unenthusiastic about the discipline.

Players who cut short their education and made a success of eSports say their families have, for the most part, accepted their choice—although they stress they are not encouraging other gamers to follow their lead. Kang used to be part of a team in the United States, where his accommodation was paid for and he received a salary and prize money. He currently plays for a Thailand-based team. “Eventually they (my parents) were convinced,” he said. “I could pay for my own food, live on my own.” — AFP



This photograph show participants attending an Esports bootcamp training session in Singapore. — AFP

## ‘Sinatra of the East’ Karel Gott dies at 80

Czech pop singer Karel Gott, who was a particular favorite in neighboring Germany where media once dubbed him the “Sinatra of the East”, died at 80, his family said yesterday. “With the deepest sadness in my heart I announce that shortly before midnight on Tuesday my beloved husband Karel Gott passed away after a long and serious illness,” his wife Ivana Gottova wrote on his website. “He passed away at home, in quiet sleep, surrounded by his family.”

Gott revealed last month he was undergoing treatment for acute leukemia, years after recovering from a cancer. “Extremely sad news for our whole country. Karel Gott was a real artist who gave himself to others,” said Czech President Milos Zeman. “Karel Gott gave his life to gen-

erations, he gave himself to us all,” he added in a message tweeted by his spokesman. Prime Minister Andrej Babis said he would propose to cabinet to hold a state funeral for Gott at Prague’s St Vitus Cathedral.

“Divine Karel” as he was known for his impeccable tenor voice, had been voted the most popular singer 42 times in the annual Golden Nightingale poll of Czech music fans. He released almost 300 records and CDs, selling dozens of millions of them. His hits include cover versions of Roy Orbison’s “Pretty Woman” and Alphaville’s “Forever Young”, but most were written by Czech composers. Born on July 14, 1939, Gott trained as an electrical mechanic before studying to be an opera singer.

He rose to stardom in the 1960s touring the US and what was then West Germany, and represented Austria in the Eurovision song contest. That was when German papers described him as the “Sinatra of the East”. Gott managed to retain his popularity following the 1968 invasion of Prague by Soviet-led armies, a time when many singers were banned from the stage for political reasons. Gott, who was also a skilled painter and an occasional actor, won awards in countries including Germany, Poland and Russia. He had two daughters with his wife Ivana, 37 years his junior, as well as two older daughters with previous partners. — AFP



This photo in Hamburg shows Czech pop singer Karel Gott, performing on stage during the award ceremony of the reader's prize My Star of the Year. — AFP



# HADID STOPS GATECRASHER AS TIMBERLAKE GRABBED IN MAD PARIS FASHION FINALE



US-Palestinian model Gigi Hadid

**S**upermodel Gigi Hadid confronted a gatecrasher at Chanel and US pop star Justin Timberlake was grabbed by a fan as he walked to the Louis Vuitton show later Tuesday, in a wacky final day of Paris fashion week. The madness began in the day's first show when a prankster walked unchecked onto the Chanel catwalk with the models for the big finale. French comedian Marie Benoliel ran from her seat and joined the models as they did their last walk along a spectacular set recreating the rooftops of Paris inside the Grand Palais.

With security guards left floundering, Hadid confronted the gatecrasher as she tried to further upstage the models, with the two facing off on the set. Hours later as Timberlake turned up at the Louvre with his

actress wife Jessica Biel for the Louis Vuitton show, a man lunged at the singer grabbing his leg as he left his car. Bodyguards quickly wrenched him off and Timberlake walked on unhurt, but clearly a little shaken, to see fashion week's final collection.

The second security lapse came after a hitherto obscure comic and YouTuber Benoliel, aka Marie S'Infiltrer (Marie Sneaks In), managed to steal the lime-light from one of the world's richest brands. Having crashed Etam's lingerie show earlier in Paris fashion week in silver underwear, Benoliel dressed from head to toe in a black and white Chanel-like houndstooth tweed suit and hat to pull off an even bigger stunt. "Marie S'Infiltrer strikes again!" she declared on Instagram after being shown the door. Guards only realized that she had joined the models when it was too late to intervene.



## 'Couldn't stop laughing'

"I couldn't stop laughing because the hapless security guards couldn't spot her in the line-up," said New York Times fashion writer Elizabeth Paton, who had been on the front row. By then Benoliel was giving it her all, waddling down the catwalk with her hands on her hips like a supermodel. Moments later as she left the line of models to pose further up on the rooftop, Hadid marched over to determinedly block her way before the visibly miffed model escorted the comedian offstage. Chanel told AFP that they did not "want to make a drama out of it." Benoliel was "escorted to the exit by our security personnel afterwards", a spokeswoman added.

## Cardi B a little scared

With the front row crammed with celebrities from US rapper Cardi B to K-pop star Jennie and French actress Isabelle Adjani, security had been tight. Cardi B later admitted that "I got a little scared when the home-girl flew out there." The models hardly blinked an eye as the comedian climbed onto the catwalk, making space for her as they filed backstage. It was only as she doubled back to milk her big moment to the full that Hadid acted.

Most of the hundreds of fashionistas at the show didn't realize what had happened having watched Chanel designer Virginie Viard turn back the clock to the insouciant sophistication of 1960s socialites. Viard, who took over at Chanel after the death of Karl Lagerfeld in February-said Hollywood actress Kristen



US rapper Cardi B

Stewart and the mould-breaking French New Wave films of the 1960s were her inspirations. Stewart plays Seberg, the star of Jean-Luc Godard's 1960 film "Breathless" which launched the New Wave, in a new biopic premiered at the Venice film festival last month.—AFP







# Louis Vuitton closes Paris Fashion Week with vintage flashback



Models present creations by Louis Vuitton during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show at the Cour carree du Louvre in Paris. — AFP photos

Louis Vuitton showcased on Tuesday a collection that mixed fashion inspirations, colors and patterns for the last show of the Paris Fashion Week. Nicolas Ghesquiere, the artistic director of Vuitton's women's collections, set the runway extravaganza in makeshift space inside a courtyard of the Louvre museum, with show business power couple Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel in the front row as well as actors Jennifer Connelly and Justin Theroux.

The catwalk was dominated by bold prints, flared pants and three-piece suits evoking the fashion of the 1970s. A jacket layered over a lace dress and neon pants was another eye-catching look. Set against a post-modern song of the transgender artist Sophie, whose music video was projected on a digital wall, models walked down the catwalk in midi dresses with puffy sleeves, floral art nouveau details, and leather skirts.

Some models paraded with white bowler-like hats while most wore high-heeled loafers - with or without knee-socks - for a masculine touch associated with an assortment of bags, including a cassette tape clutch for a vintage mood. Louis Vuitton, LVMH's biggest sales driver, emphasized his luggage trunk origins with a vanity monogrammed bag. "It was really beautiful, really original, with never-before seen clothes," French actress Catherine Deneuve said TV after the show. —Reuters



French fashion designer Nicolas Ghesquiere acknowledges the audience.







# Arresting looks: Russian protests get a fashion twist

In cropped jeans and a cream sweatshirt, Alina Muzychenko would easily blend into a central Moscow crowd. But her bright pink socks are quietly subversive-patterned with a drawing of riot police holding hands. The 34-year-old runs a design label with her husband Yegor Yeremeyev which is among a number of trendy brands making clothes that signal support for Russia's protest movement. Sold online and in mainstream shops, the quirky designs have grown in popularity since demonstrations in Moscow in the summer for fair elections that sparked a police crackdown and saw thousands detained.

At their Moscow studio flat, Muzychenko and Yeremeyev, 32, sort through plastic boxes of their T-shirts folded and ready to go on sale. Collaborators drop by and sit with laptops at the table. Their label-named Kultrab after a Soviet-era term for bringing culture to the masses—also produces socks and scarves, as well as accessories such as passport covers and bags. “This summer changed a lot, it’s the summer when more and more people started waking up,” says Muzychenko.

One of their newest T-shirts shows a riot policeman in camouflage snapping handcuffs on a young woman as two officers hover nearby with batons outstretched like magic wands. A slogan reads: “Freedom and love.” “It’s all done very colorfully, so that people aren’t afraid but instead go out and spread this message,” says Yeremeyev, of the T-shirt, which sells online for 2,500 rubles.

**Donations to independent media**

The first consignment of these T-shirts—a batch of 50 to 100 — went on sale in August and sold out in a few days, the couple says. A website aimed at aspirational young Muscovites, Afisha.ru, included the T-shirt in a fashion feature headlined “Face of the protest: what to wear for a stroll round Moscow.” The couple, neither of whom has a fashion design background, has donated money from their



clothing sales to the Mediazona website that reports on protesters' trials.

They also cooperate with an NGO that gives clean needles and advice to drug users called the Andrey Rylkov Foundation. Kultrab has been caught up in several police crackdowns reported by opposition media and sites monitoring protesters' detentions. On the day before last month's Moscow city election, Muzychenko said she and about 14 other people, including two members of Pussy Riot punk collective, were detained by police.

Heading to a magazine photo shoot at the time, she said they were wearing mock police uniforms with badges condemning the “police state” and carrying a banner saying: “Putin, leave of your own accord”. They were all freed without charge after around five hours, as supporters held a candle-lit vigil outside the police station, she added. In a separate incident, a young woman, who Muzychenko said worked with Kultrab, was detained for having a sticker on her bag calling for the release of a protester.



**Parallel Russia**

The Kultrab founders see their edgy streetwear as a way of introducing Russian youth to the notion of participating in society and activism. “Through clothes, we attract a new audience, to learn what activism is,” says Muzychenko, a theatre director by training. “Our aim is to spread an idea through clothes, through media,” she adds. Their T-shirts are not limited to the summer protest movement.

Designs range from Lenin to a Molotov cocktail, while slogans refer to drugs legislation and Russian rappers. The bestseller, with 500 sales so far, is a pink T-shirt with the crude Russian word for female genitalia that Yeremeyev says is about “female solidarity.” Muzychenko interjects: “And rights!” To their amusement, some of their T-shirts are on sale in Moscow's biggest toy store. The largest group of online customers is women aged 18 to 24.

Despite their wide distribution, the pair say they are

part of a “parallel Russia,” offering an alternative to mainstream culture. Opposition leader Alexei Navalny has used eye-catching “merch” as part of his campaigning for several years. His clothing line includes a 1,550-ruble (\$24) black T-shirt with the word “Navalny” in the style of a riot police uniform.

**Children in police van**

The high-profile detentions of journalist Ivan Golunov and students at prestigious universities this summer led activists to hastily print T-shirts and stickers with the prisoners' faces. The items were sold to raise money for their legal defense. One of the most popular protest T-shirts comes from the brand Barking Store, which usually focuses on animal rights.

It shows a police van with barred windows marked “School Bus” and children inside, reflecting the young age of many detained at recent demonstrations.

The 1,390-ruble (\$22) T-shirt is on sale along with sweatshirts and bags of the same design at the brand's shop in a converted basement in Moscow. “It's really very popular,” says founder Roman Belousov, 33, whose business raises funds for his mother's cat and dog shelter outside the capital.

The “school bus” design was created in 2017, inspired by the first anti-government protests to include a large school-age turnout. “Thousands of school children ended up in police vans, so this print kind of created itself,” Belousov says. “I wear (the T-shirt) myself, and sometimes people come up to me and say ‘Ooh, great.’” “You walk around Moscow and see people are walking around who think the same as you—it's a cool feeling inside.”—AFP



Models wear creation by the Fashion designer Alina Muzychenko in Moscow. — AFP photos



Fashion designer Alina Muzychenko, left, adjusts a garment on a model.



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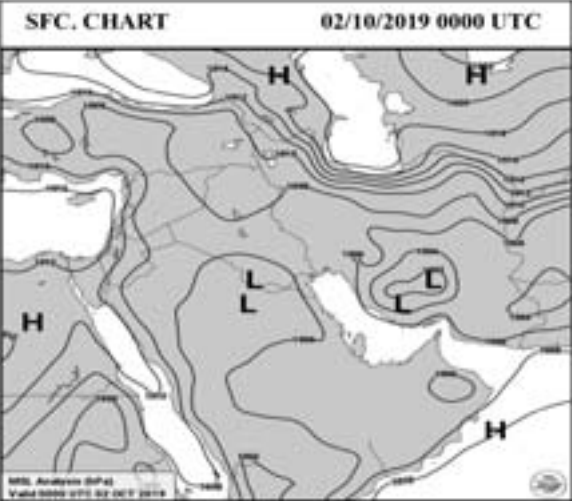
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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

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

**BY NIGHT:** Fair and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	<div>SFC. CHART02/10/2019 0000 UTC</div>	
KUWAIT CITY	41 °C	31 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	44 °C	26 °C		
ABDALY	43 °C	28 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	45 °C	30 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	37 °C	32 °C		
AHMADI	37 °C	33 °C		
NUWAISIB	39 °C	28 °C		
WAFRA	43 °C	26 °C		
SALMY	42 °C	28 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	10/03	Hot and some high clouds will appear	45 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 30 km/h
Friday	10/04	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	44 °C	26 °C	N-NW	10 - 30 km/h
Saturday	10/05	Hot	43 °C	24 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h
Sunday	10/06	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	42 °C	22 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:23
Sunrise	05:42
Zuhr	11:38
Asr	15:01
Sunset	17:33
Isha	18:50

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	25 °C
MAX. RH	51 %
MIN. RH	08 %
MAX. Wind	S 39 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, **SUSANNA MAVELI**, holder of Indian Passport No. H9588802 at present residing in Kuwait hereby change my name to **SUSANNA MAVELI VARGHESE**. (C 5598) 3-10-2019

I have changed my old name **LALITH REDDY** (Indian Passport No. M4640321, issued in Kuwait) to new name **SIDDA LALITH REDDY** with **SIDDA** as surname and **LALITH REDDY** as given name for all purpose. (C 5597) 29-9-2019

I, **Ali Abdul Jamal Mohamed**, holder of Indian Passport No.

N9723698 having permanent address **Kannachan Kandy (H) Atholi, Calicut**, residing in Kuwait, hereby change my name to **Abdul Jamal Mohamed Ali** (Given Name). (C 5680)

I, **SHAHUL HAMEED PUTHUR MOHAMED** holder of Indian Passport No. N8635952 having permanent address **Abrar Manzil, Mogral Puthur, Kasaragod, Kerala, India**, Pin Code 671128, presently residing in Kuwait hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: **SHAHUL HAMEED** and surname: **PUTHUR MOHAMED**. (C 5681) 27-9-2019

## Airlines

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



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## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 3/10/2019					Departure Flights on Thursday 3/10/2019				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
FEG	243	Alexandria	00:05	UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	IGO	1756
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	NIA	1506
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	FBS	118	Sarajevo	13:30	AHY	120
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	KAC	774	Riyadh	13:35	JZR	123
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	212	Jeddah	13:45	JZR	115
KAC	102	London	00:50	IRA	607	Mashhad	13:55	SAW	702
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	14:00	MSR	611
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	THY	767
KAC	504	Beirut	01:00	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	AXB	394
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	UAE	872
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	FDB	500	Jeddah	14:15	FBS	119
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	QTR	1078	Doha	14:25	IRA	666
PGT	828	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	792	Madinah	14:40	GFA	222
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	JZR	222	Riyadh	14:45	KNE	382
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:35	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:45	KAC	673
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	618	Doha	14:50	JZR	103
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	562	Amman	14:50	FDB	060
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	QTR	1079
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	118	New York	15:00	SAV	501
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	JZR	125
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:10	KNE	530
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	KAC	563
RBG	1155	Luxor	03:15	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	KAC	743
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	775
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	546	Cairo	15:50	KAC	615
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	FEG	341	Sohag	16:00	ABY	128
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:05	ETD	304
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	OMA	646
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	JZR	732	Cairo	16:10	KAC	785
MSR	0516	Cairo	04:25	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	619
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	KAC	502	Beirut	16:20	FEG	242
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	KAC	198	Baku	16:20	KNE	532
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	SAW	705	Damascus	17:00	KAC	675
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	JZR	116	Doha	17:05	FDB	052
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1073
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	151
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:35	UAE	858
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	124	Dubai	17:40	KAC	503
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	KAC	158	Istanbul	17:40	KAC	283
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	JZR	104	Bahrain	17:55	KAC	343
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	QTR	1080	Doha	18:00	KAC	381
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	612	Tbilisi	18:10	SAW	706
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	JZR	302	Istanbul	18:20	JZR	127
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	721
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	IRA	667	Esfahan	19:00	SAV	511
KAC	106	London	06:40	FDB	063	Dubai	19:05	GFA	216
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	RJA	640	Amman	19:05	JZR	403
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	733
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	745
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	ABY	123	Beirut	19:05	JZR	253
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	744	Amman	19:25	QTR	1081
IRA	601	Tehran	07:10	NIA	161	Doha	19:30	MSR	621
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	KAC	691
QTR	8511	Doha	07:15	KAC	776	New York	19:45	FDB	064
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	674	Doha	19:50	GFA	218
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	KNE	381	Madinah	19:50	IRA	600
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	KAC	174	Jeddah	19:55	ABY	124
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	OMA	647	Dubai	19:55	RJA	641
KAC	352	Kochi	08:05	NIA	1505	Abu Dhabi	19:55	KAC	357
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	DLH	624	Istanbul	19:55	JZR	401
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	402	Riyadh	19:55	NIA	162
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	JZR	126	Cairo	19:55	UAE	876
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	RBG	213	Doha	19:55	KNE	232
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	620	Abu Dhabi	19:55	KAC	353
GFA	209	Bahrain	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	19:55	DLH	624
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KLM	445	Amsterdam	20:00	OMA	648
GOW	061	CNN	09:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	20:00	KAC	333
AZQ	4565	Baku	09:30	UAE	859	Dubai	20:00	NIA	1506
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	20:00	RBG	214
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	168	Paris	20:00	MEA	403
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	THY	764	Istanbul	20:00	KAC	301
IRA	675	Lar	09:55	KAC	164	MXP	20:00	DHX	171
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	676	Dubai	20:00	QTR	1089
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	20:00	KAC	203
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	564	Amman	20:00	KLM	445
OMS	223	Muscat	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	20:00	ETD	308
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	20:00	ALK	230
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	20:00	UAE	860
IGO	1755	CNN	11:30	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	20:00	KAC	383
NIA	1407	Sohag	11:35	RBG	555	Alexandria	20:00	GFA	220
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	JZR	128	Dubai	20:00	KAC	783
AHY	119	Baku	12:05	GEC	8486	Frankfurt	20:00	KAC	551
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	BBC	043	Dhaka	20:00	ETD	310
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	MSC	501	Alexandria	20:00	RBG	556
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:30	MSC	415	Sohag	20:00	QTR	1083
MSR	610	Cairo	12:45	MSR	614	Cairo	20:00		



# Impeachment fight escalates as Trump calls probe a ‘coup’

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump and Congress traded threats yesterday in a growing impeachment scandal that threatens to engulf the White House in what the president claimed is a “coup”. The power struggle between Trump - accused of leaning on Ukraine’s president to dig up dirt on one of his main 2020 election rivals - and congressional Democrats entered ever more volatile territory. Adam Schiff, the Democrat leading the impeachment probe in the lower chamber of Congress, told reporters there is a “real sense of urgency” to press forward.

Trump fought back with language that would once have been inconceivable for a president, including his claim late Tuesday on Twitter that this is “not an impeachment, it is a COUP”. Yesterday, he tweeted that Schiff was “sick” and should resign. Earlier, he had called for Schiff’s arrest. Trump insists that he did nothing wrong in a phone call with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky and yesterday got support from Russia’s President Vladimir Putin, who said he saw “nothing compromising” in the conversation.

Given Trump’s controversial history with Putin, it was unlikely that the Kremlin leader’s backing would do much to calm waters back in Washington. After keeping pronouncements mostly to Twitter over the last week, Trump gave a news conference alongside visiting Finnish President Sauli Niinisto.

Trump is accused of having pressured Zelensky to help him by opening a corruption investigation against leading Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in a July 25 phone call. He is alleged to have suggested that military equipment Ukraine sought to beef up its defenses against Russia would be contingent on him getting that favor. A whistleblower, so far only identified as someone from the intelligence services, went to the

authorities with concerns about the phone call, triggering the impeachment inquiry.

Trump has likened the whistleblower to a spy and called for his or her identity to be made public, although by law whistleblowers are protected. He has also retweeted a warning that his removal from office could trigger “civil war”. Schiff yesterday called Trump’s comments about the whistleblower a “blatant effort to intimidate witnesses”. The State Department’s inspector general was due to brief congressional committees yesterday on what it said were documents “related to the State Department and Ukraine.”

It was not clear what that would entail, but the State Department is closely caught up in the probe, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirming Wednesday previous reports that he listened in during the Zelensky call. Earlier, Pompeo meanwhile accused Democrats of trying to “intimidate” and “bully” State Department employees. Democrats said he was “stonewalling” their investigation.

Pompeo and Trump’s controversial personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani have been subpoenaed to provide documents. Five diplomats have so far been summoned to testify. Pompeo suggested that the committees could be forced to subpoena the five officials, and that the State Department and White House could seek to limit what they can talk about. “I will use all means at my disposal to prevent and expose any attempts to intimidate the dedicated professionals whom I am proud to lead,” Pompeo said.

News reports said the State Department’s former special envoy to Ukraine, Kurt Volker, would testify Thursday and that the ex-ambassador to Kiev, Marie Yovanovitch, would appear behind closed doors on



**WASHINGTON:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi answers questions with House Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff at the US Capitol yesterday. — AFP

Oct 11. Volker had been sought by Giuliani to help pressure Zelensky, while Yovanovitch was removed earlier this year as ambassador after she reportedly resisted that effort.

Pompeo himself risks greater pressure after the Democratic heads of the three investigating congressional committees said his being in on the phone call

made him “a fact witness”. The Democrats say that subpoenas could also be issued to force White House compliance with their demands for documentation. “We’re not fooling around here,” Schiff said. “We don’t want this to drag on months and months and months, which appears to be the administration’s strategy.” — AFP

## Bezos attends first anniversary memorial of Khashoggi murder

**ISTANBUL:** Amazon founder and Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos joined activists in Istanbul yesterday for a memorial service outside the Saudi consulate where journalist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered a year ago. International rights groups renewed calls for a full United Nations investigation into the killing. Saudi journalist Khashoggi, a columnist for the Post, was strangled and dismembered at Saudi Arabia’s consulate on Oct 2, 2018 when he went to obtain documents required for his marriage to Turkish citizen Hatice Cengiz.

She unveiled a memorial to Khashoggi in front of the consulate. “After the worst year of my life I stand here broken but proud,” she said in a speech. “I still seek justice. I want to know what happened to his body. I want his friends to be released from jail. I want those in power to be held accountable for their actions.” Bezos gave a short speech directed at Cengiz, saying: “You need to know that you are in our hearts. We are here and you are not alone.”

Eleven suspects have been put on trial in Riyadh over Khashoggi’s murder, five of whom face the death penalty, but hearings are held behind closed doors and the names of the defendants have not been released. International human rights groups used the anniversary to renew calls for a UN-led investigation. The Saudi crown prince has denied any involvement but tells PBS in a forthcoming



**ISTANBUL:** Hatice Cengiz, the fiancée of murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, CEO of Amazon and Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos, Yemeni Nobel Prize winner Tawakkol Karman and participants stand near a memorial stone during an event marking the one-year anniversary of the assassination of Khashoggi yesterday. — AFP

documentary that he accepts responsibility for the killing, because it happened “under my watch”.

The grisly details of Khashoggi’s murder, which emerged largely from Turkish sources, sparked a global outcry. Dozens of top global executives boycotted the Saudi showcase business conference, the Future Investment Initiative, last year. But the outrage has since dissipated and the Washington Post reported that global firms including Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup were planning to send top executives to this year’s event later this month. — AFP

well as urban areas. “Latrine ownership increased from about 35 percent to about 70 percent... That did accelerate the reduction of open defecation,” said Sangita Vyas from the Research Institute for Compassionate Economics (RICE). “But in December 2018 we estimated about half of people in the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan still defecated in the open,” she told AFP. She doubts the shortfall has been made up since. Those four states are home to more than 450 million people.

For instance across from Modi’s office, on the other side of New Delhi, Vijaya relieved herself next to the tracks near Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station early in the morning. “There is no toilet (where we live). We all go out in the open,” she told AFP. “We have been here for years and nobody has constructed a toilet, despite our repeated pleas,” Kaveri, a domestic helper, said in her nearby home in the poor neighborhood of Barapullah. “We go out in the public and it’s not safe, but what do we do?” said the mother-of-three.

Many of the toilets that have been constructed are often locked, used for storage, or some other purpose. Cultural barriers, engrained habits or a lack of knowledge about sanitation also create barriers to more widespread usage. “If you’re going to change the behavior of rural folk on a sustainable, long term, permanent basis, the only way you’re going to be able to do it would be by first focusing on behavior change,” said Santosh Mehrotra, a development economist at Jawaharlal Nehru University. — AFP

Protests over the same issues engulfed the southern city of Basra last summer and effectively ended Abdel Mahdi’s predecessor Haider Al-Abadi’s chances of a second term. Abdel Mahdi now faces a similar challenge. He convened his national security council for an emergency meeting yesterday, after paying tribute to the security forces and blaming the violence on “aggressors who... deliberately created casualties”.

Interior ministry spokesman Saad Maan told state media on Tuesday that “infiltrators were behind the violent acts in the protests today”. Their statements drew widespread online criticism, as some other politicians had thrown their weight behind the protesters. Nationalist cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr called for a “fair investigation” into the events in Tahrir Square. Parliament, too, has ordered a probe into the violence and its human rights committee criticized security forces for their “suppression” of the demonstrations. — AFP

## Eye-watering onion prices...

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usual. Since the ban, countries such as Bangladesh have turned to the likes of Myanmar, Egypt, Turkey and China to increase supplies in a bid bring prices down, government officials and traders said.

But the hefty volumes lost will be hard to replace. India exported 2.2 million tonnes of fresh onions in the 2018/19 fiscal year ended March 31, according to data from India’s Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. That’s more than half of all imports by Asian countries, traders estimate.

Rising prices of alternative supplies will add to the headache for importers trying to get the vegetable from elsewhere, said Mohammad Idris, a trader based in Dhaka. In the Bangladesh capital, consumers are now being asked to pay 120 taka (\$1.42) per kilogram for their prized onions - twice the price a fortnight ago and the highest since December, 2013. “Prices are going up elsewhere in Asia and Europe,” said Idris. “Other exporting countries are taking advantage of the Indian ban” to raise their asking price.

In response to the crisis, the government of Bangladesh has initiated sales of subsidized onions through the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB). “We are looking for all possible options to import onions. Our target is to import in the shortest possible time,” said TCB spokesman Humayun Kabir. But the shipments from elsewhere - Iran and Turkey are also potential suppliers - that authorities in countries across the region are investigating will all take time. “It takes one month when it comes from Egypt and about 25 days from China, while it takes only a few days from India,” said Dhaka trader Idris.

One of the operators of the 35 trucks selling the cheaper onions, Mohammad Rafique, told AFP he distributed 400 kilograms of onions yesterday to around 250

people. “But we had to send back at least 50 to 60 people empty-handed as we ran out of supply,” he said. One frustrated buyer left with a bitter taste was Bangladeshi banker Raihan Aziz. “I spent my entire lunch break standing here. But all my efforts have come to nothing,” Aziz told AFP. “It seems we have to change our eating patterns, omitting onion from curries and our daily menu.”

The eye-watering prices have also forced some restaurants to chop the bulb from their menus. “We used to give free onion with green salad to our customers. But we no longer do it,” a Dhaka restaurant waiter told AFP. Meanwhile consumers have accused wholesalers of hoarding the vegetable to jack up prices, a charge they deny.

The need for alternative imports is so severe, though, that countries like Sri Lanka have already placed orders with Egypt and China, said G Rajendran, president of the Essential Food Commodities, Importers and Traders Association. Onion prices in Sri Lanka have risen by 50 percent in a week, to 280-300 Sri Lankan rupees (\$1.7) per kilogram.

For other countries, there may be little option but to sit tight and hope for the best. Malaysia, the second-biggest buyer of Indian onions, expects the ban to be temporary and sees no reason to panic, said Sim Tze Tzin, deputy minister of agriculture. But even India has been importing onions from Egypt in an effort to calm prices. And there won’t be any meaningful drop in prices before summer-sown crops start to hit the market, said Ajit Shah, president of the Mumbai-based Onion Exporters’ Association.

That’s not expected until mid-November, meaning the export ban isn’t going away in the near term. “India could resume exports once prices drop, but it will take time,” said Shah. “Until India resumes exports, supplies will remain limited in Asia.” For now, consumers like Kathmandu shopper Pokharel are having to change habits across Asia. “I went to buy 5 kilograms of onions for our five-member family but ended up buying only 3 kilograms due to higher prices,” said Afroza Mimi, a Dhaka housewife on a shopping expedition the day after India imposed the export ban. “They (traders) are selling old stock nearly at double the price. This is crazy.” — Agencies

## Modi hails toilet ‘milestone’ on...

Continued from Page 1

lack access to a toilet, and that because of old habits many of the new facilities that have been built are not being used. Modi acknowledged that challenges remained, saying “we have to continue the journey to make India clean. We have to make this change in behavior permanent”. “We have to make sure that the toilets are used for the purpose for which they have been built. People who are still left out must be connected to (them).”

Modi, who stormed to a second term in office in May, also pledged to embark on another major project - to eradicate the country of single-use plastic. “Plastic is a big danger to health, environment and cleanliness. We must achieve the target of making India plastic free by 2022,” he said, reiterating a recent promise. While some states have already banned the use of such plastics, enforcement of the rules has been lax. “I know that the use of plastic bags has already come down. Millions of households have taken a decision not to use single-use plastics,” he said. “This will benefit the environment. Roads and sewers won’t get blocked. Cattle and marine life would be saved.”

Modi’s claim that India is ‘open-defecation free’ has been questioned by experts, who cite data from rural as

## Seven killed as protests against...

Continued from Page 1

Unusually for Iraq, no political faction had explicitly called for Tuesday’s protest, which appeared to be largely spontaneous. The liberal newspaper Al-Bayana Al-Jadida said the protests were, “for the first time without flag, without poster or party slogan”. They follow months of simmering frustration with Abdel Mahdi over a perceived lack of progress on corruption, unemployment or services. Routine power cuts leave consumers without mains electricity for up to 20 hours a day and, according to the World Bank, youth unemployment runs at around 25 percent, or double the adult rate.

the security of the region and its waterways, while Washington would have to remove all sanctions. It would also allow Iran to immediately resume oil sales.

But Rouhani also told the cabinet that mixed messages about sanctions received from the United States while he was attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week had undermined the possibility of talks. He said it was unacceptable for Trump to say publicly that he would intensify sanctions while European powers told Iran in private that he was willing to negotiate.

“The American president on two occasions ... said explicitly that we want to intensify sanctions. I told these European friends, so which part should we accept? Should we accept your word that you say America is ready?” Rouhani said. “Or the words of the president of America who in 24 hours said explicitly twice ... that I want to intensify sanctions? [The Europeans] didn’t have a clear answer.”

European powers were continuing efforts to arrange talks, Rouhani said. Germany, Britain and France were among signatories to Iran’s 2015 nuclear pact with world powers, which Trump quit last year. Iran’s foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Macron’s four-point plan for talks was “presented in his words and does not contain our viewpoints” but that work would continue. “It’s necessary that these negotiations continue until the issues are presented in a clear way. We will continue these contacts,” Zarif was quoted as saying by the official IIRB news agency, insisting that Iran is not pursuing nuclear weapons.

Separately, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Iran would continue reducing its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal until it reaches a “desired result”, according to his official website. “We will continue the reduction of commitments and must continue with complete seriousness,” he told a meeting of commanders of the elite Revolutionary Guards. Iranian officials have said they will reduce their commitments under the nuclear deal until the remaining signatories fully meet their commitments. — Agencies

## Rouhani didn’t take Trump call...

Continued from Page 1

Macron used his 48 hours in New York to see Trump three times and Rouhani twice, urging them to engage directly. The source said Macron made a last-ditch attempt before flying back to Paris, with French technicians installing a secure phone line linking Trump’s Lotte hotel and the Millennium, hosting the Iranian delegation.

The plan involved Trump calling at 9 pm despite doubts over the Iranian reaction. Macron went to the Millennium to ensure the phone call took place. Trump made the call, but Rouhani informed the French president he would not take it, the source said. “The discussion continued to founder on the Iranians first wanting US sanctions lifted. Donald Trump wants Iran first to make commitments on its nuclear (ambitions) and ballistic and regional activities,” the source said.

The French diplomatic source’s comments came after US reports emerged earlier this week about Macron’s initiative to get the leaders to talk. Tensions have been escalating between Iran and the United States since May last year when President Donald Trump pulled out of the nuclear accord and began reimposing sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy. Britain, France and Germany have repeatedly said they are committed to saving the deal that gave Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, but their efforts have so far borne little fruit.

Yesterday, Rouhani said during a cabinet meeting that was broadcast live on state TV that a plan for talks presented to the US and Iran by Macron is broadly acceptable to the Islamic Republic. He said some wording needed to be changed in the plan, which would require Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons and to help



# Rohit hits hundred as India make S African bowlers toil

## Opening the batting suits me, says ton-up Sharma

SCOREBOARD	
<b>VISAKHAPATNAM:</b> Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the opening Test between India and South Africa in Visakhapatnam yesterday:	
<b>India</b>	
M. Agarwal not out	84
R. Sharma not out	115
Extras (lb1, nb2)	3
Total (59.1 overs)	202
To bat: V. Kohli, A. Rahane, C. Pujara, H. Vihari, R. Ashwin, R. Jadeja, W. Saha, I. Sharma, M. Shami.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Philander 11.1-2-34-0, Rabada 13-5-35-0, Maharaj 23-4-66-0 (nb1), Piedt 7-1-43-0, Muthusamy 5-0-23-0 (nb1).	
<b>South Africa:</b> F. du Plessis (capt), A. Markram, D. Elgar, T. de Bruyn, T. Bavuma, Q. de Kock, V. Philander, S. Muthusamy, K. Maharaj, D. Piedt, K. Rabada.	

**VISAKHAPATNAM:** Rohit Sharma said opening the batting suited him across all formats after he hit a century yesterday in his new role in Test cricket against South Africa. The 32-year-old Sharma — a star of India's limited-overs side — made 115 on a rain-hit day one of the opening match as India reached 202 without loss in Visakhapatnam.

Sharma and Mayank Agarwal, on 84, made the South African bowlers toil after the hosts elected to bat first at the start of the three-match series. "I think it suits my game," Sharma told reporters. "Just wear the pads and go in to bat. I don't like the waiting game.

"You know the bowlers who are bowling with the new ball, so the game plan is easier for you... At number six, the ball is reversing, field placement is different and you need to keep all those things in mind."

A sudden thunderstorm forced the umpires to call tea early, and no further play was possible after heavy rains lashed the coastal city and washed out the final session. Sharma completed his fourth Test century in the second session with a single off debutant spinner Senuran Muthusamy to raucous cheers from the home crowd and the dressing room.

He hit five sixes and 12 fours from 174 balls and showed frequent glimpses of the form that has made him such a feared one-day batsman. "Opening the batting is a different ball game in red ball cricket. Of course mentally you have to train your mind more than anything else," he said. "You have to challenge yourself to play the new ball and take the game forward." Agarwal, like Sharma, also used his feet to good effect against the South African spinners, who struggled on the batting-friendly pitch.

Playing his fifth Test since making his debut last year, Agarwal raised his fourth half-century with a six off Keshav Maharaj. Both Sharma and Agarwal — who hit 11 fours and two sixes — took apart the opposition bowling



**VISAKHAPATNAM:** Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma (R) plays a shot during the first day's play of the first Test match between India and South Africa at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday. —AFP

in the second session of play as India scored 111 runs after taking lunch at 91-0.

Sharma, who got to his 50 before lunch, shifted gears and went after the slow bowlers as he hammered off-spinner Danie Piedt for two successive sixes to move into the nineties. "We wanted to use our feet and get closer to the ball and then obviously those are my shots that I play and I wanted to back myself and back my game," said Sharma. South Africa captain Faf du Plessis rotated his

spinners for a large part of the day with intermittent spells from pacemen Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander. Philander, who got Sharma out for a two-ball duck in a practice game last week, tested the senior batsman early on in the innings by swinging the ball both ways. Sharma got off the mark as an opener in the longer format in style as drove Rabada for a boundary at backward point. India, who top the Test World Championship rankings, are looking for a record 11th Test series win at home. —AFP

## Nats stun Hader, Brewers in National League wild-card game

**WASHINGTON:** Washington Nationals rookie Juan Soto tracked a pitch from Milwaukee Brewers closer Josh Hader and quickly recognized a fastball down the middle of the plate.

He ripped the ball into right field — and helped send Washington into the next round of the playoffs. "Just get a base hit to the middle," Soto said to TBS in a postgame interview. "That's what I'm thinking."

Soto's hard-hit single rolled under the glove of Brewers right fielder Trent Grisham, and three runs scored on the eighth-inning play, pushing the Nationals to a 4-3 comeback win over visiting Milwaukee in the National League wild-card game Tuesday night.

Washington advances to face the Los Angeles Dodgers, who will host Game 1 of the National League Division Series tonight. The Nationals went 3-4 against the Dodgers during the regular season.

For most of the evening, it looked as though the Brewers would head west to Los Angeles. Milwaukee scored three runs in the first two innings and held on to a 3-1 edge entering the bottom of the eighth. Brewers manager Craig Counsell brought in Hader (0-1), a hard-throwing southpaw who notched 37 saves this season.

Hader quickly found trouble. Michael A. Taylor took first with one out after umpires ruled that he was hit by a pitch, although replays indicated that the ball may have hit the knob of his bat before striking him on the hand.

One out later Ryan Zimmerman followed with a broken-bat single, and Anthony Rendon drew a walk on a full count to load the bases for Soto. "The hit by pitch, I'd have to look at it



**WASHINGTON:** The Washington Nationals celebrate after defeating the Milwaukee Brewers with a score 4 to 3 in the National League Wild Card game at Nationals Park in Washington. —AFP

again," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said to TBS. I didn't really catch a good glimpse of it. Our dugout seemed to think it hit the bat first."

Earlier in the game, Yasmani Grandal and Eric Thames homered for the Brewers. A promising campaign ended abruptly for Milwaukee, which won 89 games — including 18 of its final 23 contests — before the late-inning collapse.

Nationals right-hander Stephen Strasburg (1-0) earned the victory after pitching three scoreless innings of relief. He gave up two hits, walked none and struck out four. Daniel Hudson notched the save by pitching a scoreless ninth for the Nationals. He and Strasburg followed starter Max

Scherzer, who gave up three runs in five innings and left the mound with the Nationals' postseason hopes in doubt.

"These guys are amazing," Soto said of the Nationals' pitching staff. "They always go to compete. They never give up. They show us how to never give up, so we just keep going and fight."

Hader allowed three runs (two earned) on two hits and a walk in one inning. He struck out two. The Brewers jumped to a 2-0 lead before recording their first out at the plate. Grisham drew a leadoff walk, and Grandal yanked a first-pitch fastball over the wall in right field for his third career postseason home run.

The quick strike stunned the

Nationals home fans, who had just settled into their seats. Grandal was 1-for-13 with seven strikeouts against Scherzer in regular-season matchups before belting the two-run homer into the Washington bullpen. In the second, Milwaukee increased its lead to 3-0 on a leadoff shot by Thames. He pounded a low breaking ball an estimated 411 feet to right-center field for his first career postseason homer.

The Nationals pulled within 3-1 in the third on Trea Turner's solo homer. He squared up a 97 mph fastball for his first postseason blast off Brewers starter Brandon Woodruff. The right-hander threw four innings and gave up one run and two hits, striking out three without a walk. —Reuters

The penalty has been a hot topic during the off-season for disappointed Vegas fans. Overlooked was the fact the Golden Knights also blew two other chances to clinch the series before that, including a 2-1 loss in double overtime at home in Game 6, when Vegas finished with a 59-29 edge in shots and lost on a short-handed goal by Tomas Hertl.

Pavelski, who scored a team-high 38 goals, has moved on as an unrestricted free agent to sign with the Dallas Stars. San Jose also will be without left winger Evander Kane, who scored 30 goals last season, after he received a three-game suspension for physical abuse of an official during a 5-1 preseason loss at Vegas on Sunday. That contest featured 114 penalty minutes and a handful of third-period dustups as the teams geared up for Wednesday night's season opener.

The good news for the Sharks is two-time Norris Award winning defenseman Erik Karlsson, who played just 53 games last season and was hampered in the playoffs by a groin injury, is healthy again after undergoing off-season surgery.

"When he wants to go, he can go, and that's a positive," said center Logan Couture, who led the team with 14 playoff goals and took over for Pavelski as team captain. "You just hoped he recovered from that surgery, and it looks like he has." —Reuters

## Knights, Sharks renew rivalry on opening night

**LAS VEGAS:** The Vegas Golden Knights have had a little more than five months to stew over the controversial ending of their first-round Western Conference playoff series with the San Jose Sharks.

Thanks to the NHL's schedule-maker, they won't have to wait this season for a rematch. The teams will meet Wednesday night in Las Vegas on the league's opening night. Two nights later, the teams — which are expected to battle for the Pacific Division title — will play again in San Jose.

"Doesn't matter," Vegas coach Gerard Gallant said about opening the season with back-to-back games with the Sharks. "We played them seven times last year in the playoffs, so you get used to teams. They know us, we know them, we're just getting ready for the home opener, and it should be a great game."

In 2018, the Golden Knights knocked off San Jose in

six games in the second round of the conference playoffs in their initial season en route to the Stanley Cup Final, where they lost to the Washington Capitals. But the Sharks got revenge last April by winning the final three games of their best-of-seven series in dramatic fashion.

Vegas had a 3-0 lead midway through Game 7 in San Jose when Cody Eakin was assessed a five-minute major penalty for cross-checking Joe Pavelski on a faceoff. An off-balance Pavelski collided with Paul Stastny and was knocked to the ice, where he banged his head and was knocked out while also sustaining a nasty gash.

The Sharks then scored four goals in 4:01 to take the lead, just the second time in NHL history that a team scored four goals on a power play in a playoff game. Jonathan Marchessault sent the game into overtime with a goal with 47 seconds remaining, but San Jose capped the remarkable comeback when Barclay Goodrow scored the series-winner at the 18:19 mark in OT.

NHL officials later acknowledged that Eakin should have been called for just a two-minute minor instead of a five-minute major. "It's so disappointing," Marchessault said afterward. "It's a joke. That's what it is. It's embarrassing."

## Pakistan recall Umar, Shehzad for S Lanka Twenty20s

**KARACHI:** Pakistan yesterday recalled trouble-making opener Ahmed Shehzad and middle-order batsman Umar Akmal for the three-match Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka starting this weekend.

It will be the first time the 27-year-old Shehzad will represent Pakistan since a four-month ban for a failed dope test last year. The ban was further extended by six weeks after Shehzad violated rules by playing club matches despite the ban.

Shehzad played the last of his 57 Twenty20 internationals in Scotland in June last year. Umar, 29, played the last of 82 Twenty20 internationals in 2016 against the West Indies. That year, former head coach Waqar Younis labelled both Shehzad and Umar as "indisciplined" and called on selectors to let them play domestic cricket to earn their places in the national team.

The three Twenty20 internationals will all be played in Lahore on October 5, 7 and 9. Chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq announced the changes to the squad as it prepared to meet Sri Lanka for the final one-day international of the tour on Wednesday in Karachi. The first ODI was abandoned due to rain, while Pakistan won the second on Monday. —AFP

## Tanak wants to 'finish the job' and seal first rally title

**LONDON:** Ott Tanak wants to "finish the job" of securing his first ever world rally title with the Estonian taking a 17-point lead over Sebastian Ogier into this weekend's Wales Rally GB. The season's third-last rally has a new start in Liverpool today before three tough days of forest driving with plenty of rain forecast and frequent fog complicating matters.

Ogier won in Turkey last month to trim Tanak's advantage and set the stage for an enthralling season run-in with Thierry Neuville not totally out of it either, 30 points adrift. Tanak's Toyota broke down in Turkey but in what could prove pivotal to the destination of the 2019 crown, he returned to pick up five precious points in the closing power stage.

"The gap in the championship is closer now, but we have three rallies to go and we know that we were fast on each of them last year," Tanak, 31, told Toyota's official website. "Now we just have to finish the job, starting in Wales," added Tanak who will be mindful of last year's painful outcome when he was forced to retire in the lead after a heavy smash.

Five wins from 11 rallies and top of the timesheets in 97 stages is evidence of Tanak's dominance this year. While he has the form and speed to seal the deal, against him is the fact that he has yet to win any of the three remaining rallies.

But despite his lack of success in Wales he says it's a rally he likes. "The roads are fast and they have a nice flow, but the conditions make it difficult, especially because the grip levels are constantly changing at every corner. —AFP



# France survive scare to beat USA 33-9 at Rugby World Cup

## Bonus point keeps the pressure up on old enemy England

**FUKUOKA:** France ran in three late tries against the United States yesterday to earn a vital bonus point in the Rugby World Cup 'group of death' with an erratic 33-9 win. Les Bleus were just 12-9 ahead with 13 minutes to go before Gael Fickou, Baptiste Serin and Jefferson Poirot dotted down to secure victory against the underdogs.

It was the type of inconsistent performance followers of French rugby have seen all too frequently — breathtaking flair let down by a raft of handling errors. But the bonus point keeps the pressure up on old enemy England, who play Argentina on Saturday in another Pool C clash of the heavyweights.

"It was a very difficult match but the important thing is that we won with a bonus point," said fly-half Camille Lopez, who picked up the man-of-the-match award. USA captain Blaine Scully was delighted his team had been able to push France, three-time World Cup finalists, until the closing stages.

"It's where we want to be. We want to be testing ourselves in the best competitions against the best teams in the world," Scully said. "We're not expecting any quarter and we don't expect them to give it to us."

France looked sharp at the outset, an incisive break by Lopez slicing open the United States mid-field after just two minutes. And Les Bleus were on the scoreboard four minutes later, a counter-attacking move ending in a sublime Lopez chip for winger Yoann Huget to dot down for a scintillating try.

USA coach Gary Gold had called on his team to improve "every aspect" of their game after they went down to England 45-7 and the Eagles held their own for the first quarter, as AJ MacGinty scored a penalty after some pressure on the French line.

But France extended their advantage after 24 minutes when Lopez's perfectly judged cross-field kick found Alivereti Raka in space on the right-hand touchline for a simple try. The USA kept in the contest and MacGinty slotted another penalty on the half-hour mark, again the consequence of some sustained forward pressure as France lost their flow.

Huget's try aside, it was a patchy first-half performance from Les Bleus, a pre-match downpour and humid conditions making handling difficult.

### 'DESTABILISED, UNBALANCED'

France had a chance to register a third try when Sofiane Guitoune burst through on a mazy run but his long pass to Raka was adjudged forward. Frustration grew for France as the handling errors increased and coach Jacques Brunel brought on a wealth of experience from the bench.

The only time the USA had ever beaten France in a 15-a-side match was in the 1924 Olympics — the last time rugby XVs featured in the games — but they came within three points with MacGinty's third penalty.

With the French supporters in the crowd starting to get nervous, centre Fickou finally put some daylight between the two sides, crashing over from short range for a try converted by Lopez to give the favourites a 19-9 lead.

And just two minutes later, Serin put the result beyond doubt with a try that again was created by another cross-field kick to Raka. With the USA tiring and the clock running down, prop Poirot put the icing on the cake with a catch-and-drive pushover.

It was only the second time the two teams have met in a World Cup — France won the only other match 41-14 in 2003. Next up for France is a match-



**FUKUOKA:** France's wing Alivereti Raka (R) is tackled by US wing Martin Iosefo during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool C match between France and the United States at the Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium in Fukuoka yesterday. —AFP

up with the physical Tongans on October 6, before 'Le Crunch' with England in Yokohama that may decide who tops the group and earns a likely quarter-final clash against Australia.

"There's work to do. Still quite a lot of work to do, that's clear," Brunel told French television. "We

struggled to control the game. We made a lot of errors. We were destabilised, unbalanced."

Gold, so furious with his team after the England defeats, was effusive in his praise. "We never gave up the fight, not for the full 80 minutes. Just so proud of everyone," said Gold. —AFP

## England dismiss Argentina's 'boring' jibe at World Cup

**TOKYO:** England's players have hit back at accusations by Argentina that they play "boring" rugby before this weekend's World Cup clash in Tokyo, refusing to get drawn into any mind games. Earlier this week, Pumas hooker Agustin Creevy tried to get under England's skin in the build-up to the crunch Pool C game, taunting: "They always play the same way — sometimes it's boring. Saturday is going to be like a war, it's like a final for us."

But Saracens hooker Jamie George hit back yesterday. "I don't think we do play boring rugby," he said. "I'm not overly surprised he's tried to say that, but he's entitled to his opinion. "Hopefully we'll prove him wrong on Saturday," added George. "I don't think it's very justified and I'm sure he's just trying to rattle us a little bit. He's more than welcome to try."

Flanker Sam Underhill chimed in that there were "no prizes for style — just trophies", before attack coach Scott Wisemantel also brushed off Creevy's jibe. "He might have been at a boring club, I don't really know," Wisemantel said of Creevy's two-season spell in the English Premiership with Worcester.

"I don't think that's the case and he obviously hasn't been watching much of the Premiership," added the Australian. "It's a bit like me making a judgement call on the Jaguares. (England's game) is varied and can be very structured at times — but in this tournament a third of our tries have come from unstructured play, so I don't necessarily agree."

England have opened with victories over Tonga (35-3) and the United States (45-7) in Japan following a horror 2015 tournament when they became the first World Cup hosts to crash out in the pool stages.

Argentina present a tougher challenge before they face France in their final group match, but England could fast-track rampaging prop Mako Vunipola's return to the starting line-up against the Pumas, despite him only playing 17 minutes of rugby in four-and-a-half months.

Vunipola, who had hamstring surgery in May, aborted an attempted return against Ireland in a World Cup tune-up after damaging scar tissue. However, the 54-cap loosehead prop returned to full training late last week alongside Jack Nowell, giving England coach Eddie Jones a full 31-man squad to pick from.

"He's a huge player for this team and probably been one of our most consistent performers over the last four years," said George. "It's safe to say he's one of the best front-row forwards in the competition. He's worked incredibly hard off the field to get himself right. We're very excited for him to get out there and show what he can do because we're fully aware of how destructive he is."

Underhill predicted this weekend's game would come down to who dominates the set piece. "Obviously the maul and scrum are a massive part of Argentina's game," said the Bath flanker. "It's a threat to nullify but also an opportunity to impose ourselves on the game — that probably falls under the category of 'boring' rugby but it's an area we look forward to getting stuck into." —AFP

## Parisse back for Italy in crunch Springbok match

**SHIZUOKA:** Talismanic No 8 Sergio Parisse will become rugby union's second most capped player when he skips Italy in their crunch Pool B match against South Africa tomorrow. Parisse will win his 142nd cap, overtaking Ireland's Brian O'Driscoll, with New Zealand's Richie McCaw atop the overall list with 149 Test appearances.

Italy coach Conor O'Shea retained 12 of the team that beat Canada 48-7, handing starting spots to Parisse, Tito Tebaldi and Luca Morisi. Parisse lines up for the do-or-die match in Shizuoka with Gloucester's Jake Polledri and South African-born Abraham Steyn in a competitive backrow.

## Australia unleash teen sensation Petaia at WCup

**TOKYO:** Nineteen-year-old sensation Jordan Petaia is set to become Australia's youngest Rugby World Cup player after he got the nod yesterday for this weekend's game against Uruguay. Petaia was named on the left wing for his first cap on Saturday, after injuries wrecked his Super Rugby season with the Queensland Reds and delayed his international debut.

The Wallabies are coming off a stinging 29-25 defeat by Wales which left them odds-on to finish runners-up to the Six Nations champions in Pool D. Coach Michael Cheika said he was sure the 1.90m (6ft 2in) Petaia was ready to make his debut despite his limited playing time this year.

"It's pretty exciting. He got pretty close to getting his cap on the last spring tour and he's looking good in training so it's going to be a great opportunity," Cheika said. "There's not many guys that get to make their debut in a World Cup so he's blessed with the opportunity. I know he's a fine young man and he'll take the opportunity with both hands for sure."

Petaia was named in Australia's team to

Dean Budd, who captained the Italians to a 48-7 win over Canada last time out, locks down with David Sisi, Andrea Lovotti and Simone Ferrari propping down either side of Luca Bigi.

Tito Tebaldi faces the daunting task of keeping livewire Faf de Klerk quiet at scrum-half, with Tommaso Allan given the task of dictating play at number 10. Jayden Hayward and Luca Morisi are in midfield, with Michele Campagnaro and Tommaso Benvenuti on the wings and Matteo Minozzi at full-back.

Italy kicked off their campaign with an unconvincing 47-22 win over minnows Namibia, meaning they have a maximum 10 points after their opening two games, with the All Blacks awaiting them after the South Africa game.

"We've been looking at what's the best group we could have," said O'Shea. "We've specifically planned to play against South Africa and tinkered at various different things. "We're looking forward to it. It's going to be physical, and

play Italy last November before being ruled out with a hamstring injury, and then suffered a similar problem before Australia's warm-up Test against Samoa last month.

"He's got a lot of talent, Jordan, and we'll see it for the first time. This will be the first game I've ever been involved in with him," said Cheika. "At the same time, he's just starting out so we'll let him get into the flow and see how he feels. He's got a couple of very experienced campaigners next to him in Dane Haylett-Petty and Kurtley (Beale)."

The teenager, the first Australian to make his Test debut at a World Cup since Berrick Barnes in 2007, said he was anxious about getting injured again before Saturday's game. "I'll just try and get through the week first — I don't want to jinx it," he said. "I'm just going to get to that game on Saturday and see what happens from there."

"I'm excited and just keen to get on," Petaia added. Matt To'omua, who starred at fly-half as a replacement against Wales, will earn his 50th cap as he shifts to inside centre in partnership with Tevita Kuridrani.

Nic White and Christian Lealifano were preferred as Australia's ever-evolving half-back combination, while Haylett-Petty shifts to the right wing and Beale starts at fullback. Captain Michael Hooper is one of only two players retained in the pack along

with the physical Tongans who can interchange, no matter what numbers are on their backs."

Like the Springboks, O'Shea plumped for a six-two forwards-backs split on the bench in preparation for what is likely to be a tough clash upfront. "We did discuss going 8-0 on bench because of what promises to be a forwards battle, but we'll leave that for another day!" the former Ireland full-back joked.

"You've lost the game before you've even started if you can't front up physically. "It's a war, South Africa, nothing else. I'm glad I'm off the pitch and not on against them." There had been some discussion over whether Parisse might be benched for the game given Steyn's eye-catching performance from No 8 against Canada.

But O'Shea was quick to dispel such rumours. "We talk the whole time about selection," he acknowledged. "But Sergio is one of the greatest players under the high ball and his role this weekend will



**TOKYO:** Australia's fly-half Will Genia speaks during a press conference with teammates full back Jordan Petaia (L) and centre Christian Lealifano (R) in Tokyo during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup. —AFP

with Allan Alaalatoa as Cheika rotated 12 players in his starting XV. "Many of these guys have been starting players for us over the last three or four years. Everybody's got to play their part on this trip and this is the opportunity for some of those guys," Cheika said.

### Australia (15-1)

Kurtley Beale; Dane Haylett-Petty,

be more fundamental than normal, fielding kicks and helping out our back three.

"He's outstanding and we also have great strength and depth in our backrow, even with players we've left at home," O'Shea added: "You need heart and courage to play South Africa and I know our team's got them in spades."

"All the pressure is on South Africa," who lost their opener 23-13 to New Zealand before a second-string side beat Namibia 57-3.

### Italy (15-1)

Matteo Minozzi; Tommaso Benvenuti, Luca Morisi, Jayden Hayward, Michele Campagnaro; Tommaso Allan, Tito Tebaldi; Sergio Parisse (capt), Jake Polledri, Braam Steyn; Dean Budd, David Sisi; Simone Ferrari, Luca Bigi, Andrea Lovotti

Replacements: Federico Zani, Nicola Quaglio, Marco Riccioni, Alessandro Zanni, Federico Ruzza, Sebastian Negri, Callum Braley, Carlo Canna. —AFP

Tevita Kuridrani, Matt To'omua, Jordan Petaia; Christian Lealifano, Nicholas White; Jack Dempsey, Michael Hooper (capt), Lukhan Salakaia-Loto; Adam Coleman, Rob Simmons; Allan Alaalatoa, Folau Fainga'a, James Slipper.

Replacements: Jordan Uelese, Sekope Kepu, Taniela Tupou, Rory Arnold, David Pocock, Will Genia, James O'Connor, Adam Ashley-Cooper. —AFP

they are determined to make sure we get it right in these next two games. Then beyond that, it doesn't matter which team you play in the pool next door to us, it is a monumental game," Schmidt added.

The hot and humid conditions under the closed roof of the Kobe Misaki Stadium, have made ball-handling difficult and that could be an issue as Ireland go in search of the four tries they need for a bonus point.

"We know the stats from the last two games that have been played here, 30 handling errors in one and 35 in the other so it's being able to adapt to that," said Ireland assistant coach Andy Farrell, whose son Owen played for England against the United States in an earlier World Cup match at the ground. "How do we adapt? We make sure there is a no-excuse mentality."

Farrell insisted complacency would not be an issue, adding: "We look back to our last result and that's enough. It doesn't matter whether it's New Zealand or Russia, it's about getting back up on the horse." —AFP

## Ireland look to steady Rugby World Cup campaign against Russia

**KOBE:** It is a game Ireland dare not lose and one in a sense they cannot 'win' when they try to revive their Rugby World Cup campaign against Russia today. Ireland's hopes of being crowned world champions for the first time suffered a setback with a 19-12 defeat by Japan last time out. But despite that loss, bonus-point wins over both Russia and Samoa in their final two group matches will see Ireland through to the quarter-finals after they started Pool A with a convincing 27-3 victory over old rivals Scotland.

Ireland coach Joe Schmidt has made 11 changes in personnel after a five-day turnaround, with fly-half Jonathan Sexton returning to the side after missing the

Japan loss with a thigh injury.

Sexton, who will captain Ireland for the first time in his illustrious career, reckons the Japan defeat may have been a "blessing in disguise" because it came in the pool phase rather than in the knockout stages where there is no chance of recovery. "He always demands such high standards of himself. That just sets the tone for everyone around him," Ireland back-row Rhys Ruddock, who plays in a Leinster side skippered by Sexton, told reporters at the Kobe Misaki Stadium yesterday. Ireland should have more than enough in their locker to see off a Russia side ranked 20th in the world, having won their only previous World Cup meeting 62-12 eight years ago.

And Schmidt was confident Ireland could bounce back to secure a quarter-final place that will likely pit them against either reigning world champions New Zealand or South Africa. "I'm still incredibly positive about this group," the New Zealander said.

"They are such a good group of young men that



## Sports

# Pochettino faces tough task to lift Spurs after Bayern thumping

## Biggest-ever margin of defeat for an English team at home in European competition

**LONDON:** Mauricio Pochettino has urged Tottenham to face their problems “like a man” but he has a huge job on his hands to mend shattered morale after their 7-2 Champions League mauling by Bayern Munich.

The team are at a crossroads just four months after they appeared in the final of the competition against Liverpool, winning just three out of 10 matches so far this season. In truth, reaching the showpiece in Madrid helped paper over the cracks after a rocky end to the last campaign in which their form dropped alarmingly.

A summer of uncertainty saw key players including midfielder Christian Eriksen linked with moves that did not materialise, which has had an unsettling effect on a club that is desperate to claim a regular place at Europe’s top table.

Tottenham have been patchy this season, with a B-string crashing out of the League Cup late last month at the hands of fourth-tier Colchester United. After that defeat Pochettino talked about “different agendas in the squad”, hinting that all was not well in the dressing room.

But Tuesday’s punishing loss against the five-time European champions in their gleaming new stadium will do far more psychological damage. It was the biggest-ever margin of defeat for an English team at home in European competition and the first time the club had ever conceded seven goals in a home match in any major competition.

Former Spurs and England winger Chris Waddle said off-field issues were getting in the way. “I don’t think Serge Aurier wants to be there, Christian Eriksen hasn’t signed a new contract. There is so much going on off the pitch,” he said. “It should have been dealt

with over the summer. Instead all the contract questions are still going on. It’s a shambles.”

It is impossible to know what Pochettino said to his players behind closed doors at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium but when he spoke to the press after the game he was measured. “I think we are very critical of ourselves, to find always the way to fix problems,” he said. “We need again to try to work, to try to move on. I think it’s more psychological now.”

“The most important thing is to stay calm, no rushed analysis, no rushed judgement, no rushed assessment,” he added. “You need to show your quality like a man first. To face it like a professional. This type of situation you have to show your quality, how you are strong.”

Spurs at their best play an incisive, fluent brand of attacking football with Eriksen, Son Heung-min and Harry Kane a handful for any opposition, but they can be surprisingly brittle. The unsettled Eriksen was not in the starting line-up on Tuesday, dropped in favour of the out-of-form Dele Alli but Spurs had plenty of chances in a gripping first half before being rocked on their heels by goal from Robert Lewandowski on the stroke of half-time.

The second half was a horror show as they fell apart, with salt rubbed into the wound by the fact that former Arsenal youngster Serge Gnabry scored four times. Pochettino talked about how last season’s Champions League run was the end of a cycle and spoke of the need for a reset.

“For me after the final of the Champions League was a chapter closed and now the club is in a period that they need to open another chapter and design a project medium, long-term,” he said.



**LONDON:** Bayern Munich's French midfielder Corentin Tolisso (L) vies with Tottenham Hotspur's English midfielder Dele Alli (R) during the UEFA Champions League Group B football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Bayern Munich at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in north London. — AFP

The problem he faces is convincing players such as Son and Kane that he is the man to deliver long-overdue silverware. Pochettino, now in his sixth season at

the club, appears to have a vision for taking the club forward but he must communicate that vision quickly. And the players must listen. —AFP

## Guardiola ‘unfair’ on Foden as City close on last 16

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said Phil Foden’s lack of minutes for the English champions is “unfair” as the 19-year-old came off the bench to score in a 2-0 Champions League win over Dinamo Zagreb on Tuesday.

Foden has been limited to just one start, in the League Cup against Preston, so far this season as the return of Kevin De Bruyne and signing of Rodrigo has seen the England under-21 international fall further down the pecking order.

But he made the most of barely a few minutes on the field against the Croatian champions after being introduced as a substitute in stoppage time to fire home after fellow sub Raheem Sterling had opened the scoring.

“I know he deserves to play. I want to give him minutes, every time he doesn’t play I am completely unfair to him, I’m sorry,” said Guardiola. “But Kevin De Bruyne is there, David Silva, Bernardo Silva, Rodri, (Ilkay) Gundogan. It’s what it is.

“I know the best way to grow up is play minutes and minutes, but he is so young. “I don’t know how many players of that age played as many minutes in the recent past he played in these last seasons with us. “He is going to be an incredible future player for us because we count on him and we trust a lot in him.” Sterling even hopes Foden will get enough chances to shine to make a late run to be included in the England squad for next year’s European Championship.

“I am buzzing for Phil and I want him in the national team,” said Sterling. “If he keeps going he will be there.” However, City’s local hero Foden is happy to play a patient game with such an array of midfield talent to compete with.

“You have to show the manager what you can do each day in training,” said Foden. “Every young kid wants to play but you have to keep patient.” City enjoyed 71 percent possession and had 19 attempts on goal, but had to wait until 24 minutes from time to make the breakthrough when Sterling rounded off an excellent team move.

The English champions have maximum points from their opening two games with back-to-back matches against bottom-of-the-group Atalanta to come. “It was good. We didn’t concede one shot on target, with our huge possession we created enough chances to score earlier, but we were patient,” added Guardiola. “We need two more victories to qualify for the last 16 and hopefully we can make against Atalanta almost the definitive step to be there.”

Despite missing the injured De Bruyne, Sergio Aguero, Bernardo Silva and David Silva were all guilty of missing guilt-edged chances before half-time, while Gundogan hit the bar.

Dinamo had romped to a 4-0 victory over Atalanta on matchday one, but barely ventured over the halfway line and their brave resistance was finally ended with a wonderfully worked team goal.

Rodrigo’s pass opened up the Zagreb defence and Riyad Mahrez’s low cross left Sterling with the simple task of forcing the ball over the line from point-blank range. That should have alleviated City’s frustrations for the night, but Guardiola was shown a yellow card by Dutch referee Serdar Gozubuyuk and cut an increasingly annoyed figure on the touchline as the hosts saw a number of penalty claims turned away.

“Nobody is going to give us anything,” said Guardiola. “We did it ourselves and that’s top. That’s why I love this team.” There was little for the Catalan coach to be concerned about, though, as City were never in danger of conceding and finally made the game safe deep into stoppage time when Sterling led a counter-attack and teed up Foden to blast into the far corner. — AFP



**ISTANBUL:** Paris Saint-Germain's Spanish midfielder Pablo Sarabia makes an assist despite Galatasaray's Uruguayan goalkeeper Fernando Muslera during the UEFA Champions League football match between Galatasaray and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), at Ali Sami Yen Spor Kompleksi in Istanbul. — AFP

## Icardi opens PSG account to claim victory at Galatasaray

**ISTANBUL:** Mauro Icardi scored his first Paris Saint-Germain goal as the French champions beat Galatasaray 1-0 to move four points clear at the top of their Champions League group on Tuesday. Argentina forward Icardi, who joined PSG on loan from Inter Milan last month, opened his account for the club to maintain their perfect start to their European campaign after downing Real Madrid 3-0 two weeks ago.

The Turkish champions sit third in the standings with a single point from the draw at Club Brugge on September 18 and have not registered a win in four games in all competitions. PSG were without Neymar, serving the last match of his European suspension for abusing a referee on social media, Edinson Cavani due to a hip injury, and Kylian Mbappe who started on the bench as he continues to recover from a thigh injury as Icardi led the attack in Istanbul. “It wasn’t the hardest goal to score but it came from excellent build-up play. He’s worked a lot,” coach Thomas Tuchel said. “It’s good because we were without Neymar and Cavani, and Kylian didn’t start.

“I am very happy because the team did what was needed. It was hard but it was deserved.” Fatih Terim brought in Ryan Donk and Jean Michael Seri to his side after

Saturday’s Super Lig draw with Fenerbahce as Algerian international Sofiane Feghouli dropped to the bench.

“For me PSG are favourites for the competition. Our match against Real Madrid is now more important after the results we’ve had,” Terim said. “We have nothing to lose and we’ll play until the end.”

The first sight of goal for either side came as Angel Di Maria tested Galatasaray goalkeeper Fernando Muslera on two minutes. Icardi, returning to PSG’s starting line-up after recovering from an injury sustained in the victory over Real, was shown a yellow card in the seventh minute for a foul on captain Muslera.

Galatasaray’s first chance arrived three minutes later as Seri’s shot curled the wrong side of Keylor Navas’s left-hand post. Five minutes into the second half Di Maria, who starred in the victory over his former club Madrid, wasted a one-on-one to claim the lead as Muslera saved his weak shot. A matter of seconds later, Icardi grabbed his first PSG goal to break the deadlock after some tidy interplay. Marco Verratti found winger Pablo Sarabia inside the box who squared a pass to Icardi at the back post.

Icardi was substituted on the hour mark for World Cup winner Mbappe. Playmaker Feghouli came onto the field a minute later, replacing Younes Belhanda, who wore a face mask to protect the jaw he broke last month.

Radamel Falcao, who moved from Ligue 1 side Monaco in September, had a chance to equalise for the Turkish side with 20 minutes to go but his right-footed free-kick from 20 metres out skimmed the crossbar.

PSG held on to claim victory as Tuchel brought on midfielder Ander Herrera for Di Maria during the final 10 minutes. Next for PSG is a trip to Club Brugge, who drew 2-2 at Real Madrid earlier in the day despite leading 2-0 at half-time at the Santiago Bernabeu. Galatasaray host the Spanish giants on October 22. — AFP

## Cardiff to appeal FIFA ruling over Emiliano Sala transfer payment

**LONDON:** Cardiff said yesterday they would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against FIFA’s decision to make them pay Nantes the first instalment of the transfer fee for Emiliano Sala. The world governing body this week ordered Cardiff to pay French club Nantes an initial six million euros (\$6.5 million) in their dispute over the payment of the transfer fee for Sala.

The amount corresponds to the first instalment of the 17 million-euro fee Cardiff had agreed to pay Nantes before the Argentine, 28, died in a plane crash in January while travelling to join his new club.

The Championship club, who argue that Sala’s revised contract was not signed and that his playing registration was not complete, said they were “extreme-

ly disappointed” by the FIFA Players’ Status Committee’s decision.

“It would appear the committee has reached its conclusion on a narrow aspect of the overall dispute, without considering the full documentation presented by Cardiff City to FIFA,” the statement said.

“Nevertheless there remains clear evidence that the transfer agreement was never completed in accordance with multiple contractual requirements which were requested by Nantes, thereby rendering it null and void.

“We shall be appealing to CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport) in order to seek a decision which considers all of the relevant contractual information and provides clarity on the full legal situation between our two clubs.”—AFP

## Ronaldo scores as Juventus brush aside Leverkusen

**TURIN:** Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goal in this season’s Champions League, sealing a 3-0 win for Juventus over Bayer Leverkusen in their Group D game in Turin on Tuesday. Ronaldo blasted in the third goal in the 89th minute to extend his record to 127 strikes in the competition to add to Gonzalo Higuain and Federico Bernardeschi’s earlier efforts.

Juventus move top of their section, level on four points with Atletico Madrid, who defeated Lokomotiv Moscow 2-0 in Russia. The Italian champions had been held 2-2 by the Spaniards at the Wanda Metropolitano in their opener.

“We had a good match against a team who love possession and are not easy to deal with,” said Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri. “They took a lot of energy out of us in the first half. After the break, they slowed down a little and we took control.”

Leverkusen face an uphill battle after their shock 2-1 defeat at home against Lokomotiv Moscow and are rooted to the foot of the table. “It was a clear defeat,” said Leverkusen coach Peter Bosz. “We played well in the first half even if we didn’t have chances, and then we made the mistake which led to the first goal.

“It’s the difference between a team who has experience in the Champions League and one that is beginning its journey at this level.” Juventus next host Lokomotiv and Leverkusen travel to Atletico on October 22.

Sarri opted for Higuain and Bernardeschi up front alongside five-time Ballon d’Or winner Ronaldo. Leverkusen were struggling from the outset after losing captain Lars Bender in the warm-up to a thigh problem, with defender Mitchell Weiser stepping in.

The Germans showed little to threaten the hosts, with Lucas Alario shooting over on three minutes with what would be their best chance of the game. The breakthrough came for Juventus when Leverkusen defender Jonathan Tah failed to head clear Juan Cuadrado’s long ball for Higuain, with the Argentine pouncing to drill home after 17 minutes. The 31-year-old Higuain, back in Turin after loan spells at AC Milan and Chelsea, had a chance for a second on 38 minutes but was denied by Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky. Juventus piled on the pressure after the break as Ronaldo tried unsuccessfully to pull off an overhead kick in the 55th minute.

Ronaldo then sent Higuain in behind, but although the Portuguese failed to connect with his teammate’s return pass, Bernardeschi was lurking to provide the finishing touch just after an hour.

Juventus almost had a third with Hradecky failing to control the ball and almost turning it into his own net before grappling to save on the line. But the Finnish international did well to deny Ronaldo in front of goal after a Higuain charge down the flank. Welsh international Aaron Ramsey was introduced in place of Bernardeschi with Dybala replacing Higuain for the closing stages. And in the dying minutes, substitute Rodrigo Bentancur picked out Dybala who slid the ball through for Ronaldo, allowing the 34-year-old to equal Real Madrid great Raul’s record of scoring against 33 different sides in the Champions League.

“It was an important match, after the draw in Madrid we had to win to get closer to the qualification,” said Higuain. “Now we head to Sunday, because another battle awaits us,” added the Argentine of next weekend’s Serie A clash with leaders Inter Milan. — AFP



**25** Rohit hits hundred as India make S African bowlers toil



**26** France survive scare to beat USA 33-9 at Rugby World Cup



**27** Pochettino faces tough task to lift Spurs after Bayern thumping



## Lyles leads American gold rush

Barber wins Australia's first javelin world title



DOHA: (L-R) Canada's Andre De Grasse, Britain's Adam Gemili, winner USA's Noah Lyles and Ecuador's Alex Quinonez compete in the Men's 200m final at the 2019 IAAF Athletics World Championships at the Khalifa International stadium in Doha. — AFP

**DOHA:** Noah Lyles led a triumphant night for the United States on Tuesday at the World Athletics Championships just hours after the sport had been rocked by the suspension of controversial coach Alberto Salazar.

Lyles produced a courageous performance to win the 200 metres title, whilst Donovan Brazier — who was part of the Nike Oregon Project that Salazar ran — became the first American to win the 800m world crown.

Sam Kendrick's was the third American to take gold, coming out on top in the men's pole vault and joining legend Sergey Bubka in being the only men to successfully defend the title. Lyles took time to get going but once he did and drew alongside Briton Adam Gemili he powered away — crossing the line and hugging his mother.

Despite some comparing Lyles to retired Jamaican legend Usain Bolt — the American has run faster than him both over 100 and 200m at 22 years of age — he said they were very different. "Don't say I'm the new Bolt," he said. "I'm me. If you like me, I'll happily entertain you. It's my time." Brazier showed no sign of being affected by the four-year suspension of

Salazar earlier on Tuesday breaking the 32-year-old championship record of Kenya's Billy Koncellah. The 22-year-old American charged clear down the back straight on the final lap to coast home in 1min 42.34 sec. Brazier professed to be unaware of the investigation into Salazar when he joined the project and hoped his moment of glory would not be tainted. "I think it would be really ignorant to associate me with that," he said. "To even think that would be pretty ignorant."

"I'm just very sad. I've had communication with Alberto, never been trained by him, but he is a good guy, and seeing him getting kind of bad reputation, it hurt him a lot." Kendrick's beat Sweden's European champion Armand Duplantis on countback when both failed to go over at 6.02 metres having succeeded at 5.97m in a final conducted notably in a sportsmanlike manner.

"Is it the best? That is a hard phrase to justify it is certainly the most memorable," said Kendrick. "The drama of the last hour made it one of the best, it was hard. "You don't win the pole vault by defence, you win it with offense."

The American monopoly was broken by Australian Kelsey-Lee Barber who won

gold in the final throw of the javelin to become the first from her country to win a world title in the discipline. "Any medalist of any colour is a huge thing in Australia," said Barber. "It was a matter of clearing your mind in the final round it is one thing to say you are going to do it it is another to execute it so I am really happy."

Shaunae Miller-Uibo's bid to add world 400m gld to her Olympic title stayed on course as the Bahamas star sauntered through her semi-final.

The 25-year-old — who opted for the event she calls "her baby" rather than the 200m — said she had extra motivation to succeed at the championships due to the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Dorian last month.

The island communities of Grand Bahama and Abaco bore the brunt of Dorian's leaving 52 people dead with over 1,000 listed as missing. "Definitely I want to make my country proud," said Miller-Uibo, who has donated \$25,000 to a fund she has set up.

"A lot of people are really supporting the fund and raising money." Dina Asher-Smith looks a warm favourite to become Britain's first female world sprint champion



DOHA: (L-R) USA's Michael Norman, Madagascar's Todiassoa Franck Rabearison, Jamaica's Demish Gaye, Kuwait's Yousef Karam, Botswana's Leungo Scotch compete in the Men's 400m heats at the 2019 IAAF Athletics World Championships at the Khalifa International stadium in Doha. —AFP

as she recorded the fastest time in her 200m semi-final of 22.16sec.

Her chances of doing so were also aided by the no-show of Olympic 200m champi-

on Elaine Thompson, adding to the stars who withdrew from the event including two-time defending champion Dafne Schippers. —AFP

## Murray reaches Beijing quarters

**BEIJING:** Exhausted Andy Murray battled into a singles quarter-final for the first time in a year yesterday — and then immediately grabbed a snooze. The former world number one outlasted fellow Briton Cameron Norrie 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (4/7), 6-1 over nearly three gruelling hours in hot and hazy Beijing.

The 32-year-old, now ranked a lowly 503, will play top seed Dominic Thiem or Chinese wildcard Zhang

Zhizhen in the last eight of the China Open on Friday. On the mend after a career-saving hip operation in January, Murray looked all in afterwards, and walked gingerly in and out of the post-match press conference. Blowing out his cheeks several times, the three-time Grand Slam champion said he had slept in the 90 minutes between his victory and talking to reporters. "I'm tired, I just had a sleep before coming. I mean, I'm really tired," he said.

To save his creaking body from more punishment, Murray said that he switched tactics in the deciding third set. "I decided if I want to win I have to go and take risks and come to the net, try and finish the points quicker, which I did," he said.

Murray defeated US Open semi-finalist Matteo

Berrettini on Tuesday for his biggest scalp since his return to singles tennis in mid-August. The hard-fought triumph over 69th-ranked Norrie means he reaches the last eight in singles on the ATP Tour for the first time since Shenzhen in September last year.

Murray showed several flashes of irritation as the first set against Norrie went to the tie break, chuntering away in the direction of his coaching team court-side. But he regained his composure and captured the set thanks to an untimely double fault by his compatriot. The 24-year-old Norrie broke Murray's serve in the sixth game of the second set and Murray was struggling, bending over between points with his hands on his knees to catch his breath.

He shook his head as he slumped red-faced in his

seat at 5-2 down. He displayed the battling qualities which took him to number one in 2016 to somehow surge back, only to lose the second set on the tie break.

But he somehow wrestled back the initiative in the decider, breaking Norrie's first service game on the way to a trademark gritty victory. Also into the quarter-finals was Russian fourth seed Karen Khachanov, a 7-6 (7/0), 7-6 (7/5) winner over France's Jeremy Chardy. In the women's draw, the 2017 US Open finalist Madison Keys was a surprise loser to unseeded fellow American Jennifer Brady. Teenage US Open champion Bianca Andreescu reached the last 16 with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) victory over Belgium's unseeded Elise Mertens. —AFP