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# Hashem calls to limit expats' stay in Kuwait to only 5 years

## Lawmaker proposes deporting expats for traffic offenses

### 300 kg of hashish, opium seized



KUWAIT: Doha customs inspectors foiled an attempt to smuggle 300 kg of hashish and opium hidden in a wooden boat arriving from Iran, said security sources, noting that the street value of the confiscated drugs is around KD 500,000. — Hanan Al-Saadoun

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Safa Al-Hashem, who has been campaigning against expatriates in Kuwait, yesterday called to limit expats' stay in the country to just five years that can be extended only once for a similar period. Any extension should be based on educational qualifications, she added. In a set of proposals filed yesterday, Hashem provided a long list of cases where expatriates should be deported along with their families and prevented from returning to the country.

The proposals said expatriates should be deported if their residence permit expires or if their profession in the residence permit contradicts what they actually do, and those who work for employers other than their sponsors. The loosely-worded proposal also calls for deporting foreigners who work in construction if their age is above 40 years and those who suffer from any disability or illness. It also requires contractors to ensure their workers leave the country after projects are completed.

The proposal requires the deportation of teachers and workers in private schools if their residencies are not with their employers, insisting their family members must also be deported and everyone must be prevented from coming back. In her proposal, Hashem calls for

deporting expatriates who have been convicted in court even if they have served any jail term or if their cases ended with a pardon. She also calls for deporting expats who commit three traffic offences, without describing the nature of the offences.

In another item, the lawmaker calls for deporting expats whose identification documents have expired without renewal. These people must also be fined KD 500. Kuwaitis who provide shelter or work for expats without a legal contract should be fined, according to the proposals. The lawmaker said that she submitted the proposal after the demographic imbalance in favor of expatriates reached a "dangerous level", causing the crime rate to jump, especially by residency violators.

Hashem, the only woman member in the 50-seat National Assembly, has repeatedly called for taking actions to reduce the number of expatriates in the country, whose numbers have reached 3.3 million against 1.4 million citizens. The lawmaker had called for making expatriates pay for all the services they receive from the state and also for imposing taxes on their remittances to their home countries. Last month, she again called for forcing expatriates to pay for the "air they breathe", and later said she received death threats via email.

## US starts Syria border pullback, alarming Kurds

**QAMISHLI, Syria:** US forces in Syria started pulling back yesterday from Turkish border areas, opening the way for Ankara's threatened military invasion and heightening fears of a jihadist resurgence. The withdrawal from key positions along Syria's northern border came after the White House said it would step aside to allow for a Turkish operation President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned could come at any moment.

The move marks a major shift in US policy, and effectively abandons the Kurds, Washington's main ally in Syria during the years-long battle against the Islamic State group. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish-led militia that controls much of northeastern Syria, said early yesterday in a statement that "US forces withdrew from the border areas with Turkey".

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor confirmed that US forces had pulled back from key positions in Ras Al-Ain and Tal Abyad. A US base in

Ras Al-Ain was empty of personnel yesterday, said an AFP photographer, who had seen troops there the night before. Turkey has sent reinforcements to the border in recent weeks, and Erdogan said yesterday in televised remarks the long-threatened offensive could "come any night without warning".

His comments came after Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Twitter that Turkey was "determined to ensure our country's existence and security by clearing terrorists from this region". He was referring to the SDF, which has ties to Kurdish militants inside Turkey and which Ankara considers a terrorist organization. Fearing yet another chapter of bloodshed and mass displacement in the Syrian conflict, the United Nations said it was "preparing for the worst". The European Union warned that civilians would once again bear the brunt of a military assault.

In its statement, the White House made clear it would stand aside when its NATO ally Turkey moves in. Trump yesterday said the region would have to "figure the situation out" and that America needed to get out of "ridiculous Endless Wars." But US Senator Lindsey Graham called the move "a disaster in the making" and "a stain on America's honor," warning of a Senate resolution demanding the White House alter course.

Continued on Page 24



ALEPPO: Turkish-backed Syrian rebel fighters gather near the Syrian-Turkish border yesterday. — AFP

## Judge orders Trump to hand over tax returns

**NEW YORK:** A federal judge yesterday said US President Donald Trump must hand over eight years of tax returns to Manhattan prosecutors, forcefully rejecting the president's argument that he was immune from criminal investigations. Trump's immunity claim was "repugnant to the nation's governmental structure and constitutional values," US District Judge Victor Marrero wrote in a 75-page decision. "The court cannot square a vision of presidential immunity that would place the President above the law," Marrero added.

Continued on Page 24

## Climate 'rebellion' sees mass arrests and blocked roads

**NEW YORK:** Climate protesters from Sydney to New York blocked roads yesterday, sparking mass arrests, as they started two weeks of civil disobedience demanding immediate action to save the Earth from "extinction". The demonstrations, triggered by the group Extinction Rebellion, were mostly limited to a few hundred people in each city, far from the size of last month's massive Greta Thunberg-inspired demonstrations.

Continued on Page 24

## Trio wins Nobel over how cells adapt to oxygen

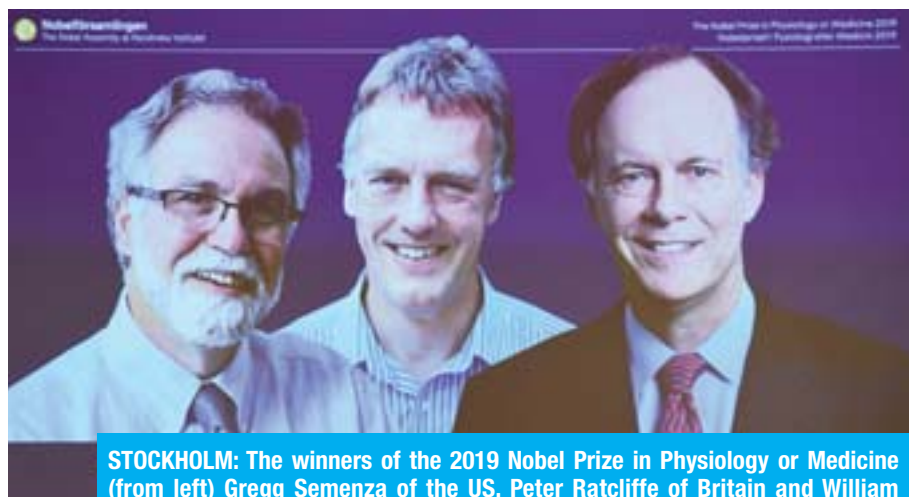
**STOCKHOLM:** Three researchers from the US and Britain yesterday shared the Nobel Medicine Prize for research into how human cells sense and adapt to changing oxygen levels, opening up new strategies to fight common diseases such as cancer and anemia. William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza of the United States and Peter Ratcliffe of Britain split the nine million Swedish kronor (\$914,000) award.

While the fact that humans need oxygen to survive has been understood for

centuries, how the body registers and responds to oxygen was little known prior to the trio's pioneering work. "They established the basis for our understanding of how oxygen levels affect cellular metabolism and physiological function," the jury said.

Semenza studied a gene known as EPO which causes the body to create more red blood cells and isolated the specific DNA segments that help it to adapt to low oxygen levels. Ratcliffe and Semenza then applied this knowledge to show that the oxygen sensing mechanism was present in virtually all human tissues. Kaelin identified another gene, present in patients with a genetic disorder that puts them at far greater risk of certain cancers.

Continued on Page 24



STOCKHOLM: The winners of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (from left) Gregg Semenza of the US, Peter Ratcliffe of Britain and William Kaelin of the US appear on a screen during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute yesterday. — AFP

## Blanchett decries 'heartbreaking' plight of stateless

**LONDON:** Film star Cate Blanchett urged the world to end the devastating plight of millions of people with no nationality yesterday, describing statelessness as a "heartbreaking" waste of human talent and potential. The double Oscar-winner made the plea at a major intergovernmental meeting in Geneva aimed at accelerating a global campaign to eradicate statelessness - an issue she admitted she was unaware of until relatively recently.

"Statelessness has a devastating impact on millions of people around the world. They experience marginalization and exclusion from cradle to grave ... It's total invisibility," she told the media afterwards. Stateless

people are often denied education and medical care, cannot travel, open a bank account, marry or even get a death certificate when they die, she said. Almost every country is represented at the meeting, which marks the midway point in a decade-long campaign to end statelessness called #IBelong.

The Hollywood star held up her own passport, credit card and Medicare card as she urged ministers and government officials to imagine how difficult life would be if they had no documents. "It's a condition of invisibility and it lurks in the margins and in the shadows," she said. "Stateless people are unseen and unheard."

Blanchett, a UNHCR goodwill ambassador, interviewed activist Maha Mamo, who spent 30 years as a stateless person in Lebanon before acquiring Brazilian citizenship last year. "Her personal story absolutely blew me away," the actress said. "(She's) an extraordinary beacon of hope." Mamo told delegates how her hopes of studying medicine and joining a Lebanese

Continued on Page 24



GENEVA: Australian actress and UNHCR ambassador Cate Blanchett (right) and formerly stateless refugee in Brazil Maha Mamo show their passports during a press conference yesterday. — AFP



## Local

# Zain Great Idea 5 Bootcamp phase commences featuring bright idea owners

## Facilitated by world-class regional and international academics

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the commencement of the ZGI Bootcamp, the first phase of the company's fifth Zain Great Idea (ZGI) tech startup accelerator program. The company hosted the entrepreneurs and bright idea owners at the program's first orientation session. The Bootcamp phase will be facilitated by world-class instructors from a selection of the best regional and international academic institutions.

Zain recently announced the official launch of ZGI 5 during the special event it held at the Zain Innovation Center (ZINC) in the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh. The event witnessed the presence of many prominent figures in Kuwait's entrepreneurial community as well as alumni from the program's previous editions. Zain Great Idea has been one of the most successful initiatives Zain presented to the Kuwaiti market as part of its comprehensive innovation and entrepreneurship strategy, with the aim of offering Kuwait's entrepreneurial community the chance to take their startups to entire new levels.

Eligible applicants will participate in the Bootcamp phase in Kuwait during a carefully designed comprehensive academic program that lasts for three weeks. Participants will learn the essentials of accelerating their tech startup at the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh, led by world-class instructors from a selection of the best regional and international academic institutions, including Stanford University, IE Business School, Venture Capital firms, entrepreneurs, and more.

ZGI was first launched in 2010 as a Corporate Social Responsibility initiative designed to support the youth into making their entrepreneurial dreams come true. Zain was the first in the region to launch such a comprehensive program of this kind. Then, throughout nearly 10 wonderful years, the company embraced over 500 entrepreneurs, travelled to 4 countries, and helped nearly 70 of the brightest Kuwaiti minds accelerate their



**KUWAIT:** Entrepreneurs and bright idea owners during the orientation session.

ideas into active and thriving SMEs in the market.

Throughout four successful past editions, ZGI empowered, trained, and invested in hundreds of creative and driven Kuwaiti youth, of which many now own thriving and active Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to this day. Encouraging and providing the proper resources for the local entrepreneurial community is a top priority for Zain, as the company is keen on contributing to the further progress of Kuwait's economic and national development. ZGI is established by Zain in association with Brilliant Lab, a startup Accelerator Service from Kuwait, and Mind The Bridge,

a global organization bridging the world through entrepreneurship education for startups, enterprises and investors to succeed in global markets. Mind The Bridge is based in Silicon Valley with offices in San Francisco and London.

The latest edition of the program features an all-new phase to the program: Co-developing. After Zain Great Idea is over, finalists will get full access to Zain's cross-functional team to help them get the most out of their newly accelerated startup. ZGI's entrepreneurs will be able to get consultations, mentoring, deals, tactics/strategies, and more from Zain specialists in var-

ious areas that are essential to any business, including sales, marketing, communications, legal, networks, IT, and more.

Zain is well aware of the crucial role played by private sector organizations in supporting social and economic sustainability projects. Springing from its growing commitment towards practicing its social responsibility, the company is committed to printing a positive print through all its activities. This has led Zain to embrace the most influential issues in the community, including the support of youth, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

## Kuwait backs local SMEs, says minister

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti government is committed to supporting small and medium sized enterprises enacting laws in their favor, the Minister of Commerce and Industry reiterated on Sunday. The remarks were made as Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan, who doubles as State Minister for Services, praised Expo 965, an exhibition of locally-made goods held at

Ahmad Al-Adwani Hall in the Kuwait City suburb of Abdullah Al-Salem. The event was held under the joint patronage of the minister alongside Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Mohammad Al-Jabri. It has also gained funding from Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. The showcased Kuwaiti pieces, which aim to reflect the coun-

try's traditions and heritage, this year featured works by young business-owners from the Gulf, according to Expo 965 founder Mohammad Kamal. The annual event, launched for the first time in 2016, has attracted the following of 145 volunteers, specialized in different aspects of the heritage and handmade goods creative industry. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Ministers Khaled Al-Roudhan and Mohammad Al-Jabri attend the event. — KUNA



Paper marbling, also known as Ebru painting.



A child creates clay artworks.



Traditional sadu weaving of multi-colored cotton threads.



Large turnout at the event.



**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received yesterday in his office Albanian Ambassador to Kuwait Saimir Bala. — KUNA

## Will fast-paced digital era harm or benefit humanity?

**KUWAIT:** The current fast-paced digital era we are experiencing made everything readily available with a click of a button and a swipe of a screen. While most of the old technologies are considered 'passe,' people tend to overlook the negative aspects of the current era, especially when it comes to the spread of false or unsourced information. With that being said, a question might arise: Will a fast-paced digital world harm humans or will it help the species transcend its current disposition?

On this subject, Professor at Kuwait University's (KU) College of Social Studies Dr Dalal Al-Budaiwi said that technologies such as social media platforms have a huge impact on society especially in the rapid spread of infor-

mation. Most now use platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and so on to get their information, which is positive and negative in and of itself, the academic said. People, namely of the younger generation, should bear in mind that not all information in the digital domain is 100 percent true or accurate; there should be a process of deduction and sifting through data to come with a fraction of what is considered 'the truth,' Dr Budaiwi said. All in all, to be aware of what is seemingly a vast ocean of information is a positive outcome of this new world; people only need to instill critical analysis of data to determine what is true from false and hopefully this will help guide humans towards a bridge future, the academic added. — KUNA



**MUSCAT:** GCC ministers pose for a group photo on the sidelines of the ministerial committee on financial and economic cooperation. — KUNA

## Economic committee discussed GCC common market: Kuwaiti Minister

**MUSCAT:** Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf said yesterday that the 110th meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministerial committee on financial and economic cooperation in Muscat discussed the Gulf Common Market. In a statement to the press on sidelines of the meeting, Hajraf said the GCC officials discussed a number of topics related to joint financial and economic cooperation, including recommendations made by the committees of governors of monetary institutions and the GCC central banks. The minister noted that the meeting also touched upon the review of the secretariat's memorandums on the implementation of resolutions

and measures to combat harmful practices in international trade, in addition to awareness programs on the harm of tobacco and the dangers of drinking sweetened beverages. The meeting, which lasted for one day, dealt with the minutes of the 56th meeting of the Committee of Under-Secretaries of the Ministries of Finance, the minutes of the 37th meeting of the Board of Governors of Gulf Monetary Institutions and Central Banks and the minutes of the sixth meeting. It also discussed the minutes of the 26th and 27th meetings of the Gulf Common Market Committee and the results of the 22nd meeting of the Gulf Customs Union. — KUNA



# Ministry receives complaints from owners of shops closed to fight visa trafficking

## Kuwaitis detained in Cyprus to return back home today

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Economic Affairs and head of the supreme committee to handle demographic imbalance Mariam Al-Aqeel issued resolution number 7/2019 on forming a special committee to follow up the complaints of owners of licenses issued to stores that were closed in a bid to fight visa trafficking. Aqeel stressed that the resolution aims at fighting visa trafficking and workers sponsored through idle and inactive licenses, which eventually demographically affects Kuwait. Aqeel added that according to the licenses law, a license will be cancelled in case of not being renewed for a year after expiry or if the business premises is closed for six consecutive months. In addition, Aqeel urged the owners of the shuttered stores to legalize their status to avoid legal accountability in case of any related violation. Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Manpower yesterday launched an inspection campaign at labor residences in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to ensure they

meet international hygienic and professional safety measures.

### **Detained Kuwaitis to return**

Kuwaiti citizens who have been detained in Cyprus said their problem has come to an end and that they received their passports pending returning home today at 7:00 pm. Mohammed Al-Hajji, one of the detainees, said they received their passports from the court yesterday morning after their 45-day travel ban was lifted. Hajji added that Kuwait's foreign ministry provided them with air tickets to return to Kuwait.

### **Waste management committee**

The Municipal Council's environmental affairs committee called for urging the Cabinet to form a supreme committee comprising of elements from relevant bodies such as the Municipal Council, Kuwait Municipality, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) to manage the issue of

waste, look into building collection points in governorates and empower and enroll the private sector in launching awareness campaigns. Speaking after a workshop held for this purpose, the committee's chairperson Maha Al-Baghli said Kuwait is part of the international community and has its own commitments towards improving environmental situations. "Unless solutions are found now, the cost will be too high for future generations," she stressed.

### **Heritage village project**

Municipal Council Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi said the legal department at Kuwait Municipality agreed to reoffer the heritage village project to entrepreneurs through the SME fund. The Municipality's legal affairs department manager Rajan Al-Ghareeb stressed that there is no legal objection to reoffer the project in Sharq to be utilized by entrepreneurs through the SME fund, especially since there are no legal disputes about it.

## Umrah, hajj visas different from Saudi tourist passes

**KUWAIT:** Saudi Arabia has started issuing tourist visas for nationals of 49 countries at various airports, Batha land border with UAE and King Fahd bridge with Bahrain, said diplomatic sources, noting that both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are working on developing the Khafji-Nuwaiseeb and Riqee-Salmi land borders between them for the same purpose. The sources expected the development process to be concluded by the end of the year, which would give nationals of these 49 countries residing in Kuwait access to Saudi Arabia through land exits.

However, the sources stressed the umrah and hajj visas are totally different from tourist visas because they are supervised by the Saudi hajj and umrah ministry and goes through a different electronic cycle of procedures. "Saudi Arabia has started the manual issuance of the new tourist visas at its consulates abroad," the sources remarked, noting that the 49 nationalities include Europeans, Asians and Americans, and tourists from those countries will be able to issue their visas online or through modern devices at Saudi airports after paying a SR 440 fee. —Al-Rai

## Kuwait rejects Israeli initiative 'without even reviewing it'

**KUWAIT:** The Israeli initiative to sign a non-aggression agreement with GCC states that was recently proposed by Israeli Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz was passively received by GCC states, including Kuwait, which initially rejected receiving the initiative even through a third party, said high-ranking diplomatic sources. Notably, Katz had tweeted confirming the report, saying that the initiative is fully supported by the US, describing it as a "historic step towards putting an end to the conflict and

paving the way for bilateral civil cooperation until peace treaties are signed".

In his tweet, Katz said he discussed the "non-aggression" plan with Arab foreign ministers and US President Donald Trump's outgoing envoy for the Middle East Jason Greenblatt during the recent UN General Assembly. Katz added he had already met a Gulf foreign minister he did not name to discuss the proposal. The sources confirmed Katz had separately

met the foreign ministers of two Gulf states with whom Israel already has contacts offering the initiative, but both were cautious in view of the current circumstances.

The sources added that Katz sent the initiative to a third foreign minister via a third party and that he received negative responses on behalf of two other GCC states. "Kuwait refused receiving the initiative without even reviewing it," the sources stressed. — Al-Jarida



**KUWAIT:** Firemen battle the blaze.

## Firemen battle huge Sulaibiya farm blaze

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A fire broke out in a 500 sq m warehouse at a Sulaibiya farm used for storing lumber, electrical appliances and heaters. Security sources said firemen from Sulaibikhat, Jleeb, Salmiya, Kuwait City and backup brigades rushed to the scene, where the blaze had extended 70 m outside the warehouse. Firemen managed to contain the

flames and prevent the fire from spreading any further, before they controlled the fire without any casualties. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the blaze. In other news, the interior ministry's relations and security media department said that the citizen services department announced closing the SME center in Hawally for a month effective Oct 6 for maintenance.



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## Local



Exploring Kuwait's hidden gem:

## The Arab Fund Building

Celebrating Arab artists and artisans

By Jamie Etheridge

Kuwait boasts a bevy of unique and beautiful landmarks, museums and interesting places to visit, though many of them are not well known. Among the most amazing of Kuwait's hidden gems is the beautiful Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) building, known locally as the Arab Fund building.



Designed by local architectural firm Pace, the building was completed in 1994 at a cost of \$150 million over a 50,000 square meter location in Shuwaikh. From the outside, the structure seems modest and unremarkable. Step inside, however, and the wonders of the Arab world are revealed.

On a recent visit to the Arab Fund, Kuwait Times explored the many treasures the building homes, while also learning more about the structure's unique design. The brainchild of Abdlatif Al-Hamad, the director general and chairman of the board of directors, the Arab Fund headquarters is a labor of love, a testament to the craftsmanship and creativity of the Arab world and a commitment to the Arab world's future.

When one enters the building, the first experience is of light. The eight-storey atrium, lit by floor-to-ceiling panels of windows along one wall, invites a soft, quiet light, in sharp contrast to the harsh desert sun outdoors. A hushed quiet pervades the space, woven through by the music from the soft bubbling of a Syrian tiled water fountain that cleans the ears from the honking of cars and industrial noise of Shuwaikh.

Throughout the atrium are strategically located various art installations, traditional and modern paintings and handicrafts from across the Arab world. These artisanal aspects, including the tallest custom-made mashrabiya in the world, highlight the skills and craftsmanship of Arab artisans around the region.

Dominating the atrium, the eight-storey mashrabiya stands 37 meters high. Built with traditional woodworking techniques by craftsmen in Egypt, it is created through the stacking of five separate panels showcasing the traditional window coverings once popular in North Africa and the Levant.

"The idea is to try and recreate the feeling of a traditional Arab home. In the old days, our houses would have a main atrium and all the rooms were around it," explains Eng. Osama Wanas, head of maintenance of the Arab Fund building.

Tradition combines with modernity to create a unique artistic environment. Paintings by modern Arab artists like Hussain Madhi (Lebanon), Nizar Sabour (Syria), Ghadah Alkandari (Kuwait), Ja'far Eslah



(Kuwait) and Mustafa Abd ElMu'ati (Egypt) share space with historical artifacts. In the center of the main atrium, for instance, stands a nearly 200-year-old hawdaj used to transport the covering of the sacred Kaaba from Egypt to Makkah. Across the atrium, a bridal chair made in Syria and an Egyptian khayamiya tent, hand-embroidered in Arabic calligraphy, represent the past.

On the third floor, 1.5-ton chandeliers from Morocco add illumination to the soft natural light streaming in from the floor-to-ceiling windows. A narrow bridge separates one of the building's two diwanis from the famous Mamluk meeting room, created out of heavy carved oak and ornately paneled walls in the style of



Local



Treasures inside the Arab Fund building in Kuwait include traditional Egyptian mashrabiya, handwoven carpets, modern Arab paintings, pearl inlaid cabinets and boxes, the covering used for the Holy Kaaba and much more. These remarkable examples of art and craftsmanship highlight the talents and skills of artists and artisans from across the Arab world. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



12th century Egypt. A massive inlaid table and carved masharbiyas showcase medieval Egypt's grandeur. Downstairs, the Damascene diwaniya offers Arabian comfort to visiting VIPs with a gentle bubbling water fountain and cool tiled floors. Around the corner, the Tunisian meeting room showcases the craftsmanship of Tunisian artisans with exquisite carved Tunisian stonework. A massive marble conference table reflects soft light from the Jordanian stone in the surrounding columns, arches and floors, and Moroccan cedar wood in the ceiling scents the air.

The entire building is spotlessly clean, dust free and

impeccably maintained. Modular design in the furnishings allows almost any room or office to be reconfigured as needed. The atrium floor, entrances and reception areas as well as the stairwells are tiled in white and grey Italian marble.

Every detail of the building - from the cabling beneath the office floors to the light sources - has been designed with practicality, beauty and careful planning in mind. Hydroponic trees stationed in rotating planters embedded in the atrium floor can be rotated monthly toward the natural light from the one wall of windows, thus preventing the trees from growing slanted over time. Songbirds in small cages scattered throughout the atrium add a light note of nature to the atmosphere.

Islamic art and geometric patterning is carried as a theme throughout much of the building's public areas, in the art, furnishings and designs.

A modern marvel, the Arab Fund building is not only home to the best of Arab art and craftwork, but also a piece of art itself.



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Afghan generation knows only conflict as war turns 18

## Where are the world’s stateless people?



BAGHDAD: Iraqi protesters burn tyres during a demonstration against state corruption, failing public services, and unemployment, in the Iraqi capital Baghdad. —AFP

# Iraq unrest hits volatile Sadr City

## Death toll climbs; protesters want PM, government removed

**BAGHDAD:** At least 15 people were killed in clashes between Iraqi security forces and protesters overnight in Baghdad’s Sadr City district as violence from a week-long nationwide uprising swept through the vast, poor swathe of the capital for the first time. At least 110 people have been killed across Iraq in the worst wave of violence since the defeat of Islamic State nearly two years ago, with protesters demanding the removal of Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi and a government they accuse of corruption.

The arrival of the violence in Sadr City on Sunday night poses a new security challenge for the authorities. Unrest is historically difficult to put down in the volatile district, where about a third of Baghdad’s 8 million people live in narrow alleys, many with little access to electricity, water and jobs. The military said early it was withdrawing from Sadr city and handing over to police in an apparent effort to de-escalate tension there. A Sadr City resident reached by phone told Reuters later on that the streets were again calm after a night of riots. Local militiamen were coming to inspect damage and police were deployed around the district’s neighborhoods. The protests began spontaneously last week in Baghdad and across southern cities, without public support from any major political faction in Iraq.

They have since escalated and grown more violent, spreading from cities in the south to other areas, mainly populated by members of

the Shiite majority whose parties hold political power but say their communities have been neglected for decades. The unrest poses an unprecedented challenge for Abdul Mahdi, who took office last year as a consensus candidate of powerful Shiite religious parties that have dominated the country since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

**Reform promises**

Abdul Mahdi has responded with proposals of incremental reforms, but these have failed to appease the protesters, who say the security forces are using snipers and live ammunition to protect the political class from popular anger. It is the biggest wave of violence in the country since an insurgency by the Sunni Muslim Islamist group Islamic State was put down in the north in 2017, and the worst street unrest to hit the capital Baghdad in around a decade. U.S Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Abdul Mahdi in a phone call that he trusted the Iraqi forces and supported the Iraqi government in restoring security, a statement from the prime minister’s office said.

Abdul Mahdi said life had returned to normal, according to the statement. The government has offered to spend more money on subsidized housing for the poor, stipends for the unemployed and training programs and loan initiatives for youth. Iraqi authorities also said they would hold to account members of the security forces who “acted wrongly” in the



BAGHDAD: An ambulance arrives at a demonstration against state corruption in the Iraqi capital Baghdad. —AFP

crackdown on protests, state TV reported. The interior ministry denies government forces have shot directly at protesters. The protesters demand the overhaul of what they say is an entire corrupt system and political class that has held the country back, despite unprecedented levels of security since the end of the war against IS. Many protesters also accuse the

parties in power of having close ties to Iran, the dominant Shiite power in the region. Iran has called for calm in Iraq. Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, tweeted yesterday: “#Iran and #Iraq are two nations whose hearts & souls are tied together... Enemies seek to sow discord but they’ve failed & their conspiracy won’t be effective.” —Reuters

## ‘Silencing’ of Iraq protests coverage feared after attacks

**BAGHDAD:** A spree of attacks and threats against media outlets in Iraq has alarmed the United Nations, journalists and monitors, who demand the government prevents the “silencing” of journalists covering mass protests. Raids over the weekend carried out by unidentified gunmen have added to concerns for freedom of expression that were first flagged when authorities implemented a near-total internet blackout after anti-government protests erupted last week in the capital and the country’s south.

On Saturday evening, the Baghdad bureaus of Kurdistan-based NRT TV, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya and local Al-Dijla channel were raided by masked men, the stations said. NRT TV said the gunmen damaged equipment, which temporarily put the chan-

nel off the air, seized employees’ phones and attacked local police.

Security camera footage aired by Al-Arabiya showed around a dozen men in tactical gear and helmets entering the bureau, ripping screens off walls and rummaging through drawers. Al-Arabiya said it had received “assurances” from Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi’s office that the incident would be investigated. The UN’s top official in Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, said she was “shocked at the vandalism (and) intimidation”. “Government efforts (are) required to protect journalists. Free media is the best safeguard of a strong democracy,” she said.

A security source told AFP that another local channel, Al-Nahreini, had also been raided and its equipment damaged, and that Hona Baghdad (This is Baghdad) and Al-Rasheed had received threats. “We received direct threats over our coverage of the protests,” said a journalist at Al-Rasheed, which has closely covered protests and accused security forces of indiscriminate violence. “They told us: ‘Either you change your editorial line or you’ll have the same fate as NRT and the rest.’ So we preferred to cut our dis-

tribution,” the reporter added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

### Bid to ‘terrorize’ media

Throughout the week, bloggers and activists across the south also reported receiving text messages and phone calls threatening them and their families over their coverage. “Coverage of demonstrations is very difficult and different from the usual coverage of events because the crackdown on protesters automatically affects the journalists,” Dijlah TV’s Mazen Alwan told Iraq’s National Union of Journalists.

Various media outlets also took confidential measures to ensure the safety of their teams. Iraq is ranked 156th out of 180 countries on the 2019 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The media watchdog accused security forces of “disproportionate and unwarranted restriction of the right to inform”. “Instead of banning all journalistic activities, the security forces and local authorities have a duty to guarantee the safety of journalists so that they can do their reporting,” said Sabrina Bennoui, RSF’s Middle East desk head. —AFP

## N Korea boat collides with Japan sea patrol

**TOKYO:** Around 60 members of a North Korean fishing boat were rescued yesterday after it sank following a collision with a Japanese patrol vessel, local media said. The North Korean ship—believed to illegally fishing in Japanese waters—capsized after the collision, the coast guard said. Satoshi Kuwahara, a Japanese fisheries agency official, told reporters the patrol boat Okuni had earlier warned the North Korean vessel to leave the area.

All of the estimated 60 crew members aboard the North Korean boat, were rescued, Jiji Press said, while public broadcaster NHK added they had been transferred to another North Korean vessel sailing nearby. Local media said none of the Japanese patrol vessel crew were injured. Immediate confirmation of the news reports was not available. The collision occurred in waters some 350 kilometers northwest of Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture in central Japan. “We’ve been strengthening patrols around the water there in cooperation with the fisheries agency,” said Kazuma Nohara, another coast-guard spokesman. In the wake of the accident, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told parliament: “We will continue taking resolute action to prevent illegal operations by foreign ships.” Experts say some fishermen from the North are travelling far out to sea in order to satisfy government mandates for bigger catches.

But their old and poorly equipped vessels are prone to mechanical faults and other problems, including running out of fuel, and there are few ways for them to call for rescue. A record 225 suspected North Korean fishing vessels washed up on Japan’s coast last year, according to the coastguard. Boats have also washed up on Japanese shores with the crew dead—referred to as “ghost ships” by local media. In 2018, 10 North Koreans rescued from a tiny wooden boat drifting off northern Japan were deported back to their country. —AFP



International

# ‘Enemies seek to sow discord’ between Iran, Iraq: Khamenei

## Iran reopens Iraq border crossing shut amid unrest

TEHRAN: Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said “enemies” were trying to drive a wedge between Tehran and Baghdad in a tweet yesterday following deadly unrest in neighboring Iraq. “#Iran and #Iraq are two nations whose hearts & souls are tied together... This bond will grow stronger day by day,” Khamenei was quoted as saying on his office’s Twitter account.

“Enemies seek to sow discord but they’ve failed & their conspiracy won’t be effective,” he added. State news agency IRNA said the supreme leader was reacting to recent violence in Iraq. More than 100 people have been killed in Iraq since clashes erupted last week between protesters and security forces, the majority of them demonstrators struck by bullets.

The Iraqi authorities have accused “saboteurs” and unidentified snipers of targeting the protesters. Tehran has close but complicated ties with Baghdad, with significant influence among its Shiite political groups. The two countries fought a bloody war from 1980 to 1988 and Iran’s influence in Iraq grew after the US-led invasion toppled veteran dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003. Since the protests broke out last week, some officials in Iran have accused the country’s foes—including the United States, Saudi Arabia and Israel—of being behind the Iraqi unrest.

“Foreign evil hands... are now seeking to destabilize Iraq in another way,” said Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Iranian parliament. “This plot will also be foiled,” he added in a tweet on Friday. Yesterday, government spokesman Ali Rabiei said there “are ill-wishers who seek to sabotage any opening between us and those neighbors who’ve had differences of opinions in recent years”.

### Call for ‘self-restraint’

Speaking at a news conference aired on state television, Rabiei said Iran was “concerned and sad regarding any unrest in neighboring countries”. Iran called on “the great people of Iraq to show more self-restraint and seek democratic and legal means to reach their demands”, he said. “As always, the Islamic republic of Iran expresses its readiness to stand beside Iraqi brothers and sisters and help them. No form of propaganda can sever the people of Iran and Iraq.”

Iran has urged its citizens planning to take part in a major Shiite pilgrimage in Iraq to delay their travel into the country over the violence. Last week, Iran shut the Khosravi border crossing with Iraq at the request of Iraqi authorities as the protests raged. The post was reopened yesterday morning and Iranians were making their way towards holy shrines in Iraq, an official



AL MANDHARIYAH: Photo shows the Khosravi border crossing between Iraq and Iran, also known as the Munthriya border crossing, in the Diyala province of eastern Iraq, as Iranian pilgrims arrive on their way to the central Iraqi shrine city of Karbala ahead of the Arbacen religious festival. —AFP

said in a report by ISNA news agency. A top military adviser to Khamenei said those behind the unrest would be unable to deter Iranian pilgrims.

“They want to scare people into not going to Arbacen, but even if it rains arrows and stones, Hussein’s lovers will not be afraid,” Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency. Iranians are

heading to the Iraqi holy city of Karbala for the pilgrimage that will culminate on October 17 with the annual Arbacen commemoration. Arbacen is one of the world’s biggest religious festivals and marks the end of the 40-day mourning period for the seventh-century killing of Imam Hussein by the forces of the Caliph Yazid. —AFP

## Iran arrests an Instagram celebrity for ‘blasphemy’

TEHRAN: Iran has arrested an Instagram celebrity famous for drastically altering her appearance through cosmetic surgery, Tasnim news agency has reported.

The social media star known as Sahar Tabar was detained on the orders of Tehran’s guidance court, which deals with “cultural crimes and social and moral corruption”, Tasnim said.

She faces charges including blasphemy, inciting violence, gaining income through inappropriate means and encouraging youths to corruption, the news agency added. Tabar shot to prominence on Instagram last year after posting a series of images of her face altered through plastic surgery. Most of the photos and videos shared with her 26,800 followers have also been heavily

edited so that she seemingly resembles Hollywood star Angelina Jolie.

The account features images of her with a gaunt face, pouting lips and sharply turned-up nose. In some, she can be seen wearing a loosely fitting hijab over her hair and a white bandage on her nose commonly seen on Tehran’s streets. Cosmetic surgery is hugely popular in the Islamic republic, with tens of thousands of operations taking place each year. Instagram is the only major social media service accessible in Iran unlike Facebook and Twitter and the Telegram messenger service are officially banned. —AFP

## FBI: US most prolific serial killer murdered at least 50 people

WASHINGTON: A 79-year-old man murdered at least 50 people, making him the most prolific serial killer in US history, the FBI said Sunday. Samuel Little confessed to 93 homicides - mostly of women - between 1970 and 2005, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said. Although investigators have only confirmed his involvement in 50 of them, they believe all of Little’s confessions are credible.

The FBI has set up a website showing his videotaped recollections of unidentified killings, alongside sketches - drawn by Little - of the people he claims to have murdered. “Many of his victims’ deaths, however, were originally ruled overdoses or attributed to accidental or undetermined causes. Some bodies were never found,” the FBI wrote on the website. He was jailed for life in 2014 after being convicted of three murders. “For many years, Samuel Little believed he would not be caught because he thought no one was accounting for his victims,” FBI crime analyst Christie Palazzolo said.

“Even though he is already in prison, the FBI believes it is important to seek justice for each victim — to close every case possible.” The former boxer, also known as Samuel McDowell, was first arrested in 2012 at a homeless shelter in Kentucky and extradited to California to face drug charges. Once there, DNA evidence linked him to three cold cases, leading to his 2014 conviction for the murder of three women in Los Angeles between 1987 and 1989. All three had been beaten and strangled. —AFP

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## International

# US businesswoman refuses to answer questions about intimacy with UK PM

## Arcuri: I never asked for help or favors from Johnson

**LONDON:** US businesswoman Jennifer Arcuri repeatedly refused to answer questions yesterday about whether she had an intimate relationship with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson when he was mayor of London. The Sunday Times has reported that when Johnson was mayor he failed to declare close personal links to Arcuri, who received thousands of pounds in public business funding and places on official trade trips.

Speaking to ITV, Arcuri said she had bonded with Johnson, who was mayor of the British capital from 2008-2016, over classical literature, that they discussed French philosopher Voltaire and shared a love of William Shakespeare. But asked repeatedly whether she had an affair with Johnson or intimate relations with him, she either sidestepped the question or openly refused to answer. "I really am not going to answer that question," Arcuri told ITV. "It's really categorically no one's business what private life we had or didn't have."

"And categorically more important, Boris never ever gave me favoritism, never once

did I ask him for a favor, never once did he write a letter of recommendation for me." Asked about the allegations, Johnson has said everything was done with full propriety and that there was no interest to declare. When asked for comment yesterday, he said: "I have really said everything I want to say about that." The Greater London Authority (GLA) said last month it had referred Johnson to Britain's police watchdog for potential investigation over allegations of misconduct involving Arcuri.

The GLA said the allegations were that Johnson had a friendship with Arcuri and as a result of that friendship allowed her to participate in trade missions and receive sponsorship. The crime of misconduct in public office carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The second most powerful man in the opposition Labor Party, John McDonnell, said Johnson had a duty to declare his friendship with Arcuri. "Regardless of the exact nature of his relationship with Arcuri, it is clear that she and Boris Johnson were close," McDonnell said. "The prime minister is unfit for office."

Arcuri told ITV that after they first bonded over literature and discussed venture capital for the technology sector, she and Johnson began sending text messages and then he would visit her office at her apartment in London, sometimes on his way home. In her phone, she entered Johnson-whose first name is Alexander-as "Alex the Great". "There was plenty of office space for him to come visit," Arcuri said. He visited around five or perhaps 10 times, she said. "I didn't think it was awkward at all."

She quipped that she once offered Johnson the chance to have a go on her dancing pole but he refused. "He sat down with his tea and started muttering," she said. When asked again about the nature of their relationship she said: "Because the press have made me this objectified ex-model pole dancer model, I really am not going to answer that question." Asked if she loved him, she said: "I care about him deeply as a friend and do we share a very close bond. But I wish him well, I want him to be happy." — Reuters



**WATFORD:** Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks to mental health professionals during his visit to Watford General hospital in Watford, north of London yesterday. — AFP

## EU hopes for new UK move as Brexit clock runs out

**BRUSSELS:** European officials warned yesterday that Britain's latest Brexit deal proposal doesn't go far enough to allow a breakthrough before next week's Brussels summit. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has insisted he will not ask for another delay to Britain's planned October 31 departure from the European Union. But he may be forced to do so by a British law passed to prevent a chaotic no-deal divorce, with European negotiators warning time is running out for talks.

Johnson's envoy, senior diplomat David Frost, was in Brussels yesterday for more "technical talks", and Brexit minister Stephen Barclay travelled to the Hague to meet Dutch officials. But both heard that the latest British plans to impose alternative customs arrangements on Northern Ireland, to be reviewed every four years by the provincial assembly, is unlikely to convince. "I think we all agree we need a workable solution now and not something based on untried and revokable arrangements that would be left to negotiation during the transition period," EU spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said.

"As we have also recalled, the UK proposals presented last week do not meet at present the objectives of the protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland," she said, referring to negotiating terms agreed in 2017. "This is also the shared view of European Parliament, but also all member states," she added. Meanwhile, after a "frank and honest" discussion with Barclay, Dutch foreign minister Stef Blok said "more realism and clarity" would be needed if this



**LONDON:** An arrangement of newspapers photographed as an illustration in London shows a full-page advertisement taken out by the UK Government in several daily newspapers as part of its public information campaign to get the public and business owners ready for Brexit. — AFP

week's talks are to go much further. And, in an interview with Le Monde, chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier warned that if London "does not come back with new proposals on the two serious problems we have indicated to them, I cannot see how we can move forward". Despite the divisions, Frost is still meeting with EU officials for technical talks, but doubts remain that a workable Brexit deal text will be available by Friday. If it is not, European officials warn, there will be no time to get member states to sign off on it before October 17 and 18, the last scheduled European summit before Brexit day.

Britain insists its offer represents significant concessions and now the EU must show similar flexibility, but Brussels is adamant it will not agree to any plan that undermines its single market or leaves Ireland exposed. In London, a Number 10 spokesman said: "We are ready to

talk with the EU at a pace to secure a deal so that we can move on and build a new partnership between the UK and the EU. "But if this is to be possible the EU must match the compromises that the UK has made," he warned.

### 'Landing zone'

On Sunday, Barclay suggested London could be willing to soften its position on Northern Ireland, describing last week's suggestion as "a broad landing zone" rather than a final take-it-or-leave-it offer. But, during telephone talks with Johnson on Sunday, French President Emmanuel Macron made it clear that the EU would decide by the end of this week whether a deal is possible.

The British proposals submitted to Brussels last week centre on how to manage the post-Brexit border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. Johnson wants Northern Ireland's devolved assembly - which has been suspended for almost three years - to vote every four years on whether to maintain EU rather than British regulations there.

He has also proposed the province leaves the EU's customs union along with the rest of the UK, with checks on trade to rely on untried technology and to be carried out away from the sensitive border. Brussels has said these plans are not a basis for an agreement. Talks continued as a judge at Scotland's highest civil court, the Court of Session, was expected to rule on whether Johnson can be forced to send a letter to Brussels requesting an extension if no deal can be reached by October 19.

Anti-Brexit campaigners have brought the case amid speculation that Johnson will try to find a loophole in legislation requiring him to do so, including by asking another EU member state to veto a demand for more time. The government has said in documents submitted to the court that Johnson will abide by the law but he has also said he will take Britain out of the EU by October 31 come what may. — AFP



**WAMENA:** Indonesian military assist residents evacuated from Jayapura after they arrived at an airport in Wamena. Anger over racism against indigenous Papuans by residents from other parts of Indonesia has fuelled weeks of angry protests in the impoverished region. — AFP

## Over 16,000 flee unrest in Papua

**JAKARTA:** More than 16,000 scared residents have fled an unrest-hit city in Indonesia's Papua region, the military said yesterday, as one of the deadliest eruptions of violence in years sparked calls for an independent probe. Several dozen people were killed when violence broke out in Wamena city last month, with some victims burned alive when buildings were ablaze, and others stabbed in the chaos, according to authorities.

Since mid-August, Papua has been hit by waves of mass protests and violence fuelled by racism against indigenous Papuans by Indonesians from other parts of the archipelago, as well as calls for self-rule in the impoverished region. The majority of Papuans are Christian and ethnic Melanesian with few cultural ties to the rest of Muslim-majority Indonesia.

Yesterday, the air force said about 11,400 people - mostly migrants - had been evacuated aboard military aircraft. Several thousand more have left aboard commercial aircraft since late September, it added. Also yesterday, Human Rights Watch called for a probe into 33 deaths during the Wamena riots to be led by the Southeast Asian country's National Commission on Human Rights.

### Sparked by racist comments

"The Indonesian government should also immediately allow the United Nations human rights office unfettered access to (Papua) to investigate the situation," the rights group said in a statement. The violence in Wamena was reportedly sparked by racist comments made by a local teacher towards students, but police have disputed that account. Since then, thousands of residents - both Papuans and non-Papuans - have been evacuated, as news of looming violence circulates on social media. However, there were signs that Wamena was returning to normal with many shops and schools reopened - although most students have stayed home - while government offices have also been operating since last week, according to an AFP reporter. In August, protests broke out across Papua and in other parts of the country after the arrest, racial abuse and tear-gassing of dozens of Papuan students, in the city of Surabaya.

Migrants have become an influential minority in Papua, moving there from other parts of the country in pursuit of opportunities in the mineral-rich region - home to the world's biggest gold mine. A low-level separatist insurgency has simmered for decades in the former Dutch colony-which shares New Guinea island with the independent nation of Papua New Guinea-after Jakarta took over in the 1960s. A UN-sponsored vote to stay within the archipelago in 1969 was widely viewed as rigged, and Jakarta has long refused to consider another referendum. — AFP

## Cameroon's Biya seeks to douse crises with surprise concessions

**YAOUNDE:** Cameroonian ruler Paul Biya's surprise decision to free hundreds of detained opponents after a stinging crackdown on separatists is seen by some experts as a way to ease tensions but short of a major policy shift. Main opposition leader Maurice Kamto walked free from jail Saturday after a military court ordered his release at the behest of Biya, who has firmly ruled the west African country for nearly 37 years.

The conciliatory gesture comes as the president faces a number of domestic crises, including a two-year secession drive by anglophone separatists which has claimed some 3,000 lives, and international criticism over political freedoms. He also ordered talks last week on the crisis in the Francophone country's two English-speaking regions which ended with a proposal to give them more autonomy. The announcements "surprised everybody", said political analyst Stephane Akoa, adding: "Why now... when for three years Mr Biya has been toeing a hard line?" Even up until August, the government cracked the whip, sentencing separatist leader Julius Ayuk Tabe to life in a high security prison in the capital Yaounde.

But on September 10, the government announced a five-day "national dialogue" aimed at ending the anglophone crisis. Held last week, it was shunned by the majority of separatist leaders but ended with a proposal for more autonomy for the two regions-home to most of the country's anglophones, who account for about a fifth of the country's 24 million population that is overwhelmingly French-speaking. "In terms of public relations, the dialogue was a success for the government which gave the impression of completely changing its strategy," said Akoa.

"However, it's not clear if it's going to settle many things. It's hardly likely that these measures will reassure those who have taken up arms against Yaounde." The anglophones complain of discrimination and marginalization, especially in education, the judiciary and economic opportunities. "This doesn't correspond to the expectations of the majority of anglophones who want federalism at the least," said Cindy Morillas from the French research centre Les Afriques dans le monde (Africa In the World).

### International pressure

Morillas said that Biya reacted to international pressure "as well as from domestic civil society and he just had to move." Since the start of the year, the US, European Union and even France had been pressuring Biya to assume a softer approach in dealing with separatists and calling for Kamto's release. Kamto, 65, was arrested in late January after months of peaceful opposition protests over the results of an October 2018 presidential election in which he came in second.

More than 100 people in detention are also now set for release "if they have not been detained for anything else", the military court said. The move drew immediate applause, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a statement that he "encourages the Cameroonian authorities to continue to adopt further confidence-building and reconciliation measures". The United States called it a constructive step towards easing political tensions, while Amnesty International hailed it as "a welcome step towards ending the long repression of dissenting voices in Cameroon".

But the organization also called on authorities to "go further by releasing all other individuals arbitrarily detained for having exercised their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly". Morillas said the measures were slightly "grandiloquent" but underscored that they "were a small step forward." Cameroonian newspapers were divided on Monday on what it spelt for the future. The pro-government Cameroon Insider daily spoke of "The entire Nation in Peace Mode" while the Mutations newspaper tempered the titled with the question "Resolutions... and then?" — AFP

## Fake news triggers panic among quake victims in Indonesia

**JAKARTA:** Thousands of Indonesians are still in shelters nearly two weeks after a deadly earthquake sparked a stream of fake news and hoaxes warning that an even bigger disaster was looming, the government said yesterday. The local government has declared a state of emergency until tomorrow, with nearly 135,000 people in evacuation shelters and tents.

Many displaced people are too scared to return to their homes in the remote Maluku islands after the area suffered more than 1,000 aftershocks following a 6.5-magnitude quake on September 26 that killed dozens and damaged scores of homes and other buildings, the agency said. Terrified residents ran into the streets following the quake, which sparked landslides that buried at least one of the victims.

The strong jolt killed 37 people, including several young children, and injured dozens of others. More than 6,000 houses were damaged, according to official figures. Fears about aftershocks have been aggravated by a stream of hoaxes and fake news-mostly on WhatsApp and other messaging services-that warned a tsunami-generating quake was about to strike. "It's up to you if you want to believe me or not, but I talked with my relative and apparently Ambon is going to sink in the next few days," said one message circulated on WhatsApp.

National disaster mitigation agency spokesman Agus Wibowo said the fake news was making a bad situation worse. "There are so many hoaxes about a bigger earthquake and tsunami," he said. "People are scared and so they chose to stay in shelters," Wibowo added. Even some whose houses weren't damaged in the quake have refused to go home despite efforts to convince them it was safe, Wibowo said. "Many people also thought they're not allowed to go back during the state of emergency, which is actually false," he added.

The Southeast Asian nation is one of the most disaster-prone nations on Earth. It experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide. Last year, a 7.5-magnitude quake and a subsequent tsunami in Palu on Sulawesi island left more than 4,300 people dead or missing. In 2004, a devastating 9.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra and triggered a tsunami that killed 220,000 throughout the region, including around 170,000 in Indonesia. — AFP



## International

# Exit polls show Islamist inspired party leading Tunisia's election

## Ennahdha and Qalb Tounes were both swift to claim victory

**TUNIS:** Exit polls showed an established Islamist-inspired party leading that of a jailed business tycoon in Tunisia's legislative polls Sunday, weeks after a presidential election that reshaped the country's post-Arab Spring political landscape. Polling stations for the seven-million-strong electorate closed at 6:00 pm. Ennahdha and Qalb Tounes (Heart of Tunisia) - led by detained business tycoon Nabil Karoui - were both swift to claim victory. Two exit polls after the close of voting showed Ennahdha in the lead with 40 seats out of 217, while Qalb Tounes was in second, with one pollster giving it 35 seats, and another 33.

However, preliminary official results are not expected until tomorrow. In the runup to the legislative vote, Ennahdha and Qalb Tounes officially ruled out forming an alliance, and with a plethora of parties and movements running, the stage could be set for complex and rowdy negotiations - or even a second poll. The legislative vote comes after candidates aligned with traditional political parties were eclipsed by independent runners during the first round of presidential polls last month. "According to preliminary results collected at voting stations, Qalb Tounes has come first", party spokesman Hatem Mliki said. But its main rival Ennahdha also claimed that it had "according to preliminary results... won the elections". In the first round of the presidential vote Karoui, held since August on money-laundering charges, came second behind Kais Saied, an independent law professor. Courts rejected several appeals for his release during campaigning.

### Low turnout

The sidelining of the ruling political class in the first presidential round on September 15 was rooted in frustration over a stagnant economy, high unemployment, failing public services and rising prices. The ink-stained fingers once proudly displayed after the 2011 revolution were briskly wiped clean as Tunisians fed up with the status quo cast ballots for lawmakers for the third time since the

2010-2011 uprising. "I came to vote out of duty, nothing more," said Abdeljlil Frihi, in his 70s, scrubbing his finger and railing against a political class that "sank" the country.

Mohamed Daada, 60, said he had "no hope for a positive change" in Tunisia. "I don't trust anyone or any political party. Life just gets worse in this country." More than 15,000 candidates on 1,500 lists contested 217 seats in a parliament dominated by Ennahdha in alliance with centrist party Nidaa Tounes, which has been decimated by infighting. The elections commission, ISIE, said turnout was 41.3 percent, well down from the 64 percent achieved in 2014. The first round of the presidential poll achieved a turnout of 49 percent.

The presidential race may have overshadowed the legislative contest, but parliament is responsible for tackling the main challenges facing Tunisian society and observers were concerned about voter apathy. "People no longer trust the old parties, and they don't know the new ones, so they're not motivated in this election," said Ali Rekiki, who works with Tunisian electoral monitor Mourakiboun. A strong showing for Qalb Tounes could bolster Karoui's presidential campaign and supporters say it might make a case for him to take over as prime minister if he loses to Saied. The socially conservative professor has not come out in support of any party.

### Complex talks, or new vote?

With the electorate tired of political maneuvering and the failure to improve living conditions since the ouster of late longtime autocrat Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, new movements have been vying for votes - among them Qalb Tounes. The party that emerges as the largest will have to negotiate with other factions in order to secure the support of a minimum of 109 deputies, in order to secure a parliamentary majority. "Negotiations will probably take two weeks", said political analyst Youssef Cherif. But he also pointed to the risk of a new vote in the event that parties are unable to



**TUNIS:** Supporters of the Tunisian Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party celebrate in reaction to the first exit polls in front of the party's office in the capital Tunis. — AFP

agree a viable alliance. Islamist populist lawyer Seifeddine Makhoul's Karama party secured 17 or 18 seats in Sunday's polls, according to exit polls. Parliament will have two months to agree on the formation of a new government in a country hailed as the Arab Spring's sole democratic success

story but straining to meet the revolution's other demands of "work and dignity". While it has succeeded in curbing jihadist attacks that rocked the key tourist sector in 2015, Tunisia's economy remains hampered by austere International Monetary Fund-backed reforms. — AFP

## Where are world's stateless people?

**LONDON:** An estimated 10 to 15 million people are not recognized as nationals by any country, often depriving them of basic rights most of the world takes for granted such as education, healthcare, housing and jobs. The UN refugee agency is hosting a major intergovernmental meeting in Geneva on Monday to assess progress at the midpoint of its #Ibelong campaign which aims to end statelessness by 2024. Here are examples of stateless populations:

### Myanmar/Bangladesh

In 1982, Buddhist-majority Myanmar passed a citizenship law that effectively rendered stateless most Rohingya, who are Muslim and of South Asian descent. Ethnic violence has driven many to leave, but hundreds of thousands remain in Myanmar. There are about 900,000 Rohingya in neighboring Bangladesh and smaller populations across Asia. Some are sold into slavery on fishing boats and plantations.

### Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast is home to 692,000 stateless people. Many are descended from migrants from neighboring countries who were encouraged to work on Ivory Coast's coffee and cotton plantations in the 20th century. At least a quarter of Ivory Coast's population is estimated to be of foreign descent, and the question of who is or is not Ivorian helped fuel two civil wars in the West African country.

### Thailand

Nearly 479,000 people are stateless, including mem-

bers of ethnic hill tribes such as the Yao, Hmong and Karen who live in the mountainous border with Myanmar and Laos, and the semi-nomadic "Sea Gypsies" along the Andaman coast.

### Estonia/Latvia

When the Soviet Union broke up, many ethnic Russians remained in the new Baltic states and were defined as "non-citizens". Nearly 221,000 stateless people live in Latvia and 78,000 in Estonia, mainly ethnic Russians who have trouble obtaining citizenship and at times face discrimination.

### Syria

In 1962, many Kurds in the northeast were stripped of citizenship, a move Human Rights Watch described as part of a plan to "Arabise" the resource-rich region. Before the civil war, there were an estimated 300,000 stateless Kurds in Syria, many of whom were promised nationality by President Bashar al-Assad in reaction to the 2011 uprising. UN data suggests the number fell to 160,000, but this may be partly because many fled the war. Human rights experts have warned that babies born to Syrian refugee women in Lebanon and Jordan could end up stateless.

### Kuwait

Stateless people are known as Bedoon, which is short for bedoon jinsiya meaning "without nationality" in Arabic. Some trace their origins to nomadic tribes that once moved freely around the Gulf region. There are about 92,000 Bedoon in Kuwait, according to UN data, but some estimates are much higher. They are often barred from free education, healthcare and many jobs.

### Nepal

Although Nepal says it does not have a stateless population, experts on statelessness believe many people, pos-

### Dominican republic

A 2013 court ruling, along with earlier changes to nationality laws aimed at tackling illegal migration, has left many stateless, mostly people of Haitian descent who were born in Dominican Republic. In 2015, there were about 134,000 stateless people, according to UN data, but the figures are being updated.

### Iraq

There are about 47,500 stateless people who include Bidoon and Faiil Kurds, an ethnic group that historically live both sides of the Iraq-Iran border. More than 100,000 Faiil Kurds had their nationality revoked in 1980 under the Ba'ath regime. Although many have since had their nationality reinstated, others remain stateless.

### Europe

Tens of thousands of stateless Roma - an ethnic group with origins in India - are thought to live in central, eastern and southern Europe. With the break-up of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, successor states claimed they belonged elsewhere. Other Roma in Kosovo and Bosnia have become stateless due to war-time displacement. Roma are often unable to register their children's births or hold official property titles. This can make it hard to prove where they are from.

### Venezuela

Some children born to Venezuelan parents who have fled to other countries amid a political and economic crisis at home are at increased risk of statelessness. — Reuters



**GENEVA:** Australian actress and UNHCR ambassador Cate Blanchett (right) and formerly stateless refugee in Brazil, Maha Mamo show their passport during an UNHCR executive committee meeting yesterday in Geneva. — AFP

rejected. Health care was another obstacle. To get urgent hospital treatment for a severe allergy Mamo was forced to pretend to be her best friend.

With no papers, even the most mundane things became a logistical nightmare. "There are simple things you would never imagine that are so impossible: buying a sim card, getting a loan, having a library card or even going to a club to dance with your friends or celebrate a birthday," she said. "If they ask for ID you have to give up and go home." In Lebanon, there was the added danger posed by checkpoints. "If the police stop you then you are going to jail just because you don't have documents," she said. "Every time I saw one I had to run the other way just because my existence itself was illegal."

### New beginning

Desperate for a solution to her predicament, Mamo sent her story to presidents, ministers and any organization she thought might be able to help - and was met with a wall of silence. But in 2014 Brazil offered to take Mamo and her siblings under a new humanitarian visa program it had launched to help Syrians fleeing war. "I went to Brazil not as a stateless person, but as a refugee. I only knew two things about Brazil - the football and the carnival," said Mamo, now 31 and fluent in Portuguese. Her arrival in Brazil coincided with the launch of the United Nations' #Ibelong campaign aimed at ending statelessness in a decade. "For me, my brother and sister that was the hope. In 10 years we would have the chance to be a person, a human being," said Mamo. — Reuters

## I found a country, but lost my brother, stateless activist says

**LONDON:** As a teenager growing up in Lebanon Maha Mamo lived in constant terror of checkpoints, but her only crime was to be born stateless. With no documents to prove who she was, Mamo feared she could be arrested and locked up indefinitely. Like other stateless people, she was deprived of basic rights most people take for granted. Everything from going to school or getting a job to even enjoying a night out with friends was fraught with difficulties.

Yesterday, Mamo will tell her story to film star Cate Blanchett at the opening of a major intergovernmental meeting on statelessness in Geneva. Charismatic, down-to-earth and fluent in five languages, Mamo has become a powerful voice in #Ibelong, a campaign to eradicate statelessness which is estimated to affect about 10 million people worldwide. "For most people a passport is a travel document, but for me it means everything," said Mamo, who became a Brazilian national last year and now speaks at international events draped in a Brazilian flag. "It means I exist. It's finally a sign I belong somewhere."

### 'Massive impact'

Mamo's fate was sealed before she was born when her Christian father and Muslim mother fell in love in Syria. Interfaith marriages were banned so they eloped to neighboring Lebanon where she, her sister Souad and brother Eddy were born. "You can only be Lebanese if your father is Lebanese, and we couldn't be Syrian because our parents' marriage was illegal, so we grew up stateless," she said. "It has had a massive impact all my life. I had many challenges every day. I was afraid of every single thing." Mamo was rejected by many schools before eventually being accepted by an Armenian school which took pity on the family. A talented basketball player, she was scouted by professional coaches who believed she had potential to play on the national team - until they realized she had no documents.

"That was when my world came crashing down," she said. "This was the first moment when the deprivations really hit home. But as a teenager I didn't yet understand how big my problem was." Despite good school grades, her applications to study medicine at university were also

## India's top court halts tree felling after protests

**MUMBAI:** A mass felling of trees in one of the world's most-polluted megacities was halted by India's top court yesterday, amid protests their removal would strip the city of a precious "green lung". Some 2,700 trees were being cut down in the financial capital Mumbai to make way for a depot for subway carriages in the city of nearly 20 million people.

But the felling angered locals, with Bollywood stars and residents joining regular demonstrations that grew over the weekend after workers started removing the trees at night. More than two dozen activists were arrested during weekend protests were all later released on bail, police said. Following an emergency hearing called after petitions from activists, the Supreme Court said no more trees in the suburb of Aarey were to be felled until a next court session on October 21.

The date is also when crucial state elections are to be held, with the dispute taking on political significance. The Shiv Sena, a powerful local ally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, has criticized the national government over the felling. The subway project has sharply divided opinion and triggered a nationwide debate over conservation and need for development.

Supporters say Mumbai-ranked the world's fourth most polluted megacity by the World Health Organization last year-badly needs new transport, citing its overburdened colonial-era railway system used by some 7.5 million people every day. Officials have defended the construction, saying only 30 hectares of the 1,300 that make up Aarey-a lush, green oasis close to the Sanjay Gandhi National Park-were being cleared. Part of the dispute over the development is whether the area should fall under forest protection laws that cover the national park.

Police have barricaded all access points to Aarey, and on Monday stopped activists and journalists from entering the area. — AFP

## Afghan generation knows only conflict as war turns 18

**KABUL:** Afghanistan's war cost 13-year-old shoe shiner Hameedullah his education. Poverty forced Sabir, 11, to flee home and sell dried fruits on Kabul's streets. Niyamathullah, 9, hangs out in a park, looking for work. Such is the lot of many a child in Afghanistan, which this week passes another somber milestone. Yesterday, the conflict turned 18, meaning every single Afghan child now has known only war. "Peace is like a dream to us in Afghanistan," said Mohammad Mobin, a 17-year-old Kabul high schooler. "Afghanistan can develop only if we have peace."

On October 7, 2001, the United States launched air strikes against Afghanistan, following the September 11 attacks conducted by Al-Qaeda that killed nearly 3,000 people in the US. The Taliban, who had refused to hand over Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, were toppled within weeks, but the ensuing insurgent conflict has dragged on ever since and become the longest war in US history.

Violence has only worsened in recent years, disproportionately impacting children. "Since we were born, we have had no peace in our country, it has only been fighting and conflict," said Sayed Ibrahim, an 18-year-old medical student in Kabul. The UN published a report last week saying that from 2015 to 2018, researchers studying the plight of Afghan kids documented more than 14,000 grave violations against them throughout the country, marking a sharp increase from the previous four years.

"Imagine turning 18 having known nothing but conflict and war throughout your entire childhood and formative years," said Onno van Manen, country director for Save the Children in Afghanistan. "Life in Afghanistan means living in daily fear of explosions, missing school because it's too unsafe and not knowing if your parents or siblings will make it home." The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says the number of attacks against Afghan schools tripled last year compared to 2017. By the end of 2018, more than 1,000 Afghan schools had been shut due to conflict.

"I don't study because I have no money, I have to make money to support my family," said Sabir, an 11-year-old boy who fled his home province of Ghazni to sell peanuts, sunflower seeds and dried fruits in central Kabul. "We have to go to school and get an education. We can end fighting through education."

The 2001 invasion did herald some enduring improvements for many young Afghans - particularly girls, who had been banned from receiving an education under the Taliban. In Kabul and other urban centers, schools and universities flourished, and an entire generation of children now has never known Taliban rule. But the economy remains so weak that poorer families often yank their kids from school and send them to hustle for extra cash on dangerous streets. Jobs for many youths are so scarce they have few options but to try to emigrate, or join the Taliban or other insurgent groups who pay a regular wage. — AFP



**KABUL:** Schoolgirls walk along a street at a hillside overlooking Kabul. — AFP



## Analysis

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## Stop violence and restore order to seek common development

A few days ago, the Hong Kong SAR Government held its first community dialogue session. The 150-minute sincere dialogue, attended by 150 people, has been considered as a common step for Hong Kong residents towards cessation of violence and restoration of order to find a way out of the predicament.

Trampling on the rule of law, disruption of social order, economic shocks, and negative impact on people's livelihoods... In the past three months, violent acts conducted by a handful of radical opposition and extremists have caused severe damages to Hong Kong. The chaos has made more and more Hong Kong residents realize the despicable acts of violent radicals by misleading the good people to sabotage Hong Kong under the pretext of anti-amendment, and has also made the international community fully aware of the ill intentions of external forces to interfere in China's internal affairs and incite a "colored revolution" in Hong Kong. Recently, representatives from all walks of life, as well as many communities and associations in Hong Kong have made statements, advertisements and speeches to jointly condemn the violent rages, calling for ending violence and restoring order with a view to combining efforts in pursuit of common development in Hong Kong.

In the past 22 years since Hong Kong's return, Hong Kong has kept its distinct features and strengths; its allure of being a vibrant metropolis where the East meets the West has remained as strong as ever - the main reason lies in the socio-economic and political stability. People are keenly aware that maintaining social harmony and stability is not only in the common interest of all sectors of Hong Kong society and foreign investors, but also an important prerequisite for Hong Kong to maintain its status as an international financial, trade and shipping center.

Hong Kong's stability and prosperity will increase its competitiveness, while chaos will only force the entire society to "pay the price". Therefore, it is the aspiration of Hong Kong people to stop the violence and restore order at an early date.

Nevertheless, in defiance of the deplorable acts of radicals and rioters in Hong Kong, and disregarding the public aspiration of Hong Kong society, some intransigent external forces still attempt to meddle in Hong Kong affairs. On September 25th, under the guise of human rights and democracy, the U.S. Congress and some politicians approved the so-called the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019.

The bill, under the cloak of "protecting Hong Kong people's freedom of speech and peaceful assembly", seeks to maliciously defame the Chinese central government, undermine "One Country, Two Systems", interfere in Hong Kong affairs, and discredit legitimate law enforcement measures of Hong Kong police to uphold law and order, revealing the ulterior motives to cheer anti-China forces and radicals, and further complicate the situation in Hong Kong for their unlawful benefits.

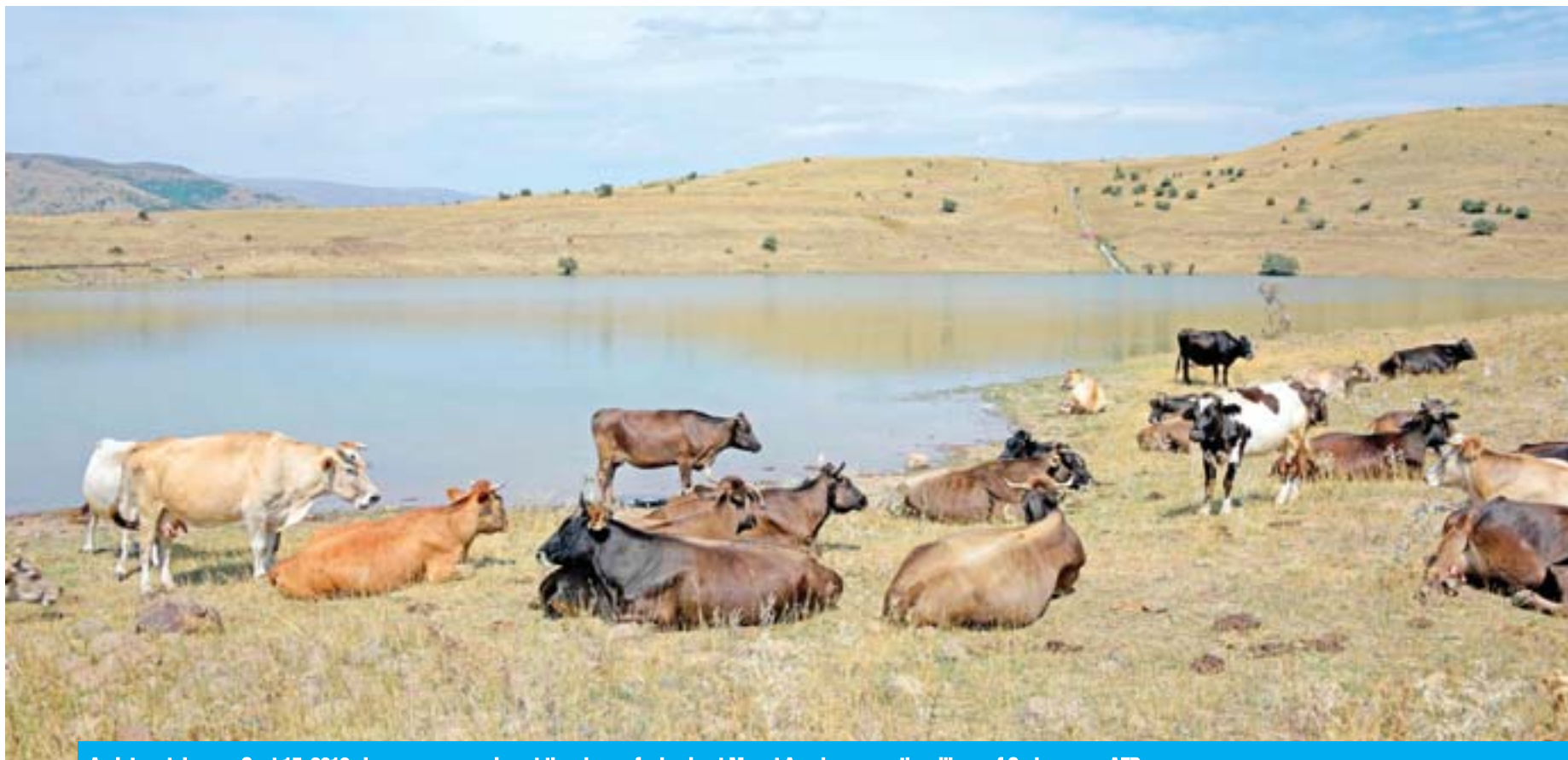
It goes without saying that the turmoil has reflected some deep-rooted conflicts and problems in Hong Kong society, which are attributed to several factors of complex historical factors and social roots, as well as the international context. These problems can neither be addressed in a day nor in one step, and it is impossible to resolve the issues by strife.

Hong Kong's current top priority is to restore order as soon as possible, seize development opportunities, and focus on developing the economy and improving people's livelihood. Development is fundamental for Hong Kong's survival, and it holds the golden key to resolving various issues in Hong Kong.

In order to cease the violence and restore order for developing economy and livelihood, the HKSAR Government has taken various measures in good faith. In late August, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary adopted relief measures featuring a spending package of allowances and subsidies, including exemption of some government fees, extra social security allowances, and subsidies for kindergarten, primary and secondary school students in Hong Kong. On Sept 4, Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, Chief Executive of the HKSAR Government, proposed four actions to break the current predicament. Faced with the complex living conditions in Hong Kong, New World Development of Cheng's family and other big families in Hong Kong donated farmland to mitigate people's livelihood issues.

This year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. After 70 years of hard work and growth, China, the once poverty-stricken country, has become the world's second largest economy, and is getting closer to the world's center stage. China has made historical transformation in terms of economy, international standing and profile. China's continuous and rapid development has provided an invaluable opportunity, an inexhaustible source of strengths and broad space for Hong Kong's development. — *Embassy of China*

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



A picture taken on Sept 15, 2019 shows cows grazing at the shore of a basin at Mount Amulsar, near the village of Gndevaz. — AFP

## Armenia villagers protest gold mine plans

Armenian villagers are locked in what they say is a David-and-Goliath style battle for the environment and their livelihoods, standing guard around the clock to protect their land from a multinational mining company. Protesters say planned gold mining in the south will not only pollute drinking water but also damage some of the top tourist spots in the small Caucasus mountain nation. Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, however, insists the project at Mount Amulsar is a vital source of foreign investment and a sign his country is open for business.

Pashinyan was brought to power last year on the back of popular protests, but activists' efforts are now directed against him and a perceived preference for investment over the wellbeing of his people. "The mine will pollute water, soil, and air," said Erazik Stepanyan, a 57-year-old from Gndevaz, a tiny village a few kilometres from Mount Amulsar. "We don't want our children to suffer from serious illnesses, we will not let anybody defile our nature."

The project is being developed by Armenia's biggest foreign investor, the British-American company Lydian. Work has been on hold for over a year after activists and locals set up pickets, blocking access to the construction site. "We will fight till the end so that Amulsar never becomes a mine," said 18-year-old Suzi Humanayan, whose family has taken part in the pickets.

The sentiment is shared in the spa town of Jermuk, where locals fear the mine would destroy their main source of income. "No tourist will come to Jermuk if such a haz-

ardous mine is being exploited nearby. Our businesses will be destroyed," said Mkhitir Stepanyan, who sells medicinal herbs. "Nobody will buy my herbs in fear they are poisoned by the discharges from the mine," he said, looking anxiously at sheaves of chamomile, St. John's wort, and mint piled up at his kiosk. The planned mine is near the sources of rivers which flow into picturesque Lake Sevan, another tourist draw and the country's main source of drinking water. Demonstrations against the mine have spread to the capital Yerevan, where thousands of people took to the streets last month chanting: "No to ecological disaster!" In August, protesters blockaded the country's presidential palace and parliament, demanding the project be ditched.

### 'Unmanageable ecological consequences'

Lydian, which has already spent some \$400 million to develop Amulsar's deposits of gold ore - which contain an estimated 40 tons of pure gold - has dismissed ecologists' fears as unsubstantiated. The company denounced an "enormous misinformation around the Amulsar project" as part of a "campaign by rival mining companies". "Lydian has been fully transparent in its environmental and operating practices. Those practices meet or exceed all applicable international standards," the company's managing director, Hayk Aloyan, told AFP.

But local ecologists have warned of the potential dangers. Karine Danielyan, head of the NGO Association for Sustainable Human Development, said chemicals used in

the mining process could lead to the oxidation of water in major rivers. This would make them "unusable for irrigation and drinking." "Water pollution could harm irreparably the ecosystem of the Lake Sevan and the mineral water sources in Jermuk," the resort which gave its name to Armenia's most famous mineral water brand, she said.

The director of Armenia's Institute of Chemical Physics, Seyran Minasyan, warned of "unmanageable ecological consequences" if the project is given the go-ahead. "All the mines in Armenia are being operated barbarically, with no respect of ecological norms," he added.

### Shaken public trust

In a video statement posted when protests broke out in Yerevan, Pashinyan insisted the project would be completed and downplayed potential ecological risks. He said Armenia's investment climate will be seriously damaged if the project - which will boost Armenia's GDP by \$185 million annually and create hundreds of well-paid jobs - goes under. Political analysts said Pashinyan's backing of the project has shaken public trust in the leader, who has enjoyed widespread popularity among Armenians, long frustrated with the corrupt elites he has swept from power.

"The Amulsar case might lead to divisions within Pashinyan's ruling-party majority in parliament," said analyst Vigen Hakobyan. "He is under serious pressure both from civil society and from a big transnational corporation backed by the US and British governments." — AFP

## Dissidents under late Uzbek leader still out in the cold

Journalist and former prisoner Dilmurod Saidov knows a thing or two about the brutal rule of Uzbekistan's first leader, the late Islam Karimov. His house is full of reminders of the wife and daughter who died in a 2009 car crash that he never accepted was an accident, en route to visit him in a jail where he should never have served time. "God gave me such a faithful wife and such a wonderful daughter," he told AFP, of his partner Barno, framed in a photo on a table in his flat, and five-year-old Rukhshona, who stared out from the desktop background of a battered computer in a festive frock. "Then he took them back again."

Saidov, 57, is one of more than 30 people imprisoned on politically motivated charges who have been released since Karimov's death in 2016 as new leader Shavkat Mirziyoyev takes steps to reverse the country's isolationist course. Mirziyoyev's reforms have won plaudits, and seen the ex-Soviet republic - long ranked as one of the world's worst abusers of human rights - throw its doors open to tourists and foreign investments surge.

But the new president has not publicly renounced Karimov, a man he served as prime minister for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head of state three years ago, and has kept much of the authoritarian system intact. In a series of interviews with AFP in the capital Tashkent, former political prisoners like Saidov acknowledged that progress had been made, but said abuses were continuing and urged the world not to turn a blind eye.

### Suspicious car crash

Saidov, an independent journalist, was arrested in

2009 and convicted of bribery and forgery, charges he denies and says were punishment for years of reporting on corruption and rights abuses in Karimov's Uzbekistan. Sentenced to 12 and a half years in prison after what Human Rights Watch called at the time "a flawed trial brought on politically motivated charges", he was granted early release just over a year after Karimov died.

Since emerging from prison he has tried to resume his rights work, but a bid with another prominent former detainee to register a campaign group called Restoration of Justice has been refused three times by the justice ministry. His attempts to overturn his conviction and to investigate the car crash that killed his wife and daughter have been similarly stonewalled.

Just before their deaths, he says, prosecutors threatened to take Rukhshona hostage if he did not confess to accusations of bribery and falsification of documents and testify against other citizens. He found out about their deaths several days later from his brother. Saidov has never believed the official version of the crash - that a truck collided with the taxi they were travelling in, killing the driver and all five passengers.

The trucker sentenced over the crash was released one year into a seven-and-a-half-year sentence, Saidov says, and died the year after he left prison. "The staff at her kindergarten knew about (the threats)," says Saidov, who said he contracted tuberculosis in prison. "Whoever ordered this (car crash) must have been powerful, because prosecutors are still covering it up." The late strongman ruled the country bordering Afghanistan with an iron fist for more than a quarter of a century. International organizations and foreign governments have acknowledged the scale of change in Uzbekistan, a landlocked Central Asian country which once showed little shame in its status as an elite rights offender.

### 'House of Torture'

In August, Mirziyoyev won broad praise for ordering the closure of the notorious Jaslyk penal colony - known



Uzbek journalist and former prisoner Dilmurod Said holds family photos of his wife and daughter, who died in a 2009 car crash, during an interview in Tashkent on July 26, 2019. — AFP

as the "House of Torture" for the extreme abuses inflicted on inmates - in the country's remote northwest. The prison, a grim calling card of Karimov's rule, was briefly home to Akzam Turgunov, a rights activist who met Saidov during a stint in another jail and is now his partner in the Restoration of Justice group. "It was a place they sent prisoners they wanted to break," Turgunov told AFP. "I thought I was mentally prepared, but when they began to drip boiling water (on my body) and told me I would not leave the place alive I was gripped by an intense fear."

Turgunov, who was released a few months short of the end of a 10-year sentence for extortion, says Mirziyoyev's order was an important step. But he fears it could be a maneuver "to distract foreign rights organizations" from other abuses that he says continue to take place in the majority-Muslim republic of 33 million. Human Rights Watch says that thousands of people are still imprisoned in Uzbekistan for political reasons. — AFP

## Restoring felon voting rights a 'mess' in Florida

Clifford Tyson wants to help choose America's next president. But the Florida resident fears his vote might return him to jail. Tyson, 63, owes court-ordered fines and fees for three felony convictions, one for robbery, two for theft, all decades old. Under a Florida law that went into effect July 1, he must pay those penalties before casting a ballot or risk being prosecuted for voter fraud.

Tyson searched court records, first on his own, then with the help of a nonprofit legal advocacy group. They say that because Florida has no comprehensive system for tracking such fines, the documents don't make clear what he owes. The records, viewed by Reuters, show potential sums ranging from \$846 to a couple thousand dollars related to crimes he committed in the late 1970s and 1990s. Tyson says he won't risk voting until Florida authorities can tell him for sure. "Until there is clarity, as much as I want to vote, I won't do it," Tyson said.

The Tampa pastor is now a plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the payments law, which was crafted by Florida's Republican-controlled legislature and signed by Governor Ron DeSantis, also a Republican. The law came just

months after Floridians approved a ballot initiative restoring voting rights to more than 1 million felons who have completed their sentences; that change to the state's Constitution created a potentially huge new crop of voters in a critical battleground state ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

The lawsuit, filed in June by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Brennan Center for Justice, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund, alleges the fees requirement defies the will of Florida voters and amounts to an illegal poll tax on newly enfranchised Florida felons, many of them minorities.

But another argument is shaping up to be central to the plaintiffs' case: Florida has no consolidated system for determining what felons owe or certifying that they have paid up. It's a situation that ex-offenders say makes it virtually impossible for them to prove they are eligible to vote. Those claims are bolstered by state election officials who say they can't calculate what felons owe, either, according to a Reuters review of 7 depositions, emails and other internal correspondence from voting administrators submitted by plaintiffs' attorneys as part of the lawsuit.

Florida has no centralized database where records of court-ordered fines and fees - and any payments of those penalties - are stored, election and court officials say. To get that information, felons typically must search documents in courts where they were convicted, be they federal or state, inside or outside Florida. Records have been found to be incomplete, contradictory or missing, plaintiffs' attorneys say. With the Feb 18 deadline to register for the state's

2020 presidential primary approaching, the issue is taking on urgency. An estimated 436,000 felons have fees to settle before they can vote, according to a study by University of Florida political scientist Daniel Smith, an expert witness for the ACLU. The study was based on court data and Department of Corrections records.

The stakes are high. Florida commands 29 of the 538 electoral votes that are used under the US Electoral College system to select the American president. In Florida and most other states, the candidate who places first in the popular vote - even if just by a hair - wins all the electoral votes. Florida has a history of tight elections and contested outcomes. Plaintiffs' attorneys say Florida has shifted all responsibility for compliance with the new payments law to ex-offenders, who risk prosecution if they get it wrong. The state contends the legislature merely implemented the constitutional amendment as it was written on the ballot.

The legislation, known as SB 7066, "sows seeds of confusion," said Leah Aden, deputy director of litigation at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "It will chill participation." Some of the state's 67 county elections supervisors - the public servants who ultimately decide which felons get culled from the rolls and which can stay - expressed concern in their depositions and to Reuters about making mistakes that could invite challenges to future election results.

Five testified recently in the lawsuit that they lack the manpower to do detailed searches or have no way of ascertaining for certain whether ex-offenders have met their financial obligations under SB 7066. — Reuters



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SCHOENAU, Germany: Farmers lead their cows down the Saletalm alpine pasture during the annual cattle drive from the pasture over lake Koenigssee to their wintering barns in Schoenau, southern Germany, yesterday. —AFP

# German recession looms as factory orders fall

## Manufacturers hurt by trade disputes, Brexit uncertainty

**BERLIN:** German industrial orders fell more than expected in August on weaker domestic demand, data showed yesterday, adding to signs that a manufacturing slump is pushing Europe's largest economy into recession. Contracts for 'Made in Germany' goods fell 0.6 percent from the previous month, with demand for capital goods down 1.6 percent, the Economy Ministry said. The overall fall compared with a Reuters consensus forecast for a drop of 0.3 percent.

"The German economy is in the midst of a recession. Today's data make that clear again," said Thomas Gitzel, economist at VP Bank Group. The economy shrank by 0.1 percent in the second quarter, and recent data have pointed to continued weakness in manufacturing in the third quarter. Most economists define a recession as two straight quarters of contraction.

"The German government will probably come under growing pressure to give up its strict budget policy," added Gitzel. The government has so far stuck to its balanced-budget policy, despite pressure from economists and other governments to spend more to boost flagging demand.

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said last week that Germany would be able to cope with an economic crisis but added that he did not expect a downturn to be as bad as it was in 2008/2009.

"The weakness in demand in industry continues," the Economy Ministry said in a statement accompanying yesterday's data. "The industrial sector remains subdued for the time being."

Germany's export-reliant manufacturers are suffering from a slowing world economy and business uncertainty linked to a trade dispute between the United States and China as well as Britain's planned but delayed exit from the European Union. Yesterday's weaker-than-expected data added to the sense of gloom around the German manufacturing sector. A survey released last Tuesday showed the manufacturing recession deepened in September, with factories recording their weakest performance since the world financial crisis a decade ago.

Last Wednesday, leading economic institutes slashed their growth forecasts for the economy for this year and next, blaming weaker global demand for manufacturing

goods and increased business uncertainty linked to trade disputes. The institutes also called on Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government to ditch its budget policy of incurring no new debt if the growth outlook deteriorates. It has so far refused to do so.

Merkel's government has managed to raise public spending without incurring new debt since 2014, thanks to an unusually long growth cycle, record-high employment, buoyant tax revenues and the European Central Bank's bond-buying plan. But with the economy slowing and tax revenues waning, the fiscal room to counter a recession is getting smaller. At the same time, Germany's borrowing costs have turned into premiums, which means investors are actually willing to pay the state a bonus for being able to lend it billions of euros.

Meanwhile, Europe's stock markets pushed higher yesterday as investors bet that gloomy German economic data would help persuade the European Central Bank to continue its "accommodative" monetary policy, dealers said. Frankfurt and Paris both added 0.2 percent in afternoon trading following news that German industrial

orders fell in August.

New contracts were down 0.6 percent compared with July, federal statistics authority Destatis said, disappointing analysts' predictions for a 0.6-percent increase. London stocks rose 0.4 percent.

The bright performance at the start of the week followed strong gains in Wall Street action on Friday. "We are in a... scenario where bad news is good news," ThinkMarkets analyst Naeem Aslam told AFP.

"Any weakness in the economic numbers, which we experienced today, confirms that the European Central Bank is going to remain accommodative and this helps investors to favor riskier assets" such as stocks. Most markets also rose in Asia after a mixed US jobs report eased worries about a recession in the world's top economy — and maintained expectations the Federal Reserve will press on with interest rate cuts. However, there was some nervousness after reports said China had cut back on the number of areas it is willing to discuss at this week's top-level trade talks with the US, rekindling concerns about the chances of any agreement between the two. —AFP

### Hedge funds sell more oil as economic outlook worsens

**LONDON:** Hedge funds sold petroleum futures and options for the second week running as the post-attack bounce in oil prices evaporated and attention shifted to the deteriorating condition of the global economy. Hedge funds and other money managers sold the equivalent of 96 million barrels in the six most important futures and options contracts linked to oil prices in the week to Oct. 1, the largest reduction in nearly four months.

Fund managers have sold a total of 111 million barrels in the two most recent weeks, reversing purchases of 144 million barrels in the two weeks before that, a period that included the attack on Saudi oil installations. If the attacks on oil processing facilities had a relatively modest and fleeting impact on oil prices and positions, it was entirely unwound in just a fortnight.

In the most recent week, portfolio managers sold NYMEX and ICE WTI (-64 million barrels), Brent (-17 million), US gasoline (-6 million), US heating oil (-5 million) and European gasoil (-4 million).

Fund selling in NYMEX and ICE WTI was the highest in any one-week for more than two years, as managers abandoned expectations of a sustained post-attack spike in prices. After the sales, funds held a net long position across all six contracts amounting to 532 million barrels, essentially back to their position at the end of August and the start of September.

If relatively passive structural long positions in crude are stripped out, the fund community's dynamic net long position was just 41 million barrels, not much different from 8 million at the beginning of September. Concerns about the prospects for oil consumption are dominating the market rather than fears about output disruptions.

Traders are becoming more pessimistic about the prospects for an early truce in the trade conflict between China and the United States - with mounting fears continued skirmishing will push both economies into recession. Political tensions look set to remain high throughout the remainder of 2019 and 2020 as the United States enters a bitter impeachment investigation and then a presidential election campaign. At the same time, global motor manufacturers are reporting weakening production and sales, depressing both global economic growth and oil consumption. —Reuters

## Saudi stocks join MSCI Emerging Market Index

**LONDON:** Saudi Arabia's inclusion in the MSCI developing-economies equity benchmark has failed to pull in active emerging-market funds because of high valuations and reputation risks, an analysis by Copley Fund Research showed. The Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul) - the region's largest - completed the second and final phase of joining the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, with its weighting set at 2.8 percent, at the end of August. Stocks listed in the kingdom will also be included in other indexes, and the Tadawul says it has attracted billions of dollar in recent months.

However, the stocks have found little love from active global emerging markets funds, 85 percent of which have yet to invest any money at all, Steven Holden at Copley found, analyzing monthly filings from 193 such funds with a total of around \$350 billion in assets under management.

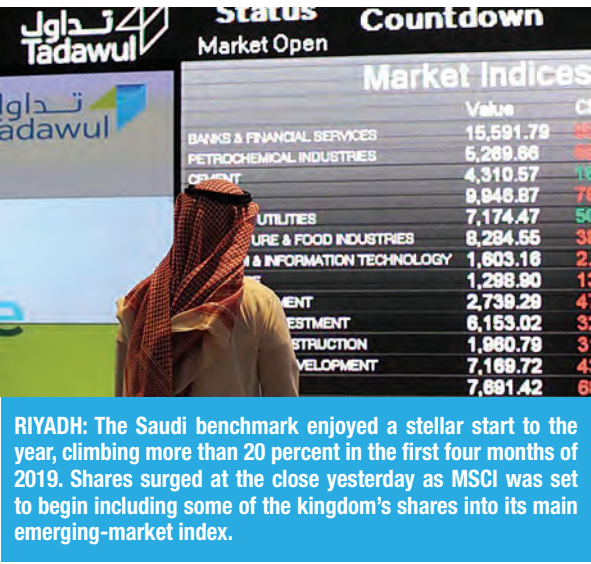
"High valuations, a relatively small investment universe and reputation risk are of foremost concern for investors," Holden said. Global emerging funds remain starkly underweight in Saudi assets, with an average holding of just 14 basis points, the biggest underweight among developing countries after China and Hong Kong, Holden said.

MSCI upgraded Saudi Arabia from "standalone" to "emerging" market in June 2018 and concluded the process at the end of August. More than \$1.8 trillion of assets were benchmarked against MSCI's emerging market indexes by June 2018, the index provider said. This would include passive as well as active investments.

The Saudi benchmark enjoyed a stellar start to the year, climbing more than 20 percent in the first four months of 2019. However, escalating trade tensions, unsteady oil prices and rising geopolitical risks have weighed heavily on the market since then. The index is now up just 1.4 percent since the start of the year. MSCI's Saudi domestic index has risen 1.9 percent over the same period. MSCI's wider emerging benchmark added just over 3 percent.

An attack on key Saudi oil facilities mid-September, sharply highlighting the kingdom's economic vulnerabilities, roiled Saudi markets. "There are certain geopolitical risks in Saudi Arabia and we see that with the attack on the oil installation," said Marshall Stocker, a portfolio manager at US-based investment management firm Eaton Vance. The jury was still out on what effect the kingdom's reform plans would have, he added.

Index provider FTSE Russell is also adding Saudi to its emerging and global equity indexes in a year-long, five-step process set to conclude in March. Its weighting will be 2.86 percent in the emerging and 0.31 percent in the global benchmark. Index inclusion and foreign investor cash will also be key to Riyadh's plans to sell about 5 percent of its oil giant Aramco in an IPO



and re-invest the proceeds in new industries.

In a filing at the end of August, Tadawul said foreign investors had accounted for a fifth of trading activity in the first seven months of the year. In September, foreigners bought a net 5.69 billion Riyals (\$1.52 billion) of stocks, Tadawul added. Looking at the individual stocks listed, Holden found that Al-Rajhi Banking & Investment Corporation has emerged as the least unpopular. US financial institutions TIAA CREF and USAA and asset manager Robeco all bought into the stock over the past six months. —Reuters



Business

# NBK Capital: Regional tensions impact GCC markets in September

## Global markets recover in hope of a trade agreement

**KUWAIT:** GCC markets ended the month of September in the red as the S&P GCC Composite declined by 1.20 percent despite the fact that Saudi Arabia managed to recover the losses incurred post the September 14 Aramco attacks. The Saudi market, which was down as much 3.4 percent after the attacks, managed to recover steadily during the second half of the month and closed September up by 0.90 percent. The GCC index, however, was weighed down by Abu Dhabi and Kuwait, in addition to generally marginal gains elsewhere in the Gulf. Abu Dhabi's ADX General Index declined by 2.10 percent and Kuwait's All Share Index was 4.42 percent down for September, while Bahrain Bourse All Share Index dropped by 1.08 percent.

The top GCC performer for the month was Qatar which added 1.31 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia with a gain of 0.90 percent and Dubai which was up by 0.81 percent. In the wider MENA region, the S&P Pan Arab declined by 0.87 percent as Egypt declined by 3.89 percent for month as political tension escalated towards the end of the month.

Global Markets recovered in tandem during September on hopes that at least an interim trade deal between the US and China would be reached amid de-escalation between the two countries. Markets were also supported by accommodative moves from both the ECB and the Fed as both central banks cut rates in mid-September. The MSCI AC World Index advanced by 1.91 percent during the month but was still down 0.53 percent for the third quarter. Similarly, the MSCI EM index recorded a monthly advance of 1.69 percent while remaining negative for the quarter at 5.11 percent.

Trade tensions remain the most potent market mover especially that their effect on both the global and US economies is starting to become increasingly visible. The third estimate of the US GDP for the second quarter was stable at 2.0 percent, the markets, however, were surprised by a sudden drop in manufacturing activity for September.

The ISM Manufacturing PMI slid to 47.8 in September from 49.1 for the previous month, compared to a consensus estimate of it increasing to 50.1. This makes it the lowest reading for the manufacturing activity gauge since June 2009, when the recession following the global financial crisis ended. During the month, the Fed cut its target rate by 25 basis points to a range of 1.75 percent to 2.0



percent citing implications of global development for the economic outlook and muted inflation pressures. Indeed, inflation is still below the 2.0 percent symmetrical target of the Fed, despite a slight rebound in Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) in August which brought it up to 1.80 percent from a revised reading of 1.70 percent in July (revised up from 1.60 percent).

Major US Indices closed in the green for September but below their mid-month high. The S&P 500 and the Dow Industrial Average (DJI) were up 1.72 percent and 1.95 percent respectively to close the third quarter with narrow gains of 1.2 percent for each.

The Nasdaq, however, was barely positive for September at 0.46 percent after declining by close to 2.4 percent from its intra-month closing high of 8,194.47. For the quarter, the index performance was negative at -0.09 percent. In the Treasury market, the 10-year yield recovered strongly during the first two weeks of the month in the run-up to the FOMC decision and reached a high of 1.90 percent on September 13, only to retreat back to 1.68 percent by month-end. Similarly, the 2-year yield climbed from 1.50 percent at the end of August to intra-month high of 1.79 percent before retreating back to 1.56 percent as at the end of September.

In Europe, the ECB returned to stimulus with a 10 basis points cut that took its interest rates deeper into negative territory at -0.5 percent. The ECB further announced that it would restart its bond and other financial instruments purchasing program to the tune of Â20 billion per month starting November. The central bank attributed the slowdown in Europe to the prevailing weakness of international trade and an environment of prolonged global uncertainty.



The ECB cut its European GDP forecast for 2019 to 1.1 percent from 1.2 percent and for 2020 from 1.4 percent to 1.2 percent. European manufacturing activity deteriorated further during September with the Markit Manufacturing PMI slipping to 45.7 in September down from 47.0 in August. Weakness in the German economy weight down significantly. The German Markit manufacturing PMI surprised on the downside, declining to 41.7 in September against expectations of 44.0. German GDP had contracted by 0.1 percent for the second quarter down from 0.4 percent for the first quarter of 2019. In the meantime, European capital markets fared well during the month. The Stoxx Europe 600 was up 3.6 percent to close the quarter at a positive 2.15 percent. The German DAX and French CAC40 added 4.09 percent and 3.60 percent respectively to close the quarter at a slightly positive 0.24 percent for the DAX and 2.51 percent for the CAC40.

Markets in the UK followed the general global trend with the FTSE 100 Index gaining 2.79 percent, which was not enough to offset last month's steep losses causing the

index to close the third quarter in the red at -0.23 percent. The Gfk Consumer Confidence Index improved marginally but was still deep in negative territory in September at -12. Inflation surprised on the downside as the CPI dropped to 1.70 percent year-on-year in August down from 2.1 percent in July. Manufacturing activity, on the other hand, showed a slight improvement as the Markit Manufacturing PMI for September recorded 48.3 up from 47.4 in August while it was expected to drop further to 47.0.

Emerging markets performance was mixed while slightly underperforming global peers. The MSCI EM index added 1.69 percent, while the MSCI Asia-ex-Japan index added 1.44 percent. They are both still negative for the quarter though at 5.11 percent and 5.34 percent respectively. Notable gainers in the EM space included Turkey's Borsa Istanbul 100 index with an 8.60 percent advance and India's Nifty50 index with 4.09 percent. They were followed by Brazil's Ibovespa Index which added 3.57 percent and Taiwan Stock Exchange with a gain of 1.99 percent.

## HSBC planning to cut 10,000 more posts: FT

**HONG KONG:** HSBC is planning to lay off up to 10,000 staff, a report said yesterday, just weeks after announcing the resignation of its chief executive and the cutting of 4,000 posts citing a weak global outlook. The latest losses, mostly in high-paid roles, are part of a fresh cost-cutting drive by interim boss Noel Quinn as the banking titan struggles to adjust to falling interest rates, Brexit and the long-running trade war, the Financial Times reported.

"We've known for years that we need to do something about our cost base, the largest component of which is people-now we are finally grasping the nettle," the paper quoted an unnamed source as saying. "There's some very hard modelling going on. We are asking why we have so many people in Europe when we've got double-digit returns in parts of Asia."

The London-headquartered bank last month announced the shock exit of CEO John Flint after just 18 months in the hot seat but gave no reason for the decision.

At the same time it revealed it would axe two percent of its global workforce, or roughly 4,000 mostly management jobs, in a new restructuring aimed at weathering the global turmoil. Still, its reported first-half net profit rose 18.6 percent on-year to \$8.5 billion. It is due to report third-quarter earnings at the end of October. Flint had replaced Stuart Gulliver, who himself pushed a massive restructuring program to axe 50,000 jobs and exit core markets.



HONG KONG: HSBC is planning to lay off up to 10,000 staff, a report said yesterday. — Reuters

The latest cost-cutting drive is in line with other lenders who are battling global headwinds.

US banks including JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo have lowered their 2019 profit forecasts tied to interest rates as central banks around the world loosen monetary policy in response to a weakening global growth outlook. Lower interest rates mean less profit on loans made by the banks, especially if they have offered higher returns on deposits to attract customers.

And last month, Germany's second-largest lender Commerzbank said it plans to cut the equivalent of 4,300 full-time posts-a tenth of its workforce-and shut 200 branches as it restructures. Deutsche Bank has announced 18,000 job cuts and France's Societe Generale 1,600. — AFP

## Where US-Japan trade deal falls short of TPP

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump has called his new trade deal with Japan a "phenomenal" victory for US farmers. But don't expect America's Land O'Lakes butter to knock New Zealand's Anchor or France's President brands off store shelves in Japan, the world's third largest economy.

Butter is one of several US dairy products that will not get improved access to Japan's 127 million consumers under the limited bilateral trade deal signed by Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sept. 25.

The deal's full text has not been released and remains classified, but congressional aides, trade experts and industry groups briefed on it say that it offers worse access to Japan for some US agricultural goods than the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a now 11-country trade deal that Trump quit on his third day in office in 2017. US butter, milk powder and evaporated milk, along with some grains, would have competed with other TPP signatories for Japan's new import quotas under the Pacific Rim deal.

When the United States pulled out, that left more space for brands like Anchor or Australia's Western Star, and Japan refused to grant new quotas for US-made products in the just-completed US negotiations. But there are gains that bring US beef, pork and wine exports in line with TPP competitors from Australia, New Zealand and Canada, putting them on the same tariff schedule.

"There are some specific parts of the ag sector that really do benefit from this," said Matthew Goodman, a Asian economics expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "More broadly, this is not a highly significant deal from a commercial perspective, as it doesn't touch the biggest item in bilateral trade, autos and auto parts."

### What's left out

The US-Japan agriculture-centered deal is notable for what it leaves out. It does not include the bulk of products that make up the bilateral trading relationship, notably autos from Japan and aircraft, liquefied propane gas and semiconductor manufacturing equipment from the United States. Motor vehicles and parts, by far the largest Japanese export to the United States at \$56 billion in 2018, were left out for a later phase of negotiations. Abe said Trump agreed not to impose threatened "Section 232" tariffs on Japanese cars and parts on national security grounds. Japan has no tariffs on cars and trucks from the United States, but US automakers argue that most American cars are kept out by environmental and safety regulations, and Japan's currency policies that keep the yen low against the dollar.

TPP would have eased Japan's regulatory barriers, but neither agreement contained any rules to combat currency manipulation - a stated goal of the US Trade Representative's office.

America's rice growers won't benefit from the new bilateral trade deal, as tariffs and quotas on US rice imported to Japan set in the early 1990s remain in place. Under the TPP, Japan would have accepted 70,000 metric tons of American rice per year tariff-free under a U.S.-specific quota, but this was not included in the bilateral

deal. Tim Johnson, president and CEO of the California Rice Commission, said he hoped for a better deal in later phases of US-Japan talks.

Barley also will not get improved access in the trade deal, congressional aides said, as Japan did not expand its TPP-wide quota for the grain used widely in beer production. Apart from the lack of improved access for butter and milk powder, exact details of cheese provisions in the US-Japan deal are not yet known. TPP would have eliminated Japan's tariffs of up to 40 percent on US cheese over 16 years, but dairy industry officials say they eventually expect to be on a par with TPP countries.

"We think it's probably 80 percent of what we would have gotten in TPP," said Michael Dykes, president and CEO of the International Dairy Foods Association. Documents provided by the Japan's foreign ministry show that Japan did not grant any concessions for US exports of sugar, chocolate or other confections. Tokyo's TPP-wide quotas for these products have gone to other countries.

### Better than TPP

The main improvement over TPP comes from the US-Japan digital trade agreement, say congressional aides and tech industry officials briefed on it. They described it as "TPP-Plus" and in line with USTR goals on setting global rules for digital commerce and cross-border data flows. It includes stronger rules to prohibit cross-border taxation of digital downloads and data localization requirements than TPP. Cloud computing and new financial technologies were still new and being developed during the many years TPP was negotiated, so that deal included carve outs that would have allowed some countries to require local housing of financial sector data. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar/Transfer	304.650
Euro	336.030
Sterling Pound	377.160
Canadian dollar	229.580
Turkish lira	54.890
Swiss Franc	307.730
US Dollar Buying	297.250

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.849
Indian Rupees	4.295
Pakistani Rupees	1.961
Srilankan Rupees	1.674
Nepali Rupees	2.681
Singapore Dollar	222.480
Hongkong Dollar	38.849
Bangladesh Taka	3.593
Philippine Peso	5.892
Thai Baht	10.066
Malaysian ringgit	77.916

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.294
Qatari Riyal	83.730
Omani Riyal	791.813
Bahraini Dinar	809.490
UAE Dirham	83.000

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.100
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Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.731
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.224
Tunisian Dinar	110.780
Jordanian Dinar	430.140
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.341

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfr

#### Selling Rate

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 Pessso	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

Thai Bhat	10.935
Turkish Lira	54.365
Singapore dollars	220.536

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

#### CURRENCY

#### BUY

#### SELL

British Pound	0.368118	0.382018
Czech Korune	0.004964	0.014264
Danish Krone	0.040686	0.045686
Euro	0.326707	0.340407
Georgian Lari	0.102134	0.102134
Hungarian	0.000914	0.001104
Norwegian Krone	0.029418	0.034018
Romanian Leu	0.053441	0.070291
Russian ruble	0.004694	0.004694
Slovakia	0.009111	0.019111
Swedish Krona	0.026872	0.031872
Swiss Franc	0.299155	0.310155

#### Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.197166	0.209166
New Zealand Dollar	0.185044	0.195444

#### America

Canadian Dollar	0.232131	0.232131
US Dollars	0.300550	0.305850
US Dollars Mint	0.301050	0.305850

#### Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.002934	0.003735
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Chinese Yuan	0.041250	0.044750
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036749	0.039499
Indian Rupee	0.003663	0.004436
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002765	0.002945
Korean Won	0.000244	0.000259
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069065	0.075065
Nepalese Rupee	0.002627	0.002967
Pakistan Rupee	0.001342	0.002112
Philippine Peso	0.005689	0.005989
Singapore Dollar	0.216118	0.225116
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001320	0.001900
Taiwan	0.009732	0.009912
Thai Baht	0.009661	0.010211
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.801936	0.809996
Egyptian Pound	0.018653	0.022013
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000214	0.000274
Jordanian Dinar	0.424785	0.433785
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021219	0.045219
Omani Riyal	0.786166	0.704074
Qatar Riyal	0.083024	0.083860
Saudi Riyal	0.080153	0.081453
Syrian Pound	0.001292	0.001512
Tunisian Dinar	0.102593	0.110593
Turkish Lira	0.046512	0.056357
UAE Dirhams	0.082311	0.083139
Yemeni Riyal	0.000990	0.001070



## Business

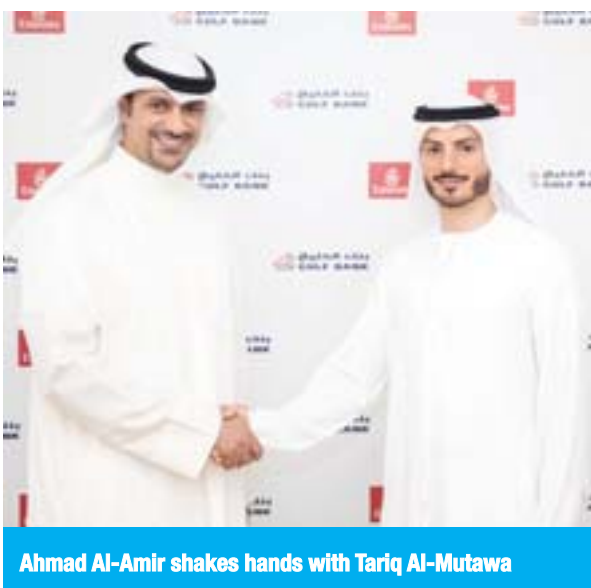
# Gulf Bank adds Emirates Airline to its pioneering 'Easy Pay' program

## Credit cardholders to enjoy stress-free travel experience

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank is proud to announce the addition of Emirates Airline as part of a growing list of over 100 shopping partners in its Easy Pay program. The program, which is the first of its kind in Kuwait, allows Gulf Bank credit cardholders to shop from a variety of different vendors and pay for their purchases in installments over the course of 12 months, with 0 percent interest.

With the addition of Emirates Airline as an Easy Pay partner, customers can now enjoy a more stress-free travel experience, and pay for airline tickets over an extended period of time with no additional processing or interest fees. Emirates is the world's largest international airline, and operates six daily flights to and from Kuwait, connecting travelers to over 150 destinations across 86 countries through Dubai. The airline operates the world's largest fleet of Airbus 380s and Boeing 777s, offering customers an unmatched travel experience through industry trend-setting products and services onboard. In June 2019, Emirates began operating its latest Boeing 777-300ER aircraft fitted with the "Game Changer" First Class suites, providing more choices for its customers in Kuwait to experience its latest onboard products.

Commenting on the announcement, Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager of External Communications at Gulf Bank, said: "With the addition of Emirates Airline as an Easy Pay partner, traveling just got that much easier and more accessible for our Gulf Bank credit cardholders. With over 150 destinations to choose from, Gulf Bank customers can now enjoy an even more convenient way to plan their annual vacations, without worrying about additional processing or interest fees. At Gulf Bank, we are always on the look-out for new and innovative ways to treat our customers, and are constantly working to launch creative solutions that make our customers' lives that much



Ahmad Al-Amir shakes hands with Tariq Al-Mutawa

easier." Tariq Al-Mutawa, Emirates Area Manager for Kuwait and Iraq, said: "Our new partnership with Gulf Bank will offer travelers from Kuwait an easier way to travel on Emirates. Combined with experiencing our world-class product and high-quality service, customers will be able to connect to the Emirates network and reach their destination in comfort and style."

With Easy Pay, Gulf Bank credit cardholders can pay for Emirates Airline tickets over the course of 12 months and with 0 percent interest when they make their bookings online at [www.emirates.com/kw](http://www.emirates.com/kw). The process of



enrolling an Emirates Airline transaction into Easy Pay is seamless. When booking online, customers can simply tick the Easy Pay option after entering their Gulf Bank credit card details on the payment page. The transaction will be automatically converted into Easy Pay, and the ticket amount will be split into 12 equal monthly installments. For

example, when converted into Easy Pay, a flight ticket of KD 240 from Kuwait to London will be converted into 12 monthly payments of KD 20. Customers can also avail multiple Easy Pay features on their credit cards at the same time, and are not required to submit any additional documents or call the bank.

### KFIC Report on GCC, global markets

## Kuwait's non-oil economic growth expected to reach 3.5% in 2020

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance and Investment Company (KFIC) released its report for Q3 2019 which discusses the status of local and international markets.

### GCC economic news

Kuwait's non-oil economic growth in 2020 is expected to reach +3.5 percent, according to report from IMF. Kuwait is trying to diversify its economy away from oil as it contributes to 90 percent of its GDP, especially with geopolitical tensions, OPEC oil cuts, and unsteady oil prices. Moreover, to boost economic growth outside the oil sector, Kuwait is investing heavily in its Northern Gulf Gateway (NGG) project which is predicted to attract up to \$450 billion in foreign investment. The country's recent upgrade from frontier to emerging market by MSCI was an acknowledgment of Kuwait's reforms, direction, and vision. Saudi Arabia's economic growth will be less than forecasted in 2019 due to oil cuts led by OPEC and geopolitical tensions. The Kingdom's GDP is projected to increase by 1.9 percent, less than 2018's growth of 2.2 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, non-oil GDP is expected to accelerate to +2.9 percent in 2019 due to Saudi Arabia's efforts in diversifying its economy away from oil by implementing its reform program that aimed at supporting the diversification of the economy, inclusive growth, and job creation. In the UAE, the government will increase its federal budget by 2 percent in 2020 from 2019's budget, the country's largest budget with zero deficit. The increase will bring the



Federal budget to AED 61.55bn from AED 60.3bn, the country's highest budget on record. The new budget will aim to support community development programs, upgrading the educational system, and develop the healthcare sector. In Qatar, the tourism sector witnessed +11 percent increase in the first 8 months of 2019, similar to the same period a year ago, according to Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC). The tourism sector is undergoing rapid development, with milestone achievements in the sub sectors of cruise, business events and sports. Oman's GDP fell -1.6 percent year-on-year during the first quarter of 2019 to USD 18.4bn, according to the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). The Sultanate's oil GDP also fell by -0.5 percent year-on-year \$6.28 billion due to lower oil prices. In Bahrain, the government sold \$2 billion worth of international sukuk along with conventional bonds. The sukuk have a term tenor of 2027 with a yield of 4.5 percent, while traditional bonds are due in 2031 with a yield of 5.625 percent.

### GCC equities review

GCC equities as measured by the MSCI GCC IMI index fell by -5.57 percent QTD,

Saudi's Tadawul all share index was the worst performer during the quarter followed by Kuwait's all share index, while Dubai's DFM index was the best performer in the region. Saudi Arabia's Tadawul All Share index decreased by -8.27 percent where the worst performing sectors were Media -14.34 percent, Banks -13.35 percent, and Materials -10.07 percent. Kuwait's All Share index slipped by -2.61 percent with weak performances coming from Technology -16.96 percent and Basic Material -11.96 percent. Qatar's QE index dropped -1.44 percent mainly from a drop in Insurance -4.22 percent, followed by Industrials -3.97 percent, and Real Estate -3.87 percent. In the UAE, Dubai's DFM index gained +4.61 percent with positive contribution coming from Insurance +13.57 percent and Telecom +8.93 percent. In Abu Dhabi, the ADXSM index increased by +1.55 percent mainly coming from Consumer Staples +100.13 percent followed by Real Estate 10.16 percent. In Oman, MSM 30 index added +3.42 percent mainly led by an increase in Banks +4.36 percent. In Bahrain, BSE index rose +3.09 percent with a strong performance from Banks +4.65 percent. International Economic Overview:

Global equity markets were mainly flat during the third quarter as indicated by the MSCI World index which gained +0.08 percent quarter to date (QTD). In developed markets, the highest performance came from the CAC 40 Index and Nikkei 225. In the United States, the S&P 500 rose +1.19 percent QTD despite further disruption in the US-China trade war saga which has led to global trade contracting in the first seven month of the year. However, the market received some relief from the Federal Reserve as it cut interest rates for the second time this year by 25 basis points. In Europe, France's CAC 40 index was the best performer increasing by +2.51 percent QTD, as the government introduced easing monetary policies by cutting taxes and lowering its interest rate which supported the index gains during the second quarter. In the UK, FTSE 100 fell by -0.23 percent QTD as political tensions increased between the government and Prime Minister Boris Johnson over the Brexit memorandum.

The UK is yet decide on whether to leave the EU by October 31st via a hard or soft Brexit, and the parliament could request for another timeline extension. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 was the second best performer, adding +2.26 percent QTD which was supported by blue-chip companies' gains during the quarter. In China, the Shanghai Composite slipped by -2.47 percent QTD as China's manufacturing sector shrank for a fifth month in September, amid the effects of the ongoing China-US trade war. The trade conflicts between China and the US had a notable impact on exports, production costs and confidence of enterprises as the United States introduced new tariffs and also increased current tariffs on Chinese imports. In commodities, WTI fell by -7.13 percent QTD to close at \$54.1 bb/l and Brent dropped -7.13 percent to close at \$59.3 bb/l. Crude prices were weighed down by geopolitical tensions, the ongoing trade war between the United States and China, and a slowing global economy.

— Sources: KFCI Research, Reuters, Bloomberg, CNBC, KUNA, IMF, BTEA,

## Greece aims for strong economic growth, tax cuts in 2020

**ATHENS:** Greece hopes higher investment and tax cuts will help power economic growth next year as the country recovers from a decade-long debt crisis. Growth will pick up to at least 2.8 percent next year from 2 percent in 2019, according to a draft budget submitted to parliament by the conservative government yesterday.

"The draft budget ... signals the economic policy's radical turn to growth, employment and income increases," Deputy Finance Minister Theodoros Skylakakis said in an accompanying statement. Unemployment is forecast to drop to 15.6 percent next year from 17.4 percent in 2019, while Athens projects public debt will fall to 167.8 percent of GDP, or 331 billion euros, in 2020 from an expected 173.3 percent of GDP this year. Greece's national debt and its jobless rate are the highest in the euro zone. The country emerged from its third international bailout last year and fiscal progress is still being monitored by its euro zone lenders, who project that the economy will grow by 2.2 percent in 2020 — much less than in the draft budget. Greece has promised to deliver a primary budget surplus—which excludes debt servicing costs—of 3.5 percent of GDP in each year up to 2022. Athens projects a primary surplus of 3.56 percent of GDP next year, based on its draft 2020 budget. As well as broadening the tax base, the conservative government wants to cut taxes for businesses and increase social spending next year. The policies it plans are worth 1.2 billion euros, the budget said, and will help spur growth.

Those plans are feasible as long as Athens "improves tax efficiency and reins in public spending as it has promised", said economist Nikos Magginas at National Bank. If the planned measures are fully implemented, economic activity would accelerate, helping to bridge the gap with the European Commission's growth projection of 2.2 percent. The government, which came to power in July, has said it wants agreement from official lenders on lowering the 3.5 percent of GDP budget surplus target in 2021 and 2022. Athens has outperformed its fiscal targets in recent years, with the former leftist-led government finding fiscal space to distribute the extra funds to those hit hardest by the crisis. — Reuters

## Harley struggles to fire up new gen of riders with e-bike debut

**CHICAGO:** Harley-Davidson Inc is betting on electric motorcycles to attract the next generation of younger and more environmentally conscious riders to reverse declining US sales. But as Harley ships its first "LiveWire" bikes - priced at \$29,799 - to dealers, there is little evidence the 116-year-old brand is catching on with new young customers.

The problem lies mostly with this "super-premium" product's price. The bike costs nearly as much as a Tesla Model 3, and aims for a market that does not really exist: young, "green" and affluent first-time motorcyclists. The sleek sport bike has been available for preorder in the United States since January. However, the bulk of the orders are coming in from existing and old riders, according to interviews with 40 of the 150 dealerships nationwide that are carrying the bike this year.

The dealers Reuters spoke with account for little over a quarter of LiveWire dealerships and are spread across Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, California, Nevada, New Jersey and New York.

Harley has for years failed to increase sales in the United States, its top market accounting for more than half of its motorcycles sold. As its tattooed, baby-boomer base ages, the Milwaukee-based company is finding it challenging to woo new customers. In 2018, Harley posted the steepest sales decline in four years in the United States. US sales are tipped to fall again this year. The heavyweight

motorcycle maker's stock price has declined by 42 percent in the past five years. By comparison, the S&P 500 Index has gained 47 percent.

### Price barrier

When Chief Executive Officer Matt Levatich announced LiveWire's launch last year, his hope was the ease of riding motorcycles with no gears or clutch would help attract young and environmentally conscious urban riders. In an interview with Reuters in February 2018, Levatich said the bike would help address Harley's demographic problem.

"It is more about the next century than the last century," he said at the time. The preorders, thus far, have belied those hopes, according to the dealers. "It is appealing to a demographic that is already riding," said Gennaro Sepe, a sales manager at a Harley dealership in Chicago. His store has received four preorders for the bike. All of them are from existing riders. Harley declined to comment on LiveWire preorders. The motorcycle maker is not the only company investing in battery-powered transportation. Tougher emissions rules in Europe, China and the United States are forcing auto companies to switch to electrified models. A survey of US millennial motorcyclists, published in February by the Motorcycle Industry Council, found 69 percent of the riders interested in electric motorcycles.

Harley's dealers said they are getting inquiries from young customers, but are struggling to translate them into sales. A key reason: LiveWire's retail price. "Interest is very high," said a sales manager at a New Jersey-based dealership, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak to media. "But once you get to pricing, interest is thrown out of the window."

Over half of young college graduates in America, whom Harley is courting with battery-powered bikes, are saddled with student loans that entail average repayment of \$200 to \$300 per month.



CHICAGO: Harley ships its first "LiveWire" bikes - priced at \$29,799 - to dealers, there is little evidence the 116-year-old brand is catching on with new young customers. — Reuters

Harley is not offering any discount or incentives to push the sales, either, the dealers said.

In an interview with CNBC television in May, Levatich called LiveWire "one of the best engineered products on the market" and said it was worth its price. Gary Jon Prough, general sales manager at a dealership in Countryside, Illinois, said the vast majority of millennials cannot afford the bike as LiveWire is targeted at young and affluent customers with incomes above \$100,000 a year. To drive up sales, Prough and other dealers expect Harley to go Tesla Inc's way: launch more affordable battery-powered vehicles after creating a buzz with the premium model. Tesla's first electric car cost over \$100,000, but prices came down with subsequent models. Its Model 3 now comes with a base price of \$35,000 and was instrumental in lifting its vehicle deliveries to a record level in the latest quarter. — Reuters

## US economists pessimistic, citing trade as major risk: Survey

**WASHINGTON:** Economists have become more concerned about US growth prospects, citing trade friction as the major worry, but recession risks have receded slightly, according to a survey released yesterday. Nearly half of the panel surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics expect a recession before the end of next year, down from 60 percent in the prior survey.

The panel expects the world's largest economy to slow, with growth falling below 2 percent for the first time since 2016, the survey showed. Recent data have shown the US labor market remains strong, but manufacturing is in recession while the larger services sector is slowing, giving rise to fears about the health of the US economy, especially amid President Donald Trump's grinding trade war with China and increasing tensions with Europe. The NABE panel "turned decidedly more pessimistic about the outlook over the summer, with 80 percent of participants viewing risks to the outlook as tilted to the downside," said Gregory Daco, the group's survey chair and chief US economist at Oxford Economics. "The rise in protectionism, pervasive trade policy uncertainty, and slower global growth are considered key downside risks to US economic activity," he said in a statement on the findings in the quarterly survey. Looking further out, 69 percent of the panel expects a recession by mid-2021. — AFP



## Business

# Meet new Vertuo, more from every cup

## Perfect long cup at a touch of a button with new Nespresso Vertuo



**KUWAIT:** The pioneer of portioned coffee, has introduced the revolutionary Vertuo coffee system to the Middle East. At a touch of a button, Vertuo brewing technology offers high-quality coffee in a variety of cup sizes. Coffee lovers can now enjoy their favorite drink, anyway they like.

Following the success of Vertuo in North America, Europe and Asia, it is now available in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, more than 70 percent of consumers in these countries prefer a large cup of coffee, often starting their day with one that is more than 200 ml. With Vertuo, Middle Eastern coffee drinkers will be able to enjoy large black or white coffees made at home, with the quality Nespresso is known for.

Sergey Makarin, Business Executive Officer at Nespresso MEA explained, "By introducing Vertuo in the Middle East, we are expanding at-home coffee options for coffee lovers with a range of large coffees without compromising the taste or extraordinary quality that Nespresso is known for. We feel that

Vertuo system will meet the consumer needs for a convenient and easy to use coffee machines to produce variety of coffee sizes."

The Vertuo system revolutionizes the way coffee is made by introducing Centrifusion, the unique rotational extraction technology, along with a new range of capsule sizes that together allow for different coffee experience from an espresso to a large cup. At the touch of a button, the intelligent system automatically recognizes the coffee capsule through barcode reading and it adjusts the extraction parameters to create the perfect full-bodied coffee, finished with a silky and generous crema.

Vertuo offers three different sized capsules, creating a range of five coffee cup sizes. Each of the 28 Vertuo coffees is carefully blended and roasted to deliver a quality coffee experience, whatever the occasion. The Mug size (230ml) gives a well-balanced body and bouquet of gentle aromas, complementing The Gran Lungos (150ml) offering the prolonged pleasure of an espresso. The largest size, Alto

(414ml) serves up delicate aromatic taste to be enjoyed in a longer cup size.

Finally, Nespresso drinkers can enjoy the intense flavors of the Double Espresso (80 ml) and Espresso (40ml).

- 28 exceptional coffees
- 2 blends in Alto size
- 15 blends for Mug size
- 4 blends for Gran Lungo size
- 3 blends for Double Espresso
- 4 blends of Espresso

The innovative new Vertuo machine range and the new coffees offers a variety of new features, all designed to enrich the experience:

- New Centrifusion(tm) extraction (rotational extraction) system to gently and precisely brew coffee. The rotation reaches up to 7000 rotations per minute to fully extract the coffee.
- Barcode reading technology which adjusts the brewing parameters such as the cup size, temperature, rotational speed, flow rate and time the water is in

contact with the coffee to allow for precise extraction.

- Simple and convenient one button operation.
- The machine comes in two versions VertuoPlus and VertuoPlus Deluxe, which feature moveable 1.1L and 1.7L water tanks and an automatic opening and closing of the machine head.
- 20 second pre-heating time, with the mug size (230ml) extracted in under 70 seconds.
- Adjustable cup platform for espresso, double espresso, mug, recipe glasses as well as the travel mug.
- Automatic off mode after 9 minutes of non-use.
- 28 coffees to suit customer preferences, including intense, mild, flavoured and decaffeinated options.

The new Nespresso Vertuo is available in two models, VertuoPlus and VertuoPlus deluxe.

Vertuo Plus comes in one color: White, while Vertuo Plus deluxe is available in black and silver. The machines and coffee will be available for sale starting 17 September 2019 at Nespresso different sales channels.

## Nord Stream 2 to boost Russian clout on EU: US

**VILNIUS:** US Energy Secretary Rick Perry warned yesterday that the controversial Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline would increase Russia's political influence on European Union foreign policy.

On a visit to Lithuania to promote US energy ties with Eastern European nations, Perry said the pipeline carrying Russian gas to Germany "would deliver a stunning blow to Europe's energy diversity and security." "It would increase Russia's leverage over Europe's foreign policy and Europe's vulnerability to a supply disruption," Perry told an energy forum in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

Perry said the Baltic sea pipeline, together with the TurkStream pipeline-which will supply Russian gas to Turkey via the Black Sea-"would enable Moscow to end gas transit through Ukraine by the close of the decade." "Nord Stream 2 is designed to drive a single source gas artery deep into Europe and (to drive) a stake through the heart of European stability and security," Perry said. He said the United States "were ready, were willing and were able" to increase European energy security by providing alternative sources, notably liquified natural gas and civil nuclear capabilities. —AFP

## NBK delegation to attend WBG & IMF annual meetings

**KUWAIT:** A senior delegation from National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) will attend the 2019 Annual Meetings of The Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that will take place in Washington, D.C. during the week of October 14-20.

The delegation will be headed by NBK Group Chairman Nasser Al-Sayer, NBK Group Chief Executive Officer, Isam Al-Sager, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer, Shaikha Al-Bahar and CEO - International Banking Group, Georges Richani.

NBK delegation will participate in the annual meetings that will discuss key economic and financial challenges and future growth prospects, as well as highlights on a number of issues related to global financial sector reforms. The delegation will also participate in several bilateral meetings with senior officials on the sidelines of the sessions. The meetings and discussions will highlight the latest and most pressing issues facing the financial services industry and global

economy today.

Moreover, NBK delegation will attend the reception organized by the Kuwait Banking Association on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the Boards of Governors of the IMF and the World Bank Group that brings together senior financiers, investors and policy-makers from all over the world. During its annual meeting, IMF will provide a briefing on the World Economic Outlook report including insights from IMF experts on global economic performance, current and future trends and risks, as well as an overview of the world economic outlook projections. IMF will also host a conference on financial stability.

Delegates attending the Word Bank/ IMF meetings include government officials, central bank governors, ministers of finance and development. The guest list also includes private sector senior officials, representatives of the civil society and academic scholars. Participants get together to discuss key international issues including: World Economic Outlook and how to reduce poverty and spur economic growth. Events include meetings of the Development Committee, the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the Group of Ten, the Group of Twenty-Four, the Group of Thirty and various other constituencies. The International Monetary and Financial Affairs Committee is scheduled to discuss world economic performance, future trends and provide an update on the



international financial markets and the associated risk impacting their performance, in addition to discussing key policies to mitigate such risks.

This year's annual meetings will discuss several important topics including Global Economic Outlook report as well as shedding light on Fintech Innovators as Drivers of Inclusive Economies and Catalyzing Environmental, Social and Governance Investment. Other key topics of discussion include Integrated Solar Energy Plans and Unleashing the Potential of Women Entrepreneurs through Finance and Markets as well as the international development association's role in comprehensive development.

The annual meetings bring together a large number of officials from member countries, providing opportunities for formal and informal discussions. Numerous seminars are held on the sidelines of the meetings, in addition to the Per Jacobsson Lecture on international finance, which is sponsored by a foundation set up in honor of the IMF's third Managing Director, is also given each year in conjunction with the meetings.

NBK is keen to attend global forums and international conferences to stay on top of the latest global developments, activities and events focused on global economy, international development and the financial system.

## QNB Kuwait visits cancer patients

**KUWAIT:** As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and the humanitarian campaigns QNB Kuwait undertakes, a team from the Bank has paid a visit to the Hussain Makki Juma Hospital and the Cancer Control Center. During the visit, the Bank team checked on the patients and presented them with gifts to raise their spirits and provide them with needed moral support.

The visit included tours of the women and men's sections and an identification of the various forms of the illness, as well as the medical and

psychological support provided to the patients.

Mr. Samir Salmar, General Manager of QNB Kuwait, greatly praised the visit to the patients, wishing them a speedy recovery and stating that the initiative is one of the Bank's most important annual social events. He added that such visits help the patients feel the society's care and support for them to help them overcome their physical and psychological trials.

QNB Group's presence through its subsidiaries and associate companies extends to more than 31 countries across three continents providing a comprehensive range of advanced products and services. The total number of employees is more than 30,000 operating through 1,100 locations, with an ATM network of more than 4,400 machines.





What's On

# DWC organizes 'Kuwait On the Silk Road' event



Left to right, Lin Ying, Spouse of the Chinese Ambassador, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Kuwait Smargul Adamolova and Narjis Al Shati Counselor of the DWC. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

The Diplomatic Women's Committee of Kuwait (DWC) organized an event at the Kuwait National Library Theater, entitled "Kuwait on the Silk Road" for its cultural season for 2019/2020, to exhibit the history, culture, and heritage of the ancient and the new Silk Road.

On the sidelines of the event, Narjis Al Shati Counselor of the DWC said that DWC created a themed year and this year will be about the Silk Road, adding "We chose this theme to promote the idea of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait when he went to China and said that Kuwait should be a financial center and there should be a city referring to Silk City of Kuwait. We hope that we have achieved our goal tonight, where we will discuss every

aspect of "Silk Road" during this year." She noted that the Silk Road was not only a trade road but also the transferred heritage, culture, and history between the countries.

Shati added that in February 2020, a major joint exhibition will be held for participating countries on the Silk Road. "Also, from October 17 to 19, there will be a trip to Abu Dhabi to visit the Louvre museum, where we will discover the history of the Silk Road. The initiative of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road is a long-term opportunity to achieve economic prosperity in the world. This initiative is in line with the visions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's aim to transform Kuwait into a global commercial hub by 2035, and also to establish the 'Silk City' project launched in 2006. This embodies new hori-



zons and wider ambitions to revive the historic Silk Road."

She revealed that the Diplomatic Women's Committee will organize a "Discover Kuwait" trip to identify the cities and institutions of Kuwait and the first visit will be in February to introduce Kuwait to the new ambassadors' spouses. During her speech, Lin Ying, Spouse of the Chinese Ambassador, said that over 2,000 years ago, ancestors opened the transcontinental passage connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa, and created sea routes linking the East with the West, which are today known as the Silk Road that opened windows of friendly engagement among nations, adding a splendid chapter to the history of human progress.

"Kuwait was a vital axis in the ancient Silk Road and played an important role in promoting trade between Asia

and Europe across the East and the West. Kuwait became the first Arab country to sign cooperation agreements with China under the Initiative. Currently, countries in the Middle East region opts to "look east"; the further alignment of China's Belt and Road Initiative with Kuwait Vision 2035 has become the overarching guideline leading China-Kuwait cooperation in the new era," she said.

Ying added "I believe that through a diverse range of activities organized by the Committee, Kuwaiti friends will develop a better understanding of the Silk Road and China, which will be conducive to more active participation in building the Belt and Road. I am confident that, with joint efforts by all parties in upholding the Silk Road Spirit "peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, and mutual benefit", the Belt and the road will bring together different civilizations."

## Al Hamra promotes breast cancer awareness month

Al Hamra Real Estate Co., a leader in real estate management, recently launched a full-fledged health campaign namely 'Enlighten Yourself', reinforcing the importance of early detection of breast cancer and encouraging women to stay healthy. The campaign will be a culmination of awareness initiatives and engagements, which will run throughout the month of October at Al Hamra Business Tower and Shopping Center.

Held for the second consecutive year, Kuwait's first vertical marathon inspired by the sport of "Tower Running," Al Hamra Real Estate Co. urged all to participate in 'The Pink Rowathon' which is a marathon with the help of a rowing machine. This year's competition which comprised of around 38 teams with 200 players took place on October 5, starting from 10 am until 2 pm at the shopping center, in support of breast cancer awareness month. Each team consisted of 3 - 4 members and tasked to row for 30 minutes. The team that reached the highest distance first won the grand prize which is of a value of KD 3000.

The Rowathon saw 'Serbian Boyzzz' win the first place, with a total distance of 9,959 Km rowed, while 'Circuit 965' were the runner-ups with a total rowed distance of 9,910 Km. 'Alpha Squad' captured third place with a total rowed distance of 9,610 Km. The much-anticipated Rowathon was in collaboration with fitness partner, Neon Fitness Gym, and also sponsored by leading brands - Adidas, Grand Cinemas, Disc, Chips Store, Lina's & Dina's and Tea G Cafe.

Al Hamra Real Estate Co. urges all to be part of the national movement against a rising problem for the benefit of the health of current and future generations. 'Enlighten Yourself' Campaign falls under Al Hamra's established CSR Strategy to invest in the long-term sustainability of local communities. Themed under 'Youth Empowerment', the program encompasses three pillars of reason to provide lasting value - empowerment through knowledge and inclusion, arts and cultural advancement and healthy living.



## LOYAC volunteers visit AUB branches

LOYAC volunteers visited AUB's branches in the framework of educating the bank's employees and promoting the culture of volunteering and highlighting its importance in building a symbiotic society. This visit is part of the Saadati (my happiness) Volunteering Program which is sponsored by AUB and focuses on those of special needs where it enables the volunteers to join them in issues related to

their daily life matters in the care centers.

On her part, the Director of the Social Service Department Ms Yusra Al-Essa, highlighted the importance of spreading the culture of volunteerism in the community so that it is considered the main pillar for building any society. This is in support of LOYAC's mission to empower young people, strengthen their abilities, and cultivate the community's values such as volunteerism.

## Lulu Hypermarket holds cake-mixing ceremony



Lulu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, held a well-attended cake-mixing ceremony on October 5 at its Al-Dajeej outlet. The event saw the participation of cooking enthusiasts, Lulu Chefs and celebrity chefs from abroad who were especially invited to provide their expertise to the ceremony. The highlight of the cake-mixing ceremony was the preparation of the dried fruits and other ingredients that would go into making the traditional Christmas fruit-cake.

The special recipe concocted by Lulu Chefs and the visiting celebrity chefs called for the inclusion of dried fruits, including cherries, plums, raisins, orange peels and other exotic dried fruits, as well as honey, cream and fruit juices, in addition to other cake batter ingredients. The flavorful batter will be baked into special Christmas and New Year fruit cakes in different tantalizing flavors to celebrate the spirit of the upcoming holiday season.



Greetings

### Child dedication ceremony




It was a memorable moment at the Redeemed Christian Church of God Church (Grace Sanctuary) on Friday as family, friends and well-wishers celebrated with the Mr/Mr Ekeanyanwu as they dedicated their baby King David to the Lord. We pray that the good Lord will bless and protect the family Amen.



## Health &amp; Science

# New breakthrough treatment for Multiple Sclerosis in Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** The latest breakthrough treatment for relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) has been officially launched in Kuwait. The Ministry of Health approved the first oral short-course treatment by leading science and technology company - Merck, which provides up to 4 years of disease control after being taken orally for just 20 days over 2 years. MAVENCLAD (Cladribine Tablets) was launched yesterday at the Salwa Al-Sabah Conference Center in Kuwait City in the presence of healthcare professionals from across the region.

One of the most common neurological conditions in the world, Multiple Sclerosis is an autoimmune condition, wherein the body attacks itself by progressively destroying the myelin sheaths that protect the nerves in the brain and spine, thus disrupting the flow of information between brain and body. 2.3 million people have been diagnosed worldwide according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, while it usually affects those between the ages of 20 and 40. In Kuwait, there has been an increase in the prevalence of Multiple Sclerosis over the years, and a study between 2010 to 2013 identified 1,176 MS patients of which 78.1 percent were Kuwaitis and the remaining 21.2 percent expatriates.

"As healthcare professionals, we always seek to offer our patients the best treatment options and care and we look forward to having them accessible in Kuwait. The introduction of this unparalleled and breakthrough treatment will offer hope to many patients who have been dealing with this disease. Not only does it renew hope, it also helps provide them with a better quality of life," said Dr Raed Roughani, Consultant Neurologist; Director of MS Clinic at Al Amiri. "I am very happy that they can



now look to a more hopeful future" he added. With symptoms varying among patients, diagnosis and treatment solutions have proven challenging over the years, however, the latest treatment is the outcome of more than 14 years of dedicated research and is the first-time patients can be up to 75 percent relapse free for four years after administering the course. People with relapsing multiple sclerosis are uncertain about when the next

flare up might occur, and often find it difficult to perform day-to-day activities such as buttoning a shirt or having a small walk which can cause discomfort and affect the quality of life.

"While there's no permanent cure just yet, this treatment has come the closest so far, and helps to restore a significant degree of normalcy in the lives of patients. It is also very easy to administer in the com-

fort of the patient's own home, without the need for frequent hospital visits, and also reduces overall cost of treatment. We are grateful to the Ministry of Health Kuwait for their unwavering efforts to enhance their healthcare offering and for making this groundbreaking treatment accessible to its citizens," said Yasser Tawfik, General Manager - GCC Region (Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries).



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- Vocal cord augmentation.
- Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- Thyroid surgery.
- Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- Treatment of snoring.
- Treatment of vertigo.

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- Hernia repair
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
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General Surgery Consultant  
<http://www.international-clinic.com>  
**Tel: 1886677**

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- Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistaloscope)
- Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
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- Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve-Gastroectomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernia Surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

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

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

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

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

**Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368**  
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**DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant of General Surgery  
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

**Academic Certificates – Training**

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

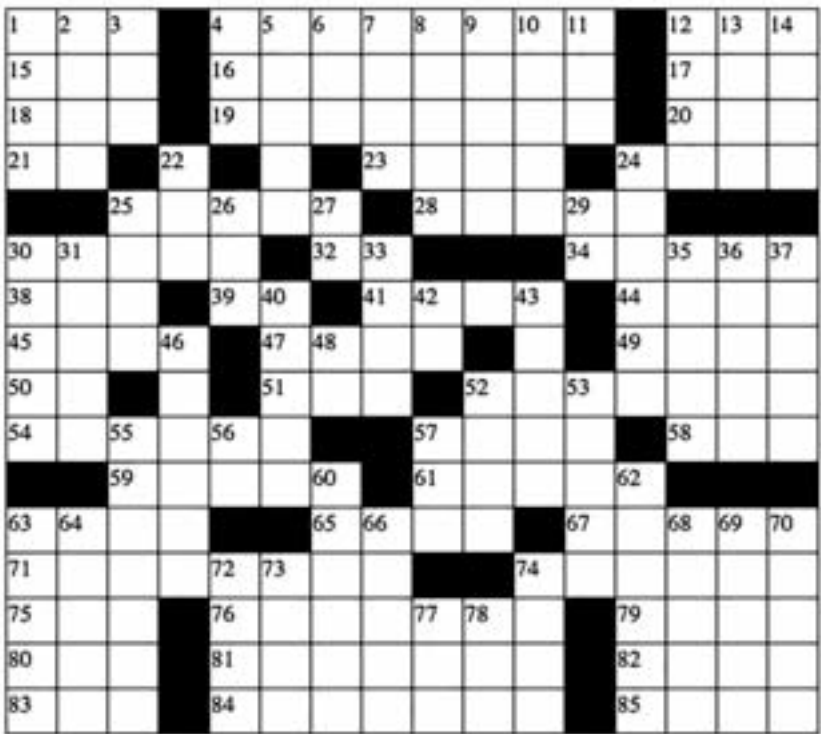
**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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



CROSSWORD 2327



ACROSS

- 1. Wild and domestic cattle.
- 4. Genus of scapose herbs of North and South America having large edible bulbs.
- 12. Not reflecting light.
- 15. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
- 16. The act of preventing something from occurring.
- 17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 18. A piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep.
- 19. Narrow French stick loaf.
- 20. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
- 21. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- 23. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- 28. Any of numerous low-growing cushion-forming plants of the genus *Draba* having rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems.
- 30. An anti-inflammatory drug that does not contain steroids.
- 32. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- 34. A painful emotion resulting from an awareness of inadequacy or guilt.
- 38. Water frozen in the solid state.
- 39. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- 41. Young of domestic cattle.
- 44. A shade of blue tinged with green.
- 45. Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
- 47. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 49. Containing or filled with salt.
- 50. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
- 51. Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.
- 54. A landlocked republic in eastern Africa.
- 58. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 59. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- 61. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- 63. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
- 65. Surrealist Spanish painter (1904-1989).
- 67. 1 species.
- 71. Decorate with colors.
- 75. A Nilotic language.
- 76. A roofing tile with a S-shape.
- 79. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- 80. The rate at which red blood cells settle out in a tube of blood under standardized conditions.
- 81. Only the bowfins.
- 82. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
- 83. A graphical record of electrical activity of the brain.
- 84. The fur of the North American racoon.
- 85. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).

DOWN

- 1. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 2. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 3. An honorary degree in science.
- 4. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- 5. A genus of Indridae.
- 6. The number that is represented as a one followed by 6 zeros.
- 7. Starch resembling sago that is obtained from cuckoopint root.
- 8. The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
- 9. A stringed instrument of India.
- 10. (prefix) Within.
- 11. How long something has existed.
- 12. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 13. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 14. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- 22. The sixth day of the week.
- 24. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
- 25. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
- 26. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- 27. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- 29. A bachelor's degree in science.
- 31. Lean end of the neck.
- 33. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- 35. Jordan's port.
- 36. A Muslim trained in the doctrine and law of Islam.
- 37. Someone who consumes food for nourishment.
- 40. State in northeastern India.
- 42. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 43. A male religious of an order of mendicant preachers of the gospel.
- 46. A region whose eastern part is Bangladesh and western part is included in India.
- 48. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- 52. Being three more than fifty.
- 53. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
- 55. A city and port in northern Jutland.
- 56. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- 57. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
- 60. A verse line with a dactyl followed by a spondee or trochee.
- 62. Pods of the cowage plant or the stinging hairs covering them.
- 64. Occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion.
- 66. Ludicrously odd.
- 68. Relating to or accompanying birth.
- 69. Jordan's port.
- 70. Any of various thermoplastic resins used to make things.
- 72. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- 73. The battle in 202 BC in which Scipio decisively defeated Hannibal at the end of the second Punic War.
- 74. Having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions.
- 77. An artificial language that is a revision and simplification of Esperanto.
- 78. Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There are good practical job-related thoughts and ideas. Outreach opportunities continue, particularly those involving publishing, broadcasting or the exchange of cultural programs or ideas. Isolation is counterproductive to your output. Remain involved and patient with yourself; all is good news at this time. Hold on to the present but educate yourself about the future. There are encouragements in your career direction. You may benefit from the advice of a senior or one in authority. Mental patterns and communication skills play a major role in your success. Develop your highest potential in the areas of communication and concentration.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Work is your first focus at this time. There is an opportunity to make good decisions—the clear choice is yours. You will prosper by your most earnest dream of how life could be. You are at your most practical and what happens now will have a lasting effect on your life direction. Discovering new problem-solving techniques may help shorten a time of sales promotion or product distribution. A change in financial status is possible now. There are new spending patterns, perhaps focused on high-tech interests—careful. There is an obstacle tonight that you can use as a stepping stone.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life. You could gain from subordinates or young people during this time. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insight into your working situation. Suggestions and proposals may be considered from the company for which you work. Perhaps some monetary rewards can be expected as your proposals or ideas may save the company much money. You will have some good opportunities to move forward in your career at this time. Community problems come to your attention this afternoon and changes are possible. This may involve transportation situations: school buses, city buses, parking, etc. A letter or presentation to the city council will prove effective.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There is a tendency to be too strict with your own life when you insist that whatever does not contribute to security and other long-term goals is trivial. Think outside the box and make plans that do not include such harsh restrictions on yourself. Positive results will depend on your actions. You attract money today. This could mean the promise of a raise or the sale of a piece of furniture or some other household item. Others may find you especially witty and eccentric this afternoon. You may have insights or breakthroughs regarding your living situation or life circumstances.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are where some of the focal points are in your life. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons open new doors of opportunity. A professional position is opening and you will be able to take the additional education in a foreign country. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have a special appeal for you and transmitting ideas on a broad scale brings gain. It is easy for you to make correct decisions at this time; there are plenty of professional problems but they seem quite manageable. You create work that stirs people from their heart and you love knowing that you could eventually have quite a following. You enjoy the rewards of your hard work.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you need a loan, today is a good time to gather the information you need to request one. Positive results come from your investments and earning potential—a raise is in the works. There is a need to be the center of attention and perhaps a need to give and to be appreciated for your gifts. This can be an expansive, creative and even romantic phase. You will look back on this time with pride and fondness. You may find yourself being put to good use by your friends this afternoon. All of this should go rather smoothly. You will use your common sense to move forward and help others to do the same. Being closely involved with another person may become your highest priority. Marriage, contracts and partnerships are seen as keys to happiness.

Wordsearch Puzzle

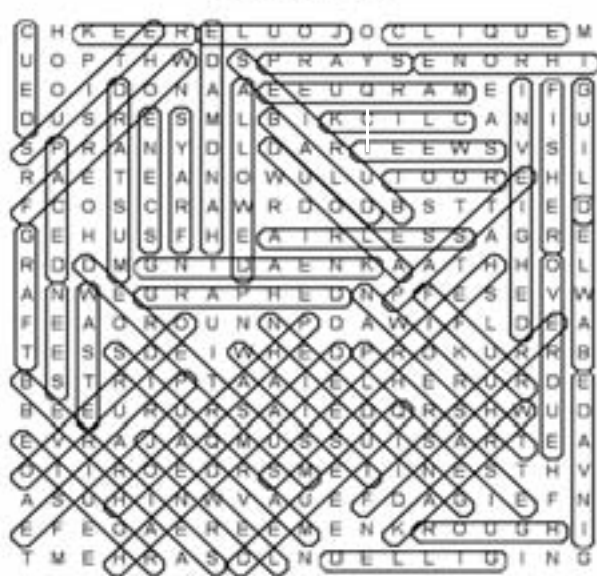
Golf

Find and circle all of the golf words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Mark Twain quotation.



- |           |               |             |              |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ALBATROSS | CLUBHOUSE     | GREEN       | ROUGH        |
| APPROACH  | CLUBS         | GRIP        | RULES        |
| BACK NINE | CONDOR        | GROSS SCORE | SHOT         |
| BACKSPIN  | COURSE        | HANDICAP    | SLICE        |
| BALL      | DIVOT         | HOLE IN ONE | STROKE       |
| BIRDIE    | DRIVER        | HOLES       | SWING        |
| BOGEY     | DRIVING RANGE | HOOKE       | TEE OFF      |
| BUNKER    | EAGLE         | IRON        | TREES        |
| CADDIE    | FAIRWAY       | NET SCORE   | WATER HAZARD |
| CART      | FLAGSTICK     | PAR         | WEDGE        |
| CHIP      | FORE          | PUTTER      | WOOD         |

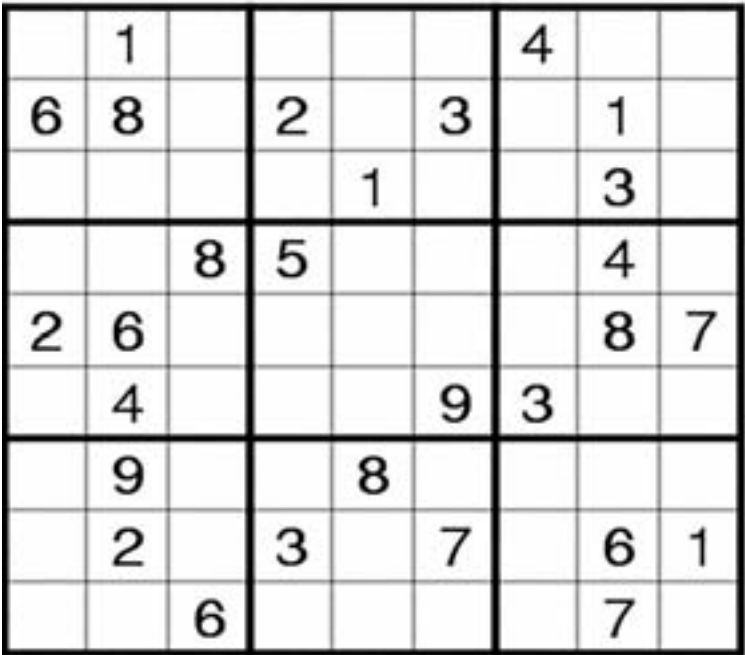
Homophones



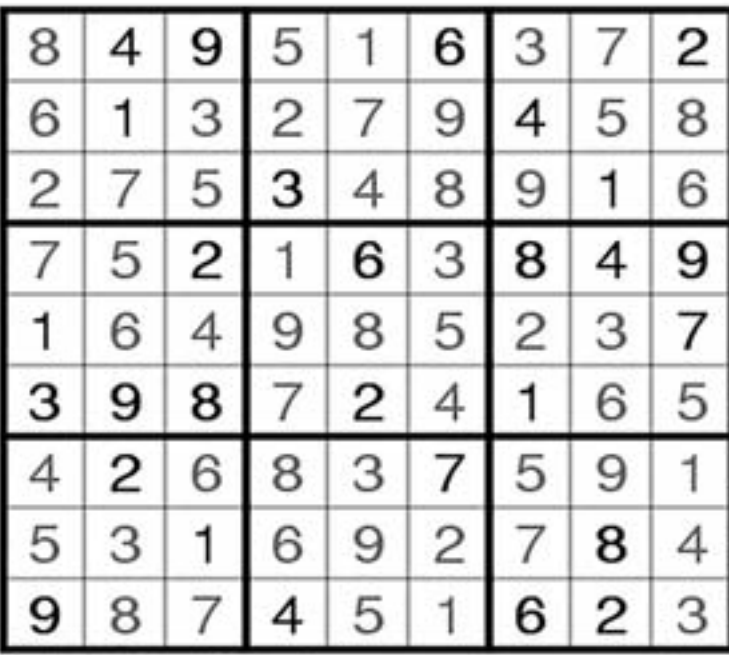
- |          |          |          |        |
|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| AIRLESS  | FISHER   | KNEADING | ROOT   |
| HEEDLESS | FISURE   | NEEDING  | ROUTE  |
| ALLOWED  | FRAYS    | MARGURE  | ROUGH  |
| ALLOD    | PHRASE   | MARGURE  | RUFF   |
| BAIRD    | GILLED   | MUSTARD  | SCENE  |
| BAKLED   | GULD     | HUSTLED  | SEEN   |
| BEARIES  | GRAFT    | OVERDO   | SUITE  |
| BURIES   | GRAPHED  | OVERDOE  | SWEET  |
| CLICK    | HANDMADE | PACED    | THRONE |
| CLIQUE   | HANDMAID | PASTE    | THROWN |
| CUED     | INVADE   | PRASSE   | WAST   |
| QUUED    | INVEGGED | PRAYS    | WASTE  |
| FARROW   | SEWEL    | SEEN     |        |
| FARAOH   | JOULE    | WREAK    |        |

Hidden sentence: HOMOPHONES ARE WORDS THAT SOUND ALIKE BUT HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019



.....  
**Cosplayers arrive for the third day of the 2019 New York Comic Con at the Jacob Javits Center. — AFP**  
.....

## Ginger Baker, drummer with rock band Cream, dies aged 80

Legendary British musician Ginger Baker, a founding member of psychedelic band Cream and considered one of the most innovative and influential drummers of his generation, died on Sunday aged 80. Baker co-founded Cream—widely seen as the world’s first super-group—in 1966 alongside guitarist Eric Clapton and bassist Jack Bruce, before embarking on a host of other musical exploits during a colorful and eclectic career.

He had a volatile personal life, with four marriages, three children, struggles with drug and alcohol and stormy relationships with bandmates over the decades. Some of the world’s most famous drummers, including Ringo Starr on Sunday joined in the tributes. “God bless Ginger Baker incredible musician wild and inventive drummer,” wrote The Beatles’ drummer on his Twitter account. “Peace and love to his family.” His death was announced on his Twitter account and confirmed by one of his daughters.

“We are very sad to say that Ginger has passed away peacefully in hospital this morning,” the message stated. “Thank you to everyone for your kind words over the past weeks.” Baker had previously suffered from heart problems and was admitted to hospital several weeks ago after becoming “critically ill”, according to his social

media page. The famously erratic rocker emerged in the 1960s at the same time as other legendary drummers Charlie Watts of the Rolling Stones and Mitch Mitchell of the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

Described by the BBC as “a temperamental and argumentative figure, whose behavior frequently led to on-stage punch-ups”, he was also once acknowledged as the best drummer in the world. “There aren’t many drummers who can get anywhere near me,” he boasted in an old interview still posted on his personal website. Music critic Neil McCormick lauded Baker as changing “the perception of rock drummers in the Sixties from timekeepers to musical personalities in their own right”.

“In this age of drum machines, loops and click tracks, we may never see his like again,” he wrote in a tribute piece Sunday on the Daily Telegraph’s website.

**Wild and lovely guy**

Born Peter Edward Baker in southeast London in 1939, he adopted the nickname Ginger due to the flaming red hair of his youth. He embraced a career in music after initially trying to become a professional cyclist, hoping to compete in the Tour de France, but abandoned the plan after an accident. He first emerged in the burgeoning



**In this file photo British musician Ginger Baker of Cream performs at the Rock ‘N’ Roll Fantasy Camp at AMP Rehearsal Studios in North Hollywood, California. — AFP**

blues scene of early 1960s London, before helping to create blues-rock fusion band Cream, which went on to sell millions of records worldwide.

Baker stood out for pioneering the drum solo and his uniquely energetic style, merging the mellifluousness of jazz

with the harder edge of rock. The band broke up in 1968, amid battles between Baker and bassist Bruce, and he then joined another mythical, ephemeral group, Blind Faith, alongside Clapton and Steve Winwood, before founding the 10-piece Ginger Baker’s Air Force. The drummer later lived in Nigeria, recording with Fela Kuti and setting up a recording studio. He went on to help Paul McCartney record the Wings’ album “Band on the Run”.

“Great drummer, wild and lovely guy,” McCartney wrote on Twitter on Sunday. “Sad to hear that he died but the memories never will.” Cream briefly reunited in 2005, while Baker was living in South Africa, before he officially retired from playing in 2016 following a diagnosis of heart issues. He continued to give occasional performances. A 2013 documentary, “Beware of Mr Baker”, which critics say showed the best of the worst of Baker—capturing one of his violent outbursts—featured an array of music legends lauding his legacy. “He personally is what drums are all about,” said Stewart Copeland, the drummer with The Police.—AFP

## Israeli spy’s widow hurt by Netflix biopic, but welcomes publicity

A Netflix drama about Israeli spy Eli Cohen, who infiltrated the Syrian government in the 1960s and was later executed, has received a mixed review from his widow. Nadia Cohen, 84, said she was hurt by parts of the mini-series “The Spy” because they bore no relation to the truth, although she hopes the dramatization might help in recovering her late husband’s remains from Syria.

“The Spy” depicts Egyptian-born Cohen - played by Sacha Baron Cohen - as an ambitious, Arabic-speaking immigrant to Israel who is recruited by Mossad and, overcoming his fears and the strains on his family, infiltrates the Damascus high command by posing as a rich scion of the Syrian diaspora. Cohen was exposed and executed by Syrian authorities in 1965. Israel credits information he relayed with helping it defeat Syria in a 1967 war.

Nadia Cohen said liberties taken in some parts of the script “raise my blood pressure”. She cited one sub-plot showing her struggling to work as a seamstress for an Israeli socialite while raising the Cohens’ children alone, and another where a Mossad handler takes a romantic interest in her while her husband is away under cover. Neither happened in reality, Nadia Cohen said.

“Someone wanted to bring things into the mix that really hurt us,” she told Reuters in the sitting room of her home in the Israeli coastal city of Herzliya, where framed black-and-white pictures of Eli adorn the man-

tepiece.” (This) could have been a great, Zionist, educational series (about) love of country, sacrifice and about his life and my life, my children.” Still, Nadia, who wept during the interview, said the renewed interest in her husband more than a half-century after his death was a good thing.

“It is possible, that (the family will have) this anger for two or three more weeks and then we will see it as something that revived Eli, gave him a soul so he lives again among this nation,” she said. Israel has long sought to repatriate Cohen for burial from Syria, with which it remains technically at war. In April, with Russian intervention, Syria returned the remains of an Israeli soldier killed fighting there in 1982. Last year, Mossad said it had recovered Eli Cohen’s watch as part of its quest for his body.

“I would kiss and hug all of this (Netflix) production if that’s what would bring Eli to me. I would be grateful. It would be the biggest gift and compensation of our lives,” Nadia said. The six-part biopic depicts Eli as lavishing money and attention on potential Syrian sources - including at an orgy that he orchestrates at his swanky Damascus apartment to entrap a top military general. He is also shown reluctantly courting the daughter of a key Syrian contact. — Reuters

## Kim Kardashian christens her children in Armenia

US reality television star Kim Kardashian baptized her children yesterday during a visit to her ancestral homeland Armenia. Kardashian wore a tight-fitting beige dress and stopped to take pouting selfies with local fans as she left Holy Echmiadzin, the Caucasus nation’s main cathedral. She was accompanied by her four children and sister Kourtney Kardashian, according

to an AFP photographer. Her husband, rapper Kanye West, was not present.

The visit was the star’s first to the Caucasus nation since a 2015 trip marking the centenary of the Armenian genocide that saw her husband give a chaotic, impromptu concert in capital Yerevan. Kardashian is due to give a speech on Tuesday at the World Congress on Information Technology which is being held in Armenia. Kardashian’s Armenian ancestors on her father’s side emigrated to the United States from an area that now lies in Turkey. Armenia was the first country in the world to adopt Christianity as an official religion, in the fourth century.—AFP



**US reality television star Kim Kardashian, left, and her sister Kourtney Kardashian leave a hotel in Yerevan. —AFP**





Moulin Rouge dancers perform during the celebration of the 130th anniversary of the French oldest cabaret in Paris. — AFP photos

# Moulin Rouge dancers take it to the street for 130th birthday

Thousands of people massed outside the Moulin Rouge cabaret on Sunday night for a fireworks and French can-can extravaganza to mark the 130th anniversary of the storied Montmartre institution. Police blocked off the boulevard for the event, which began with music and a light show projected onto the iconic red windmill, recounting the venue's Belle Epoque origins. A sole dancer then appeared on the roof, braving the autumn chill in one of the cabaret's skimpy sequined costumes—though she was not topless, presumably a nod to the families in the crowd.

Then, as fireworks boomed overhead—red, naturally, later mixed with whites and blues—around 50 long-legged dancers wearing the same colors emerged to perform their

famous can-can. Yiftah Bar-Akiva, an Israeli who has lived in Paris for 11 years, was sipping champagne from a flute glass with friends who came for the party. “It’s as mythical as the Eiffel Tower, it’s like a piece of history of the Belle Epoque,” he said. “I don’t think it’s disrespectful of women, I think it’s still art,” he added. “It’s not like it’s a peepshow!”

Joanna Cavarzan travelled from her home near the city of Chartres, not far from Paris, with a friend, Joe McGinty, who was visiting from Toronto. “I’ve never been inside, and I was hoping to see a little bit what it was like,” Cavarzan said. But like many in the crowd, she could hardly see the dancers—no stage had been set up on the boulevard for their show.

Opened in 1889 — the same year as the Eiffel Tower was completed—the Moulin Rouge has become a must-see for millions of tourists to the French capital, even if only from the outside.

The two nightly shows, two hours each, are almost always sold out seven nights a week, 365 nights a year, with tourists and locals attending in roughly even numbers. The cabaret has also become a touchstone in popular culture, not only with Baz Luhrmann’s 2001 hit film but before that in 1952 with John Huston’s version starring Zsa Zsa Gabor.—AFP

## Vietnamese roll out Transformers inspired robot with green message

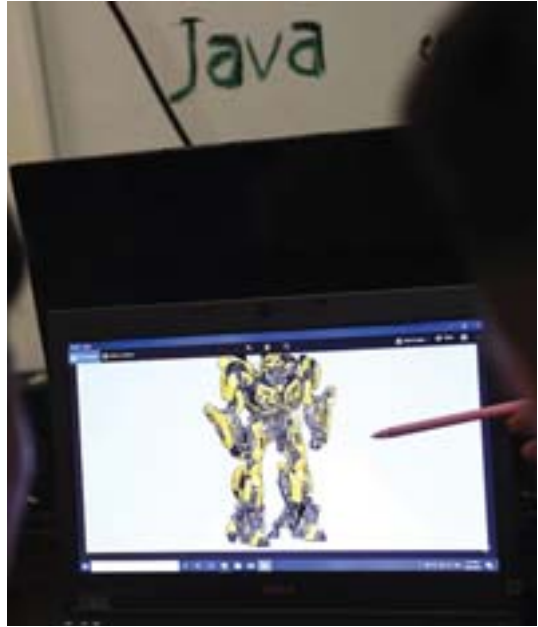
There is more than meets the eye to the towering robot resembling a character from the “Transformers” movie franchise—it speaks Vietnamese and is made from spare motorbike parts. “Hello everyone ... I am from Vietnam,” the hulking Robot One says as it swivels side to side in a Hanoi workshop. A team of IT programmers and students say they want to provoke debate about the scourge of discarded and unused autoparts in a city where nearly six million motorbikes hit the streets daily.

Hanoi officials vowed in 2017 to ban motorbikes from roads by 2030 to ease pollution and congestion woes. “Our team made this robot in order to send a message to everybody—let’s protect the environment,” said newly-graduated engineer Do Danh Phong, a member of the informal Robot Bank group. Inspired by the feuding robots in director Michael Bay’s multibillion dollar “Transformers” franchise, Robot One was cobbled together from the remnants of Japanese Honda and Taiwanese SYM motorbikes.

The 100-kilogram and three-meter high Robot One is controlled by a PlayStation joystick, can make simple moves and utter some basic phrases. Its creators had to scour shops to pull together the right selection of parts to give it the same muscular frame as the robots in the movie. Robot One is the first of many, the team says, with dreams of creating a robot park in the capital one day.—AFP



This photograph shows ‘Robot-One,’ made from spare motorcycle parts, at a workshop in Hanoi. — AFP photos



## Mexican church blesses furry friends for World Animal Day



Chihuahuas, parakeets and turtles joined their human companions for services at a Catholic church Friday in the Mexican city of Zapopan, where they got a special blessing for World Animal Day. Pets joined their owners in the pews of the city’s Saint Francis of Assisi church, named for the patron saint of animals, whose feast day is October 4.

Parishioners in the western city could be seen praying with their birds perched on their shoulders, sitting next to plastic receptacles holding their turtles or taking their communion wafers as their dogs keenly watched. Lucia Rincon, who attended the mass with her German shepherd, said she and her brother try to bring him every year. “We’re big believers in Saint Francis, and we know animals need a guide, too. And what better blessing than that of Saint Francis?” Rincon, 36, told AFP.

Standing in the church’s door, priest Juan Jose Leal blessed the animals, then sprinkled them with holy water as the owners each named their pets: “Daisy,” “Cinnamon,” “Cucho.” “They are part of our lives, part of our homes. May we love them and care for them, and may God help us be responsible in caring for these little animals,” said Leal. Launched in 1925 by German writer, publisher and pet enthusiast Heinrich Zimmermann, World Animal Day seeks to raise awareness about animal welfare and protection.—AFP

Catholic faithfuls bring their pets to be blessed at the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, whose feast marks World Animal Day in Zapopan, Jalisco state in Mexico. — AFP photos







Israeli archaeologists work at the ancient site of En Esur (Ein Asawir) where a 5000-year-old city was uncovered, near the Israeli town of Harish. — AFP photos

# Israel unveils remains of 5,000-year-old city

Israeli archaeologists on Sunday unveiled the remains of a 5,000-year-old city they said was among the biggest from its era in the region, including fortifications, a ritual temple and a cemetery. "We have here an immense urban construction, planned with streets that separate neighborhoods and public spaces," Yitzhak Paz of the Israel Antiquities Authority told AFP at the site near the Mediterranean in the country's centre. He called it a major discovery in the region from the Bronze Age.

The archaeological site known as En Esur "is the largest site and the most important from that era" in the region, said Itai Elad, another archaeologist overseeing the excavation. "It is 650 dunams, meaning double what we know." A ritual temple was found within the ancient city along with rare figurines with human and animal faces, they said. It

also included burnt animal bones in a stone basin that they called proof of sacrificial offerings.

The excavation allowed for an older settlement from some 7,000 years ago from the Chalcolithic period to be uncovered as well, though smaller than the other discovery. Paz said the ancient city was the "first steps in the process of urbanization" in what was Canaan at the time. Dina Shalem, another of the archaeologists, noted it included fortifications some 20 meters long and two meters high as well as a cemetery. Around four million fragments were found at the site, including pieces of pottery, flint tools and vases of stone and basalt, said Elad.

Some of the tools came from Egypt, the archaeologists said. Standing before a wooden table where some of the findings were displayed, Elad

showed some of the more impressive of the fragments, including a club that could have been used as a weapon. "Thousands of people lived here from agriculture and commerce," said Paz, with estimates putting the number at between 5,000 and 6,000. He said the site was abandoned in the third century BC for unknown reasons.

The excavations carried out over the course of two and a half years included the participation of 5,000 teenagers and volunteers. The dig preceded the construction of a road in the area, a project whose plans were modified to preserve the site. —AFP



These pictures show a small animal figurine unearthed at the archaeological site of En Esur (Ein Asawir).

## PHOTO FEATURE

Visitors interact with installments during the Seoul Street Arts Festival on a road in Seoul. — AFP photos







Monty Python fans dressed as the Gumbys gather in an attempt to set the world record for the largest gathering of people dressed as Gumbys as a part of the 50th anniversary of Monty Python's Flying Circus at the Roundhouse in London.—Reuters photos

# Monty Python fans, handkerchiefs on heads, gather to mark anniversary

Monty Python fans, sporting knotted handkerchiefs on their heads, rolled up trousers and Wellington boots, gathered in London on Saturday for a suitably silly celebration of the 50th anniversary of the comedy troupe. The costumes matched those of the Gumbys who were characters in the “Monty Python’s Flying Circus” series that first aired on BBC television on Oct. 5, 1969.

The Gumbys were noted for their ape-like posture, habit of speaking loudly and slowly, and the catchphrase “my brain hurts”. Dozens of Gumbys strutted outside the Roundhouse music venue before events to celebrate the work of Terry Gilliam, John Cleese, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin and the late Graham Chapman. Organizers were hoping to set a Guinness World Record for the Largest Gathering of People Dressed as Gumbys. —Reuters



## ‘Joker’ gets last laugh, setting a record on North American screens

Warner Bros.’ “Joker” has survived the intense controversy over its violent themes to take in an estimated \$93.5 million in North American theaters this weekend, setting a record for an October release, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday. Starring

Joaquin Phoenix, “Joker” provides the backstory for the rise of Batman’s maniacal nemesis, painting a dark and disturbing portrayal of a would-be stand-up comedian’s descent into madness. Amid fears that it might inspire violence—a shooting at a 2012 screening of “The Dark Knight Rises” in Aurora, Colorado claimed 12 lives—some theaters provided extra security for the opening of “Joker.” The film, directed by Todd Phillips (maker of “The Hangover” trilogy), has drawn tepid reviews: the Washington Post called it “grim, shallow (and) distractingly derivative.” But Hollywood Reporter said the R-rated film got a B+ CinemaScore rating and earned 69 percent on the Rotten Tomatoes website.

Universal’s family-friendly “Abominable” placed a distant second at the box office, earning \$12 million for the Friday-to-Sunday period in its second weekend. It tells the story of a teen and her friends trying to help a young Yeti reunite with its family as a wealthy man seeks to capture it as a prize. In third, at \$8 million, was Focus Features’ “Downton Abbey,” the cinematic follow-up to the hit TV series about an upper-class family and their stately home in a changing Britain. The movie has the Crawleys and their earnest staff scrambling to prepare for an unexpected visit by the British royals. “Hustlers” from STX Films placed fourth, at \$6.3 million. The Jennifer Lopez movie is based on a true story about

strippers who plot to steal from their wealthy clients in recession-hit New York. And in fifth was horror film “IT: Chapter Two,” at \$5.4 million. The Warner Bros. movie features the grown-up versions of the kids who battled the terrifying clown Pennywise 27 years earlier as they are forced to do it again. Rounding out the weekend’s top 10 were: “Ad Astra” (\$4.6 million) “Judy” (\$4.4 million) “Rambo: Last Blood” (\$3.6 million) “War” (\$1.6 million) “Good Boys” (\$900,000)—AFP

# From Hitler to Michael Jackson, unlikely names for Nobel Peace Prize

Eighty years ago on the brink of the bloodiest conflict in history, Adolf Hitler was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, illustrating that literally anyone can be nominated. From the Fuhrer to the “King of Pop”, in the nearly 120 years the prize has been awarded nominations have included some choices that—to say the least—have seemed unlikely and outright bizarre. In January 1939, about eight months before the invasion of Poland, Swedish Social Democratic MP Erik Brandt wrote to the Norwegian Nobel Committee to suggest the Peace Prize should be given to Hitler.

In the letter, written only months after the annexation of Austria and the Sudeten Crisis, Brandt praised the leader of the Third Reich’s “glowing love for peace”, dubbing him “the Prince of Peace on Earth”. Brandt later explained the nomination was meant to be satirical—although the irony was lost on many—and was in protest against British prime minister Neville Chamberlain being nominated for the 1938 Munich Agreement in which part of Czechoslovakia was ceded to Germany.

The logic was that if Chamberlain were to be celebrated for appeasing Hitler, the Fuhrer might as well be too. Brandt eventually withdrew the nomination, but Hitler still appears as a candidate in the archives. “The history of Erik Brandt’s nomination of Adolf Hitler fully shows how dangerous it may be to use irony in a heated political setting,” Nobel historian Asle Sveen told AFP.

**Stalin and Mussolini too?** The Nobel Committee accepts all proposals as long as they are sent before the January 31 deadline. But while anyone alive can be nominated, not just anyone can submit a nomination. Those eligible to do so include parliamentarians and ministers from all countries, former laureates, some university professors and current and former members of the Committee itself. All together they number in the thousands. “There are so many people who have the right to nominate a candidate that it’s not very complicated to be nominated,” the influential Committee secretary, Olav Njølstad, told AFP. In 1935, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini was proposed, ironically, by German and French academics mere months before his country invaded Ethiopia. As one of the victors of World War II, Russian leader Joseph Stalin was nominated twice, in 1945 and 1948. Once the deadline has passed and the nominations are in, only a handful are kept on a shortlist to be reviewed by the Committee and its advisors. “Neither Hitler, Stalin nor Mussolini were seriously considered for the Peace Prize,” historian Geir Lundestad, former secretary of the Committee, told AFP. “What surprises me most is that many dictators around the world have refrained from getting themselves nominated.” Over the last two decades the number of candidates has skyrocketed and today generally exceed 300, so it isn’t too sur-



The entrance of the Alfred Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden is pictured.—AFP

prising that a few odd names show up. “One or two” nominations distinguished by their peculiarity show up “at regular intervals”, according to Njølstad.

**From pop to peace** The list of candidates is kept confidential for at least 50 years, but a sponsor can publicly announce their pick. Whether a nomination is odd or not is of course a matter of perspective, but some proposals would certainly make most people do a double-take. In 2001 the sport of football represented by the international football federation FIFA was nominated. The Swedish lawmaker behind the nomination argued that sports had the “ability to create positive international contacts” and contribute to a “more peaceful world”. This wasn’t even that novel of an idea, since Jules Rimet, who initiated the first World Cup, had also been nominated in 1956, noted journalist Antoine Jacob, author of “History of the Nobel Prize”. Pop icon Michael Jackson found himself in

the running in 1998. Even though many of the child sex abuse allegations against the “King of Pop” had not surfaced at the time, the artist’s message to “Heal the World” did not impress the Committee. “The Romanian parliamentarians who proposed Michael Jackson considered this nomination to be very serious, but it was not considered by the Committee either,” said Lundestad. But in 2001 Lundestad also said it didn’t seem impossible that famous musicians involved in causes, such as Bob Geldof, Bono or Sting could one day receive the award. “Artists’ names come in regularly, but it’s a more recent trend,” explained Njølstad. Among this year’s known nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize, which will be awarded on October 11, are US President Donald Trump and Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. However Lundestad insists that one shouldn’t get too excited over just a nomination. “It’s pretty easy to be nominated,” he said. “It’s much harder to win”.—AFP

## Review Egypt Cinema

By Nermin Al-Houthi

It is not easy for one to write about a friend’s life, so the words are confused between the elements of the “Egypt Cinema” play. I was keen to attend the play while in Egypt after hearing about it from many critics. The “Egypt Cinema” play was presented by the second batch of the acting department of the artistic innovation center “Talents studio” as a graduation project directed by Khalid Jalal and executive director Ola Fahmy. The direction effort on stage was distinguished, as everyone is aware of the innovations of Khalid Jalal, and the products of his theatrical displays, and this applies to Ola Fahmy as well. We won’t focus on the direction though it is the most important element in any integrated art work. The play brings the past to simulate the present and confirms the future that Egypt’s Cinema is a civilization and is still present in the history of Arab and international cinema. The director through his artistic vision had the “Last Night” movie and played on its theme to prepare its plot “amnesia.” Through his theme the director wanted to remind the audience what Egypt Cinema is in more than 15 sketches that he selected from Egyptian films that left a print in the history of Arab and International cinema. He employed those sketches with the “last night” theme, so the dramatic event moved in two parallel dramatic lines towards one goal which is reviving the history of “Egypt Cinema.” I summarized the idea to give the other elements their critical focus. The actors, who are the main target that the play was based on, brought out their theatrical and artistic talents. More than 60 students gave an outstanding performance and both directors employed their artistic energy in the roles given to them. As some of them went for comedy and overcame amnesia, others brought up the basic tragic characters to remind us of their sufferings in selected scenes. Students provided musical effects and sang along to enhance the scenes and characters. They all played their role with innovation and professionalism to revive their civilization and bring the Egypt Cinema memory back. The acoustic effects that played between the past and present simulated the future and mix technology with live effects. A musical art mix took us to the past while we were in the present. The theater’s decor, though simple, was in harmony with the play. As scenes were changing, along with the actor’s movement and lightning, there was a bright opening concentrated in the middle of the theater space, as a focal point for a hopeful future.

## Reese Witherspoon uses facial roller to keep dark circles at bay

The 43-year-old actress has shared the simple three-step nightly skincare routine she undertakes to keep her complexion clear and she revealed one vital step is to massage her face. Showing off her \$95 NuVibe RX Amethyst Massaging Beauty Roller, she explained: “It feels so good. I do it in the morning, too, a little bit. And then it helps me get rid of the dark circles.” Before her facial massage – which experts claim can temporarily reduce puffiness and maintains good blood flow to keep skin looking young –

the ‘Morning Show’ actress cleanses her face with Elizabeth Arden’s \$36 Ceramide Replenishing Cleansing Oil. In a video for Instagram TV, she used the product to remove all her make-up and explained: “This is great. It takes off all my make-up and it makes my skin so soft and moisturized. Love this!” Reese concludes her nightly regime with a “very gentle” peel, explaining how she needed to mix the Elizabeth Arden PreVage Progressive Renewal Treatment – a four-part, four-week treatment that costs \$162 and uses lactic acid and gluconolactone to boost cell turnover and reveal polished – together “like a scientist” before patting it all over her sin. She said of the serum: “This is very gentle. And don’t forget ladies, always with the moisturizer at night.”





# Classifieds

Tuesday, October 8, 2019



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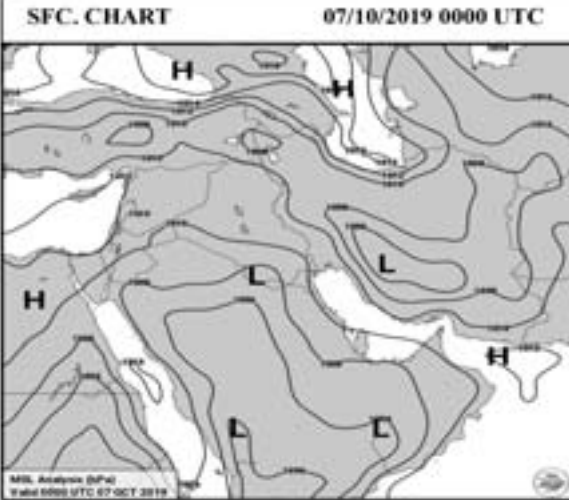
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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy and with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 35 km/h with a chance for drizzle at times.

**BY NIGHT:** Humid weather specially over coastal areas and Partly cloudy with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 07/10/2019 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	37 °C	30 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	38 °C	26 °C		
ABDALY	37 °C	23 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	38 °C	28 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	35 °C	30 °C		
AHMADI	34 °C	29 °C		
NUWAISIB	37 °C	24 °C		
WAFRA	38 °C	23 °C		
SALMY	37 °C	26 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	10/08	Partly cloudy and with a slight chance for rain that might be thundery at times	36 °C	26 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	10/09	Hot	41 °C	24 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 32 km/h
Thursday	10/10	Hot	42 °C	25 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 32 km/h
Friday	10/11	Hot	40 °C	24 °C	VRB	06 - 22 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:25
Sunrise	05:44
Zuhr	11:36
Asr	14:57
Sunset	17:27
Isha	18:44

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	40 °C
MIN. Temp.	22 °C
MAX. RH	54 %
MIN. RH	11 %
MAX. Wind	S 18 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

### CHANGE OF NAME

The embassy of India, Kuwait has no objection to KAMAL SHERWANI MALIK, of Indian Passport No. S9731277 issued on 04/09/2018 at Kuwait to change the name of his son from old SHAHEEM KAMAL SHERWANI to new ABDULLAH KAMAL SHERWANI in his Kuwait birth card. (C 5451).

Old name: D COSTA FILIPE ROCHA FULIPINA, new name: FELIPE DA COSTA FILIPA ROCHA, Passport No: K7034936, ID 271121603451. (C 5452) 8-10-2019

I, CONCEICAO FRANCISCA, Passport No: K7034936, Civil ID No: 271121603451, have change my name to CONCE-ICAO FRANCISCA DA COSTA hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5600)

I, SHAIKH YUSUF SHAIKH KARIM QURESHI, holder of Indian Passport No. L6661740, Civil ID No. 279010502291, have changed my name from ABDUL YUSUF ABDUL KARIM to SHAIKH YUSUF SHAIKH KARIM QURESHI, hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5599) 6-10-2019

## Airlines

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



## Flight Schedule

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

## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 8/10/2019							Departure Tuesday 8/10/2019								
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR	610	Cairo	12:45	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
FEG	243	Alexandria	00:05	SYR	341	Damascus	13:00	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	JZR	611	Tbilisi	12:20
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	JZR	713	Sohag	00:10	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	JZR	212	Jeddah	13:30	JZR	115	Sohag	00:15	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	KAC	672	Dubai	13:45	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	KAC	541	Cairo	13:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	Sohag	342	Sohag	01:05	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	IGO	1758	Kochi	01:10	SYR	342	Damascus	14:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	QTR	1078	Doha	14:25	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:35	THY	773	Istanbul	01:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	JZR	141	Al Najaf	14:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:45	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	14:50	KAC	285	Dhaka	02:00	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25	KAC	618	Doha	14:50	JZR	111	Doha	02:10	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	516	Tehran	15:00	JZR	707	Luxor	02:50	JZR	103	Bahrain	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	JZR	602	Baku	15:00	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	118	New York	15:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	692	Muscat	15:00	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
NIA	1601	Luxor	03:10	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
MSR	612	Kochi	03:05	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
KAC	418	Muscat	03:10	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
QTR	1076	Cairo	03:15	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	NIA	1402	Sohag	04:10	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
OHY	352	Manila	03:20	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
LMU	5510	Doha	03:30	KAC	546	Cairo	15:50	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	382	Istanbul	04:00	FEG	341	Sohag	16:00	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:20	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
IGO	1751	Cairo	04:00	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
KAC	346	Delhi	04:05	JZR	732	Cairo	16:10	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
KAC	784	Chennai	04:10	KAC	502	Beirut	16:15	OHY	351	Istanbul	05:00	FEG	442	Asyut	16:55
THY	1414	Ahmedabad	04:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
FDB	069	Jeddah	04:25	JZR	116	Doha	17:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
DHX	170	Trabzon	05:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:10	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
THY	770	Dubai	05:05	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	402	Bahrain	05:05	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:35	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:50
KAC	552	Istanbul	05:20	KAC	124	Dubai	17:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
JZR	112	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	158	Istanbul	17:45	KAC	623	Doha	07:00	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
KAC	362	Cairo	05:50	JZR	104	Bahrain	18:00	RJA	643	Amman	07:00	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
BAW	157	Doha	05:50	JZR	142	Al Najaf	18:05	JZR	121	Dubai	07:15	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
JZR	702	Colombo	06:05	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	KAC	167	Paris	07:15	JZR	127	Dubai	18:20
KAC	284	London	06:10	JZR	612	Tbilisi	18:15	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	714	Asyut	06:10	JZR	302	Istanbul	18:20	BAW	156	London	07:40	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
THY	6376	Dhaka	06:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:45	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
KAC	678	Sohag	06:20	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	211	Jeddah	08:00	JZR	501	Lahore	18:35
KAC	106	Istanbul	06:30	RJA	640	Amman	19:05	KAC	165	Rome	08:00	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
KAC	204	Dubai	06:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
RBG	559	London	06:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	IGO	1767	Mumbai	08:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	408	Lahore	06:45	KAC	744	Dammam	19:25	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	08:35	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	302	Alexandria	06:50	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:30	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
IGO	1766	Ahmedabad	07:05	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40	KAC	501	Beirut	08:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	358	Mumbai	07:05	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	KAC	545	Cairo	08:50	RJA	641	Amman	20:05
FDB	053	Kochi	07:10	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45	KAC	561	Amman	08:55	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
QTR	1084	Dubai	07:25	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
KAC	354	Doha	07:50	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	117	New York	09:05	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
KAC	332	Bengaluru	08:00	KNE	381	Taif	20:00	KAC	1085	Doha	09:10	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	384	Trivandrum	08:00	KAC	166	Rome	20:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	355	Delhi	08:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
UAE	885	Dubai	08:10	NIA	1403	Sohag	20:10	KAC	691	Muscat	09:20	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
JZR	708	Dubai	08:25	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:10	JZR	601	Baku	09:20	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
ETD	301	Luxor	08:45	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	157	Istanbul	09:35	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
OMA	641	Abu Dhabi	08:50	RBG	213	Sohag	20:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
ABY	125	Muscat	09:00	KAC	620	Doha	20:30	JZR	731	Cairo	09:45	NIA	1603	Luxor	21:10
GFA	209	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1088	Cairo	20:35	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	RBG	214	Sohag	21:10
QTR	1070	Bahrain	09:05	ICV	6752	Doha	20:40	JZR	221	Riyadh	09:55	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IRA	675	Doha	09:20	KLM	445	Luxembourg	20:55	JZR	301	Istanbul	09:55	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
GOW	061	Lar	09:20	ETD	307	Amsterdam	21:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	09:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
IGO	1753	CNN	09:30	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:00	OMA	642	Muscat	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	055	Ahmedabad	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:10	KAC	101	London	10:05	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
SVA	512	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	GFA	210	Bahrain	10:05	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
JZR	404D	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:20	IRA	674	Lar	10:10	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
GFA	213	Hyderabad	10:30	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MEA	404	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	GOW	062	CNN	10:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
KAC	624	Beirut	10:55	KAC	564	Amman	21:55	KAC	515	Tehran	10:35	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
QTR	1074	Doha	10:55	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	KAC	617	Doha	10:40	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	122	Dubai	11:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	KAC	795	Madinah	22:55
THY	766	Dubai	11:45	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	10:40	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
SAW	701	Istanbul	12:30	JZR	128	Dubai	22:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	10:55	ICV	6752	Hong Kong	22:55
KAC	614	Damascus	12:30	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
UAE	871	Bahrain	12:30	MSC	405	Sohag	23:15	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
		Dubai	12:45	MSR	610	Cairo	23:30	JZR	213	Jeddah	12:05	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20





**NEW YORK:** Protestors covered in fake blood gather around the Wall Street Bull during an “Extinction Rebellion” demonstration yesterday. — AFP

## Climate ‘rebellion’ sees mass arrests...

Continued from Page 1

Protesters chained themselves to vehicles and other structures and lay down in the middle of streets in defiance of police across Europe and parts of Asia, Africa and North America. Extinction Rebellion is demanding that governments drastically cut the carbon emissions that scientists have shown cause devastating climate change. They are backed by Thunberg, the Swedish teenager whose searing UN address in September made international headlines, and by academics studying the rising temperatures and sea levels.

Their protests have irritated drivers and some officials but raised the hopes of those who see climate change as a threat to the planet. In London, where the Extinction Rebellion movement was born last year, demonstrators put up structures on Westminster Bridge in the shadow of Britain's parliament. Police had made 217 arrests by 17:15 pm (1615 GMT). “Getting arrested sends a message to the government that otherwise law-abiding citizens are desperate,” IT consultant Oshik Romem, from Israel but working in Britain for 19 years, told AFP while sitting on a road outside parliament.

Hundreds of Australians joined a sit-in on a busy inner Sydney road before being dragged away by the police. Thirty people were later charged. “We have tried petitions, lobbying and marches, and now time is running out,” Australian activist Jane Morton said. Australia's conservative government has resisted adopting new environmental standards and backed lucrative coal exports. Protests occurred in 60 cities around the world, including New Delhi, Cape Town, Paris, Vienna, Madrid and Toronto.

At New York's Battery Park, some 200 demonstrators took part in a “funeral march” to Wall Street, where protesters threw fake blood over the financial district's famous bronze statue of a bull. “We need imagery like

this in order to get people's attention,” 29-year-old James Comiskey told AFP, as he carried a cardboard coffin in the procession. Police arrested around a dozen people who staged a sit-in by the bull.

Campaigners in Dublin wheeled in a pink yacht and parked it outside the office of Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar. “We are running out of time,” Dutch protester Shirleen Chin told AFP in Amsterdam. Dutch police said they arrested 90 people after Extinction Rebellion members occupied a bridge outside the famed Rijksmuseum art gallery.

The movement is partially credited with pushing the UK government in June to become the first in the Europe Union to commit itself to a net-zero target for harmful emissions by 2050. Extinction Rebellion is demanding governments reach that target by 2025, as well as holding “citizens assemblies” to decide on policies to achieve that aim. The parliament in Norway, not an EU member, in June adopted a target of 2030.

There has been less movement in other parts of Europe or the most impacted cities of Asia. And not everyone out on the streets was impressed with the campaign. “They're taking it out on everyday people trying to go about their business. They should go after big people,” London taxi driver Dave Chandler told AFP.

Extinction Rebellion counters that emergencies like the one heating up the climate demands action from everyone across the world. Hundreds barricaded themselves inside a Paris shopping center for hours over the weekend. Groups unfurled banners with slogans such as “Burn capitalism, not petrol” above Paris restaurants and fashion boutiques. And hundreds brought blankets and sleeping bags to one of the main roundabouts in central Berlin which police expect to be shut down for many days.

Extinction Rebellion's tactics in Australia prompted senior conservative politicians to call for protesters' welfare payments to be cut. Sydney assistant police commissioner Mick Willing accused protesters of putting themselves and others at risk, warning that such disruptive protests in the future would “not be tolerated”. — AFP

according to UN data, but some estimates are much higher. They are often barred from free education, healthcare and many jobs.

The world's biggest stateless population are the Rohingya, hundreds of thousands of whom have sought safety in Bangladesh after fleeing Myanmar which does not recognize them as citizens. Blanchett, who visited Bangladesh last year, said the Rohingya showed how a local problem could escalate over decades to become an international crisis.

The UNHCR hopes the film star's support for the #IBelong campaign will boost low public awareness around statelessness. But the actress said she was ashamed to say that when the UNHCR first approached her she did not even know such a problem existed, let alone that millions were affected. Blanchett appealed to all nations to give stateless people “their basic human right to belong”, adding that solutions were often straightforward. “It is a man-made problem and it is solvable,” she added.

UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi said they had already received more than 170 pledges of action before the meeting. But he warned that “damaging forms of nationalism” and the “manipulation of anti-refugee and migrant sentiment” were putting progress at risk. No one knows how many stateless people there are because less than half of countries have data. The UNHCR has previously estimated the total at 10 million. — Reuters

Ankara says it wants to urgently establish a “safe zone” on the other side of the border where it could send back some of the 3.6 million refugees who fled the eight-year war in Syria to live on Turkish soil. But the Kurds argue that Turkey's goal is to weaken the Kurdish presence in the region by modifying the demographics of the area with the return of mostly Sunni Arab refugees. Ankara's planned offensive is expected to focus on the border areas of Ras Al-Ain and Tal Abyad, which are Arab-dominated towns governed by the Kurdish administration in northeast Syria. Kurdish forces have dug trenches and tunnels in the two areas in preparation for a Turkish offensive, according to the Observatory.

In Ras Al-Ain on Sunday, local armed forces allied with the Kurdish administration stood behind dirt berms, monitoring the frontier. They had covered streets in the town with large metal canopies to block the view of Turkish drones, sources there told AFP. “The prudent should prepare for war,” said Mustafa Bozan, a 79-year-old shopkeeper. Nearby, Issam Daoud said that local security forces have erected checkpoints at key entrances to the town. “The fate of the region will be the same as that of Afrin,” the 38-year-old said, referring to a former Kurdish enclave captured by Turkish troops and Syrian rebels last year.

The SDF has also warned that a Turkish offensive would reverse the military gains achieved against IS and allow for the jihadist group's surviving leaders to come out of hiding. In its statement, it said that IS cells would break out detained jihadists from Kurdish prisons and take over camps where their relatives are held. But Turkey's presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said yesterday that Ankara “will also continue to fight against DAESH (IS) and will not allow it to return in any shape and form.” — AFP

## Gene-edited livestock carry huge promise, major pitfalls

**DAVIS, California:** If American researchers have successfully employed new gene-editing techniques to develop hornless dairy cattle and piglets born castrated – a seeming boon to farmers and ranchers – they are still struggling to move these animals from stable to table. A team at the University of California, Davis led by animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam has been working on the hornless cattle challenge.

Ranchers and farmers often have to remove animals' horns – a painful procedure – to prevent them from goring one another or harming their human handlers. But certain beef-cattle breeds like Angus are born without horns. So once scientists identified the gene responsible for the absence of horns, bioengineers with Minnesota-based Recombinetics used molecular “scissors” to alter the DNA in cells from a Holstein, a popular dairy-cattle breed.

While the genetic “scissors” called CRISPR-Cas9 are better-known, Recombinetics used a tool called TALENs (Transcription Activator-Like Effector Nuclease). The result: The 2015 birth of hornless bulls Spotigy and Buri. Buri eventually sired six calves, all of them raised on Davis's research farm. For confirmation that flesh from these animals would be suitable for human consumption, Van Eenennaam consulted with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Almost by chance, scientists there discovered an unexpected genetic modification while working on a related project using published data on the bulls' genome. “We saw the intended edited mutation, and I was just checking the final boxes before I moved on,” said Alexis Norris, a bioinformatician with the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine. “And that's when I noticed that the plasmid sequence was present in the cows, and it was not expected. “It was really a shock.”

The plasmid sequence, a DNA fragment used to alter a targeted gene, was supposed to disappear on its own, and Recombinetics – which now uses a different technique in conceiving hornless cattle – had not checked for its presence. The fact that a foreign fragment had become inserted into the DNA is not necessarily dangerous for either the animal or consumers, the

FDA says. But “if there is an unintended alteration, does that impact the composition of the food?” asked Heather Lombardi, the FDA's director of animal bio-engineering and cellular therapies. “Would it have any impact on something like allergenicity or toxicity?”

In any case, the agency says the discovery underscores the importance of maintaining close surveillance over the use of gene-editing tools on animals at a time when advocates of the technology are pressing for less rigorous oversight. For those advocates, animals whose genes have been edited by cutting and inserting DNA fragments are different from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) involving the insertion of foreign genetic elements. But the European Court of Justice decided in a closely watched 2018 case that organisms resulting from gene editing should be considered as GMOs – requiring the same lengthy approval processes.

Following the discovery of the unexpected genetic material, Van Eenennaam decided she had no choice but to order the incineration of the five gene-edited males. Keeping them alive would have been far too expensive, she said. The lone female, Princess, will likewise be euthanized and incinerated once she has given birth and provided milk to be analyzed.

“Gene editing is where GMO was 20 years ago,” Van Eenennaam said. “Activists are beating the drums saying something is going to have unknown consequences, Europe comes out with the precautionary principles. The only thing different is that South America is saying no, and Africa is starting to flex its muscles,” while China ramps up its gene-editing research, she said.

There are many promising applications for gene editing, Van Eenennaam said: Developing more heat-resistant livestock – invaluable in a warming world – or pigs resistant to African swine fever, which has devastated herds in China. The Australian-born Van Eenennaam, who spent time working on a Texas cattle ranch during her undergraduate days, is now experimenting with using the SRY gene, which inhibits the development of female characteristics, to create entirely male herds. — AFP

## Trio wins Nobel over how cells...

Continued from Page 1

The gene rewires the body's ability to prevent the onset of cancer, and it plays a key role in how cancer cells respond to low oxygen levels.

Their work has shed new light on the specific, cell-level processes the body undergoes when low on oxygen – from helping our muscles function during exercise to adapting to life at high altitude. Cells' oxygen-sensing ability is also essential during fetal development and in creating new blood vessels. A large number of diseases are linked to EPO, including renal failure and severe anemia.

Cancerous tumors use the body's oxygen-regulating tools to hijack blood vessel formation and allow the cancer cells to spread. The Nobel committee said Monday that several trials were underway developing drugs to interrupt this process, potentially short-circuiting tumor growth. “Intense ongoing efforts in academic laboratories and pharmaceutical companies are now focused on developing drugs that can interfere with different disease states by either activating, or blocking, the oxygen-sensing machinery,” the jury said.

For treatment of anemia – where the body lacks sufficient red blood cells to carry enough oxygen to tissues – medicines in development seek to stimulate EPO creation. This essentially tricks the body into thinking it is at higher altitude, prompting the creation of new red blood cells. One drug using EPO-stimulation for anemia is already on the market in China and others are in the pipeline.

Kaelin, 61, works at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and is a professor at Harvard Medical School in the US. Semenza, 63, is director of the Vascular Research Program at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Cell Engineering. Ratcliffe, 65, is director of clinical

research at the Francis Crick Institute in London, and director of the Target Discovery Institute in Oxford.

Ratcliffe said he was writing a grant proposal in his Oxford office when he learned of the award. “Despite this good news I guess I'll continue doing that. Meet the deadline,” an excited Ratcliffe told the website Nobelprize.org. The British researcher said the prizewinning discoveries illustrated the importance of scientists being allowed to pursue “knowledge for its own sake”, admitting that when he started working on EPO it seemed “niche”.

“As with almost any discovery science, the impact of that becomes evident later and we didn't really foresee the broad reach of this system when we started the work,” Ratcliffe said. Anna Wedell of the Nobel Committee echoed this. “The benefit is understanding this fundamental mechanism, but the practical applications are yet to come and that's actually what characterizes a great discovery,” she told AFP.

Kaelin also said highlighted the importance of trying to understand “how things work,” at a time when researchers are sometimes encouraged to take “short cuts” to quickly turn their research into something practical. “Scientists in general, and in particular physician scientists, are under tremendous pressure these days to try and justify their work in terms of clinical applicability,” he told Nobelprize.org.

Yesterday's announcement opened an unusual 2019 Nobel season in which two literature laureates will be crowned after a scandal postponed last year's award. The Peace Prize will be awarded in Oslo on Friday, with speculation rife that Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg could win for her campaign to raise awareness about climate change.

Before that, the Physics Prize will be announced today and the Chemistry Prize tomorrow. On Thursday, the Swedish Academy will announce one literature laureate for 2018 and one for 2019, after postponing last year's award due to a sexual harassment scandal that exposed deep rifts among its 18 members. The announcement of the Economics Prize will wrap things up on Monday, Oct 14. — AFP

## Blanchett decries ‘heartbreaking’...

Continued from Page 1

basketball team were crushed because she had no papers, and how she had lived in constant fear of checkpoints.

Blanchett said she had been particularly moved by the “inhuman and heartbreaking” situation of a nine-year-old she had met in Lebanon who wanted to be a doctor. Although her mother was Lebanese, the girl had inherited her father's statelessness, making it unlikely she could stay in school. “Apart from the moral responsibility we have to solve this problem, it's such a waste of human capital. I found it a tragedy,” Blanchett said. Lebanon is among 25 countries with discriminatory laws that prevent or limit women passing their nationality to their children – a major cause of statelessness. The actress praised Sierra Leone and Madagascar for scrapping similar laws.

In Kuwait, stateless people are known as bedoons, which is short for “bedoon jinsiya” meaning “without nationality” in Arabic. Some trace their origins to nomadic tribes that once moved freely around the Gulf region. There are about 92,000 bedoons in Kuwait,

## US starts Syria border pullback...

Continued from Page 1

Later yesterday, Trump said he will “obliterate” Turkey's economy if Ankara does anything that in his “great and unmatched wisdom” he considers to be “off limits” in Syria. Trump's latest tweets appeared to signal a climbdown, following a storm of criticism from his own Republican party that he was betraying the Kurdish guerrillas. “If Turkey does anything that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits, I will totally destroy and obliterate the Economy of Turkey (I've done before!),” he wrote.

Also, US Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Joint Chiefs Chairman Mark Milley told their counterparts in Ankara that “unilateral action creates risks for Turkey,” Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said in a statement. “The Department of Defense made clear to Turkey – as did the president – that we do not endorse a Turkish operation in Northern Syria,” he added.

SDF spokesman Mustafa Bali said Washington's decision “is about to ruin the trust and cooperation between the SDF and US”. “People here are owed an explanation,” he said on Twitter. The SDF, which spearheaded – with backing from the US-led coalition – several of the most significant battles against IS over the past five years, also vowed to resist any Turkish attack. “As the Syrian Democratic Forces, we are determined to defend our land at all costs,” it said in a statement posted on social media.

## Judge orders Trump to hand...

Continued from Page 1

Trump quickly filed an emergency appeal to the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan, which temporarily blocked Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance from enforcing the subpoena, citing the “unique issues” in the case. Marrero's decision would have forced Trump's longtime accounting firm Mazars USA to start turning over documents on Monday afternoon. The decision further complicates Trump's battle to keep his finances under wraps, despite having promised during his 2016 White House run that he would disclose his tax returns.

Vance, a Democrat, had subpoenaed personal and corporate tax returns from 2011 to 2018 and other records from Mazars, as part of a criminal probe into the president and his family business. “The Radical Left Democrats have failed on all fronts, so now they are pushing local New York City and State Democrat prosecutors to go get President Trump,” Trump, a Republican, tweeted after Marrero's decision. “A thing like this has never happened to any President before. Not even close!”

In suing Vance last month to block the subpoena, Trump argued that he was immune from criminal probes while in office, and the US constitution required Vance to wait until after he left the White House. Trump is separately trying to block Deutsche Bank AG from handing over financial records, which the bank has said include tax returns, sought by multiple US House of Representatives committees. That probe is separate from the debate over whether Trump should be impeached because of his dealings with Ukraine. The 2nd Circuit appeals court heard oral arguments in the

Deutsche Bank case on Aug 23. It has yet to rule.

Jay Sekulow, a lawyer for Trump, said he was pleased the subpoena would not be enforced immediately. Danny Frost, a spokesman for Vance, declined to comment. Both sides proposed schedules to allow oral arguments in Trump's appeal later this month. Mazars did not respond to requests for comment, but has said it would comply with its legal obligations. The US Department of Justice, which opposed Vance's bid to dismiss Trump's case, declined to comment.

Marrero, who was appointed by Democratic President Bill Clinton, declined to assert jurisdiction over the Vance subpoena, saying Trump should have brought his case in a New York state court. The judge, however, made clear that if the appeals court disagreed with that finding, Trump should lose. Marrero said Trump failed to show that enforcing the subpoena would interfere with his presidential duties, cause irreparable harm or be against the public interest.

He also rejected as too broad the idea that the president, his family and his businesses should be shielded from criminal process. “The expansive notion of constitutional immunity invoked here to shield the President from judicial process would constitute an overreach of executive power,” Marrero wrote. Marrero said even President Richard Nixon had conceded during the Watergate scandal that he would be required to produce documents in response to a judicial subpoena.

In seeking a stay, Trump's lawyers said the case raised “momentous” questions about the president's immunity and that complying with the subpoena would cause irreversible damage. “There will be no way to unscramble the egg scrambled by the disclosure,” Trump's lawyers said. Vance issued the subpoena four weeks after issuing another subpoena to the Trump Organization for records of hush money payments, including to two women prior to the 2016 election who said they had sexual relationships with Trump, which he denies. Trump is running for re-election. His current term ends on Jan 20, 2021. — Reuters



# Dodgers, Braves on brink of advancing in baseball playoffs

## Winner will take on either Atlanta Braves or St Louis Cardinals in NL Championship Series

**WASHINGTON:** The Los Angeles Dodgers exploded for seven runs in the sixth inning Sunday on the way to a 10-4 victory over the Washington Nationals and a commanding lead in their Major League Baseball play-off series. The Dodgers, trying to get back to the World Series for a third straight year after falling to the Houston Astros in 2017 and the Boston Red Sox last year, lead their best-of-five National League Division Series two games to one.

Justin Turner's three-run home run capped the sixth-inning outburst that included two-run doubles from catcher Russell Martin and pinch-hitter Enrique Hernandez. The Dodgers became the first team in major league history to score so many runs in one playoff inning with two outs and two strikes.

The team trailed 2-1 going into the sixth after Juan Soto belted a two-run home run for the Nationals off Dodgers starting pitcher Ryu Hyun-Jin in the first and Los Angeles' Max Muncy hit a solo homer off Anibal Sanchez in the fifth.

Sanchez, who struck out nine, was replaced for the sixth by Patrick Corbin, who was charged with six runs. "It felt nice to contribute," said Martin, whose double to deep left center field scored Cody Bellinger and David Freese to open the floodgates in the sixth.

"We have a deep lineup so we kind of just pass the baton along and I came up with that big hit right there, got the guys going and then it just seemed like it was one good at-bat after good-at bat.

"The next thing you know," said Martin, who added a two-run home run in the ninth, "we had seven runs on the board." The winner of the series will take on either the Atlanta Braves or the St. Louis Cardinals in the NL Championship Series with a World Series berth at stake.

The Braves rallied with three runs in the ninth inning to beat the Cardinals 3-1 in St. Louis Sunday to take a 2-1 lead in their series.

The Braves, stymied all day by St. Louis pitcher Adam Wainwright, broke through against Cardinals closing pitcher Carlos Martinez. Josh Donaldson got the rally going with a double to start the ninth.

After two outs and an intentional walk to catcher Brian McCann, Dansby Swanson tied the game with a double to left field that plated one run. Adam Duvall, who entered as a pinch hitter in the eighth inning, followed with a single that drove in two runs.

"They never quit," Braves manager Brian Snitker said of his team. "They never give up. The heart and desire and will is unbelievable in those guys."

The Braves took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five National League Division Series and will try to close out the set in game four in St. Louis.

### 'CRAZY STUFF HAPPENS'

Until the Braves erupted in the ninth, it was a pitching duel in St. Louis. Atlanta's rookie hurler Mike Soroka limited the Cardinals to one run on two hits while striking out seven in his playoff debut.

St. Louis scored their lone run in the second inning when Marcell Ozuna led off with a double and scored on Matt Carpenter's sacrifice fly. Wainwright, 38, turned back the clock, pitching 7 2/3 scoreless innings and striking out eight to keep the Cards in front until he exited to a standing ovation but then had to watch from the dugout as the contest slipped away.

"We were one out away and that is exactly what playoff baseball is all about," Wainwright said. "Just crazy stuff happens." —AFP



**WASHINGTON:** Justin Turner #10 of the Los Angeles Dodgers picks off Howie Kendrick #47 of the Washington Nationals in a run down during the seventh inning of Game 3 of the NLDS at Nationals Park in Washington. — AFP

## Successful world championships no desert mirage in the end

**DOHA:** A successful world athletics championships had looked like a desert mirage but the event eventually came to life with an oasis of thrills and packed houses to rescue Qatari organisers and officials before the curtain came down on Sunday. Struggling due to a lack of interest from locals, the 10-day show-case delivered on the final weekend as criticism over an empty stadium and stifling heat of around 38 degrees Celsius was replaced by an atmosphere at last worthy of a world event.

The athletes responded with memorable performances in the air-conditioned Khalifa Stadium, with temperatures kept at 21 degrees, highlighted by local hero Mutaz Barshim on Friday soaring to victory in the men's high jump

for Qatar's only gold.

On the same night American Dalilah Muhammad broke her own world record to win the women's 400 metres hurdles while the sport's big men seized the spotlight on Saturday as the shot putters gave a show hailed as the greatest ever in the event. The United States again topped the medals table, their 14 golds almost triple the next best of Kenya on five while Jamaica and China each had three. No other nation got more than two.

"It is pretty clear to us that on athlete performance this is the best world championships we have had," said International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) chief Sebastian Coe.

The head of the global governing body had spent a good amount of time during the opening days vigorously defending the decision to bring the championships to the Middle East.

"It is the athletes themselves who have come here better prepared for a championship that will be remembered for a long time.... maybe in a large part to the almost perfect conditions that these guys have created in the stadium."

Marquez described this year as his "best" season ever. No one is disputing his assessment.

British rider Cal Crutchlow pointed out that Marquez has finished first or second in every race apart from one — the Grand Prix of The Americas when a mechanical problem caused him to crash when leading on the ninth lap in Austin. "He's an incredible talent," said Crutchlow, who is ninth in the standings. "I think he should just retire and give everyone else a chance," he joked.

Marquez is from a racing family and his younger brother Alex finished fifth in the Moto2 race in Buriram and is leading the class standings. If there is a sibling rivalry it was hard to see in Alex's endearing tweet about his brother's achievement. "Once again you leave us all speechless!" he said on his official account which showed a photo of the two brothers smiling after the win. "In spite of your eight championships, you'll still be the 'little twerp' brother that you are."

With six premier-class titles, Marquez surpasses Australian legend Mick Doohan. He trails only Italian great Valentino Rossi, who won the last of his seven championships in 2009, and Giacomo Agostini, whose record eighth came in 1975. Rossi predicted he will break both. "I don't think he'll struggle to reach nine," he told GPOne.com. Spanish



**BURIRAM:** Repsol Honda Team Spanish rider Marc Marquez celebrates on the podium after winning the MotoGP race for the Thailand Grand Prix at Buriram International Circuit in Buriram. —AFP

Formula One double world champion Fernando Alonso tweeted his congratulations, calling Marquez a "phenomenon."

Formula One driver Pierre Gasly, who attended the race before heading to Suzuka for next weekend's Japanese Grand Prix, tweeted: "What a race, what

a battle in the last lap."

French rookie Quartararo, 20, led most of the way but was left in awe of Marquez. "It's just incredible what he achieved, what he does with the bike," Quartararo told MotoGP.com. "He will be there for a long time." —AFP

LAFC already had clinched the Supporters' Shield and a first-round bye in the MLS Cup playoffs. They open the playoffs on October 23 or 24 against the winner of the first-round matchup between Minnesota United FC and Ibrahimovic's LA Galaxy.

Ibrahimovic didn't give up the scoring race without a fight. He scored his 30th in the ninth minute of a 4-2 loss to the Houston Dynamo on Sunday. The defeat means the Galaxy open the playoffs on the road.

The game marked the final MLS match for Houston player and former US national team member DaMarcus Beasley who left to a standing ovation

in the 89th minute. Beasley is retiring after a 20-year career.

The career of Rapids goalkeeper Tim Howard also came to an end in Sunday's final day of the regular season. Howard, 40, will head into retirement after 185 MLS games, and 121 with the US national team. He also had stints with Everton and Manchester United of the English Premier League.

Elsewhere, FC Dallas punched their ticket to the playoffs with a 6-0 demolition of Sporting KC at Toyota Stadium. Dallas, who finished seventh in the West, will face the Seattle Sounders in the first round of the playoffs on October 19 or 20. —AFP

## Bare knuckles to KO record for Myanmar woman breaking MMA mould

**YANGON:** Myanmar's Bozhena Antoniyar had to side-step conservative parents to take up bare-knuckle fighting, but her stealth paid off on her MMA debut when she knocked out her opponent in a record 24 seconds.

Bozhena picked up Myanmar's brutal martial art of lethwei when she was 16, secretly attending training sessions. "(My parents) had never seen or heard of girls doing lethwei," the 24-year-old told AFP. "I had to trick them by saying I was playing football."

The diminutive 1.57 metre (5ft 2in) fighter holds the record for the fastest MMA bout for the Singapore-based One Championship, the sport's biggest promotion in Asia. The bout ended at 24 seconds when Bozhena, sitting astride her opponent — compatriot Shwe Sin — landed a barrage of nine rapid punches to the head.

Bozhena, who goes by the nickname Toto, trains in a humid Yangon gym where she pummels her coach with jabs and hooks while ducking counterpunches. She will need to be on top form for her next outing at the end of this month against Indonesian star Priscilla Hertati Lumban Gaol at One Championship's card in Jakarta.

Bozhena hails from Myanmar's poor eastern Kayah state, where women are better known for using brass rings to elongate their necks rather than the traditional combat sport lethwei.

The bone-crunching Myanmar fighting style is considered one of the most aggressive in the world. Combatants eschew boxing gloves for thin gauze wrapped around hardened knuckles and head-butting is permitted.

Like many in Kayah state, the fighter's family are subsistence farmers. "My parents live hand-to-mouth. That helped drive me to success," said Bozhena.

Her ambition to excel in MMA was also inspired by the increasingly high profile of Myanmar-born fighters. The most well-known — and Bozhena's hero — is Aung La Nsang, an ethnic Kachin nicknamed the "Burmese Python" who holds both middleweight and light heavyweight world titles for One Championship.

The 34-year-old was even voted 2019 International Fighter of the Year at Las Vegas-based World MMA Awards. Bozhena's career is still in its infancy, but she is already proving a formidable foe. In a knuckle-biting battle in July against Vietnamese-American fighter Bi Nguyen, the judges favoured her in a split decision.

She has gained fans across Myanmar, including within her once-disapproving community, she says with a smile. "Now when I have a fight, my house is packed with people who come to watch," she said.

Social norms aside, Bozhena decries the lack of support for women wanting to get in the ring, saying men are more readily offered sponsorship deals and high-profile fights.

"There should be no gender discrimination," she said, explaining that was the reason she left the lethwei arena for MMA. Despite the challenges the trailblazer vowed to fight on. "I miss the days when I could be beautiful and feminine, but I prefer the path I have chosen." —AFP



Sports

# Is All Blacks’ Jordie Barrett better than big brother Beauden?

## Barrett family accounts for nearly one-tenth of N Zealand’s 31-man Rugby WCup squad

**TOKYO:** Jordie Barrett’s unruffled performance as a makeshift All Blacks fly-half won the praise of coach Steve Hansen — and put him one up on his big brother, two-time World Player of the Year Beauden.

The Barrett family accounts for nearly one-tenth of New Zealand’s 31-man Rugby World Cup squad, with playmaker Beauden the eldest brother and the senior All Black compared to Scott, a lock, and utility back Jordie.

But Jordie, youngest of the brothers, earned bragging rights when he took a personal haul of 21 points in New Zealand’s 71-9 win over Namibia — bettering Beauden’s World Cup high of 16, scored against the same opposition in 2015.

A try and eight-from-nine kicking in the second half — after he missed his first two conversions in the first — left the 22-year-old “elated”, according to Hansen. “I think he’s pretty excited and happy with how he played, how he did the job that Ian (Foster, the assistant coach) and I wanted him to do, and the team needed him to do,” Hansen said.

Jordie has a long way to go to improve on the exploits of his big brother Beauden, who scored a try in the final as New Zealand won the 2015 World Cup and was World Player of the Year two years running.

When told he’d beaten Beauden’s personal haul in a World Cup game, Jordie said “that’s nice to know” but stressed he wasn’t out to get one over on his brother. “That’s one thing I don’t go there and play for. I’m just happy I found my rhythm off the tee after missing the first two,” he said. “It’s one thing I’ve been working at the last couple of months, my goal-kicking, so it’s nice it came off.”

### TWO DAYS TO PREPARE

Jordie’s pride in his performance is understandable. He has told how he was often left in tears when the Barretts’ competitive instincts took over during games on the family dairy farm in Taranaki. After playing on the right wing against Canada, he was drafted in at fly-half at the last minute for the Namibia game, after being given just two days to prepare.

Given he hadn’t started at fly-half since university, it was an assured, all-round performance from the youngest Barrett, whose cross-field kick set up the opening try. He stood up to a physical test from the Namibians, made a storming break to create Anton Leinert-Brown’s second try and capped his afternoon by diving over for his own score five minutes from time.

Jordie also had to steer the defending champions through some sticky moments when they were just 10-9 up against a willing Namibia team after half-an-hour. “I loved it, loved every minute even in that first 30 when we were up against it, as a good challenge for me mentally to stay in focus, be where my feet are,” he said. “I enjoyed today, felt like I could grow into the game as it went on.” Hansen, who will step down after the World Cup, said he wasn’t sure if Jordie would play fly-half again.

But the All Blacks are on alert for all eventualities after 2011, when injuries to Dan Carter, Colin Slade and Aaron Cruden handed fourth-choice Stephen Donald kicking duties in the final. “We all know he’s not a first five-eighth, and I don’t know how many Tests he’ll play there, because after this tournament I’m not going to be in charge but it’s certainly not his number-one position,” Hansen said. “So to be able to come out and play like he did, he should be really, really excited and fulfilled and proud.” —AFP



**TOKYO:** File photo shows New Zealand’s fly-half Jordie Barrett (C) is tackled by Namibia’s fly-half Helarius Kisting (L) during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool B match between New Zealand and Namibia at the Tokyo Stadium in Tokyo on October 6, 2019. —AFP

## Routes to Rugby WCup q-finals or the plane home

**TOKYO:** Heading into the last round of pool games at the Rugby World Cup, only two teams have already booked their quarter-final places: England and France. Some pools are all over bar the shouting, in others there’s still all to play for. AFP looks at the various scenarios as teams strive for that last-eight spot.

### POOL A

With Ireland, Scotland and Japan all battling for two places, this is the most competitive pool. If Japan beat Scotland on Sunday, they will qualify for their first ever World Cup quarter-final, topping the pool and probably giving themselves another crack at the Springboks — a repeat of the “Miracle of Brighton” game in 2015. If Ireland beat Samoa on Saturday with a bonus point for four tries, they have definitely qualified. Scotland need a bonus-point win over Russia on Wednesday, and they must then beat Japan while preventing the Brave Blossoms from getting a defensive bonus point for losing by seven points or fewer.

There is a scenario in which all three teams finish on 15 points: Ireland beat Samoa without a bonus point, Scotland beat Russia with a bonus point and then score four tries in a narrow win over Japan — meaning both teams get a bonus point. In a two-way scenario, it is the team that won the match between them that proceeds. But this would be a three-way scenario where every team has won one and lost one. In this case, the two teams with the best points difference would qualify. Currently Japan and Ireland have a much better points difference, but Scotland play bottom-placed Russia next and are likely to improve their tally.

### POOL B

Pool B is pretty well decided, with superpowers New Zealand and South Africa virtually assured of taking first and second place respectively, barring miracles from Italy in their last match against the All Blacks. A victory or draw by New Zealand against Italy puts the defending champions through as pool winners.

South Africa can all but guarantee a quarter-final berth with a bonus-point win against minnows Canada today. There is one extremely unlikely scenario in which all teams can end up with 15 points (South Africa get that bonus-point win against Canada, then Italy run in four tries in a narrow victory against the All Blacks). Again, it would come down to points difference and New Zealand and South Africa are currently 115 and 70 points ahead of Italy respectively.

### POOL C

Much more clear-cut. England and France have qualified, and all that remains to be decided is who wins the group. That will be fought out when they meet in Yokohama on Saturday. The winner will play the runner-up of Pool D — almost certain to be Australia. But the runner-up in the pool may not be too despondent as they will go into the other half of the knock-out draw from the All Blacks, meaning they cannot meet the defending champions until the final.

### POOL D

Australia can qualify if they avoid defeat against Georgia on Friday. If Wales beat Fiji on Wednesday, they will also book their last-eight ticket and will need to win against underdogs Uruguay on Sunday to top the pool. Mathematically, Fiji can still qualify but they have to beat Wales comfortably with a bonus point and hope the Welsh lose to Uruguay.

### POSSIBLE QUARTER-FINAL LINE-UPS

#### Saturday 19 October:

**Winner Pool C** (England/France) vs Runner-up Pool D (Australia/Wales).

**Winner Pool B** (New Zealand/South Africa) vs Runner-up Pool A (Japan/Ireland/Scotland).

#### Sunday 20 October:

**Winner Pool D** (Australia/Wales) vs Runner-up Pool C (England/France).

**Winner Pool A** (Japan/Ireland/Scotland) vs Runner-up Pool B (New Zealand/South Africa). —AFP

## Gatland taking no risks against Fiji

**BEPPU:** Wales coach Warren Gatland said he’s looking at “the big picture” in keeping the core of his top side together for a third run when they play Fiji tomorrow, with fly-half Dan Biggar declared fit. Gatland has made only two changes for tomorrow’s match in Oita and said he could not afford to under-estimate Fiji if Wales are to secure top spot in Pool D.

“We’re in control of our own destiny,” Gatland said as he resisted the chance to experiment further with his unbeaten

side. While some leading contenders for the Webb Ellis Cup have attempted to keep all their players match fit, to cover any eventuality, Wales have selected the same tight five and same backline to start against Georgia, Australia and now Fiji.

The only changes for the Fiji game are Ross Moriarty and James Davies coming in at number eight and openside flanker, with Josh Navidi switching to the blind-side. Fortuitous scheduling has also given Wales a 10-day break following their 29-25 victory over Australia, allowing the 75-Test Biggar time to recover after failing a head injury assessment against the Wallabies.

“It’s good having that experience. It’s important for us and it’s good that we had that break before this game,” Gatland said, adding he could not afford

to take any chances against Fiji.

Wales failed to get out of the pool stages at the 2007 World Cup after suffering a shock loss to Fiji which led to the immediate sacking of then coach Gareth Jenkins. Gatland has been in charge since.

Should Fiji cause another upset, it is unlikely to prevent Wales making the quarter-finals but it would leave the Six Nations champions in danger of finishing their pool in second place and a tougher route to the final.

“I’m thinking about the big picture for later in the tournament,” Gatland said of his selection consistency and a need to rock Fiji from the kick-off. “We don’t want them (Fiji) spoiling the party for us.

“They come out and look like a team that’s really excited for the first 20-30

minutes and the more they’re in the game, the more they think they can get something out of it and we’ve got to negate that.”

Fiji coach John McKee, who is also putting out his strongest XV, said he will be using the 2007 result as a reference point for his players, describing it as “one of the great Fijian performances.”

Scrum-half Frank Lomani recalls that as an 11-year-old he knew that when Graham Dewes scored the match-winning try in the 38-34 victory it was a “big moment” for Fiji that needed to be repeated.

“We want to write something in our history books, and beating Wales is something we have to try to do so that everyone can remember this team,” he said. —AFP

## Captain Greene still inspiring Canada’s Van der Merwe

**KOBE:** When Canada star DTH van der Merwe glances at the strapping on his left wrist during the World Cup match against his native South Africa today, he will again be inspired by the words ‘Captain Greene’.

Trevor Greene was almost killed by a 16-year-old boy who took an axe to his head as he and other Canadian soldiers talked to village elders in Afghanistan in 2006. “As far as Captain Greene goes, we had him speaking to us before the 2011 World Cup,” van der Merwe told reporters at the Kobe Misaki Stadium on Monday.

“He’s a Canadian rugby player who obviously went to Afghanistan and had the tragic injury. “So just some of the words he said prior to that World Cup, just the things that he had to go through, the struggles in life, is just something that kind of hit home and we decided that we’ll name our mascot ‘Captain Greene’.

“I wear my wife and three kids on (the strapping) my right hand and Captain Greene on the left, so when I need a bit of inspiration I just look down at that.” Van der Merwe will be making a Canada record 15th World Cup appearance on Tuesday and could become only the fifth player to have scored a try in four different World Cups if he scores against either South Africa or Namibia.

The 33-year-old wing, who grew up in Worcester, a hour’s drive north of Cape Town, emigrated with his family when he was a teenager. But the much-travelled van der Merwe, who has played club rugby in England, Wales and Scotland, still has relatives in South Africa and visited family there as recently as February.

## Japan ‘aiming beyond’ quarter-finals at WCup

**TOKYO:** Japan have publicly set themselves the target of reaching the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals — but privately the tournament hosts have far loftier goals. Yuichiro Fujii, Japan’s technical chief, insists the Brave



**KOBE:** Canada’s left wing DTH Van Der Merwe (C) takes part in a captain’s run training session at the Kobe Misaki Stadium in Kobe yesterday, on the eve of their Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool B match against South Africa. —AFP

### ‘BUCKET LIST’

Van der Merwe added that while playing a match at Newlands in Cape Town had been “one of my bucket list things”, facing South Africa would be a good substitute. Canada, still winless at this World Cup, head into today’s match with just a six-day turnaround from their 63-0 thrashing by reigning champions New Zealand.

But coach Kingsley Jones, a former Wales back-row, said: “I walked into a party this morning in the changing room — beatbox going, guys smiling. “For me, that’s a massive confidence booster.” added Jones, the last of

whose 10 Wales caps came when he captained a side thrashed 96-13 by South Africa at Pretoria in 1998.

Meanwhile Canada captain Tyler Ardron, who plays for the Waikato Chiefs in New Zealand, said they were glad to “measure” themselves against the All Blacks and the Springboks, traditionally the two strongest sides in international rugby union. “It’s a different level even from Super Rugby,” he said. “I play against the same guys every week, but when you put the 15 best of them on the field at the same time, that pace and physicality is impressive.” —AFP

Blossoms are looking to go even deeper if they reach the knockout stage for the first time.

Jamie Joseph’s side have won three games, including a stunning 19-12 upset of Ireland, to top Pool A and if they can clinch one of the two quarter-final spots they would likely face South Africa or defending champions New Zealand.

While few would expect them to progress any further, Fujii told Japanese media on Monday: “Our target is the last eight but we’re aiming beyond that. If we finish top, we probably get South Africa. The coaching staff are looking at how we can bump them off.”

Once tournament pushovers, Japan famously caused one of sport’s greatest shocks by toppling two-time champions South Africa 34-32 at the 2015 World Cup

— an astonishing result that was recently made into a movie called “The Brighton Miracle”.

But the Springboks pummelled the Japanese 41-7 in a World Cup warm-up game in Kumagaya last month in their first meeting since that humiliating loss on the English south coast.

Japan lock Uwe Helu insisted Monday that the Pacific Nations champions still had to complete the job by beating Scotland this weekend in the biggest game in the country’s rugby history.

“Of course there’s pressure and for me what we’ve been doing so far is not going to be good enough,” said the beefy second row. “We need to be great.” If Japan advance, they would play their quarter-final in Tokyo on October 19 or 20. —AFP



## Sports

# Classy Barcelona run riot against Sevilla to give La Liga familiar look

## Barcelona end game with nine men as Dembele and debutant Araujo sent off

**MADRID:** Barcelona are back in form and La Liga's big three are back at the top of the table after the defending champions put on a finishing masterclass to thrash Sevilla 4-0 on Sunday. Lionel Messi scored his first goal of the season by curling in a brilliant free-kick at Camp Nou after three goals in eight minutes from Luis Suarez, Arturo Vidal and Ousmane Dembele had already put Sevilla out of sight.

"It was crucial for us," said coach Ernesto Valverde whose team ended the game with nine men. "It has been a strange start to the season and we have not added all the points we would have wanted."

Suarez launched the flurry, his stunning left-footed bicycle kick arguably even better than the volley he scored in the Champions League win over Inter Milan on Wednesday. Vidal then finished a superb passing move that involved all 11 Barca players and Dembele powered through to make it three before Messi added a fourth in the second half.

The match descended into farce late on as Barcelona's debutant Ronald Araujo was sent off and Dembele followed after collecting a second yellow card for dissent. The referee's report said Dembele was dismissed for calling Mateu Lahoz "very bad". He could now miss the Clasico on October 26.

"Dembele's is a mystery," said Valverde. "It is very difficult to get words out of him in Spanish, so what he said couldn't have been very long." By then, the game was long gone as victory pushed Barcelona up to second in the table, two points behind Real Madrid and one above Atletico, who could have done with some of the Catalans' classy finishing in their goalless draw away at Real Valladolid.

For all the turbulence and scrutiny on Valverde and Zinedine Zidane, Barca and Madrid head into the international break not only as the league's two frontrunners but with confidence and momentum too.

Eden Hazard scored his first goal for Madrid in their 4-2 win over Granada on Saturday and Barca's

star man is off the mark as well after his own injury-interrupted start to the season.

This was Barcelona's fourth consecutive victory. Messi's return has increased the pressure on Antoine Griezmann, who was left out of the starting line-up following his quiet display against Inter. Dembele was preferred on the left of the front three.

Sevilla, who drop to sixth, had eight shots to Barcelona's seven in the first half but were three down at the break.

### DE JONG STILL WAITS

Luuk de Jong is yet to score since his move from PSV Eindhoven last summer and the 29-year-old had four excellent chances to break his duck, three of them before Barca had taken the lead.

He fired Lucas Ocampos' pull-back straight at Marc-Andre ter Stegen, sidefooted wide and mistimed a header. In the second half, Arthur lost possession on the edge of his box but still De Jong could not capitalise, lashing his shot against the post.

In between, Barca had already made him pay. Suarez's effort was probably the pick of the trio in terms of difficulty, as he launched himself into the air, turned and threw his weaker left foot over the ball, and banged it into the net.

Five minutes later it was two, this one a team goal, quite literally, as all of Barca's players touched the ball in 85 seconds of build-up. Arthur's cross was the 25th pass, finding the sliding Vidal who was just inside.

The third three minutes later was about pace and power, and a mistake from Sevilla too, as Arthur robbed Fernando Reges. Dembele raced clear, fooled Diego Carlos with a dummy shot, before guiding the ball into the far corner.

After his fourth miss, De Jong was taken off and Messi went close after a barnstorming run. The only surprise was that he had not yet scored and he fixed



**BARCELONA:** Barcelona's Argentine forward Lionel Messi vies with Sevilla's Argentinian midfielder Ever Banega (R) during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Sevilla FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. — AFP

that in the 78th minute after Sevilla gave him a third attempt at a free-kick. This time he did not miss.

The 20-year-old defender Araujo had come on for his debut in the 73rd minute and was sent off in the 87th for tugging down Javier Hernandez as Barcelona's last man. Dembele then saw red after picking up a second yellow card for dissent.

Atletico's stalemate means they have managed only two wins from their last seven games in all competitions and they could even have lost if Valladolid's Sandro Ramirez had not skied a first-half penalty. Diego Simeone's side managed only one shot on target. Valladolid sit 13th, with two wins from eight games. —AFP

## Battered S Africa need the Guardiola touch, says coach

**VISAKHAPATNAM:** Cricket coach Enoch Nkwe wants to channel the philosophy of title-laden football manager Pep Guardiola to turn the suffering South African side into a winning force. Following India's 203-run mauling of his team in the first Test on Sunday, captain Faf du Plessis and Nkwe pleaded for patience as the squad rebuilds after Dale Steyn's and Hashim Amla's retirement.

Nkwe, 36, said he wants to see South Africa follow Guardiola's innovative style and produce a brave team — but he warned it would take time. "What I want is this team to have the courage, in certain situations, to really back themselves," he said.

"I suppose that every coach that comes in has a different philosophy." Nkwe has only an interim contract with South Africa so far, and was appointed for the Indian tour. He caught the attention of the South African public and national federation after making a spectacular start as a coach, winning the four-day and T20 titles with the Highveld Lions in one year.

Nkwe said South Africa must "be able to control sessions a lot longer for period of time with both bat or ball. "But also be a lot smarter and be very innovative in certain situations."

He said he was looking forward to how his team recovers from the past setbacks, and responds to each match. The team put up a spirited fight before Mohammed Shami's 5-35 on the final day dealt a devastating blow to the tourists in Visakhapatnam.

Opening batsman Dean Elgar stood out with his 160 in South Africa's first innings score of 431. Nkwe said Guardiola has a knack of improving systems, and admires his total passion for football — something that resonated with his love for cricket. "I feel I have so much to offer to the game, especially back in our country."

### INDIA CHALLENGE

Nkwe's dream was to make a difference in people's lives, he said, and feels now he can. "I will keep driving forward to ensure that the team keeps growing, keeps believing in themselves that they can achieve greater heights."

Nkwe, who played only 42 first class games in the South African provinces before injury cut short his career, said the challenge of touring India will define the team's character in the coming years.

"My biggest focus is to help this team create a strong foundation. We have lot of work behind the scenes [so] that this team grows in the next four years," he said.

"Ultimately it's about the big picture and we need to be patient with players that might take a bit of time to produce the type of performances we are looking forward to.

"And this is a great place to see that. What sort of character of the team we have and what sort of areas we need to really look at and look to rectify as quickly as possible." With the second Test starting in Pune on Thursday, Nkwe has some quick thinking to do to start lifting his team. —AFP

## Man Utd sinking fast as Solskjaer flounders

**LONDON:** How far will Manchester United sink? Just two points above the relegation places, the one-time powerhouses of English football are without an away win since March and are enduring their worst start to a league season for 30 years.

Old Trafford has witnessed a decline in fortunes since Alex Ferguson stepped down in 2013. Under Ferguson, United finished in the top three every year from 1992 until 2013, winning 13 league titles. In the six seasons since, the Red Devils have finished in the top four just twice.

But while they kept their heads above water in the immediate aftermath of the Scot's departure, winning a handful of cups and finishing second under Jose Mourinho, they are now in the middle of a full-blown crisis under beleaguered boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Mourinho, speaking a few weeks after his rancorous departure from Old Trafford last year, spoke about how taking the club to second in the table in 2017/18 was one of his best achievements.

Eyebrows were raised as Solskjaer oversaw a dramatic turnaround in fortunes during his caretaker spell in charge, but the wheels started to come off towards the end of last season. United's 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Sunday left them languishing in 12th spot in the Premier League — an incredible 15 points behind leaders Liverpool after just eight games.

Goalkeeper David de Gea apologised to United supporters, saying it was the toughest time he had experienced since moving to Old Trafford in 2011. "It's difficult to say something. Sorry to the fans, we will keep fighting for sure," he told Sky Sports. "We will come back but at the moment we are in a difficult situation."

United are woefully short of midfield spark and clinical finishers. Just two goals in their past five games is part of a longer-term trend, with Solskjaer's men scoring more than once in a game just three times in their past 23 matches.

The risk in allowing forwards Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez to depart to Inter Milan without signing a replacement has massively backfired, with a out-of-sorts Marcus Rashford shouldering the attacking burden alone in the absence of the injured Anthony Martial.

Over-reliant on a crop of raw youngsters, Solskjaer pointed to a spate of injuries after the Newcastle defeat but said it was not an excuse for their lame display. United have spent hundreds of millions of pounds

## Aston Villa 'disgusted' by racist chants

**LONDON:** Aston Villa said they were "disgusted and appalled" by social media footage that shows fans chanting a racist song during their Premier League win against Norwich. A video following Saturday's 5-1 victory shows a group of Villa fans singing about the club's Zimbabwean midfielder Marvelous Nakamba and one other player, with references to several racial stereotypes.

Villa said in a statement: "Aston Villa is disgusted and appalled by footage circulating on social media of supporters chanting a racist song which makes reference to two of our first-team players.

"The club wholly condemns the chant and urges other supporters to help us identify those responsible."



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

under four different managers since Ferguson's departure and have the highest wage bill in the Premier League, but are still miles behind rivals Liverpool and Manchester City.

Former United defender Gary Neville said the club's hierarchy should take responsibility for the mess, saying they were getting the pain "they deserve" for poor decisions at board level related to recruitment and managerial policy.

"They (the club board) have cocked this up over many years," Neville told Sky Sports. "They've cocked it up. They are responsible for this." Last month executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward, himself in the fans' firing line along with American owners the Glazers, pledged his faith in Solskjaer and the Old Trafford hierarchy will be wary of making yet another managerial change. But since the Norwegian was appointed permanently in late March, United have won just 17 points in 16 Premier league matches, the fourth-worst tally among the 17 ever-present teams in that time.

United remain one of the richest and biggest clubs in the world but their lustre is rapidly fading. Liverpool, who dominated English football during the 1970s and 1980s, have taken 30 years to get back to the top.

Ferguson famously quipped his biggest challenge at United was to knock Liverpool "off their perch" in his early years in charge. We are back on our perch, as we famously say." Liverpool chief executive Peter Moore said at a conference last month.

Liverpool are flying high after winning their sixth European Cup last season and opening up an eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League. Next up for the league leaders is a visit to Old Trafford after the international break with few expecting the gloom over United to be lifted anytime soon. — AFP

Villa's statement said security staff would be vigilant at forthcoming games to ensure that anybody attempting repetition of the chant would be dealt with severely.

Former Villa striker Stan Collymore praised the club for acting "swiftly and unambiguously". Aston Villa Supporters' Trust condemned the footage, describing the song's contents as "a cheap and insulting stereotype". A spate of incidents marred Premier League matches last season. Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling was the victim of alleged racist abuse in a match at Chelsea while Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had a banana skin thrown at him by a Tottenham fan.

West Ham announced last month that they would be banning for life a fan shown chanting racist songs on a video, while Chelsea and Liverpool launched a joint investigation after footage showed a Blues fan chanting alleged racist abuse towards Reds forward Mohamed Salah. England boss Gareth Southgate has warned his players could be subjected to racist abuse during next Monday's Euro 2020 qualifier in Bulgaria after Sterling was targeted by a fan at Wembley last month in the first meeting between the two countries. — AFP

## Higuain winner beats Inter to put Juventus top of Serie A

**MILAN:** Gonzalo Higuain scored the winner as Juventus inflicted a first Serie A defeat of the season on Inter Milan with a 2-1 victory which sent the defending champions top on Sunday.

Substitute Higuain slotted home on 80 minutes after fellow Argentine Paulo Dybala had opened the scoring in the fourth minute at the San Siro. Another Argentine forward Lautaro Martinez pulled Inter Milan level from the spot on 18 minutes, but coach Antonio Conte lost in his first meeting against his former club since leaving Juve to take over the Italy national team in 2014.

Juventus moved one point ahead of Inter after seven games as they target a ninth consecutive title, and first under Maurizio Sarri. "Overtaking at the top is insignificant right now," said former Chelsea boss Sarri. "The important things is that we showed a performance of character and personality against a strong team in a high-tension environment. We deserved to win." Sarri started with Dybala and Federico Bernardeschi up front alongside Cristiano Ronaldo. Higuain — who also scored in Juventus's 3-0 Champions League win over Bayer Leverkusen during the week — began on the bench. The champions got off to a blistering start with Miralem Pjanic setting up Dybala who took Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic by surprise.

Ronaldo rattled the crossbar and then had a goal ruled out when Dybala was in an offside position. But Inter got back on level terms when Juventus defender Matthijs de Ligt handled the ball, with Lautaro drilling past Wojciech Szczesny.

The hosts were hit with Stefano Sensi going off injured with Sarri making a double substitution after an hour bringing on in-form Higuain and Rodrigo Bentacur. Ronaldo and Bentacur combined to send Higuain through for the winner, with Szczesny doing well to deny Matias Vecino as Inter desperately pushed forward for an equaliser.

"Juve showed their heavy artillery," said Conte, who coached the Turin giants to the first three of their current run of eight consecutive titles. "Congratulations to them, we'll roll up our sleeves now," added Conte whose side lost their midweek Champions League game to Barcelona 2-1.

Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta celebrated moving back to the newly-named Gewiss Stadium with a 3-1 win over promoted Lecce that keeps the Bergamo side third on 16 points. But Serie A runners-up Napoli are now six points behind Juventus in fourth following a goalless draw at Torino.

"We want to fight for the Scudetto, but our ranking makes us cry a little," said Napoli coach Carlo Ancelotti. Roma are fifth, a point behind Napoli, with their match against Cagliari at the Stadio Olimpico finishing 1-1 after Nikola Kalinic's last-gasp goal for the hosts was disallowed.

"Sick and tired of this crap costing us games. Too many times already this year," said Roma owner Jim Pallotta on Twitter. Joao Pedro's early penalty after a Gianluca Mancini handball was cancelled out by Luca Cechpitelli's own goal before half-time.

But what looked like a winner from Kalinic was disallowed without a VAR review for a foul on Fabio Pisacane which saw the Cagliari defender stretched off. Roma were furious with coach Paulo Fonseca and his deputy both banished from the sideline before the final whistle. —AFP



**25** Dodgers, Braves on brink of advancing in baseball playoffs



**26** Is All Blacks' Jordie Barrett better than big brother Beauden?



**27** Classy Barcelona run riot against Sevilla to give La Liga familiar look



## Colts hand Chiefs first loss of the season

### Jones rushes for 4 TDs, Packers down Cowboys



**KANSAS CITY:** With 5:06 left in the game and fourth down and 1-yard to go, Justin Houston #99 of the Indianapolis Colts tackles Damien Williams #26 of the Kansas City Chiefs for a 1-yard loss and a turnover on downs at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri. The Colts won, 19-13. — AFP

**KANSAS CITY:** Marlon Mack rushed for 132 yards on 29 carries Sunday as the Indianapolis Colts controlled the clock with a potent run game and shocked the Kansas City Chiefs 19-13 at Kansas City, Mo. Mack led a 180-yard ground attack that enabled the Colts (3-2) to control the football for 37-plus minutes on 45 rushes. They kept Patrick Mahomes and the high-powered Chiefs (4-1) from finding any rhythm in handing them their first loss of the season. Mahomes turned his ankle in the first half and aggravated the injury while playing on it in the second half. He passed for 321 yards but was sacked four times. The Chiefs committed 11 penalties for 125 yards and scored just three points over the final 44-plus minutes. The outcome left the New England Patriots (5-0) and San Francisco 49ers (3-0) as the only unbeaten teams in the NFL.

#### PACKERS 34, COWBOYS 24

Aaron Jones tied a franchise record with four touchdown runs and Green Bay held off a furious comeback to defeat Dallas in Arlington, Texas. The Packers had won all four previous visits to AT&T Stadium — including Super Bowl XLV — and were led in three of the four by quarterback Aaron Rodgers. But it was Green Bay's other Aaron that carried the load Sunday, as Jones had 19 carries for 107 yards and added team-leading figures of seven receptions for 75 yards while the Packers (4-1) played without star receiver Davante Adams. Jones' fourth touchdown gave Green Bay a 31-3 lead with 3:30 left in the third quarter, but Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott then took over the game, throwing touchdown passes of 40 and 53 yards to make it 34-24 with 7:46 remaining in the game. Dallas pushed into the red zone on its next possession, but the drive bogged down, and kicker Brett Maher missed a 33-yard field goal wide right to seal Dallas' second consecutive loss following a 3-0 start.

#### RAVENS 26, STEELERS 23 (OT)

Baltimore's Marlon Humphrey caused and recovered a JuJu Smith-Schuster fumble, setting up Justin Tucker's 46-yard field goal in overtime as the Ravens won in Pittsburgh. The game was marred by a concussion to Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph, who was knocked unconscious at 7:26 of the third quarter. He was replaced by Devlin Hodges, who was 7 of 9 for 68 yards in his NFL debut. Baltimore's Lamar Jackson was 19 of 28 for 161 yards with one touchdown. He was intercepted three times and sacked five times by Pittsburgh (1-4). Mark Ingram II ran for a touchdown for the Ravens (3-2), who lost safety Tony Jefferson in the fourth quarter to a torn ACL.

#### PANTHERS 34, JAGUARS 27

Christian McCaffrey ran for 176 yards and scored three touchdowns and Carolina won its third straight game by holding off Jacksonville in Charlotte, N.C. After McCaffrey limped off the field with about five minutes left, backup Reggie Bonnafon broke off a 59-yard touchdown run to put the Panthers (3-2) ahead by seven with 3:34 to play. DJ Chark caught eight passes for 164 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Jaguars (2-3), who drove to the Carolina 24 in the waning seconds before ending the game with an incomplete pass by Gardner Minshew II.

#### BILLS 14, TITANS 7

Josh Allen's 7-yard touchdown pass to Duke Williams in the fourth quarter lifted Buffalo to victory against Tennessee in a defensive battle in Nashville, Tenn. Allen, who took a hit to the head from New England's Jonathan Jones last week, had been in concussion protocol until Saturday morning. He finished 23 of 32 for 219 yards, two TDs and one interception for the Bills (4-1). Allen found Williams in the end zone to give Buffalo a 14-7 advantage with 9:46 left in the fourth. The six-play, 77-yard drive

was highlighted by Isaiah McKenzie's 46-yard reception.

#### RAIDERS 24, BEARS 21

Oakland used a fake punt in their own territory to set up Josh Jacobs' go-ahead touchdown with 1:57 remaining in a 24-21 triumph over Chicago at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London. Jacobs rushed for 123 yards and scored twice for the Raiders (3-2), who have responded with consecutive wins after back-to-back losses. Tarik Cohen had a 71-yard punt return to set up a go-ahead touchdown in the third quarter for the Bears (3-2), who rallied from a 17-0 deficit with a 21-point blitz in the third period.

#### TEXANS 53, FALCONS 32

Deshaun Watson passed for a career-high 426 yards and five touchdowns and Will Fuller tied a franchise record with 14 catches for a career-high 217 yards and three TDs as Houston stormed past Atlanta. The Texans (3-2) amassed a season-high 592 yards and did not allow a sack of Watson, who entered the game having been sacked 18 times, the third-highest total in the league. The slumping Falcons (1-4) led 17-16 at halftime but lost momentum in the third quarter, punting on all three of their possessions while surrendering 222 yards as Houston scored 17 unanswered points.

#### SAINTS 31, BUCCANEERS 24

Teddy Bridgewater passed for 314 yards and four touchdowns as New Orleans defeated visiting Tampa Bay, improving to 3-0 since he replaced injured Drew Brees in the starting lineup. Bridgewater completed 26 of 34 passes and had his highest yardage total of the season for the Saints (4-1). Michael Thomas caught two of the touchdown passes and finished with 11 catches for 182 yards. Jared Cook and Ted Ginn Jr. caught one touchdown each. The Buccaneers (2-3), who set a franchise

record for points in a 55-40 victory over the Los Angeles Rams a week earlier, finished with 252 total yards. Jameis Winston completed 15 of 27 passes for 204 yards and was sacked six times.

#### EAGLES 31, JETS 6

Nathan Gerry and Orlando Scandrick each scored touchdowns on defense for host Philadelphia, which cruised to a 31-6 win over reeling New York. The Eagles (3-2) have won two straight. The Jets, who were without starting quarterback Sam Darnold (mononucleosis) for the third straight game, are 0-4 for the first time since 2003. Luke Falk, the third quarterback to start this season for the Jets, struggled mightily against the Eagles, who entered Sunday with just five takeaways and three sacks this season. But Philadelphia forced three turnovers and collected 10 passes, including three by Brandon Graham and two by Scandrick.

#### PATRIOTS 33, REDSKINS 7

Tom Brady passed for 348 yards to move into third place on the NFL's all-time leaderboard as unbeaten New England methodically defeated winless Washington in Landover, Md. Brady surpassed Brett Favre (71,838) on a 15-yard toss to Julian Edelman with 6:56 left in the third quarter. He finished with 71,923 to creep within 17 yards of second-place Peyton Manning (71,940). Brady completed 28 of 42 passes with three touchdowns and one interception and recorded his 90th career 300-yard effort for the Patriots (5-0). An early 65-yard touchdown run by Steven Sims Jr. was the only highlight for the Redskins (0-5), off to their worst start since 2001.

#### CARDINALS 26, BENGALS 23

Rookie quarterback Kyle Murray's late scamper set up Zane Gonzalez's 31-yard field goal as time expired, lifting Arizona to its first victory of the season at Cincinnati.

Murray, who rushed for a 6-yard touchdown in the first quarter, used his feet again to rush 24 yards up the middle on the final drive for the Cardinals (1-3-1), who were playing their first game since the death of owner Bill Bidwill. He passed away at the age of 88 on Wednesday. Murray rushed for a team-leading 93 yards, and Chase Edmonds added a 37-yard touchdown run as Arizona was able to present Kliff Kingsbury with his first win as a coach while preventing Cincinnati (0-5) from doing the same for Zac Taylor.

#### BRONCOS 20, CHARGERS 13

Phillip Lindsay rushed for 114 yards and a touchdown as Denver upset Los Angeles in Carson, Calif., presenting Vic Fangio with his first win as an NFL coach. The Broncos (1-4) led 17-0 at halftime and did just enough to hold off the Chargers (2-3) after the break. Denver's only points in the second half came on Brandon McManus' 46-yard field goal with 1:55 left, providing a 20-10 lead. Rookie kicker Chase McLaughlin drew Los Angeles within seven points on a 32-yard field goal with 10 seconds left, but Denver recovered the ensuing onside kick to seal the outcome.

#### VIKINGS 28, GIANTS 10

Kirk Cousins, Dalvin Cook and Adam Thielen had monster games and Minnesota became the first team to quiet Daniel Jones-mania, defeating New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J. Cousins completed 22 of 27 passes for 306 yards and two scores, both to Thielen (130 yards), and Cook had 218 total yards to snap the Vikings' five-game losing streak in outdoor stadiums. It was the first loss for Jones, who had engineered a two-game winning streak since taking over for Eli Manning. The rookie finished with just 182 yards on 21-of-38 passing with a touchdown and a late interception for the Giants (2-3) against the Vikings (3-2). — Reuters