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# US blacklists Iranian oil tanker Adrian Darya in Mediterranean

## Tehran accuses Washington of engaging in ‘piracy and threats’

### Egyptian president arrives in Kuwait



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on his arrival at the Kuwait International Airport yesterday.— KUNA

KUWAIT: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, accompanied by a delegation of officials, arrived in Kuwait yesterday beginning an official visit during which he would hold talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Egyptian president was welcomed at the airport by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other senior State officials.

Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Khaled Yousef Al-Fulajj is heading the honorary mission accompanying president El-Sisi. The official delegation of president El-Sisi includes Foreign Minister Sameh Shukry, head of the presidential Diwan Major General Mustafa Sherif and a number of government officials.— KUNA

WASHINGTON: The United States has blacklisted the Iranian tanker Adrian Darya, saying it had “reliable information” it was transporting oil to Syria in defiance of wide-ranging sanctions on the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. Previously known as Grace 1, the vessel was seized in July by British Royal Marines and held in Gibraltar for six weeks on suspicion it was delivering oil for Tehran’s ally Damascus.

The oil tanker at the center of a dispute between Washington and Tehran is no longer heading towards Turkey’s Iskenderun port and now has no specified destination. Refinitiv ship tracking data showed yesterday. Refinitiv tracking data registered the ship’s destination as “for order”, after previously listing it as Iskenderun. “For order” usually means a vessel is available for charter.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif accused the United States on Twitter of engaging in “piracy and threats” to stop Tehran selling oil to traditional clients. The British territory released the ship despite US protests—after it said it had received written assurances from Iran that the vessel would not head for countries under European Union sanctions. Tehran later denied it had made any promises about the ship’s destination. “We have reliable information that the tanker is underway and headed to Tartus, Syria,” US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a

tweet Friday.

The US Department of Treasury said the vessel was “blocked property” under an anti-terrorist order, and “anyone providing support to the Adrian Darya 1 risks being sanctioned”. The ship’s captain, Akhilesh Kumar, was also blacklisted under the order. Since its release from Gibraltar, the Adrian Darya has been bouncing around the Mediterranean, its every move followed with intense speculation. The vessel was in waters north of Cyprus as of 0745 GMT, according to the MarineTraffic tracking website.

Lebanon had earlier dismissed Turkish claims that it would receive the ship, which has a cargo of 2.1 million barrels worth around \$140 million. While Iran has denied selling the oil to Damascus, experts said the likely scenario was for a ship-to-ship transfer, with a Syrian port as the final destination.

Maritime traffic monitors had shown that the Adrian Darya’s latest listed destinations, which are not necessarily the next approved port of call, were in Turkey. After tracking sites showed Mersin as its destination, it then switched to Iskenderun, prompting a reaction from Turkey’s foreign minister Friday. “This tanker is not heading actually to Iskenderun (in Turkey), this tanker is heading to Lebanon,” Mevlut Cavusoglu said during a visit to Oslo.

Continued on Page 24

### India leaves nearly 2m off citizens’ list

GUWAHATI: Almost two million people in northeast India were left facing statelessness yesterday after they were excluded from a citizenship list aimed at weeding out “foreign infiltrators”, in a process the central government wants to replicate nationwide.

A total of 31.1 million people were included in a National Register of Citizens (NRC), but 1.9 million were deemed ineligible, according to an official statement. A large chunk of those excluded were expected to be Muslims. Shahibul Haque Shikdar, a Muslim college teacher, was

distraught after two of his children made it to the list but he was left out.

“Even my father’s name is there in the final NRC but I have been left out,” the 39-year-old told AFP. Assam has long seen large influxes from elsewhere, including under British colonial rule and around Bangladesh’s 1971 war of independence when millions fled into India.

For decades this has made Assam a hotbed of inter-religious and ethnic tensions. Sporadic violence has included the 1983 massacre of around 2,000 people. Security was beefed up in Assam ahead of the release of the NRC, with some 20,000 extra personnel brought in and gatherings banned in some locations. There were no disturbances reported yesterday however. Anxious residents had started queuing up since early morning, braving rain

Continued on Page 24



GUWAHATI: People check their names on the final list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) at Buraburi village in Morigaon district of Assam yesterday.— AFP

### Bashir charged with illegal use of foreign funds

KHARTOUM: Sudan’s ousted president Omar Al-Bashir was charged in court yesterday with illegal acquisition and use of foreign funds, offences that could land him behind bars for more than a decade. Bashir, who was deposed in April following months of mass protests against his

rule, appeared in court in a black metal cage wearing the country’s traditional white attire and turban.

Judge Al-Sadiq Abdelrahman outlined the charges at what was the third session of the trial, saying foreign funds of multiple currencies were found at his home. Authorities had “seized 6.9 million euros, \$351,770 and 5.7 million Sudanese pounds at (Bashir’s) home which he acquired and used illegally”, said Abdelrahman.

Speaking for the first time in court, the 75-year-old Bashir said the seized

Continued on Page 24



KHARTOUM: Sudan’s ex-president Omar Al-Bashir (right) appears in court in the capital Khartoum yesterday to face charges of illegal acquisition and use of foreign funds.— AFP

### UAE firms scout trade at Syria fair

DAMASCUS: A delegation of at least 40 businessmen from the United Arab Emirates attended a state-backed trade fair in Syria’s capital, defying US warnings against doing business with the government and associates of President Bashar Al-Assad. The UAE, one of Washington’s main regional allies, has started to forge closer ties with Damascus. In December, it reopened its embassy there, angering Washington.

Representatives attended from companies such as

construction firm Arabtec Holding, and other investment firms headed by prominent Emirati businessmen, as well as members of the chambers of commerce, delegates said. The delegates left Damascus on Thursday and Friday.

Businesses are exploring trade possibilities and assessing their aims and budget, said Farouk Assassa, Senior Administration Manager at Essa Al-Ghurair, a Dubai-based supply chain provider and trader of agricultural commodities.

“This issue will take time to determine, but everything happens gradually,” he told Reuters TV in Damascus. He said he was not worried about the US warning that companies dealing with the Syrian government could face sanctions. The large size of the UAE delegation showed

others shared his view, he said. The US Embassy in Syria wrote on Twitter on Aug 27 that it had received reports that some regional businessmen or chambers of commerce planned to participate in the fair.

“We reiterate our warning that anyone doing business (with the) Assad regime or its associates is exposing themselves to the possibility of US sanctions,” it said. “We repeat that it is unacceptable and inappropriate for businesses, individuals, and chambers of commerce from outside Syria to participate,” it added. A large UAE flag hung above the delegation stand where companies exhibited their goods and promotional material. The main sectors on display were concrete products and real estate.

Continued on Page 24

September 12, the White House said in a statement on Friday. The visit “will build on the longstanding partnership between the United States and Kuwait and further strengthen our substantial economic and security ties,” according to the statement.

It added that “the two leaders are expected to discuss regional developments, bilateral security cooperation, and counterterrorism issues.” — KUNA

### Saudi separates industry and mining from energy ministry

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia created a new ministry for industry and mineral resources, separating it from the kingdom’s colossal energy ministry, and replaced the powerful head of the royal court, in a series of royal orders issued late on Friday.

Bandar Alkhorayef, an investor and industrialist plucked from the private sector, was named to head the new entity, which will become independent on Jan 1. The move appears to diminish the sprawling authority of Khalid Al-Falih, who retains control of the energy portfolio and chairmanship of state oil giant Saudi Aramco. Falih had overseen more than half the Saudi economy through the super-ministry, which was created in 2016 to help streamline new reforms. But despite ambitious plans for industry and mining, the sectors have seen relatively little development.

Saudi economist Fawaz Al-Fawaz said the split was a step in the right direction but still not enough. “There are scattered efforts in local content and military manufacturing and a constant lack of investment. We need more thought,” he said on Twitter.

In a separate royal order, Fahd bin Mohammed Al-Essa was appointed head of the royal court, a powerful gatekeeper position in the absolute monarchy. Essa was formerly the head of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s office at the defense ministry.

Former information minister Awwad Al-Awwad was named new head of the official human rights commission, and Mazen Al-Khamous was made chairman of the national anti-corruption commission, according to the orders. Riyadh launched a sweeping anti-corruption campaign two years ago which netted princes, senior officials and top businessmen. One change announced on Friday affected one of the most senior women in government. Deputy labor minister Tamadur Al-Ramah was replaced as Riyadh struggles to create jobs for its overwhelmingly young population. — Reuters



## Local

# Kuwait presents draft resolution calling for truce in Syria's Idlib

## Kuwait vehemently rejects Syrian 'financing terrorism' allegations

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait, Germany and Belgium jointly put forward on Thursday a draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling for an immediate ceasefire in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib. Kuwait, Germany and Belgium - three UNSC members and the council's three co-penholders for the humanitarian situation in Syria - would work with other members to adopt a draft resolution that aims to put an end to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Idlib. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said in a speech at a special UNSC session on the developments in Syria.

"The military escalation in northwestern Syria in the past three months has displaced nearly half a million people and claimed the lives of at least 500 civilians," he pointed out. The Kuwaiti envoy reiterated his country's condemnation of military acts, by any party, that target innocent civilians, healthcare and civilian facilities. He regretted resumption of escalation in the Syrian province, which has a population of three million, almost a year after the signing of the Russian-Turkish Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which significantly de-escalated the situation there.

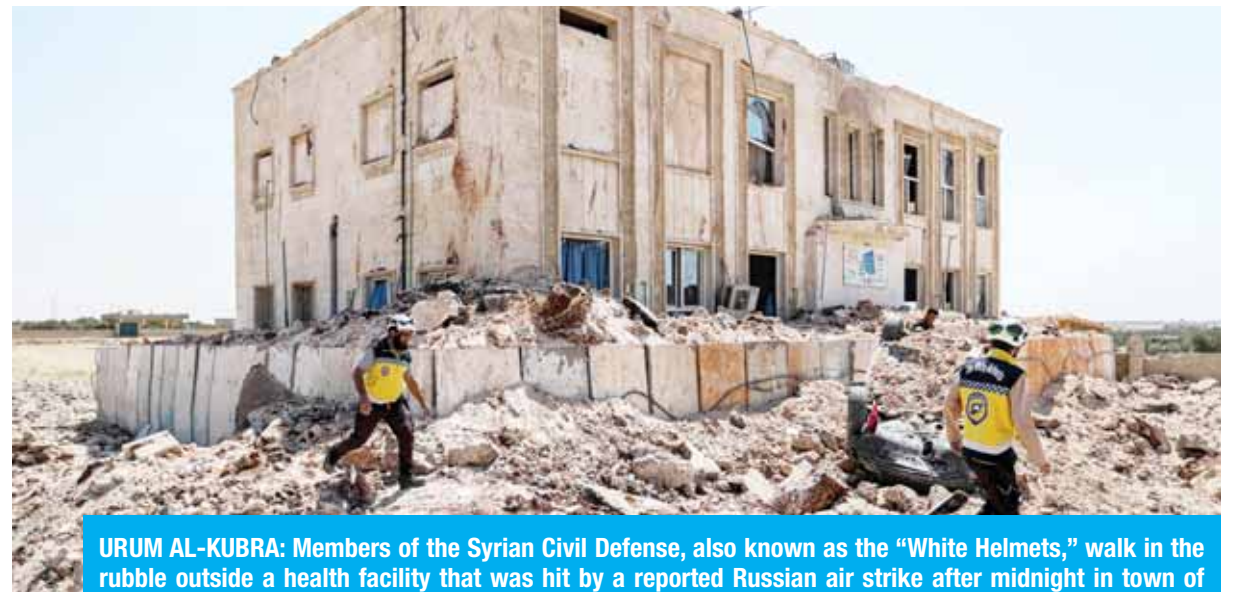
Otaibi renewed calls for all parties to respect international humanitarian and human rights laws. Counter-terrorism operations in no way absolve any party to a conflict from obligations under international law, including compliance with the principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution, protection of civilians and civilian facilities, he emphasized. He

expressed concern that the continued military escalation in northwestern Syria would negatively affect efforts of the UN Special Envoy and his team to revive the Syrian political process.

Otaibi stressed the need to reduce escalation and reach a ceasefire in order to stop blood shedding of the brotherly Syrian people, who have suffered a lot during the past few years. He pointed out that Kuwait closely follow up the efforts exerted for formation of the long-awaited Syria's constitutional committee. "We hope that the committee will be formed before the beginning of the next session of the UN General Assembly," he said.

Otaibi asserted that the constitutional committed line-up should be balanced, inclusive and credible. He suggested that the political process should be accompanied with several confidence-building measures, notably making progress in detainees, prisoners and missing persons' dossiers. There is no military solution to the Syrian crisis, but rather a political solution that takes into consideration the aspirations of the Syrian people in all its components and retains Syria's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity based on UNSC Resolution 2254 and the Geneva Declaration of 2012, he stated.

Otaibi dismissed Syria's representative to the United Nations' allegations of some Kuwaiti institutions' involvement in financing terrorism in Syria. "I do not accept from the Syrian representative or anybody to implicitly or explicitly accuse Kuwait (of financing terror) or try to link it, in one way or another, to terror-



**URUM AL-KUBRA:** Members of the Syrian Civil Defense, also known as the "White Helmets," walk in the rubble outside a health facility that was hit by a reported Russian air strike after midnight in town of Urum al-Kubra in the western countryside of Syria's northern Aleppo province just before a truce went into effect, on August 31, 2019. — AFP

ism," he said. He stressed that Kuwait gives priority to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and that the Kuwaiti government certifies that Kuwaiti charities are carrying out humanitarian work in Syria and have nothing to do with terrorism financing. "We have laws in Kuwait

that hold accountable those who are linked to any terrorist organization. It is not right (from Syria's representative) to level random accusations against people or entities," he said, emphasizing that these accusations are "totally untrue." — KUNA

## local spotlight

### Reducing working hours



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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**H**ow many hours do you work per day? Many of us work forty hours a week, but how many of us, whether men or women, have been able to balance between their work and family commitments? How many of us are satisfied with the number of hours they spend at work?

These questions are of concern to millions of people around the world today. The discussion on the subject did not receive much attention from business owners in the past because of the widely spread belief or culture that the employee who spent longer hours in the office achieves greater productivity. But this idea no longer seems sound or completely correct, and therefore the idea of reducing the 40 working hours a week has become a hot topic of debate.

The World Economic Forum was held from 23 to 26 of January 2019 in the Swiss city of Davos, and focused on the causes and solutions to political, economic and social divisions in society. Adam Grant, Psychologist at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, said that reducing working hours makes employees more loyal to their companies, which gives them more flexibility to take care of their lives outside of work. Economists who participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos advised employers to apply the system four days a week.

However, some business owners fear that reducing workers' hours may create loss of new opportunities for more sales. And in some cases, less working hours could mean less pay because dissatisfied employees may become less productive, and such conditions creates a poor working environment that affect the business.

The average working hours around the world is forty hours per week, but studies showed that Americans work longer hours than many people in Europe and Japan, with many US employees spending 50 hours at work each week. Yet, some American companies and local governments are joining other parts of the world in testing whether a reduction in the number of weekly work hours can boost employee productivity. International data showed that Mexicans have the most working hours in the world, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) figures for 2019.

Reducing working hours may seem an attractive idea for employees, but it is worrying for business owners, especially those who still believe that the employee's stay in his office, and perhaps for more than forty hours a week, means achievement and efficiency. But the reality is that there are many employees who spend overtime hours, but they are not financially compensated for it. This is because of the power and control of the employer, and sometimes because of the employee's keenness to complete the work without delay.

I believe that reducing hours in a judicious manner improves the chance of getting the most out of your employees. Because the longer working hours can increase the worker's stress, and puts him under pressure that reduces productivity.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) figures indicate that countries with a long working-hour culture often record low rates of productivity and GDP per hour of work. According to the World Economic Forum, academic research supports the view that a shorter working week will make people happier and more productive. But how many institutions are ready to take the lead on that?

## No hiring of expat teachers from inside Kuwait

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Education will not sign contracts with expatriate teachers and will cover shortages by hiring Kuwaiti graduates, children of Kuwaiti women and bedoons who have valid security IDs, official sources said. This decision was made in an attempt to prevent a problem that happened last year when the ministry hired teachers living in Kuwait, but later discovered violations in work permits given to them before coming

to Kuwait. The education ministry had then to terminate expat teachers' contracts at the instructions of the Civil Service Commission and Public Authority for Manpower, the sources said. "One of the terminated contracts belonged to a teacher whose work permit said that he was brought in by a restaurant to work as a chef," the sources explained.

In other news, MP Hamdan Al-Azmi warned Public Works Minister Jenan Boushehri from "an environmental catastrophe" in Sabah Al-Ahmad City due to her ministry's alleged inaction. "Sabah Al-Ahmad City is suffering from an environmental catastrophe due to negligence and inaction of your ministry," he said. "The city's sewer drainage station has a maximum capacity of 9,000 cubic meters, while the city produces 24,000 cubic meters." He said a new station must be installed to deal with crisis immediately.

## Firemen battle Mahboula, Amghara fires

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Two vehicles in Mahboula were set ablaze Friday evening, as Mangaf and Fahaheel fire stations responded. The vehicles were found under a shade, also used as a store for metal equipment and paperwork, which helped cause the flames to spread to nearby trees. The fire was put out promptly.

Meanwhile, a fire in an Amghara store was put out by occupational and Tahreer fire stations, and was kept from spreading to nearby places. No injuries were reported in either incidents. Investigations were opened to reveal the causes of the two fires.

## Policeman injured

In other news, a citizen stabbed a policeman during an argument that ensued after he pulled him over for a traffic violation. Backup was called in and the citizen was taken to concerned authorities, while the policeman was taken to hospital.



**A fireman takes a break while battling a blaze in Mahboula.**

## Ten Kuwaitis held in Cyprus over 'vicious brawl'

By A Saleh

**AYIA NAPA, Cyprus:** Two British nationals have been attacked and one was reportedly stabbed by "ten Kuwaitis" following a mass brawl in Ayia Napa, Cyprus. The fight broke out next to a swimming pool in a nearby hotel on Thursday evening before a group of ten Kuwaitis were arrested.

In a video clip, filmed from inside a tour bus before being posted on social media, a rabble of men are seen throwing a barrage of vicious punches and kicks as they fight on the busy road bringing traffic to a halt.

The men were then seen running off, leaving the two victims on the ground as passersby rushed to their aid. The British men were rushed to Famagusta hospital with serious injuries, with one suffering stab wounds during the brawl.

Police have since arrested ten Kuwaitis who were remanded in custody, according to local media. Some Kuwaitis were also treated for bruises and scratches and were later released, reported Cyprus Mail. Around 20 British and Kuwaiti holiday-makers were involved in the fight which took place in front of 250 hotel guests.

Meanwhile, sources revealed that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry is following up with the case, and have contacted the Cypriot ambassador in Kuwait to learn more details and find ways to resolve the situation. The citizens are being held in custody for a maximum of seven days since their arrest pending investigations, and will be charged accordingly after the seven-day period unless the victims drop the case, the sources explained.



**KUWAIT:** Damage left by the fire in Amghara.

Separately, Abdullah Al-Mubarak detectives arrested four Egyptian nationals, two of whom work for Abdullah Al-Mubarak Co-operative Society, on accusations of stealing goods from the store. A society member had doubts about vehicles that do not belong to the society and were parked outside, so he told detectives and the four were arrested.

## Tunisian diplomats in Kuwait to benefit from UN experience

**TUNIS:** A Tunisian diplomatic delegation began a visit to the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry to learn about Kuwait's successful experience as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2018 and 2019, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Dhafiri said yesterday. Dhafiri indicated that this visit comes within the framework of coordination and cooperation between Kuwait and Tunisia and their contributions in solving Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue and resolving crises in Syria, Libya and others. He added that the delegation would become acquainted with Kuwait's work mechanism adopted at the UN Security Council. He pointed out that Tunisia, which was elected a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council to succeed Kuwait, whose mandate expires at the end of next December, will work like Kuwait to be the voice of Arabs in this council. Dhafiri affirmed that there is coordination between Kuwait and Tunisia to solve the Arab issues, especially the Palestinian cause and to solve the various crises that afflict the region. In June, UN General Assembly members elected non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for 2020 and 2021 including Tunisia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Vietnam. — KUNA



Local

# Authority inspectors ensure safety of all produced, imported foods in Kuwait

## Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company to provide healthy foods to school canteens

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Starting from the beginning of this year checking and inspecting on restaurants, cafes, and other institutions dealing with food became part of the responsibilities of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN).

PAFN is an internationally recognized authority for food and nutrition safety. "It is an independent body that aims to protect consumers' health through inspecting the produced or distributed food in the local market to make sure it applies to the health and safety criteria. This should also spread awareness to eliminate malnutrition diseases and protect general health," Mohammed Jragh, Public Relations Director at PAFN told the Kuwait Times.

More duties were transferred to PAFN gradually. "PAFN was established in 2015, and from that time, more fields are being added to our responsibility from both the Ministry of Health and Kuwait Municipality," he stated. "These include the slaughterhouses, food products, and others."

### School canteens

The authority is also in charge of inspecting the canteens at schools. Recently, PAFN decided to strictly inspect the canteens to make sure that they only sell healthy products, and banned certain products from being sold to students.

"We will be dealing with the Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company that will supply the canteens with special products," noted Wajid Al-Othman, Nutritionist at PAFN. "We have chosen this company as they modified their products according to our criteria. For instance, the products will be free of

hydrogenated fats. Also, their bread contains less salt than other bakeries. All their products are produced through an automated process, which is very important for students' safety. Furthermore we demanded producing special sizes that are suitable for young students, as they usually do not finish the regular size of sandwich and other items. These products will be specially made to the school canteens and will not be available in the market."

"From 2016 we made an agreement with some local companies that produce juices and dairy to



Parents should be aware of their children's nutrition

decrease added sugar to juices and nectars," she further said. "We appreciate their cooperation in dropping the sugar level to the possible limit that will not affect the taste. Only these juices will be available in the canteens. Also, drinks other than juices and nectars were already banned in canteens according to the GCC list For Schools Cantinas Food Criteria."

"We aim to improve the nutrition and health condition of the students to treat malnutrition and avoid it. We have bigger plans, and this is the first step. We



Wajid Al-Othman



Mohammed Jragh

started with the elementary schools first, as this is the basic. This way the student will get used to healthy nutrition and preserve it in later stages. It is more difficult at the intermediate stage if they were not used to it from a younger age," she pointed out.

Parents should be aware of the healthy nutrition of their children. "They should know the harm of unhealthy food, which they should not give to their children. Our role is limited to inspecting the sold items at the canteens, and we are not in charge of checking what the children brought with them from home," Othman concluded.

### 24-hour shifts

PAFN inspectors go on regular inspections on daily bases. "Our inspectors work on 24-hour shifts. Then they also go on group inspections twice a week depending on the seasons, which may increase in Ramadan or Eid for instance. We inspect all the

institutions dealing with food," said Abdullah Abbas, Head of the Inspection Department for Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

Inspection of school canteens is also part of their checkups. "We inspect the factories and importing companies before they sign an agreement with the Ministry of Education. If their products meet the criteria then we give the approval to deal with them. Then after the schools start, our department form committees in each governorate to inspect the school canteens," he also said.

"If any inspector had doubts about a certain food product, we will take a sample to check it at the laboratory. Also, we take random samples of the special products of the factory that will supply the school canteens. Doubts arise if the lighting or the ventilation system was not good, which may affect the food products," added Abbas.

Any food product cannot enter the country without being checked. "This checking process belongs to the Imported Food Department. The inspectors first do visual examination to the products, then they take a sample that is checked at the laboratory. The shipment should be held until the results come from the laboratory saying it is safe," he noted.

According to him, tests on a certain brand of gum that an account on social media claimed that it includes pork came negative, despite the fact that the producer at the country of origin stated on his social media account that all the products of his factory include pork. Abbas doesn't know if there is shortage in the Kuwaiti laboratories that make them unable to detect all traces of pork gelatin, but he assured that all gums were withdrawn from the local market due to the statement of the producer.

## Kuwaitis urged to update personal info ahead of bourse IPO

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Capital Market Authority (CMA) has requested citizens to update their personal details ahead of the local stock market's initial public offering (IPO), which allows nationals to own 50 percent of shares. The names of Kuwaiti citizens registered with the Public Authority For Civil Information will be released on September 8th, while the stock market's shares will be offered on an equal basis to all nationals, the capital market regulator said in a statement yesterday. The privatization of

Kuwait's stock exchange is an integral step towards national development, helping transform the country into a financial hub, added the statement. Kuwait has taken measures in recent years to privatize its stock exchange, which was officially established in 1983 and is one of the oldest markets in the Middle East. As per a law passed in 2010, the CMA is supposed to offer 50 percent of the shares to Kuwaiti citizens and another 50 percent to ten companies already listed on the stock exchange. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Traders seen at the local stock market in this file photo. — KUNA

## KFH prepares IELTS program for 300 Kuwaiti students

**KUWAIT:** As part of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) strategic partnership with Kuwait University, College of Business Administration (CBA) and Center of Excellence, preparation program for IELTS tests has been launched to train and qualify 300 Kuwaiti students to pass the IELTS tests which is a requirement and a prerequisite for admission to international universities.

KFH's partnership with Kuwait University and its efforts in supporting the educational and academic institutions confirm the bank's leadership posi-

tion in social responsibility. Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Center of Excellence Dr Adnan Sultan praised the role of KFH in social responsibility, noting that KFH has long track record in supporting student activities and projects.

He added during the launch of the program in the College of Business Administration, that KFH has always been supporting activities, student projects, educational initiatives and youth events, praising the great care and cooperation demonstrated by KFH in this field. This reflects the Bank's leadership in social responsibility, pointing out that KFH's contributions have positively impacted various educational and academic institutions in Kuwait. KFH continues its keenness of supporting the educational process and youth as they are key pillars for comprehensive development and the most prominent elements in sustainability that comes within the Bank's priorities.



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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A view of Kuwait City from the Marina beach. — Photo by Maysoon Al-Fares (KUNA)

# Low income families in Kuwait aided at start of scholastic year

## 2,000 school bags, stationery and uniforms distributed to children

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti humanitarian and welfare associations are helping low-income families with donations at launch of the new scholastic year where financial burdens on them noticeably pile up. As regularly each year, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has distributed 2,000 school bags, stationery and uniforms to children of these families. KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said in a statement that the society would continue aiding these families in the future. Almost simultaneously, the society has launched the project, "donate to educate them," to aid students - for the sixth year in a row. The KRCS deputy chairman, Anwar Al-Hasawi, said in a statement, on margins of launching the campaign at 360 Mall, that the society would cover school fees for 5,000 students. Last year, the society paid the school fees for 4,260 students, including 22 special needs, he said.

In Sudan, the International Al-Rahma Organization distributed aid to people affected with the floods in Khartoum's suburbs. Up to 1,000 food parcels were distributed to people stricken with the catastrophe. Moreover, the KRCS executed during August a number of multifaceted humanitarian projects in the war-torn country of Yemen, said an official. KRCS Director General Abdulrahman Al-Oun revealed that the project - carried out in coordination with Yemen's Estijaba

(response) network - provided necessary medical equipment and water resources to the Yemeni people.

Fifteen incubators were provided to a number of hospitals in Yemen with 5,670 premature babies benefiting from the medical apparatus, Oun noted, adding that water wells were also dug in Yemen's Sah city offering clean water to 1,320 people. He further indicated that the KRCS also carried out Eid Udhiya (sacrificial meat) projects in several towns and cities in Yemen, benefiting 4,266 people. A cornerstone for a well project in Marib city was set, Oun pointed out, saying that 3,500 families will benefit from the well. Meanwhile, the KRCS Director General called on those eager to do more good for the Yemeni people to continue providing a helping hand, stressing that their contributions were important.

Meanwhile in Ankara, Turkey, the Kuwaiti urologist Dr Faisal Al-Hajeri said that he and another Kuwaiti surgeon, Dr Azzam Al-Zair, conducted seven surgical operations for Syrian refugees in the Turkish towns of Reyhanli and Hatay in two days. Among the Syrians who underwent operations were two children, injured during the war in their home country, he said. The two Kuwaiti doctors along with Dr Abdullah Al-Nuaimi from Qatar have also examined 20 patients of various ages. Kuwait has been regularly aiding a large number of the Syrian refugees at Turkish cities and shanty towns. — KUNA



KUWAIT: KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer with the volunteers during a campaign to distribute school supplies to low-income families. — KUNA

## First flight of Kuwaiti relief lands in Sudan

**KHARTOUM:** The first relief flight of Kuwait's humanitarian 'air bridge' arrived on Friday at Khartoum International Airport carrying 40 tons of food and humanitarian aid to Sudan. This flight was sent to aid the affected people of Sudan who suffered from flash floods across the states of the nation. Kuwait's Ambassador in Khartoum Bassam Al-Qabandi said an 'air bridge' was initiated with the arrival of the first

relief flight carrying 40 tons of humanitarian aid by Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), with the aim to help out the victims of the floods in Sudan.

"This initiative comes from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's instructions for aiding our brothers abroad to ease their suffering," he continued. "Kuwait is known to be humanitarianly active in responding to the calls of the needy, everywhere in the world," he said. "We are expecting the arrival of another airplane here in Khartoum on Monday carrying more and more humanitarian supplies for the victims," he added.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said that the organization will provide all necessary needs and aid to support our brothers in Sudan, on and off the field. Torrential rains and floods have battered Sudan for over a month, affecting nearly 200,000 people across 15 states. — KUNA





# Kuwait Airways receives Airbus A320neo aircraft

Receiving new Airbus 320neo important moment: Chairman Jassem



HAMBURG, Germany: The ‘Kathemah’ A320neo jetliner, the newest addition to Kuwait Airways’ fleet. —KUNA photos

**HAMBURG, Germany:** Kuwait Airways (KAC) received the first of a batch of A320neo aircraft from the European multinational aircraft manufacturer Airbus at a ceremony held in Hamburg city, north Germany on Friday. The ceremony gathered KAC Board Chairman Youssef Al-Jassem, head of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Youssef Al-Fawzan, Director General of Airbus Middle East Fuad Al-Attar and Kuwait Ambassador to Germany Najib Al-Bader. The jetliner, called ‘Kathemah’, joins the fleet of Kuwait’s flag carrier after finalizing the necessary arrangements.

#### Important moment

Jassem described the reception of the first Airbus 320neo plane as “an important moment in the company’s history.” Speaking at the ceremony, Jassem said he was really happy to have received the aircraft which was equipped with state-of-art technology and

fuel-saving efficiency. He said the delivery of the A320neo followed the “recovery of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-



First of 15  
A320neo  
aircraft to  
join fleet

Sabah from a health setback.”

Jassem said the A320neo marks the start of delivery of a total of 28 Airbus up until 2026, which would



Kuwait Airways Board Chairman Youssef Al-Jassem (right) and Director General of Airbus Middle East Fuad Al-Attar sign documents during the ceremony.


join the already operational 10 Boeing 777-333 ER aircraft. “We are witnessing leaps in numbers of passengers, and we expect the number to be around five million passengers by end of this year,” he added. Jassem said the development of Kuwait Airways fleet was in line with the company’s strategy to provide the best services for the passengers.

Meanwhile, Fawzan said DGCA would facilitate operation of Kathemah as soon as possible, adding that a team from DGCA’s safety and legal departments was in Hamburg to verify delivery documents of the aircraft. Ambassador Bader said in the meantime that the Foreign Ministry was keen on supporting national companies. He said he was happy with the upgrade of Kuwait Airways fleet, and the new plane would certainly contribute to better aviation services between Kuwait and Germany. Director General of Airbus Middle East Fuad Al-Attar, in a keynote speech, said the delivery of the

airplanes would further strengthen cooperation and relations between the two sides. The delivery of A320neo, he added, marked the 65th anniversary of Kuwait Airways.


#### 15 aircrafts

Seating 134 passengers, this jetliner is the first of 15 A320neo aircraft that will join KAC’s fleet in addition to 13 aircraft of other Airbus versions. As part of a plan to modernize its fleet, KAC signed a contract with Airbus on December 2, 2013 to acquire 15 A320neo and 10 A350 XWB aircraft, in addition to leasing 12 planes of A320neo and A330 types pending the delivery of the new planes. On October 15, 2018, KAC signed a new contract with Airbus to acquire eight jetliners of A330-800 type, which has a capacity of 220 to 260 passengers. KAC’s modernization plan will culminate in the expansion of its new fleet to 38 jetliners in 2026. — KUNA




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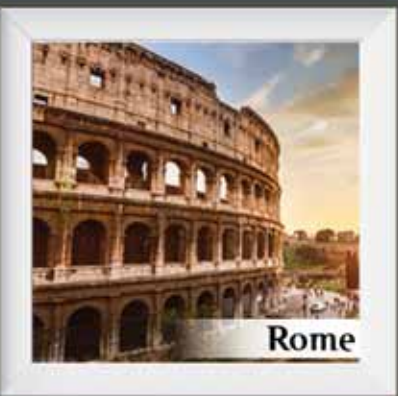
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Britain's leader faces mounting challenges

## Italy struggles as new law opens sex abuse floodgates

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MAZAR-I-SHARIF: Afghan child laborers take a break to eat soup after collecting recyclable materials from the garbage in Mazar-i-Sharif. —AFP

# At least 36 Taleban fighters killed

## Taleban, troops clash in northern Afghan city amid peace talks with US

**KUNDUZ:** Taleban forces attacked the northern Afghan city of Kunduz yesterday, setting off hours of gun battles, even as US negotiators move closer to finalizing a deal with the insurgents for the withdrawal of American troops from the country. Heavy fighting has gone on in Kunduz since the early hours of the morning after Taleban fighters attacked from several directions, forcing Afghan forces to rush in reinforcements to prevent the insurgents from gaining control of the city.

Electricity and most telephone services were cut, and residents were sheltering in their houses, making it difficult to gain a complete picture of the fighting. At least three civilians were killed and 41 wounded were taken to hospitals, said Ehsanullah Fazli, head of the public health department in Kunduz city.

"The city is completely empty, shops are locked, people aren't moving, and light and heavy weapons can be heard in several parts of the city," said local resident Khaluddin, who like many Afghans goes by a single name. Government officials in Kunduz and Kabul said the Taleban were seeking shelter inside homes and some of the fighters had entered the main hospital in the city. The interior ministry said at least 36 Taleban insurgents were killed in ground and air operations in three areas of Kunduz city and clearance operations were underway.

An airstrike in Zakhil area killed 20 Taleban including two commanders, Afghan security officials said. Taleban spokesmen were not immediately available to confirm the casualty figures. "Security forces are repelling the Taleban attack on some parts of Kunduz city. Their top prior-

ity is to protect the civilians," said Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. "As always the Taleban have taken positions in civilian areas," he said in a tweet.

Taleban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a tweet that Afghan forces were under heavy pressure in different parts of the city. A Reuters reporter in Kunduz earlier said small-arms and heavy-weapons fire could be heard in several residential areas. "The Afghan security forces are in control of the situation. Our security forces can't always control where the enemy attack, but we can control what effect they have," said Massoud Andarabi, the interior minister in Kabul.

### Troop withdrawal

The fighting in Kunduz, which the Taleban came close to capturing twice in recent years, came as expectations have grown that US and Taleban negotiators in Doha were close to securing an agreement that would see a timetable for the withdrawal of thousands of US troops. Zalmay Khalilzad, the Afghan-born US diplomat leading the talks for Washington, is expected in Kabul in the coming days to outline the terms of a settlement to the Afghan president ahead of meetings with NATO partners.

Taleban officials said talks had resumed yesterday and could continue until today. A US-Taleban accord would not in itself end the fighting in Afghanistan, but it would open the way for talks between the Taleban and the government in Kabul for a wider peace agreement. US President Donald Trump said on Friday the United



HERAT: A boy uses a plastic bag as a kite as he plays on the outskirts of Herat in Afghanistan. —AFP

States had had good negotiations going on with the Taleban but had not yet reached a deal with them on US troops withdrawing from Afghanistan.

Sources in the Taleban said Trump's statement that the United States will continue to maintain a force in Afghanistan even after a deal was reached was unacceptable to them as they are demanding a complete pull-out of foreign forces. About 20,000 foreign troops, most of them American, are now in Afghanistan as part of a US-led NATO mission to train, assist and advise Afghan forces. Some US forces carry out counter-terrorism operations. Despite peace talks, fighting between the

Taleban and Afghan forces, who are backed by US air power, has not subsided.

Many Afghans worry that the withdrawal of foreign troops will leave Afghan forces vulnerable and further embolden the Taleban, who already control more territory than they have since 2001. The war has ground to a stalemate, with casualties rising among civilians as well as combatants. More than 1,500 civilians were killed or injured last month, according to a report by the United Nations. An American service member was killed in combat operations in Afghanistan on Thursday, the US military said, the third to be killed here in the past eight days. —Reuters

## Convicted RFK assassin Sirhan Sirhan stabbed

**LOS ANGELES:** Sirhan Sirhan, the Palestinian refugee found guilty of shooting US presidential candidate Robert F Kennedy to death in 1968, was wounded in a stabbing at a California prison on Friday, according to media reports. Celebrity website TMZ, citing unnamed sources, was first to report that Sirhan, 75, had been stabbed.

Replying to a request for confirmation that Sirhan was wounded, Jeffrey Callison, a spokesman for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, said an inmate had been stabbed at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility near San Diego. The wounded inmate was taken to a hospital outside the prison and is listed in stable condition, Callison said in a statement, and a suspect has been identified in the assault. In a follow-up email, Callison declined to identify the wounded inmate as Sirhan, citing department policy on not naming victims.

A jury in 1969 found Sirhan guilty of assassinating Kennedy the previous year by opening fire with a .22-caliber pistol into a small crowd surrounding the Democratic candidate in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Kennedy, a US senator from New York, was hit three times and died the next day. He was later buried at Arlington Cemetery, near his brother, President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963. Sirhan has said he fired at Kennedy because he was enraged by his support for Israel. He was sentenced to death, but the sentence was changed to life in prison after California banned the death penalty for a time. —Reuters

## German nurse accused of murdering patients

**BERLIN:** German prosecutors are investigating a male nurse suspected of murdering numerous patients in a case reminiscent of one of the country's worst serial killers, it emerged Friday. Following reports in local media, the state prosecutor in Saarbruecken confirmed that the suspect, identified only as B., was under investigation on five counts of

murder and two counts of attempted murder.

The case bears similarities to that of Niels Hoegel, the serial killer nurse who was handed a life sentence last June for the murder of 85 patients in his care. Hoegel, believed to be Germany's most prolific serial killer, murdered patients with lethal injections between 2000 and 2005, before he was eventually caught in the act. The prosecutor said that B. was arrested in June 2016 after he was caught posing as doctor in an attempt to gain access to a patient in the intensive care unit of a hospital in Homburg, near the French border.

At the time, he had been working at the hospital as a nurse for just six weeks, but was already the subject of an internal investigation for allegedly administering unprescribed medicines. The 27-year-old is now suspected of committing a number of murders between March 2015 and March 2016, while working at a hospital in nearby Voelklingen. Seven bodies have been exhumed during the investigation, of which six were found with traces of unprescribed and potentially lethal substances including ajmaline, a substance also used by Hoegel. B. is currently serving a separate three-year prison sentence for fraud offences. —AFP



## International

# Iran goes further in breaching nuke deal, IAEA report shows

## Iran shows off undamaged satellite after failed launch

**VIENNA:** Iran has gone further in breaching its nuclear deal with world powers, increasing its stock of enriched uranium and refining it to a greater purity than allowed, the UN atomic agency report said on Friday. The quarterly report from the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is policing the 2015 deal, confirms Iran is progressively backing out of the deal in retaliation for Washington's withdrawal from the accord and renewal of sanctions that have hit Iranian oil sales.

Iran has said it will breach the deal's limits on its nuclear activities one by one, ratcheting up pressure on parties who still hope to save it. US President Donald Trump has offered to hold talks with Iran on a broader deal but Tehran says first it must get relief from US sanctions.

In July, the IAEA said Iran exceeded both a 202.8-kg limit on its enriched uranium stock and its 3.67% cap on the fissile purity to which it is allowed to refine uranium. In a verbal update on July 10, the IAEA said Iran was enriching uranium to 4.5% purity and had stockpiled 213.5 kg of enriched uranium. Friday's quarterly report to member states obtained by Reuters said Iran has accumulated 241.6 kg of enriched uranium and is enriching at around the same level as before, up to 4.5%.

Iran's enriched uranium stock is still a fraction of the tons it possessed before the deal. Its enrichment level is also well short of the 20% it reached before the deal and the roughly 90% that is considered weapons-grade. Its breaches have therefore not yet made much difference to the time it would need to obtain enough fissile material for a nuclear bomb if it sought one. The deal - which set nuclear restrictions in exchange for sanctions relief - extended that time to roughly a year from a few months.

### Looming deadline

Iran has threatened to take further steps by Sept 6, such as enriching to 20% or restarting mothballed centrifuges, machines that enrich uranium. The report also hinted at less than ideal cooperation from Iran, saying:

"Ongoing interactions between the Agency and Iran ... require full and timely cooperation by Iran. The Agency continues to pursue this objective with Iran."

A senior diplomat added, however, that Iran had not changed its level of cooperation and IAEA inspectors were able to visit all the locations in the country they needed to. The message was an encouragement to do more to help answer outstanding questions rather than provide access, he added, without elaborating. Diplomats have often said Iran has dragged its feet while stopping short of crossing the IAEA's red lines.

### Undamaged satellite

Iran showed off an undamaged satellite yesterday, days after a rocket exploded on its launchpad in the third failed launch of the year, which US President Donald Trump had tweeted about hours earlier. The United States has warned Iran against rocket launches, fearing the technology used to put satellites into orbit could help it develop the ballistic missile capability needed to launch nuclear warheads, though Tehran denies its activity is a cover for such development.

On Friday, Trump posted on Twitter a photo of what appeared to be the site of a failed Iranian satellite launch, raising questions about whether he had disclosed US surveillance secrets. Reporters were shown the Nahid 1 (Venus 1) satellite at a state-run lab yesterday, Iranian news agencies said.

Asked about the explosion that led to the failed launch, Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi, the communications minister, said the defense ministry should announce incident details, Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency said. "But what we do know is that the Nahid satellite is still being prepared at the Iranian Space Research Institute," he added. Earlier, in a Twitter post, Jahromi said, "Me & Nahid 1 right now. Good Morning Donald Trump!" along with a picture that purported to show him with the satellite.



**TEHRAN:** A handout picture provided by the Iranian presidential office shows Iranian-made air defense missile system Bavar 373 (believe in farsi) during a ceremony in Tehran. — AFP

The rocket exploded on its launch pad on Thursday, an Iranian official had told Reuters, although Iranian media did not report the failed launch. A US official also said Iran suffered a satellite launch failure. Trump's administration has ratcheted up economic pressure on Iran this year with

sanctions to try to force it to renegotiate a 2015 pact with world powers limiting its nuclear program. Trump withdrew the United States from the pact in May last year. Trump has offered to hold talks with Iran but Tehran says it must first get relief from US sanctions. — Agencies

## Mass arrivals of migrants into Ceuta, Lesbos

**MADRID:** More than 150 migrants forced their way into Spain's overseas territory of Ceuta on Friday, hours after 540 people alighted in Greece as pressure on southern European states continues despite an overall drop in arrivals. The mass arrivals come after several charity ships that rescued migrants off the coast of Libya were denied access to Italian ports by outgoing headline interior minister Matteo Salvini.

On Friday, another such vessel belonging to charity Mediterranean Saving Humans warned of an impending health emergency on board as it was stuck at sea after being banned from entering Italian waters. According to the latest data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 46,500 people had crossed the Mediterranean to Europe this year to August 28 and another 909 died in the attempt.

This marks a drop from the same period last year when over 68,000 people crossed and 1,562 died. But southern European nations still bear the brunt of these arrivals. On Thursday, Spain's acting deputy prime minister Carmen Calvo said Europe should step in more. "The countries that don't have maritime borders also need to assume shared responsibility," she told lawmakers.

### Climbing the fence

In Spain's north African enclave of Ceuta early on Friday, taking advantage of misty weather, 155 migrants stormed the barbed wire border that separates it from Morocco. Some of them clambered over while others broke through a door in the fence. "They are all from sub-Saharan Africa, the majority from Guinea," a spokesman for the central government's office in Ceuta told AFP. Ceuta and Melilla, another Spanish enclave, represent the European Union's only land borders with Africa.

All in all, though, the number of migrants arriving in both cities this year has dropped to just over 18 percent to 3,427 compared with 2018, according to the latest interior ministry figures. This is the first time in a year that



**CEUTA:** A migrant forces his way into the Spanish territory of Ceuta. Over 150 migrants made their way into Ceuta after storming a barbed-wire border fence with Morocco. — AFP

migrants have managed to storm the barbed wire fence in Ceuta as a group, the spokesman said.

Once on Spanish territory, they are usually taken to a migrant reception centre where they can ask for asylum. But Madrid has been known to send migrants back to Morocco. In August last year, Spain sent back 116 migrants who had forced their way into Ceuta in a mass expulsion condemned by human rights activists. It is as yet unclear what will happen in this case. In Greece, meanwhile, around 540 migrants arrived Thursday evening on the island of Lesbos on board 13 boats from nearby Turkey, including 240 children. They were transferred to the cramped Moria migrant camp where there are "nearly 11,000 people for a capacity of just 3,000," medical charity Doctors without Borders (MSF) said.

A Greek diplomatic source, who refused to be named, said Athens had informed the European Union about this "unprecedented rise" in the number of migrants. Greece has overtaken Spain this year to become the main entry point for migrants seeking to get to Europe. At least 23,200 people have arrived by sea so far this year, according to the IOM. — AFP

## Sanctions-hit bank denies Hezbollah ties

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's central bank said it would guarantee all "legitimate deposits" in the newly sanctioned Jammal Trust Bank, which on Friday rejected US allegations that it helps to fund Iran-backed Hezbollah. Washington hit the bank and its subsidiaries with sanctions on Thursday for allegedly facilitating the financial activities of the Shiite Hezbollah movement in Lebanon.

The US Treasury Department accused the bank of funneling money to the families of suicide bombers. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States is determined to cut off support in Lebanon for heavily armed Hezbollah, which Washington classifies as a terrorist group. Lebanon's central bank Governor Riad Salameh told Reuters on Friday that it would guarantee money put in the bank by depositors not subject to sanctions.

Jammal Trust, a 50-year-old private commercial bank in Lebanon, said it "unequivocally denies all the allegations" that prompted what it described as "surprising" sanctions. The bank's statement said it has "unwavering commitment to ... international regulations on countering money laundering and terrorism financing". Jammal Trust Bank has 25 branches in Lebanon and representative offices in Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Britain, its website says.

The bank is a relatively small lender. It had net assets of 1,600 billion Lebanese pounds (\$1 billion) at the end of 2017, according to the annual report on the latest year for which data is available.

Washington has sought to choke off Hezbollah's funding worldwide, with sanctions among a slew of steps against Tehran since US President Donald Trump withdrew last year from a 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran. Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil joined Salameh in seeking to reassure depositors.

"I am certain of the banking sector's ability to absorb the implications ... and guarantee the money of depositors," he wrote on Twitter, adding that the central bank is "doing what is necessary". The Lebanese government has vowed to make urgent progress on reforms to ease economic troubles that prompted ratings agency Fitch to cut the country's credit rating this month. Lebanon has one of the world's heaviest public debt burdens at 150% of GDP. The impetus to enact reforms has grown with the slowdown of deposits into its banking sector, a critical source of finance for the state. — Reuters

## Syria, Russia step up assault on rebel stronghold

**BEIRUT:** Syria and its ally Russia have stepped up an offensive against the last big stronghold of Syrian rebels, mounting more air raids and deploying ground reinforcements including Iranian-backed militias, army defectors and residents said. The Russian-led alliance is pushing into densely populated parts of Idlib province in the northwest where millions of people who fled fighting elsewhere in Syria have taken refuge.

The northwest offensive has prompted UN warnings of a new humanitarian crisis amid the gains by Damascus and its partner Moscow, which has helped President Bashar Al-Assad turn the tide in the eight-year-old conflict since intervening in 2015. Moving deeper into territory along the Turkish border, the advance took the town of Tamanah after earlier capturing Khwain, Zarzor and Tamanah farms, the defectors and residents said.

They were the first gains since the alliance, battling a coalition of jihadists and mainstream Turkey-backed rebels, seized a main rebel pocket in nearby Hama province last week. The offensive has been reinforced by elite army units

and Iranian-backed militias, the defectors and residents said. "There are daily reinforcements coming from the Iranian militias, elite Republican Guards units and Fourth Armored Division," Colonel Mustafa Bakour, a commander in Jaish al Izza rebel group, told Reuters.

Jets flying at high altitude dropped bombs on the outskirts of Idlib city, the heavily-populated provincial capital. The aircraft were believed to be Russian, according to activists who track the warplanes' activities. Russia's defense ministry said Syrian government forces will unilaterally cease fire in the "de-escalation zone" in Idlib region on Saturday morning, TASS news agency said.

Turkey, Russia and Iran agreed in 2017 to make Idlib a de-escalation zone to reduce fighting, although the terms were never made public and the deal did not include jihadist groups. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said earlier this month that Russia had military personnel on the ground in Idlib province. In recent weeks, Moscow sent more special forces that helped break months of stalemate on frontlines where rebels had been holding the army back, Western intelligence sources have said. Rebel resistance has been eroded by relentless air strikes against civilian areas since the advance began in late April. The campaign has destroyed dozens of hospitals, schools and civil defense centers, paralysing life in rebel-held areas. — Reuters

## Trump's Iran photo tweet raises worries about disclosure of surveillance secrets

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump on Friday posted on Twitter a photo of what appeared to be the site of a failed Iranian satellite launch, raising questions about whether he had disclosed US surveillance secrets. The black-and-white photo showed the fire-blasted launch site at a space center in northern Iran including a damaged gantry service tower and a downed mobile erector launcher.

Trump, in his tweet, cited the specific location of the site, saying the United States was not involved in the "catastrophic accident during final launch preparations for the Safir SLV Launch at Semnan Launch Site One in Iran." Speaking to reporters at the White House later on Friday, Trump defended his posting of the photo and reiterated that the United States had nothing to do with the incident. "We had a photo. I released it, which I have the absolute right to do," Trump said.

He said the Iranians "were going to set off a big missile and it didn't work out too well. Had nothing to do with us." The rocket exploded on its launch pad on Thursday, an Iranian official said. A US official also said Iran suffered a satellite launch failure. "I wish Iran best wishes and good luck in determining what happened at Site One," Trump said in his tweet. Patrick Eddington, a former CIA satellite imagery analyst, said the photograph tweeted by Trump appeared to be a classified image taken by a US spy satellite.

"If the president simply tweeted out an image from classified briefing that utilizes our most advanced overhead collection capabilities, it is no doubt welcome news to our adversaries," said Eddington, now a research fellow at the CATO Institute. "While he has the authority to declassify any federal document, Twitter is not a legitimate or responsible way to do so."

A US defense official told CNBC that the picture, which appeared to be a snapshot of a physical copy of the satellite image, was included in an intelligence briefing on Friday. The Pentagon did not have any immediate comment. The United States has warned Iran against rocket launches, fearful the technology used to put satellites into orbit could enable Tehran to develop the ballistic missile capability needed to launch nuclear warheads. — Reuters

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# British PM faces mounting legal, political, diplomatic challenges

## UK courts to rule on suspension of parliament

**LONDON:** Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit plan was facing mounting legal, political and diplomatic challenges as Ireland accused Britain of being unreasonable and former British leader John Major sought to stop the suspension of parliament. The ultimate outcome of Britain's tortuous three-year Brexit crisis remains unclear with options ranging from a frantic departure without an exit deal or a last-minute agreement to an election or referendum that could cancel the whole endeavor.

Johnson, the face of the Vote Leave campaign in the 2016 referendum, has promised to lead the United Kingdom out of the European Union in two months with or without a divorce deal, a threat he hopes will convince the bloc to give him the exit deal he wants. In the eye of the Brexit maelstrom, though, Johnson was under mounting pressure: opponents in parliament were plotting to tear up his Brexit plans or topple his government, while his suspension of parliament was under scrutiny in the courts.

Johnson's bid to get the insurance policy for the Irish border changed were bluntly dismissed by Dublin which said London was being totally unreasonable. "Boris Johnson is outlining a very clear and firm position but it is a totally unreasonable position that the EU cannot facilitate and he must know that," Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said in an interview with Ireland's Newstalk radio.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Britain should make concrete proposals as soon as possible but that the EU could not imagine reopening the Withdrawal Agreement that Johnson's predecessor Theresa May agreed with Brussels in November. Britain insisted it had made proposals on the border backstop and that it was "untrue" to suggest it had not. The government said British negotiators would hold twice-weekly talks with EU officials next month in an attempt to rework the Brexit agreement that Britain's parliament has repeatedly rejected.

### Brexit ensnared

With just two months until the United Kingdom is due to leave the EU, Johnson's decision to ask Queen Elizabeth to suspend parliament was under challenge from three separate court proceedings. The queen on Aug 28 approved Johnson's order to suspend parliament from as early as Sept 9 to Oct 14, a move that



### Parliament prepares to battle over Brexit

ensures parliament would sit for around four days less than it had been expected to.

Former Prime Minister John Major, whose 1990-1997 premiership included the 1992 disorderly exit of the pound from the Exchange Rate Mechanism, asked to join one of the proceedings to block Johnson's order. A Scottish court will hear arguments on Sept 3, a case brought by campaigner Gina Miller will be heard on Sept 5 and a Northern Irish court will hear a separate case on Sept 6. Ultimately, the cases could be combined to go to the Supreme Court - the final court of appeal in the United Kingdom which hears cases of the gravest constitutional importance.

"Legal proceedings can be fast-tracked as the judges in the case determine," Robert Blackburn, pro-



**MANCHESTER:** Demonstrators hold up placards they join a protest against the move to suspend parliament in the final weeks before Brexit in Manchester, north-west England yesterday. — AFP

fessor of constitutional law at King's College London said. "If the case of those bringing the legal proceedings wins, the Supreme Court could quash and/or declare unlawful the Privy Council order authorizing the forthcoming prorogation," said Blackburn.

In parliament, the battle for Brexit was due to begin in earnest on Sept. 3 when lawmakers return from their summer break and will try to either topple the government or force through a law designed to prevent Britain leaving the EU without an exit deal. — Reuters

## Bahamas, Florida in path of 'dangerous' Hurricane Dorian

**MIAMI:** Hurricane Dorian strengthened into an "extremely dangerous" storm on Friday as it bore down on the Bahamas and the east coast of the US state of Florida. Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Minnis urged residents of the Atlantic Ocean archipelago in the path of the "very powerful and potentially life-threatening hurricane" to seek safety.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Dorian, which is expected to make landfall in the Bahamas today and in Florida late Monday or Tuesday, "has strengthened to an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane" on a five-level scale. The storm has winds near 140 miles per hour (220 kilometers per hour), according to the NHC. "A prolonged period of life-threatening storm surge and devastating hurricane-force winds are likely in portions of the northwestern Bahamas, where a hurricane warning is in effect," the NHC said.

### 'Very great danger'

Minnis, the Bahamas prime minister, told a press conference that the storm was life-threatening. "Those who refuse to evacuate place themselves in very great danger... Do not put your life and those of your loved ones at unnecessary risk. "Do not be foolish and try to brave out this hurricane," Minnis said. "The price you may pay for not evacuating is your life." With the path of the storm still uncertain, coastal Florida residents were not under evacuation orders yet but stocked up on food, water and other supplies and made preparations to flee their homes.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued a statewide declaration of emergency and urged its millions of residents to prepare for what he said could be a "major event." "We're anticipating a massive amount of flooding," DeSantis said. "We urge all Floridians to have seven days' worth of food, medicine, and water." "If you're in an evacuation zone and you're ordered to evacuate, please do so," DeSantis said. The Florida National Guard said about 2,000 service members had been mobilized so far and another 2,000 would be on Saturday.

### 'Absolute monster'

President Donald Trump, whose Mar-a-Lago golf club is located in Palm Beach in Florida, said Dorian was "looking like it could be an absolute monster" and canceled a trip to Poland to stay behind and focus on preparations for the storm. "All indications are it's going to hit very hard," Trump said in a video. "Some people said bigger or at least as big as Andrew," a Category 5 storm that left 65 people dead in 1992, he said. Trump declared a state of emergency in Florida authorizing federal assistance to supplement state and local efforts. Georgia - another southeastern state that could be in the storm's path - has declared a state of emergency for 12 counties.

Governor Brian Kemp said the hurricane "has the potential to produce catastrophic impacts to citizens" throughout the southeast coastal region of the United States. Trump warned that Georgia "is very much in (the hurricane's) path also. Georgia could be very much affected." The US Coast Guard said ocean-going commercial vessels should make plans to leave south Florida ports. A number of schools announced that classes would be canceled until at least Tuesday.

Orlando International Airport said it would halt commercial flights at 2:00 am on Monday "out of an abundance of caution." Orlando is the main airport for nearby Disney World. NASA is also close by and the US space agency said it was moving an enormous mobile rocket launcher from a launch pad into a vehicle assembly building to protect it from the storm. A Rolling Stones concert in Miami originally scheduled for Saturday night was moved up by a day due to the weather forecast, the band said on its Twitter account. — AFP

## Georgia warns of risk of 'confrontation' with South Ossetia

**TBILISI:** Georgia warned Friday of the risk of a "serious confrontation" with Russia-backed South Ossetia after the breakaway region demanded that Georgian authorities remove a checkpoint on its disputed boundary. The Georgian foreign ministry said it observed "mobilization of military equipment and personnel" near the village of Chorchana, where the checkpoint has been set up. The situation risks "escalating into a serious confrontation," Georgia foreign ministry spokeswoman Mari Narchemashvili said.

At talks mediated by the EU and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on Thursday, South Ossetia demanded that Georgian police dismantle the checkpoint before 0300 GMT on Friday, according to one of the delegates at the meeting. "If this condition is not met, the government (of South Ossetia) will take all legal measures to ensure security of the South Ossetian people and protect the state border," South Ossetian delegate Yegor Kochiev said in televised remarks.

Kochiev is a delegate to the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), which meets to discuss the security situation under EU and OSCE mediation. South



**TBILISI:** Georgian special police patrol the Georgian-South Ossetian border at a check point in the Kvemo Kartli region some 120 km outside Tbilisi. — AFP

Ossetia officials say the checkpoint is right next to the village of Uista, known as Tsnelisi in Georgia. Later Friday, the Russian-backed breakaway republic's president Anatoly Bibilov ordered that a checkpoint be erected nearby, and security officials announced they were starting a "humanitarian operation," without giving details. "I hope Georgia... will do everything to resolve the instability they caused by their illegal actions," Bibilov was quoted as saying by Russian agencies. "Resolving this issue by force would be highly undesirable."



**DENVER:** This screen grab from a video shows Diana Sanchez going into labor the morning of July 31, 2018 alone in her jail cell in Denver. — AFP

## US woman left to give birth alone in jail cell sues city

**WASHINGTON:** A Colorado woman is suing the city of Denver for causing her "unnecessary terror, pain and humiliation" after she was left alone in her jail cell while giving birth. Video footage of the harrowing ordeal shows Diana Sanchez, now 27, going into labor the morning of July 31, 2018. Despite repeated calls for help, no guards or medical personnel entered her cell until she gave birth to her son.

"What should have been one of the happiest days of her life was instead a day of unnecessary terror, pain and humiliation that continues to cause her ongoing emotional trauma," Sanchez's lawyer Mari Newman said in a complaint filed Wednesday. The suit claims the city and county of Denver, Denver Health Medical Center and six sheriff's deputies and nurses "utterly failed to satisfy their legal and moral duty."

US Senator Kamal Harris, a candidate for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, has weighed in on the issue, tweeting: "The inhuman treatment of detained pregnant women cannot be ignored." Sanchez had been arrested for charges of identity fraud on July 14, 2018, and was awaiting trial. According to the complaint, she was more than eight months pregnant when she was arrested.

Denver Health personnel were aware that Sanchez was pregnant, and that she was going through opiate withdrawal, making her imminent labor particularly risky, the complaint said.

### 'Totally disorganized'

The day she gave birth, Sanchez told the deputies "at least eight times" that she was experiencing contractions. She also told them when her water broke. The guards were also able to monitor her situation via live video feed from her cell and informed the jail nurse of Sanchez's situation, the complaint said. Instead of calling an ambulance for Sanchez, the deputies and nurse on duty gave her an absorbent pad to sit on and requested a non-emergency van to take her to the hospital after they had finished booking in new inmates.

After almost six hours of labor, Sanchez gave birth to a boy. Only then did medical personnel enter her cell, and Sanchez and her son were taken to a hospital 30 minutes later. "The Denver Health nursing staff proved totally disorganized and unprepared to care" for either the infant or his mother, Newman wrote in the complaint, noting that the staff either had not prepared or could not find the necessary post-birth equipment.

An internal investigation was conducted after the incident, which determined that "the Deputy Sheriffs took the appropriate actions under the circumstances and followed the relevant policies and procedures," according to a sheriff's department statement released last November. "As a result, (Denver Sheriff's Department) policy was clarified to mandate that when an inmate is in labor an emergency ambulance will be called," the statement said. — AFP

## Paris suburb pioneers 'noise radar' to fine roaring motorcycles

**PARIS:** Motorcycles thundering through residential neighborhoods, revving their engines and waking up every child in the street, may soon be a thing of the past in France. A Paris suburb is trying out a new system that can identify noisy vehicles, pinpoint their location and automatically ticket them. The device, which the mayor calls a "noise radar", has been installed on a lamppost in the centre of Villeneuve-le-Roi, a town next to Paris Orly airport.

It will be activated as soon as a new government draft law permitting such systems is passed, said Mayor Didier Gonzales. The town will link the sound recordings to police CCTV cameras and automatically issue tickets to offenders. "Noise is the bane of modern life and a major health issue. It hurts people like secondary smoking does," said Gonzales, who is also head of noise pollution agency Bruitparif.

The draft law, expected to be voted on this autumn, will allow local authorities to experiment with systems to record and fine riders who exceed noise limits. France already has legislation limiting vehicle noise, but it is hard to enforce as it relies on police catching offenders individually. "We have nothing against Ferraris or Harley Davidsons, but their owners sometimes like to demonstrate their vehicles' power and the noise really troubles residents," said Villeneuve official Remy Jourdan.

The new device, developed by Bruitparif engineers, has four microphones that measure decibel levels every tenth of a second and can triangulate where a sound originates. It displays a picture of an acoustic wake as a trace of colored dots behind a moving source of loud noise, such as a souped-up motorcycle. "With this tool, it is not possible to dispute who made the noise," said Gonzalez. Nearly 40 of the devices have been in operation for several months near busy bars in Paris entertainment areas, and another 17 have been installed at major building sites, Bruitparif director Fanny Miellicki said.

Bruitparif is now beginning to track vehicle noise and also installed one in Saint-Forget, a hilly rural area near Paris popular with motorcyclists. In September it will install two in central Paris. — Reuters



## International

# Italy's 5-Star unsettles PD with tough terms for coalition deal

## Markets fall as 5-Star warns of possible election

**ROME:** Italy's 5-Star Movement will enter a coalition with the opposition Democratic Party (PD) only if it agrees to a string of policy demands, the 5-Star leader said, setting an uncompromising tone for the negotiations. Luigi Di Maio's hardline message dented growing optimism that a deal might be at hand, causing financial markets to fall, while a stunned PD sought immediate clarification that 5-Star still wanted an accord.

The previous coalition made up of 5-Star and the far-right League collapsed earlier this month when League leader Matteo Salvini withdrew from the alliance hoping to trigger an early election and cash in on his surging popularity. Salvini's move backfired when 5-Star and the PD unexpectedly said they would be willing to try to lay aside old animosities and forge a new coalition, with Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who is not a member of any party, remaining at the helm. However, Di Maio struck a seemingly intransigent line following an initial round of talks with Conte, saying the PD would have to back an array of policies if it wanted to govern, including measures the group has already denounced.

"Our program points are clear. If they are included in the government program, then we can start. If not, it would be better to go back to elections, and, I might add, as soon as possible," a stony faced Di Maio told reporters. Amongst the measures he mentioned were a drive to cut the number of parliamentarians, the revocation of the motorway concession of Italian firm Atlantia and the acceptance of a recent law aimed at clamping down on migrant sea rescues.

The 5-Star later issued its 20-point programme, which adopted more flexible language than that used by Di Maio, and made no mention of the migrant law, which

was drawn up by Salvini and is an especial anathema to Italy's leftists. A party source said the tougher line from Di Maio was a message to 5-Star's grassroots that it was not selling out its principles. Some senior 5-Star figures are wary of any pact with the PD, fearing that it could erode the anti-establishment credentials of a party already losing support.

### Markets weaken

Di Maio also accused the PD of focusing too much on the names of possible ministers, and both the tough tone and inflexible content of his statement shocked the PD leadership. "Incomprehensible. ... Have you changed your mind?" PD deputy leader Andrea Orlando wrote on Twitter. PD lawmaker Maria Elena Boschi said: "These threats and ultimatums from Di Maio are unacceptable". After a week of solid gains on the back of hopes that Italy was going to avoid early elections, financial markets lost ground on Friday afternoon following Di Maio's comments.

The bluechip Mib30 stocks index fell into negative territory, shedding 0.3 percent by 1430 GMT, while the spread between benchmark Italian and German 10-year bonds rose 12 basis points from their earlier lows. A 5-Star/PD tie up was seen as likely to bring some political stability to Italy and soothe Rome's fractious ties with the European Union following a series of spats over public spending orchestrated in part by the eurosceptic League.

If the talks between 5-Star and PD fall apart even before a government can take office, President Sergio Mattarella will have to call elections some 3-1/2 years ahead of schedule. A opinion poll published in La Stampa daily on Friday showed that although support for League had fallen as a result of the political turmoil, it remains



**ROME:** Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte arrives to address the media following a meeting with the Italian president, after he was given a mandate to form a new government. — AFP

Italy's most popular party with backing of 32% against 36% a month ago. The PD had edged higher to 23.5%

from a previous 22.5% while 5-Star was seen on 16.5 from 17.5%. — Reuters

## Mothers of Colombia's missing vow to keep searching

**CALI:** They clamber onto buses and stand among the jostling commuters, portraits of missing loved ones hanging from their necks, their presence a reminder that despite a 2016 peace agreement, for some, Colombia's conflict has never really ended. The women are on the bus to beg, not for money, just for a moment of their fellow passengers' attention: "Have you seen my daughter?" or "Have you seen my son?" These are the self-styled "Searchers" of Cali, a city that has known more than its share of violence during Colombia's half-century of civil strife.

Their faces lined with worry, they haunt its public transport stations, brandishing giant portrait photos of their children, missing victims of the country's many-sided conflict. "It's like a cry that we are launching, so that the world will know, so that it becomes aware," said Maria Elena Gallego, who has spent the last eight years looking for her missing daughter. Gallego is one of a group of 35 women seeking to draw attention to the victims of forced disappearances, which were a feature of Colombian life during a half-century of conflict.

Every day, they board buses carrying their children's portraits, distributing handwritten letters recounting their poignant, unceasing searches. "Mothers of missing people carry eternal pain," says one missive. Official figures put the "disappeared" at nearly 83,000 - almost three times the number missing under the dictatorships of Argentina, Brazil and Chile combined. "Where is She?", "Where is He?" - the questions are written in bold lettering over the ageless portraits of the long lost: civilians and soldiers, men and women, but mostly the young.

### Therapy for absence

Gallego says she knows little about what happened to her daughter Sandra Viviana Cuellar, an environmental activist. She left her home on February 17, 2011, heading to Palmira, a town around 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Cali, and never returned. She was 26. "I got down to the task of investigating her disappearance, going from here to there, even attending workshops to learn how to look for my daughter, because what I want most is for her to reappear," she says in her letter.

Gallego says telling strangers about her experience is a kind of balm against uncertainty. "At least we go out, we shout, we talk, we cry! It's an outlet! It's therapy! But the



**CALI:** A woman reads a letter written by Colombia Luz Edilia Florez (right), 57, mother of Jose Ernesto Moran, who disappeared after being forced to belong to an illegal armed group, at a bus stop in Cali, Colombia. — AFP

pain, we take it with us everywhere," she tells AFP. A campaign called #ReconocemosSuBusqueda (We recognize your search) was launched this year to highlight the work of these women, who have taken on the weary task of investigating the disappearances alone.

The initiative is supported by Colombia's Missing Persons Research Unit and the Truth Commission, created as part of the 2016 peace agreement that ended the armed conflict between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Though Colombian officials have never given her any leads in the search for her daughter, Gallego believes Sandra disappeared because of her environmental work. She still believes that her daughter is alive.

### Met with indifference

Luz Edilia Florez, 57, paid a heavy price for wanting to know what happened to her son, Jose Ernesto Moran, kidnapped by a far-right militia in the southwestern area of Jamundi. When paramilitaries found out she was investi-

gating his 2002 disappearance, she says they seized her, raped her, tortured her, and left her for dead.

These days, she rides the buses of Cali, distributing her message and brandishing her son's portrait. In her letter, she lambasts the "indifference" of society towards the women's stories. Hanging onto a bar overhead, the picture of her son hung around her neck, she sings a lament to the other passengers gazing at the image. Hope propels her forward, though she admits: "My son could be in a grave."

Part of the difficulty she and other mothers face is the many-sided aspect of Colombia's conflict, in which around 30 armed groups were involved, both pro- and anti-government. According to the National Center for Historical Memory, at least 82,998 people were forcibly disappeared between 1958 and 2017. Only in 52 percent of cases do authorities know who was responsible. Florez's wish on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, held on August 30 each year, is that "there will be no more missing," and that she'll find her son. — AFP

## Colombia troops kill nine FARC dissidents in raid

**BOGOTA:** Colombian troops killed nine FARC dissidents in a raid Friday in what the president said was "a clear message" to their leaders who have formally rejected a 2016 peace agreement and announced a return to arms. President Ivan Duque said he had authorized the military operation in rural areas of Colombia's south.

In a statement welcoming the raid, Duque dismissed the group as "a gang of narco-terrorist criminals who are residuals of what was known as the FARC, and who are part of the criminal structures that seek to challenge Colombia." Friday's operation was "a clear message" to the group to lay down their weapons, he said. Defense Minister Guillermo Botero, who said the operation had taken place in the San Vicente del Caguan region, wrote on Twitter: "The criminals are warned: they surrender or they will be defeated."

On Thursday, Duque said he would send a special army unit "with reinforced intelligence, investigation and mobility capabilities" to hunt down dissident leader Ivan Marquez and other holdouts. That same day, Marquez announced a return to arms in a video message, accusing Duque's government of betraying the accord, under which most of the FARC's 7,000 fighters disarmed after half a century of conflict.

The whereabouts of Marquez, the Marxist FARC's number two leader and chief negotiator of the 2016 peace agreement, have been unknown for more than a year. Marquez and a fugitive rebel colleague, Jesus Santrich, have distanced themselves from the peace deal. Santrich, who went underground earlier this year after the United States sought to have him extradited on drug charges, also appeared in the video. Marquez said his forces would coordinate with Colombia's last active rebel group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), "and those comrades who have not folded up their flags." — AFP

## Italy struggles as new law opens sex abuse floodgates

**ROME:** Italian prosecutors warned Friday that a new law designed to fast-track cases of domestic and sexual abuse was overwhelming the system with record numbers of victim reports. The law, which came into force on August 9 and has been dubbed Italy's "Code Red", requires prosecutors to gather information from alleged victims and decide how to proceed within three days of receiving police reports. Since then there has been a spike in reports: some 30-40 incidents daily have been flagged in Milan, an average of 30 a day in Naples and 25 in Rome since the law took effect, the Repubblica daily said.

"It's not a case of a rise in crimes, but a rise in the number of reports by people who - encouraged by the new law - are going to the police," said Genoa prosecutor Francesco Cozzi. Prosecutor sources in Milan described being "inundated by a flood of reports of alleged abuse, violence or persecution, day in and day out", the Messaggero daily said. Supporters say the new legislation has positive elements: it makes "revenge porn" and "deformation of looks" (causing permanent scarring) a crime and allows judges to slap electronic bracelets on those slapped with restraining orders.

But in large cities on-duty prosecutors have found themselves interviewing 20 complainants in an arc of 24 hours. "I share the wish to speed up the intervention of judicial authorities, and make it more efficient," Maria Monteleone, the magistrate in charge of Rome's anti-violence pool, told the Repubblica. "But the three-day deadline within which prosecutors have to hear testimony from all complainants is unreasonable," she said, adding that it did not leave enough time to properly examine individual cases. "If everything becomes urgent, then nothing is urgent any more," she added. — AFP

## Pakistan PM leads nationwide protests over Kashmir

**ISLAMABAD:** Thousands rallied across Pakistan in mass demonstrations against New Delhi's actions in disputed Kashmir, with Prime Minister Imran Khan leading the most ambitious public protests targeting India in years. The protests come weeks ahead of Khan's scheduled trip to the UN General Assembly where he has vowed to act as an ambassador for the people of Kashmir, after New Delhi stripped its portion of the Himalayan territory of its autonomy earlier this month.

Tensions have soared between the nuclear-armed rivals since, as Indian authorities launched a sweeping crackdown in Kashmir, which included cutting phone and internet access, placing restrictions on movement and arresting thousands, according to multiple sources. Following repeated calls to protest Friday, thousands gathered in the Pakistani capital Islamabad in front of the prime minister's secretariat, where Khan vowed to continue fighting for Kashmir until it was "liberated".

"We will stand with Kashmir until our last breath," said Khan, as he launched into a blistering attack on the Indian govern-

ment, comparing his counterpart Narendra Modi's administration to Nazi Germany. Ahead of Khan's speech, sirens rang out around the country followed by broadcasts of the national anthems of Pakistan and Kashmir, while traffic ground to a halt for several minutes in solidarity with the rallies.

Thousands more also rallied in Lahore and Karachi - Pakistan's biggest cities - where large crowds waved flags and chanted pro-Kashmir slogans. "No matter what India does, no matter what Modi does, Kashmir is ours. It belongs to us and we will not sit by as our Kashmiri brothers are oppressed by the Indians," said Sadaf Mirza, a 24-year-old student in Lahore. The demonstrations were the first in what will be weekly rallies held nationwide until Khan leaves for the UN in late September.

### 'Under the nuclear shadow'

In the weeks since Modi issued the executive order stripping Kashmir of its autonomy, Khan has launched a diplomatic offensive, vowing to fight India "until the end" if attacked and making occasional references to the possible outbreak of nuclear conflict. Friday's protests came as The New York Times published an op-ed by Khan, where the former cricket star warned of rising hostilities between the countries. "World War II happened because of appeasement at Munich. A similar threat looms over the world again," but this time under the nuclear shadow," he wrote. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since independence, and



**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan (center) gestures as he arrives to address the nation outside the Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad. Thousands rallied across Pakistan in mass demonstrations protesting Delhi's actions in Indian-administered Kashmir in the most ambitious public protests targeting India in years. — AFP

has been the spark for two major wars and countless skirmishes between the arch-rivals. In February, the countries came close to war after a militant attack in Indian-administered Kashmir was claimed by a group based in Pakistan, igniting tit-for-tat air strikes - the first between nuclear-armed nations.

Earlier this week during a summit in France, US President Donald Trump said there was no need for him to intervene in

the ensuing row between Pakistan and India sparked by Kashmir, saying Modi had the situation "under control". The comments were made weeks after Trump had personally offered to mediate in the Kashmir conflict during Khan's visit to the White House in late July. India has repeatedly insisted that Kashmir is purely an internal matter and that it does not want outside mediation, while lambasting Pakistan's protests as "alarmist". — AFP



## Analysis

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## FOCUS

## Japan's curbs on high-tech materials exports to S Korea could backfire

By Makiko Yamazaki and Heekyong Yang

Japan's curbs on exports of high-tech materials to South Korea could backfire in the long run, eroding its dominance over a key link in the global chip supply chain, suppliers and experts say.

Japan tightened restrictions last month on exports of three chipmaking materials to South Korea, home to memory chip titans Samsung and SK Hynix, threatening to disrupt the global tech supply chain as it provides about 70 percent or more of the restricted products to the world. While the move highlights Japan Inc's firm place in the industry even after its once mighty giants like Sony lost out to nimble Chinese and Korean rivals, it has fuelled concerns that its grip on the niche market for fluorinated polyimides, photoresists and hydrogen fluoride could loosen.

"South Korean companies cite quality and stable supply as reasons for choosing Japanese materials. But this has made them aware of the need for change and they are already taking action," a source at a Japanese materials supplier said.

"This will hit us like a body blow," Samsung, for instance, has stepped up testing of non-Japanese photoresists and hydrogen fluoride, several sources familiar with the chip supply chain said.

Soulbrain, a supplier of hydrogen fluoride to the Samsung and Hynix - the world's No 1 and No 3 chip vendor, is aiming to match the purity of Japanese hydrogen fluoride at a plant that is still under construction. Industry experts, however, note it would take time for South Korean firms to move up the value chain as the three high-tech materials are not easy to replicate.

Japanese suppliers "have built up their capabilities through decades-long experience of developing products", Atsushi Ikeda, Citigroup analyst, said.

"The accumulation is just too big for new players." Top photoresist supplier Tokyo Ohka Kogyo says it takes up to two years to develop new resists.

## Rare earth shock

From South Korea, the curbs are likely to elicit a response similar to Japan's during the "rare earth shock" nearly a decade ago, when China's restriction on exports of rare-earth minerals used in electronic devices forced Japan Inc to find alternate supplies, industry participants said.

"Under the circumstances, anyone would do that," said the source at the Japanese supplier that has been hit by the curbs. Seoul has already pledged to subsidize the domestic chip supply chain to accelerate the buildup of knowledge needed for firms to catch up in more advanced fields. A senior executive at Soulbrain said the government had expedited paperwork so its new plant could be completed faster. Soulbrain is looking to complete the construction by end-September and run tests to see if it can mass produce high-purity hydrogen fluoride, the executive said.

In photoresists, Samsung is trying to curb its reliance on Japan for advanced material, although sources say it faces high hurdles. The company, however, uses material from local supplier Dongjin Semichem for photoresists used in chips with less finer circuit patterns, Japanese supply chain sources said. Only three Japanese firms, Tokyo Ohka, JSR and Shin-Etsu Chemical, currently supply high-quality materials used in advanced chip production technology known as extreme ultraviolet lithography globally.

## Repercussions

Tokyo Ohka and other materials makers grew hand in hand with electronics conglomerates NEC, Toshiba and Hitachi, the world's top chipmakers in the late 1980s. Even after Japanese chipmakers lost ground to South Korea, the suppliers continued to thrive, thanks to early inroads in overseas markets and the strength of their local supply chains. But in the wake of the latest curbs, prompted by a decades-old row between the Asian nations over compensations for forced South Korean laborers at Japanese firms during World War Two, suppliers in Japan are having to deal with repercussions beyond the three restricted materials, industry sources said.

Korean chipmakers are now asking Japanese suppliers to front-load shipments of materials Japan has large market shares of, from silicon wafers to polishing slurries, for fear of further restrictions, the sources said. Japanese suppliers have so far refrained from directly commenting on how the curb will impact their business, claiming they had no inkling of the government's decisions beforehand.

"We have very good relations with our Korean clients," said Hideo Ohhashi, a spokesman for Tokyo Ohka. "But this is up to politics." — Reuters

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



WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump speaks to the media before boarding Marine One to depart from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC for Camp David in Maryland on Friday. — AFP

## Washington Watch

## Addressing those who have been fooled

Dr James J Zogby

It was more than a century-and-a-half ago that Abraham Lincoln told us, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." While the wisdom behind these words is clear, what has long confounded me is, quite simply, "why can some folks be fooled all the time?"

Answering this question has never been as important as it is today because we have a president who, despite having a strained relationship with the truth, retains a hard core base of supporters who continue to believe in him.

It appears that Donald Trump can't spend a single day without using Twitter or press meet-ups to make statements that are obvious exaggeration or outright fabrication. Some of these have been dismissed as harmless or even laughably silly, while others can be legitimately categorized as dangerous acts of incitement.

Some media outlets have kept a running tally of his falsehoods - we are now somewhere in the neighborhood of 12,000 - or an average of 13 a day since he took the oath of office. The problem has become so concerning that many major newspapers and television networks have taken the unprecedented step of allowing their journalists to now describe the president's statements as "lies."

Among his bizarre exaggerations are those about the size of his rallies, the extent of his wealth, the number of jobs he has created, or the honors he has claimed to receive. There are, however, the more damaging false statements he has made targeting individual members of the media, judiciary, Congress, or vulnerable minority communities - painting them as dangerous or even anti-American, "enemies of the people."

In addition to these, there are the tweets or harangues that have caused uncertainty about our foreign policy, resulting in consternation and insecurity among our allies, and boasts or threats about trade issues or domestic policies that have created havoc in world markets.

What is troubling is not just the accumulated mass of distortions that have become even more frequent over time. More disturbing are the polls that show about 30 percent of the electorate saying that they believe that this president almost always tells the truth. These are the folks to whom Lincoln was referring when he spoke of fooling "some of the people all of the time." This is where we

must ask the question "Why?" What don't we understand about Trump supporters? How have the political experts continuously been so wrong about this president and those who believe in him?

Ever since the early days of the 2016 contest, the pundits proclaimed Donald Trump unfit to run for president and assumed after each of his early outrages that he was finished and would never become the nominee. They then convinced themselves that he would never be elected president. And even now, there are almost daily columns by the very same commentators saying how exhausted they are with Trump's outrages, making predictions that his presidency is doomed.

They were wrong because they missed a fundamental point: there remains a sizable base of voters who despite all evidence to the contrary continue to believe that what Trump says is true and who, therefore, cling to his leadership.

In addition to the 30 percent who are "true believers," there are also those mainstream Republicans who support the president because, as I described on an earlier occasion, they made a "Faustian deal." They recognized the power of his base, feared confronting it, and felt that if they got behind him, they could ride on the back of his presidency to achieve their goals of deregulation, more conservative judges, and implementation of more regressive taxation - all of which they have, in fact, realized.

What was key was that they feared his base. They saw the fervor generated at his rallies. And they came to understand that given the devotion he generated, it would be dangerous to oppose him. They also came to believe that the irrational support he had earned was so strong that he could, as he himself once boasted, "shoot someone on 5th Avenue" and get away with it.

This is the problem we must understand and the dilemma we must confront. We know why the GOP's leadership supports this President - he is fulfilling his part of the "deal". But why is it that his "base" - made up of a disproportionately large percentage of lower income, less educated white folks, who are living in formerly prosperous farming, mining, or industrial communities - why do they continue to suspend disbelief and support him? And why do they stay with him despite the fact that the policies he has promulgated have not only not been to their benefit, they have proven harmful to their economic future?

He promised to protect their jobs, to provide them

with better health care, to bring prosperity back to their communities, to reopen their closed mines or bring back their factories. None of this has occurred and yet they remain supporters. So while we can see Lincoln's words playing out - that indeed "you can fool some of the people all of the time" - the challenge is in understanding why, despite all the evidence to the contrary, they continue to believe in him.

If I might propose an answer, it's not because they are bad or dumb or easily misled. Rather, it is because: they are profoundly alienated from the institutions that have failed them; they are worried that they are losing control of their lives and their values in a world that is changing so fast and leaving them behind; they are angry that governing elites either look down on them or do not consider their needs; and they are desperate to believe that Trump is different because he speaks directly to them about their anger and disappointment and insecurity and their need to feel empowered.

This, as I see it, is why they continue to believe - because they need to believe in something and he's "the only show in town."

When I hear Democrats running for president make defeating Donald Trump the focus of their campaign, I am worried that they are missing the point. Even more short-sighted and dangerous are those who run against Trump's voters by disparaging them. To make this campaign about mobilizing "our voters" to become more numerous than and victorious over "their voters" may produce a short-term victory but at the cost of an even more deeply divided country and may even lead to greater social unrest.

Rather, the goal must be to address head on the anger, disappointment, alienation, and loss of control of those who feel left out of the national discussion. What is needed is a message that speaks to voters across the spectrum, telling them that they are being heard and their needs will be addressed by proposals for economic and social progress that will include and benefit everyone.

Only if they and their needs are directly addressed and their anger and alienation are understood will they be able move beyond feeling slighted and disparaged. At that point, they may be in a position to shake the dust from their eyes and realize that, all along, they had been fooled by a huckster who had exploited them.

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

## Amazon fires scorch Bolsonaro's reputation abroad

By Anthony Boadle

President Jair Bolsonaro has drawn sharp criticism on the international stage from European leaders and environmental groups for his handling of wildfires raging in the Amazon, but at home few Brazilians are angered by his reluctant response. Many of his fellow citizens share his aversion to what they see as foreign meddling in how to strike a balance between protecting and developing the Amazon rainforest. The vast region is regarded at home as a key national asset but is seen globally as a crucial bulwark against climate change.

However, opinions in Brazil may change if trade sanctions or boycotts start to weigh on an already weak economy, politicians and analysts say. A surge this year in the number of fires in the Amazon has sparked international outrage and protests in front of Brazilian embassies.

Environmentalists claim most of the fires were illegally set by land speculators and ranchers seeking to expand pastures in the Amazon who feel emboldened by Bolsonaro's criticism of excessive environmental protections. Bolsonaro has denied the fires were deliberate and repeatedly told European countries in particular not to interfere. He has threatened to turn down international aid, although Brazil needs the funds and equipment to fight the fires, and feuded with French President Emmanuel Macron.

An opinion poll this week found almost 60 percent of Brazilians considered Bolsonaro's government to have done a great, good, or normal job, indicating they were still willing to give the president the benefit of the doubt, said Leonardo Barreto, head of Brasilia-based consultancy Capital Politico.

"Ironically, this crisis may have increased Bolsonaro's popularity because of his nationalism grounded in the threat of losing control over the Amazon to foreigners," said Welber Barral, a lobbyist and former Brazilian foreign trade secretary. Many Brazilians, from across the political spectrum, believe the Amazon contains untold riches in minerals that are coveted by other nations, from gold to niobium, a strategic metal used in satellites.

This belief, long a central doctrine of Brazil's armed forces, feeds suspicion of any role by foreigners in the Amazon, even non-governmental organizations that work to protect the environment and indigenous tribes. However, former army captain Bolsonaro was criticized by politicians in Congress - even by some allies - for taking too long to act in tackling the fires and wasting time on the slinging match with Macron, who accused him of lying about the rate of deforestation in the Amazon.

"The government has delayed taking important decisions," Governor Helder Barbalho of the state of Par , site of the most intense fires, and a member of the centrist Brazilian Democratic Movement party, told Reuters.

## Economic fears

The biggest problem facing Bolsonaro, who took the reins in January, was the lack of any solid recovery in Brazil's economy on his watch, Barbalho said. Now the Amazon crisis had damaged Brazil's image abroad and that could ricochet on the



A firefighter tries to control a fire near Charagua, Bolivia, in the border with Paraguay, south of the Amazon basin. — AFP

economy, he warned. "If international markets close for Brazilian farm products we will be in an even more serious economic scenario," he said. Some countries have already threatened sanctions because of Bolsonaro's environmental policies and consumers may decide to boycott Brazilian beef.

"That would directly affect one of Bolsonaro's main - if not the main - electoral base, the agribusiness industry, which has backed him from the word go," political risk analyst Barreto said.

Barreto said Bolsonaro's administration will stand or fall on its economic record, especially an unpopular overhaul of the pension system that is winding its way through Congress. The global outcry over the fires in the Amazon and Bolsonaro's environmental policies could also start to influence investors.

In the first sign of a backlash, the US

parent company of apparel and shoe brands Timberland, Vans and the North Face said on Thursday it will no longer buy leather from Brazil due to concerns about the environment. Companies in Europe and elsewhere could be pressed by their shareholders to stop investing in environmentally sensitive regions of Brazil, in sectors such as mining, Barral said.

That would not help growth prospects for Brazil, which economists have reduced to just 0.8 percent for this year. Former center left agriculture minister Katia Abreu sees a danger of countries that are competitors in the farm sector ganging up on Brazil, using the environmental issue as a pretext. That would turn more Brazilians against Bolsonaro, she told Reuters. "But Bolsonaro doesn't take advice from anyone on how to avoid crises," she said. "He doesn't listen. He is unpredictable." — Reuters



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AMRITSAR: An Indian vendor sells tomatoes at his cart. —AFP

# Blow to Modi as India growth slows

## Economy has been suffering from weak consumer demand

**MUMBAI:** India's economic growth slowed for the fifth straight quarter in the April-to-June period to 5.0 percent, government figures showed Friday in a fresh blow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But in an effort to ease the liquidity crunch that has dogged Asia's third-largest economy, the government at the same time announced the merger of 10 public sector banks into four new lenders.

The Indian economy has been suffering from weak consumer demand that saw car sales fall for the ninth month running in July, leading to calls from industry for Modi to stimulate growth. Having already this year lost to China its status as the fastest-growing major economy, the latest growth figure for India's first fiscal quarter fell well short of market expectations of 5.7 percent. This is despite India's central bank,

reportedly under government pressure, cutting interest rates four times this year to a nine-year low in an effort to boost activity.

"The growth figures are lower than our projections and reflect major economic slowdown," Sameer Narang, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda told AFP. Sujan Hajra, an economist at Anand Rathi securities, said it "reflects structural problems with the Indian economy that need long-term solutions". Narang added though he was hopeful that measures announced this month by Modi's newly re-elected government would give the economy a boost in the coming quarters.

### Banking behemoth

On Wednesday, India's cabinet eased restrictions on foreign investment in four key sectors, including coal mining,

in an effort to attract more capital from abroad. The government also said it was bringing forward a \$10-billion liquidity lifeline for banks and rolling back a levy on equity sales that had spooked foreign investors. The cash-strapped government is also getting a \$24-billion windfall from India's central bank, potentially giving it extra room to cut taxes and stimulate the economy.

India's right-wing government won a landslide election victory in May even though its economic record has been patchy, with unemployment at its highest since the 1970s. While the economy has regularly grown at about 7.0 percent since Modi came to power in 2014, it has failed to create enough jobs for the 1.2 million Indians entering into the labor market each month.

Just ahead of Friday's growth figures announcement, Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman also announced the merging of 10 public sector banks into four lenders, in a major overhaul of India's financial services sector. The four new banks will hold business worth around 55.8 trillion rupees (\$781 billion), or about 56 percent of the Indian banking industry, Bloomberg News reported. The government will also inject a combined 552.5 billion rupees into the new entities.

India, which has the world's worst bad-loan ratio, will now have 12 state-run banks instead of 27, Bloomberg reported. "Banks will play an important role for (achieving) a five-trillion (dollar) economy," said Rajeev Kumar, India's finance secretary. "For that, we need banks which have extra lending capacity and have an ability to give better services with modern techniques." —AFP

## Trade hopes lift global stocks to one-week high, yuan softens

**LONDON:** World stocks climbed to a one-week high on cautious hopes for a rapprochement on trade between Beijing and Washington on Friday, though a perky dollar capped gains with China's yuan softening again, on track for its weakest month in 2-1/2 decades. For most of August global stocks have reeled and fixed-income has shone as deepening concerns over global trade and clear signs of a slowdown, possibly even a recession, in the global economy loomed large over financial markets.

But the mood lifted after US President Donald Trump said some trade discussions were taking place with China on Thursday, with more talks scheduled. China's commerce ministry also said a September round of meetings was being discussed by the two sides, but added it was important for Washington to cancel a tariff increase.

The MSCI All-Country World Index climbed 0.4% but is on track for a near 3% decline in August - only the second month the benchmark has spent in the red this year. It is the weakest August for the index since 2015. European stocks on Friday extended the previous session's gains, with the pan-European STOXX 600 index up 0.8% to trade at a near one-month high.

"The trade war seesaw has certainly moved back in favor of riskier assets for now, with Trump and China supposedly holding a call yesterday," said Deutsche Bank strategist Jim Reid. Gains were helped by a surge in German real estate

firms which saw the country's DAX index add 1%. Tariff-sensitive automakers rose 2.12% and technology stocks gained 0.85%.

The picture had been more mixed in Asia, where Chinese and Hong Kong stock markets dipped in and out of the red. Arrests or detentions of pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong added to investor jitters, with the Chinese-ruled territory facing its first recession in a decade. Japan's Nikkei closed 1.2% up, while South Korea's KOSPI jumped 1.8%. US futures pointed to a firmer start to the day's trade, with E-Minis for the S&P500 up 0.6% after a more than 1% gain on Wall Street overnight.

In fixed income markets, Italian bond yields were on track for their biggest monthly decline in more than six years after the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and opposition Democratic Party reached an agreement on a coalition government. Bond markets elsewhere were broadly taking a breather at the end of a stellar month that has seen prices rally and borrowing costs push deeper and deeper into negative territory.

Euro zone government bond yields hovered near record lows as data showed the bloc's inflation remained low at 1.0% in August - well below the European Central Bank's target and bolstering expectations for stimulus in September. US Treasury yields were treading water with the benchmark 10-year Treasury at 1.5197% after touching a three-year low of 1.443% earlier this week. It was still below two-year yields at 1.5340%. Such an inversion was last seen in 2007 and correctly foretold the great recession that followed a year later.

Germany is considering lowering its corporate tax rate, while the US government is thinking about issuing 50- and 100-year bonds in a bid to steepen the yield curve. Recent economic data has also pointed to a global growth slowdown with business investment, manufacturing activity and exports all going south across major economies. Investors were focused on a string of economic releases due over the weekend including China's official manufacturing survey, which



NANTONG: A Chinese bank employee counts 100-yuan notes and US dollar bills at a bank counter in Nantong in China's eastern Jiangsu province. —AFP

would provide a good gauge of the real impact from the Sino-US trade war.

**GLUMYUAN**

In currency markets, the dollar crawled higher to touch a one month high of 98.609 against a basket of six major currencies. Yet the trade optimism failed to inspire China's yuan, which resumed its decline with spot yuan at 7.1506 against the dollar. The currency is on track for its weakest month since Beijing's currency reform in 1994 after it broke through the key 7 to the dollar level earlier in August.

"The yuan move back to 7 and beyond has been a distinct possibility for months. It is clearly down due to the tariffs," said Neil Mellor, senior FX strategist at BNY Mellon in London. "It does help them to some extent to absorb the tariff costs - it is one of the few options they have. The fiscal option is limited after years of excess, and the monetary stimulus has already been unprecedented this year." —Reuters

## Kuwait Capital Markets Authority green lights Boursa Kuwait IPO

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority (CMA), the regulatory body for securities and current owner of 50% of Boursa Kuwait Securities Company (Kuwait's only stock exchange operator), announced yesterday that it will launch an initial public offering (IPO) of its shares in the exchange in the fourth quarter of 2019.

The IPO is the second and final phase of the privatization process of Boursa Kuwait and follows the sale of 44% of the company to strategic investors in February 2019. Upon conclusion of the transaction, 94% of Boursa Kuwait will be owned by private investors (corporate and individual investors). The privatization process is being implemented in two phases. The first phase took place in February 2019 wherein by law and through an open and transparent process, a strategic consortium consisting of domestic and international investors acquired a 44% stake in the company.

The consortium comprised Athens Stock Exchange, National Investments Company, First Investment Company, and Arzan Financial Group. The second phase, the nation-wide IPO, is expected to be implemented in the last quarter of 2019 with the distribution of the CMA's 50% stake in the company to citizens. Upon listing 50% of Boursa Kuwait's shares will be owned by citizens and the private sector (44%), while the Kuwaiti government through the Public Institution for Social Security will retain the remaining 6%.

Boursa Kuwait was founded in 2014 by the CMA Commissioners' Council Resolution No. 37/2013 to replace the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE). The privatization of Kuwait's stock exchange is an important step towards achieving the ambitious national development goals set out in Kuwait Vision 2035 with an aim to strengthen the country's position as a regional financial center and give the private sector a stronger role and a greater opportunity to develop the national economy.

Since then, the CMA has embarked on a mission to transform the company into a leading regional exchange that is built on global best practices and structures. The transformation program introduced reforms to increase competitiveness and liquidity, reinforce transparency and management, elevate investor confidence, and attract international, regional, and domestic investments.



Business

# NBK Executive Management holds meeting with Visa CEO

## E-payment solutions an integral part of NBK’s digital transformation strategy

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait's Executive Management held a meeting with Visa's CEO and Regional Management team covering all aspects related to the successful strategic partnership that has been sustained between the two parties over many years. They also discussed various means to strengthen their collaboration in the future as part of NBK's keenness to deliver unique banking products and services and the most advanced e-payment solutions.

The meeting was attended by NBK Group CEO, Isam Al Sager, Deputy Group CEO, Shaikha Al Bahar, Visa Inc. Chairman and CEO Alfred Kelly, who was joined by the Regional President for Visa Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa (CEMEA) region, Andrew Torre, General Manager - Middle East and North Africa, Visa, Marcello Baricordi, General Manager - Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, Visa, Shashank Singh, and Country Manager, Visa Kuwait, Ankush Devadason.

"We are extremely keen on establishing strategic partnerships with leading global institutions in order to provide the safest and most advanced banking service, thus enabling us to maintain our leadership in the local and regional markets," NBK Group CEO, Isam Al Sager said. Al-Sager highlighted that the meeting was held in light of NBK's strategy to diversify its banking products and services, as well as the Group's

commitment towards digital transformation to ensure future growth and success in the future.

"We enjoy a well-established partnership with Visa that resulted in producing outstanding services and unique campaigns. Our discussions with Visa's executive management covered how to strengthen our joint alliance going forward and the development of innovative e-payment solutions to cater to the evolving needs of our valued customers".

Alfred Kelly, Chairman and CEO of Visa Inc. said: "We're thrilled with our ongoing strategic partnership with NBK. The successful track record we have achieved together over the years is testament to the significant collaboration between our two organizations."

"This region is dynamic, with vast opportunities in the arena of digital payments and we look forward to strengthening our partnership with NBK as we work together to accelerate the adoption of innovative payment solutions in Kuwait. This includes the launch of a number of unique banking services and campaigns that meet the needs of our customers." Kelly added.

The long-term partnership between NBK and Visa has yielded numerous banking products and services in addition to providing customers with the latest and most advanced e-payment solutions.



NBK and Visa continually launch unique and unprecedented campaigns and offers, most recently they rewarded young customers of Al Shabab Package holders by giving them a chance to win one of four trips to London to watch the FIFA eWorld Cup 2019 Grand Final.

In cooperation with Visa, NBK successfully developed

numerous customer-centric products that are custom tailored to meet their banking needs and to provide the best and latest e-payment solutions in Kuwait, in addition to providing the best benefits, rewards and exclusive offers throughout the year, including cashback, discounts and special and unique campaigns to attend international events.

## How to ace your panel interview

Jobseekers tend to share a common perception of panel interviews, that of a strictly uncomfortable setting with sophisticated professionals unforgivingly and unceremoniously scrutinizing the solitary target- the interviewee. Needless to say, in many, this type of interview triggers feelings of apprehension, panic and unease that begin long before the interview date and can last the duration of the interview. The truth is, employers do not conduct such interviews with the express aim of pushing candidates out of their comfort zone or causing them undue anxiety and stress. Why then do they adopt panel interviews? What does a panel interview entail? And how can candidates survive one successfully?

### What exactly is a Panel Interview?

A panel interview can be quite similar to the traditional one-on-one job interview in content but is quite different in context as it involves the simultaneous presence of all decision makers, including the panel leader, right there and then with the interviewee in one combined interview. Panel members take turns in asking the interviewee, respectively, questions they deem relevant to the position he/she is being interviewed for. Often, each interviewer's questions tackle a specific area, i.e.: behavioral attitude, professional experience, skills etc...

Once all questions have been asked and answered and the interview is over, each member of the panel rates the interviewee according to his/her own perceptions and conclusions and then a discussion is held to decide

whether the candidate is suitable to take on the position.

### Why do organizations adopt Panel Interviews?

- Panel interviews are highly time-efficient as they allow all decision-makers involved to assess a prospective candidate simultaneously and come to one final conclusion within a short period of time.
- Panel interviews allow for a heightened element of behavioral testing and character assessment. The way the prospective candidate/interviewee behaves when faced with a sophisticated array of panel members allows them to determine whether he/she is capable of handling pressure well and of communicating easily across all levels of an organization (after all, these specific panel members, might, eventually become colleagues or managers).
- Panel interviews allow panel members to better dissect the details of the candidate's professional experience, skills, behavior, etc..., covering all angles that would be vital to the position itself.
- Panel interviews reassure management (and the candidate himself/ herself) that the end result of the process is quite just, as it involves numerous interviewers who ask questions, analyze, discuss and combine outlooks and feedback to arrive at a concerted final conclusion.

### What can you do to better prepare yourself?

- Bayt.com's Career Experts strongly recommends you follow the rituals of the one on one job interview to begin with: Research the company's background and structure, its products, its marketplace and its organizational culture. You will need to be familiar with all these items on the day of the interview.
- Visualize: It is very important for you to prepare yourself mentally for the panel interview. Take a moment to visualize yourself in that meeting room surrounded by 2 to 6 professionals and answering all their questions confidently and easily. Visualize their

## Financial sector has more to do in fight against climate change

By Daniel Klier, Head of Sustainable Finance, HSBC

The green finance movement in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) can look back on the last few months with some satisfaction. In July, the Dubai Financial Market and the Dubai International Financial Centre launched the Dubai Sustainable Finance Working Group, which will see regional corporates and financials working together to create a sustainable financial hub for the region. This followed the signing earlier this year of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration, when 25 public and private sector entities pledged to facilitate investment flows towards sustainable and green outcomes. HSBC is a signatory of both of these important initiatives. This is welcome progress towards limiting global temperature increase to two degrees, as set out by the 2015 Paris Agreement. But these are just the first steps on a long journey. An estimated \$100trillion



(AED367trillion) of new infrastructure spending is required by 2030 to transition to a low-carbon economy and stay in line with the Paris targets . Governments and regulatory bodies cannot do this on their own. Banks, investors and issuers must pull their weight on climate change. So far, we aren't doing enough. Awareness towards green and sustainable issues in the financial sector has grown significantly in recent years. And we have seen some notable transactions in MENAT, such as Majid Al Futtaim issuing the world's first benchmark corporate green sukuk, which was led by HSBC. However, global activity in the green bond space is still lagging - green issuance grew by a paltry 3pc from 2017 to 2018, totalling \$167.6bn (AED615.5bn) by the end of the year. Total sustainable debt issuance reached \$247bn (AED907bn) in 2018.

We need to move green finance out of its niche position, just as is happening in politics. Too often we see green investment shunted out to smaller, offshoot operations of mainstream funds. The investment community can tick a box and shout about specific projects on social media, but this will never achieve the critical mass of investment we need. Our future relies on sustainable projects no longer being seen as unique, or special or outlandish. We need to make them the norm, and shift carbon-intensive ventures to as small a share as possible.

Any boost in demand has to be matched by an uptick in supply. Here, investors face a problem - what truly counts as sustainable? What factors should they consider when evaluating a product that touts itself as green? How can they trust its bona fides? A lack of certainty has so far impaired the uptake of green and sustainable investment. Here's where issuers must play their part with improved disclosure. It might not be a particularly exciting term, but disclo-

sure could be the key that unlocks the true power of sustainable finance. Proper disclosure gives investors more information when they come to allocate their cash. HSBC and other financial institutions have been closely involved in the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), which has developed a voluntary disclosure benchmark for green and sustainable issuance. So far, more than 340 investors with nearly \$34trillion (AED125trillion) in assets under management have committed to engage with corporate issuers and use the TCFD recommendations. This number needs to be much higher.

As disclosure improves, investors will become more confident in the integrity of green finance projects, increasing the demand for more issuance. We support voluntary disclosure, but the private sector has very little time left to show that this can work. Otherwise it will become mandatory. If regulators go down that path, we need to be very careful about building an internationally consistent standard. The final step brings us back to the individual in society. We need to foster a much closer relationship between the consumers of everyday financial services - mortgages, insurance, pensions - and green finance.

If our climate problem is to be solved, it will be through countless incremental changes across every area of our lives. The financial sector is uniquely placed to help make this happen. Our industry cuts across every layer of the economy and society. It covers governments and businesses and individual citizens. It can channel cash flows from across the world into the right places. We must meet the challenge in front of us, and open the taps on green finance.-This version of this article first appeared in the Daily Telegraph and was adapted for Kuwait Times

## EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.350
Euro	346.500
Sterling Pound	386.370
Canadian dollar	232.770
Turkish lira	54.190
Swiss Franc	309.770
US Dollar Buying	297.000
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.808
Indian Rupees	4.410
Pakistani Rupees	1.947
Srilankan Rupees	1.722
Nepali Rupees	2.752
Singapore Dollar	225.280
Hongkong Dollar	39.019
Bangladesh Taka	3.588
Philippine Peso	5.967
Thai Baht	9.915
Malaysian ringgit	77.839
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.214
Qatari Riyal	83.647
Omani Riyal	791.033
Bahraini Dinar	808.690
UAE Dirham	82.918
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.240

Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.222
Tunisian Dinar	109.090
Jordanian Dinar	430.020
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.551
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.040
Canadian Dollar	228.380
Sterling Pound	371.180
Euro	336.260
Swiss Frank	303.625
Bahrain Dinar	808.555
UAE Dirhams	83.180
Qatari Riyals	84.420
Saudi Riyals	81.975
Jordanian Dinar	430.115
Egyptian Pound	18.389
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.697
Indian Rupees	4.258
Pakistani Rupees	1.941
Bangladesh Taka	3.600
Philippines Peso	5.833
Cyprus pound	18.090
Japanese Yen	3.860
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.662
Malaysian Ringgit	73.125
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	42.910
Thai Bhat	10.930

Turkish Lira	52.585	
Singapore dollars	218.446	
BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.377253	0.391153
Czech Korune	0.005473	0.014773
Danish Krone	0.041928	0.046928
Euro	0.335851	0.349551
Georgian Lari	0.106544	0.106544
Hungarian 0.000971	0.001161	
Norwegian Krone	0.031397	0.036597
Romanian Leu	0.055599	0.072449
Russian ruble	0.004818	0.004818
Slovakia	0.009097	0.019097
Swedish Krona	0.028486	
Swiss Franc	0.301743	
	0.033486	
	0.312743	
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.204069	0.216069
New Zealand Dollar	0.196717	0.206217
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.226362	0.235352
US Dollars	0.300250	0.305550
US Dollars Mint	0.300750	0.305550

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003907	0.003808
Chinese Yuan	0.042893	0.046393
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036918	0.039668
Indian Rupee	0.003803	0.004575
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002723	0.002903
Korean Won	0.000250	0.000266
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070242	0.076242
Nepalese Rupee	0.002677	0.003017
Pakistan Rupee	0.001370	0.002140
Philippine Peso	0.005827	0.006127
Singapore Dollar	0.218922	0.228922
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001352	0.001932
Taiwan	0.009695	0.009875
Thai Baht	0.009590	0.010140
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.792724	0.809224
Egyptian Pound	0.018633	0.021993
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000210	0.000270
Jordanian Dinar	0.424361	0.433361
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000161	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021368	0.045366
Omani Riyal	0.784201	0.789881



## Business

# US doesn't have a 'tariff problem', it has 'a Fed problem,' says Trump

## Trump also pointed the finger at 'badly run and weak companies'

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump on Friday denied his trade wars were harming the US economy, instead lashing out the Federal Reserve and poorly run American companies. The Twitter outburst came just two days before Washington is due to start a wave of tariff increases on billions in Chinese imports after relations with Beijing deteriorated sharply this month.

Fresh economic data on Friday suggested the inflamed trade conflict with China is weighing on the outlook for the world's largest economy, which has slowed since the start of the year. A slowdown or recession could be a blow to Trump's reelection hopes. "We don't have a Tariff problem.... we have a Fed problem," Trump said on Twitter.

As the euro falls against the dollar, it is "giving them a big export and manufacturing advantage," he tweeted, adding that his aggressive tariffs are taking care of "bad and/or unfair players." Trump also pointed the finger at "badly run and weak companies" for blaming his tariffs for their own poor performance. "Excuses!" But companies and industries have been outspoken warning about the damaging impact of the trade war and the tariffs, with the footwear industry calling them a "job killer."

In earnings reports this week, Best Buy, Abercrombie & Fitch and others said the coming rounds of tariffs — which will cover about \$300 billion in Chinese imports by December — could do serious damage to profits. Markets have been cheered this week by the more conciliatory tone struck by both sides, suggesting further escalations could be avoided.

### Consumers getting nervous?

But Trump's latest tweets ruptured the brief, late-summer calm on Wall Street, which swung to a split finish before a three-day holiday weekend. The swings

caused by the trade war in August meant US stocks had their first negative month since May. Trump last week thunderously demanded that US companies withdraw from China and announced he was ratcheting up duty rates by five percent, after Beijing retaliated with tariffs on \$75 billion in American exports.

Fears that Trump's trade wars are damaging the US economy and pushing the world toward recession have rippled through global markets this month — with investors soothed this week by the more positive tone struck by Chinese and US officials. But trade officials have not confirmed any contacts have been held by telephone, nor have they announced any new rounds of talks.

A closely-watched survey of consumer sentiment released Friday posted its biggest drop in six years in August, showing that trade war jitters have now filtered into the public. Richard Curtin, chief economist for the University of Michigan's survey of consumers, said the tariffs "were spontaneously mentioned" by one out of three survey respondents.

American consumers so far have continued to support the economy, keeping US growth above other advanced countries, notably in Europe which faces turmoil from the looming Brexit event. And the Commerce Department reported Friday that consumers had spent freely in July. Economist Diane Swonk said this would likely continue in August, as shoppers rush to snap up goods before tariffs take effect on Sunday.

But with consumers dipping into their savings to fund the spending spree, this might not last, she said. "It is unclear how long they will continue to do so, given the slowdown in incomes and prospect of more tariffs on the horizon," she wrote in analysis of the Commerce data. "We could see another anemic end to the year if the trade war persists." —AFP



**WASHINGTON DC:** In this file photo taken on November 2, 2017, US President Donald Trump shakes hands with his nominee for Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell (R), in the Rose Garden of the White House. —AFP

## Boeing to reinforce engineer oversight after panel review

**EVERETT:** Boeing Co needs to reorganize its engineering reporting lines company-wide and ensure higher ranking officials, including its CEO, get faster feedback about potential safety concerns from lower levels of the company, according to an internal review at the US plane-maker following two recent fatal crashes. The initial recommendations, presented to Boeing's board of directors over the weekend, also include potentially creating a new permanent committee to review Boeing's aircraft design and development, company officials told Reuters.

The new initiatives come from a special board panel set up to review how Boeing develops and builds aircraft after the two crashes. They are intended to boost the transparency of engineering decisions and accelerate efforts to share safety information as widely and swiftly as possible across Boeing's global businesses and factories. Speaking to Reuters at an internal Safety Promotion Center at its manufacturing hub north of Seattle, Boeing Chief Executive Officer Dennis Muilenburg vowed to learn from the crashes as part of what he described as Boeing's role "to preserve and improve" the safety of global aviation over time. "Our job is to make sure accidents don't happen," Muilenburg said. "Whatever the cause is, we are going to learn, we are going to understand and we are going to make improvements."

"Ultimately, what we learn from the crashes will be reflected here as well," Muilenburg added, referring to the hall

of exhibits that highlight how some accidents have had an impact on the ways planes are designed and operated. Safety experts say this is part of a wider organized learning process credited with a sharp improvement in safety over the decades. A new addition to the center is a roughly six-foot wall of glass with water running over its face that bears the words, "remembering those whose lives were lost in flight," along with the exact times of the crashes of Lion Air flight 610 and Ethiopian Airlines flight 302, and a tally of the dead.

The committee's recommendations are the first structural shifts as part of the company's response to the ongoing crisis over the grounding of its 737 MAX after deadly accidents killed 346 people in Ethiopia and Indonesia. The changes will be rolled out over the next couple of months, pending further review and modifications, he said.

Changes within the company could also be informed by the outcome of crash investigations into both accidents, according to a Boeing spokesman.

Muilenburg now receives granular weekly reports of potential safety issues discussed at meetings of rank-and-file engineers — something that did not happen in the past. Those engineers, numbering in the thousands, will report to chief engineers as opposed to being allocated to separate programs — a change designed to help them reach senior Boeing officials more effectively, though their specific jobs will not change.

### Global scrutiny

The proposed changes are designed to give greater line-of-sight from the company's top management into the heart of its industrial programs. Engineers currently meet to flag and



**NEW YORK:** A Boeing 757-208 operated by Delta Airlines takes off from JFK Airport on August 24, 2019 in the Queens borough of New York City. —AFP

debate potential safety issues on a weekly basis, known internally as safety review boards. The committee recommended "elevating" the meetings to higher ranking officials including Muilenburg to add more "transparency and visibility," he said. "I'm now getting weekly reports that are very valuable."

The board's review is just one of numerous probes into the development of the 737 MAX by global regulators and US lawmakers and the Department of Justice. Boeing also faces more than 100 lawsuits by victims' families alleging it designed a flawed airplane and other issues. Boeing has apologized for the lives lost and is upgrading critical flight control software at the center of both crashes. But it has stopped short of admitting any faults in how it developed

the 737 MAX, or the software, which repeatedly pushed the plane's nose down while the pilots struggled to intervene.

"We have been very thorough in looking at every step of the design process, certification process, going all the way back to the original requirements," Muilenburg said. "We feel very confident in how that was done. But that doesn't mean we stop learning." No employee has been fired over the development of the 737 MAX, he said. Boeing Commercial Airplanes Chief Engineer John Hamilton told Reuters that Boeing and European rival Airbus SE meet several times a year to share data on safety. "The next time we get together, I am sure we will be sharing learnings from the MAX accidents," Hamilton said. —Reuters

## African lender: China not trying to lead us into 'debt trap'

**YOKOHAMA:** China is not trying to lead African countries into a debt trap and provides critical investment along with other countries to close a funding gap for crucial infrastructure projects on the continent, the head of the regional lender said on Friday. Debt sustainability was a key issue at this week's meeting hosted by Tokyo with African leaders and international lenders on development of the continent, with eyes on China's aggressive lending that some critics say has saddled poorer African countries with mountains of debt.

African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina brushed aside such criticism, and urged Japan and China to not compete but play "complementary roles" in filling a massive funding gap for African infrastructure. "I don't think there is a deliberate plan by China to indebted any country at all. I think China is fulfilling a very important role, which is in terms of infrastructure support," Adesina told Reuters. "Africa is not in a debt crisis."

Japan nonetheless views its regional

rival as a competitor for influence around the world, including in Africa and worries that a flood of Chinese money will weaken its diplomatic standing. Africa today has a financing gap of \$68 billion to \$108 billion a year for power, ports, rail, and airports, he added. At the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced on Wednesday Japan will establish trade insurance to spur private investment in Africa. At the last TICAD meeting in 2016, Japan pledged \$30 billion in public and private support for infrastructure development, education and healthcare over three years.

Japan's investment pales in comparison with China. Since launching the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2000, Beijing has boosted its Africa-bound aid, and President Xi Jinping announced another \$60 billion over the next three years last September. Japan is focusing on high-quality infrastructure investment in Africa in a bid to set itself apart from China.

"I don't see a competition at all, I see complementarity. Africa has a tremendous amount of needs. Africa is a friend of China, Africa is a friend of Japan. The China Belt and Road Initiative is highly appreciated," he said, adding that a lot will be used to fund transport corridors, rail and port projects. Chinese officials say the Beijing summit is aimed at strengthening Africa's role in its Belt and



**VANRHYNSDORP:** A view from the headgear at Steenkampskraal (SKK) rare-earth mine on July 29, 2019, about 80km from the Western Cape town of Vanrhynsdorp. —AFP

Road initiative to link China by sea and land with Southeast and Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

Some critics say China is keen on resource extraction in poorer countries to feed its economy, that the projects it funds have poor environmental safeguards, and that too many of the workers are flown in from China rather than using local labor.

"The interest and engagement of China in Africa is welcome. Will I say

there were no mistakes made in the beginning, no I wouldn't say so," Adesina said. "There are issues of sensitivity to local communities, there are issues of making sure you don't displace people in the labour market, but these are a learning curve for China." The International Monetary Fund says Cameroon, Ghana and other faces a high risk of debt distress, as does Djibouti, already home to the People's Liberation Army's first overseas base. —Reuters

## UK farmers call for import tariffs on agricultural products

**LONDON:** Britain's National Farmers Union wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday calling for import tariffs on eggs, some dairy products, horticultural products and grains if Britain leaves the European Union without a trade deal. British agricultural exports to the EU are expected to face tariffs under a no-deal scenario, but in March the government under then Prime Minister Theresa May announced a plan to eliminate tariffs on many imports, including some dairy products and agricultural products, to avoid a so-called hard border with Ireland.

"There is no indication that such an arrangement will be reciprocated by the EU and there is nothing in practical terms to stop this trade becoming an open gateway for all EU goods entering the UK duty free," NFU president Minette Batters said in a statement. Export tariffs on agricultural goods would most likely lead to a surplus of domestic products on the UK market, she said, while at the same time lower or no tariffs on imports would put further downward pressure on domestic producer prices.

The farming group also asked the government to review its plan not to impose tariffs on the land border with Ireland if it leaves the trading bloc without a deal on Oct 31. A no-deal Brexit would be a disaster for British farming and any exit from the EU must be smooth and orderly, she said. "If we leave without a deal the sudden change in our trading relationship with the EU will have severe impacts on the UK food and farming sectors, not least due to the tariff treatment of both imports and exports," she said. Batters said the government should revise its tariff regime to lessen the damage no-deal would inflict on UK farming. "It is also important that government manages prices for the public in a no-deal scenario — these tariff arrangements will have little impact on retail food prices yet could have a massive impact on the viability of farm businesses," she said. —Reuters

## Cuba unveils tighter rules on cooperatives

**HAVANA:** Communist-run Cuba unveiled tighter regulations on non-agricultural cooperatives on Friday, including curbs on their prices, in keeping with a broader push to increase control of the growing non-state sector. The new regulations aim to tackle "irregularities" detected in the cooperatives, state-run media reported. The cooperatives — where each worker has a stake in the business — were legalized in 2012 as part of the government's plan to cut a bloated state payroll and boost the Soviet-style command economy.

But a wary Cuban government froze the creation of new cooperatives two years ago. That freeze will be maintained during this "experimental phase" while the existing ones are consolidated, a senior official was cited as saying on website Cubadebate. There are an estimated 18,000 Cubans — some 0.4 percent of the total workforce of 4.4 million — working for non-agricultural cooperatives, in sectors deemed "non-strategic" like construction, transport, gastronomy and accountancy.

Some economists said the new regulations, which enter into force in November, suggest the Communist Party is still nervous about allowing the non-state sector to grow. Without such growth, Havana may struggle to boost an ailing economy battling less Venezuelan aid and tighter U.S. sanctions, they said. "I'm struck by the fact that the non-agricultural cooperatives are still seen as an experiment," said Pavel Vidal, a former Cuban central bank economist, who teaches at Colombia's Universidad Javeriana Cali. —Reuters



Business

# Toyota robots to help people attend the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo

## Dedicated to ‘Mobility For All,’ Toyota robots augment and amplify human capabilities

**TOKYO:** Toyota Motor Corporation (Toyota), as a world-wide partner of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, aims to provide mobility solutions that go beyond providing official vehicles for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. One way Toyota is doing this is by participating in the “Tokyo 2020 Robot Project”, a project led by the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) that brings the government, Tokyo Metropolitan government, as well as Games’ partners together with experts in the field of robotics.

At Tokyo 2020, the robots to be introduced by Toyota will be used to support the mobility of people at various locations and venues. By helping people feel and experience their hopes and dreams, Toyota believes it will be able to further contribute to the excitement and success of the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Nobuhiko Koga, Chief Officer of Toyota’s Frontier Research Center, said: “At Toyota, we use industrial robot technology for a variety of applications based on our dedication to ‘Supporting human life activities and living in harmony with people’. For example, since 2004, we have developed partner robots focused on support for people unable to move on their own, including the aging population. Now, as we transform into a mobility company, we are expanding our robotics efforts to provide all people with the freedom to move. ‘Mobility for all’ is not only the ‘physical’ movement of a person or thing from one location to another, but also includes ‘virtual’ mobility of a person. This provides further opportunities to experience new things, meet and interact with others, or to be ‘moved’ emotionally. At Tokyo 2020, we want to capture the imagination of spectators by providing support robots as we do our part to make the Games a success.”

### Details of the robots

#### 1. Tokyo 2020 Mascot Robot Miraitowa / Someity (Mascot Robot)

To make this the most innovative and technologically advanced Games in history, the Tokyo 2020 and Toyota are working to develop a “mascot robot”. In addition to welcoming athletes and guests to official venues, Toyota is currently considering plans for a new way for the Games to be enjoyed by children in Japan, via the mascot robot. The mascot robot will both allow expressions of arm



movements via a remote-location robot, and share force-feedback from interactions. Via a camera mounted on the robot’s head, it can recognize people nearby, and once recognized, use its eyes to respond with/show a variety of expressions. By equipping the robot with miniature joint units across its entire body, the robot offers flexibility when being controlled, and the users can operate the robot safely and with high operational functionality.

#### 2. T-HR3 (Humanoid Robot)

Toyota will provide a unique way for other guests in remote/distant locations that are unable to be physically present to interact with athletes via the T-HR3 and Mascot robots. Specifically, the T-HR3 robots will be able to reproduce movement from a mascot robot in a remote location in nearly real-time. In addition to providing images and sounds from the remote locations, these robot users will also be able to experience the power of movement and force-feedback, allowing them to converse with and high-five athletes and others, feeling as if they were truly physically present.

#### 3. T-TR1 (Remote location communication Robot)

T-TR1 is a virtual mobility/tele-presence robot developed by Toyota Research Institute in the United States. It is equipped with a camera atop a large, near-life-size display. By projecting an image of a user from a remote location, the robot will help that person feel more physically present at the robot’s location. With T-TR1, Toyota will give people that are physically unable to attend the events such as the Games a chance to virtually attend, with an on-screen presence capable of conversation between the two locations.

#### 4. HSR: Human Support Robot / DSR: Delivery Support Robot

For a portion of the accessible seating seats at the Olympic Stadium, the Toyota Human Support Robot HSR will guide guests to their seat and convey light meals, goods, and etc. for them, helping them to more freely enjoy the competition. Also, the Toyota Deliver Support Robot DSR, specially developed for Tokyo 2020, will directly deliver drinks and other goods to spectators that

they have ordered from a dedicated tablet. At track and field events, with approx. 500 seats during the Olympic Games and another 500 for the Paralympic Games, the robots are anticipated to serve over 1,000 spectators requiring mobility assistance (Each section is expected to have 16 rows with 32 seats).

#### 5. FSR: Field Support Robot (Field Event Support Robot)

Special-use robots equipped with autonomous functions as part of throwing event (i.e. javelin) operations at the Olympic Stadium. While determining the optimal route to travel, the FSR will follow operating staff on a path that avoids obstacles while retrieving and conveying throwing event items. By using the FSR, the aim is to reduce the amount of time needed to retrieve items as well as reduce the amount of staff labor for the events. Toyota and Tokyo 2020 will be working with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in developing the FSR for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

## New Huawei handset to launch without Google apps

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Huawei’s upcoming flagship Mate 30 smartphone will launch next month without key Google apps, creating a disadvantage for the Chinese tech giant hit by US sanctions. A Google spokesperson confirmed Thursday that the California firm won’t be able to deliver licensed applications such as Gmail, Maps and YouTube for the new device because of sanctions imposed by President Donald Trump.

As a result, Huawei will be able to pre-load only the open-source Android operating system. The move could be another hit for Huawei, the tech powerhouse that became the number two global smartphone vendor before sanctions imposed by Washington over national security concerns, which prevent the export of US technology. While the US administration has granted a fresh 90-day suspension of the Huawei sanctions, this won’t apply to new products, according to Google.

Analyst Richard Windsor, who writes the Radio Free Mobile blog, said that without these apps, “Huawei faces a Herculean task to convince users to buy its device” and will likely lose most buyers outside its home market. Windsor said that while Chinese users are accustomed to buying “blank” smartphones and then installing their own software, most buyers in other countries expect these services to be pre-loaded.

“All of Huawei’s competitors will still have Google installed. This will make it very difficult to entice users to buy Huawei devices as they will lack the single most important feature that needs to be present when a user buys an Android device outside of China,” Windsor wrote. Huawei has begun to develop its own mobile operating system called HarmonyOS but it remained unclear if it will be able to maintain its market share outside China.

Asked about the situation, Huawei said in a statement, “We will continue to use the Android OS and ecosystem if the US government allows us to do so. Otherwise, we will continue to develop our own operating system and ecosystem.” Huawei was expected to unveil the Mate 30, its newest high-end handset, at an event in Germany on September 18. US officials claim Huawei poses a threat because of its ties to Chinese intelligence, allegations that the company vigorously denied. —AFP

## Telegram moves to protect identity of HK protesters

**WASHINGTON:** Telegram, a popular encrypted messaging app, will allow users to cloak their telephone numbers to safeguard Hong Kong protesters against monitoring by authorities, according to a person with direct knowledge of the effort. The update to Telegram, planned for release over the next few days, will allow

## Google reveals years-long ‘indiscriminate’ iPhone hack

**WASHINGTON:** Google security experts uncovered an “indiscriminate” hacking operation that targeted iPhones over a period of at least two years and used websites to implant malicious software to access photos, user locations and other data. In a post Thursday on the blog of Google’s Project Zero security taskforce, cyber experts did not name the hacked websites hosting the attacks, but estimated they received thousands of visitors a week.

“Simply visiting the hacked site was enough for the exploit server to attack your device, and if it was successful, install a monitoring implant,” said Project Zero’s Ian Beer. Once installed, the malicious software “primarily focused on stealing files and uploading live location data,” Beer said, adding it had been able to access encrypted messenger apps like Telegram, WhatsApp and iMessage.

Google hangouts and Gmail had also been affected, he added in the post, which provided a detailed breakdown of how the malicious software targeted and exploited iPhone vulnerabilities. Most of the vulnerabilities targeted were found in

## Amazon and Indian trader group in big spat over discounts

**NEW DELHI:** Amazon.com defended its business strategies in India as it came under fire from a local trader group on Friday over discounted products on the global e-commerce giant’s website. New e-commerce foreign investment rules that took effect in India from February were designed to help small traders by curbing heavy online discounting, but traders have complained that big online retailers use complex business structures to circumvent the rules and continue to burn billions of dollars to offer discounts.

The issue has become one of the biggest

the iPhone’s default Safari web browser, Beer said, adding that the Project Zero team had discovered them in almost every operating system from iOS 10 through to the current iOS 12 version.

Once embedded in a user’s iPhone, the malicious software sent back stolen data, including live user location data back to a “command and control server” every 60 seconds. Beer said Google had informed Apple of the attacks in February, and Apple subsequently released a security patch for the iOS 12.1. Long the driver of Apple’s money-making machine, iPhone revenue overall was down 12 percent from last year to \$26 billion. The tech giant sent out invitations on Thursday to a September event at its Silicon Valley campus where it is expected to unveil a new-generation iPhone.

### YouTube privacy claims

In related news, Google will pay \$150-200 million to settle allegations YouTube violated a children’s privacy law while gathering data to better target its adverts, US media reports said Friday. The US Federal Trade Commission agreed the amount of the settlement against YouTube parent Google, which if approved by the Justice Department would be the largest settlement in a case involving children’s privacy, the New York Times reported.

The allegations against YouTube were made by privacy groups who said the platform had violated laws protecting children’s privacy by gathering data on users under the age of 13 without

trade irritants between New Delhi and Washington. At an open panel discussion on Friday - organised by India’s competition watchdog - the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) reiterated its concerns to Amazon’s senior corporate counsel, Rahul Sundaram, sparking a heated public confrontation. The CAIT represents 500,000 merchants and traders in India.

Sundaram said Amazon was abiding by all the rules and does not influence prices of products its website, adding that the company provides growth opportunities to more than 500,000 sellers online. The trade body, however, was in no mood to accept Sundaram’s statement. CAIT’s Praveen Khandelwal pointed out to Sundaram that an air conditioning unit available at 42,000 rupees in the offline retail market was sold for 35,000 rupees on Amazon’s website and asked what

lize swiftly through multiple group chats, with less risk of police infiltration, an in-depth report published by Reuters earlier this month said. The groups are used to post everything from news on upcoming protests to tips on dousing tear gas canisters fired by the police to the identities of suspected undercover police and the access codes to buildings in Hong Kong where protesters can hide.

Some protesters express concern that authorities could use the movement’s reliance on Telegram to monitor and arrest organizers. Telegram chat groups used to organize public protests are often accessible to anyone and participants use pseudonyms. Telegram allows users to search for other users by uploading phone numbers. This function allows a new user to quickly learn whether those in a phone’s contact book are

already using the app, the group said.

Some protesters say they believe Chinese or Hong Kong security officials have exploited the function by uploading large quantities of phone numbers. Reuters was unable to determine if this has occurred. The app automatically matches phone numbers with the user names in the group. Authorities then only need to request the owners of the phone numbers from the local telecom service in order to learn the users’ true identities. Telegram has detected evidence that Hong Kong or mainland Chinese authorities may have uploaded numbers to identify protesters, said the person with direct knowledge of the situation. But it is unclear whether authorities have successfully used this tactic to locate protesters. Telegram did not respond to a request for comment. —Reuters



**CHONGQING:** This photo taken on August 26, 2019 shows people gathering at a Google booth during the 2019 Smart China Expo. —AFP

obtaining permission from parents, Politico reported. The FTC is expected to announce its decision on the settlement in September, the New York Times said. US regulators have long argued Google fails to protect children from harmful content and data collection on its YouTube platform.

Advocacy group The Center for Digital Democracy said in a statement that the proposed settlement would be “woefully low” given Google’s size and revenue, and called on the FTC to “enjoin Google from committing further

violations” of children’s privacy law. Google remains the money-making engine for parent company Alphabet, with most of its revenue coming from digital ads, which accounted for \$116 billion of the \$136 billion the Silicon Valley-based company took in last year. In January, France’s CNIL data watchdog slapped Google with a record 50-million-euro fine for failing to meet the EU’s tough General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force early last year. Google is appealing the fine. —AFP



**LILLE:** A picture taken on August 28, 2019 shows the logo of US online store application Amazon displayed on a tablet. —AFP

port to small sellers and traders, which served only to rile Khandelwal further. “We are not small ... Don’t call us small, please,” came the CAIT representative’s angry retort. —Reuters



What's On



# Jordanian group 'NAYA' performs at 14th Cultural Summer Festival

The Jordanian women's group "NAYA" performed at the 14th Cultural Summer Festival organized by National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) at the Abdelhussein Abdulredha Theater. NAYA

was founded in 2011 in cooperation with Jordan's Culture Ministry and it is the first women group that aims at reviving the Arab music heritage.



— Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Recipes

## Caprese Pasta Salad

This Caprese pasta salad recipe is easy, delicious and perfect for summertime! Just cook cherry tomatoes with olive oil to make the perfect pasta sauce.

Ingredients

- 6 ounces whole grain fusilli or rotini pasta
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 pints cherry or grape tomatoes
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 8 ounces mozzarella
- Several sprigs of fresh basil
- 2 to 3 teaspoons white balsamic vinegar

Instructions

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil and cook the pasta until al dente, according to package instructions. Drain the pasta and set it aside.

While the pasta is cooking, combine the olive oil, tomatoes and salt in a large, non-reactive skillet or Dutch oven over medium heat. Cover the skillet (use a baking sheet if you don't have a better lid). Cook, stirring occasionally, until most of the tomatoes have started to burst out of their skins and the olive oil has a light red hue (about 6 to 12 minutes).

Remove the skillet from the heat and stir in the cooked pasta. Let the mixture cool for a few minutes while you chop the basil.

Stir the mozzarella balls and basil into the pasta. Add the vinegar, then taste and add additional vinegar and/or salt, if it doesn't quite taste spectacular yet. For best flavor, let the mixture rest for about 20 minutes, so the pasta can absorb some of the sauce. Or, refrigerate it for future use.

This salad will keep well in the refrigerator for up to 4 days. Leftovers are great chilled or at room temperature. You can also reheat the pasta if you don't mind the mozzarella melting.



## Tomato Basil Bruschetta

You can make classic tomato-basil bruschetta at home with simple, fresh ingredients. It's easy! Start by dicing your tomatoes to give them time to drain while you work on the remaining ingredients.

Ingredients

- 2 pounds ripe tomatoes
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt, plus more to taste
- 1/2 cup finely chopped white onion
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
- 2 cloves garlic, pressed or minced
- 1 baguette
- 4 to 5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- Thick balsamic vinegar

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a large, rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper for easy clean-up, if desired. If your baking sheet is smaller than mine, you may need to make the toast in two batches.

Dice your tomatoes and transfer them to a medium mixing bowl, leaving the tomato seeds and juice behind on the cutting board. Stir the salt into the tomatoes, and add the onion, basil and garlic as they are ready. Stir to combine and set the mixture aside to marinate while you work on the bread.

Slice your baguette on the diagonal into pieces no wider than 1/2-inch. I can usually fit 20 to 24 slices on my large baking sheet; you might have some bread left over. Lightly brush both sides of each slice with olive oil.

Place the slices in a single layer on your prepared baking sheet and bake them on the middle rack for 6 to 9 minutes, until they're crisp and nicely golden on top. Transfer the toasts to a serving platter(s), if desired, and set aside.

When you're ready to serve, carefully drain off the

excess tomato juice that has accumulated in the bowl, using your hand as a stopgap. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Stir to combine, and season the mixture with additional salt, to taste. If you don't feel like your bruschetta is garlicky enough, add another pressed clove of garlic.

Top each toast with tomato mixture, tipping your spoon against the bowl to release excess juice as necessary. Lightly drizzle a couple of tablespoons of thick balsamic vinegar on top, and sprinkle lightly with flaky salt if you have any. Bruschetta is best served promptly.





## Health &amp; Science

## Deforestation: Most serious threats to rain forest

## Fires not the only threat facing Amazon

**LIMA:** Raging wildfires have drawn the world's attention to the Amazon but immolation is just one of the dangers facing the world's largest rain forest, environmental experts across the region say. The Amazon, covering 5.5 million square kilometers over nine countries, faces ever more serious threats from encroaching crop and livestock farming, mining, land occupations and illegal logging.

## Crop and livestock farming

Deforestation for farming is one of the most serious threats to the rain forest, a problem common to all nine jurisdictions: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. "The main cause of deforestation is the advancing agricultural boundary," said Jose Luis Capella, director of a forest plantation program in Peru, 13 percent of which is covered by the Amazon basin.

A case in point is Ecuador, where agricultural land increased by 23 percent between 2000 and 2017 — gouged from its share of the Amazon basin region. "This is one of the main factors in the shrinking of the rain forest," said Carmen Josse, director of the Fundacion Ecociencia in Quito. A practice common in Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia is for farmers to set fires in the dry season to clear the undergrowth in deforested areas. However, this often leads to uncontrolled burning, which takes a greater toll on the rain forest.

Much to environmentalists' chagrin, Bolivia's government recently authorized farmers to burn 20 hectares instead of the usual five hectares — which is believed to have contributed to thousands of wildfires that razed 1.2 million hectares of grassland and forest since May. Illegal crops also nibble away at the forest, like coca cultivation in Colombia, which now has nearly 170,000 hectares covered by coca plantations, according to UN data.

## Mining

Illegal mining operations being carried out in most Amazon basin region countries causes significant damage, compounded by the use of chemicals such as mercury — particularly in gold mining — which has contaminated soil and streams. The council of the Amerindian peoples of French Guiana declared after a recent meeting that "fire is not the only danger that threatens or destroys the Amazon. Extraction is largely responsible." Some 29,000 hectares of rainforest have been destroyed due to both legal and illegal gold panning since 2003, according to the French territory's National Forestry Office.

Venezuela's cash-strapped government turned to the Amazon's resources after the collapse of oil prices contributed to its economic crisis. It launched a vast project in 2016 to extract bauxite, coltan, diamonds and gold in an area of more than 110,000 square kilometers of rain forest. "Mining is much more serious than the fires," said Cecilia Gomez Miliani, head of the Venezuelan environmental NGO Vitalis. "All vegetation is cut, eliminated, and this poses problems of soil erosion, mercury contamination and population displacements." Josse said the most worrying thing about mining is that it causes "permanent deforestation" by destroying several layers of soil, preventing regenerative growth. In Ecuador, oil concessions encroaching on indigenous lands are also taking a toll. In Peru, the government has deployed the army in the Amazon to try to stop illegal mining that has flourished in remote areas long left unprotected by the state. Colombia has also mobilized its security forces to try to protect the Amazon basin after more than 138,000 hectares of rain forest disappeared in 2018, accounting for 70 percent of the country's total deforestation.

## Illegal occupation, hardwood trafficking

Lack of a state presence in many remote and rural



**BRAZIL:** Handout picture released by the Communication Department of the State of Mato Grosso showing deforestation in the Amazon basin in the municipality of Colniza, Mato Grosso state, Brazil. — AFP

areas has also contributed to the growing practice of illegal land occupation, in which landless farmers settle on land hoping to get a legal title at some point. "There is a tendency to confuse land occupation with (deforestation for) livestock," said Carolina Urrutia, of the Colombian NGO Parques Como Vamos. "But there is a more complex phenomenon behind this process," namely the greed of politicians and businessmen to "own as much land as possible," and speculating on resale, she said.

"The absence of institutional control over the informal land market and the appropriation of public vacant lots make this phenomenon possible," says Rodrigo Botero of

Colombia's Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development. Under pressure from environmentalists, the Bolivian government has sought to make amends this week by announcing an "ecological pause" — prohibiting the sale of fire-ravaged land to crack down on speculators.

But that may be too little too late in a country that by its own admission has lost 1.2 million hectares of grassland and forest to fires since May. The Amazon's massive timber resources long put the rainforest at risk from illegal logging concerns, particularly those trading in hardwoods like mahogany, now in danger of being wiped out from over-exploitation. — AFP

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# CLINIC PAGE



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1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
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81				82								83			

ACROSS

1. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
4. Recurring in cycles.
12. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
15. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
16. Smaller than Florida pompano.
17. An ancient Hebrew unit of capacity equal to 10 baths or 10 ephahs.
18. A deep bow.
20. A nobleman (in various countries) of varying rank.
21. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
22. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
23. Wild ginger.
26. Tag the base runner to get him out.
28. Specify individually.
29. A Russian river.
31. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
32. United States computer entrepreneur whose software company made him the youngest multi-billionaire in the history of the United States (born in 1955).
33. The first light of day.
37. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
39. Water scorpions.
41. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
45. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
46. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
47. The quantity contained in a keg.
48. A songlike cry in which the voice fluctuates rapidly between the normal voice and falsetto.
50. Relating to or near the ulna.
52. An elaborate song for solo voice.
54. Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
55. Property that is leased or rented out or let.
56. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
58. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
60. A period of time equal to 1/24th of a day.
61. Leafless East Indian vine.
64. Explore natural caves.
67. To or toward the inside of.
70. A usually malignant tumor arising from connective tissue (bone or muscle etc.).
73. 1 species.
75. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
76. The act of using.
77. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
80. A cooperative unit.
81. A master's degree in education.
82. Regional and archaic.
83. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
1. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
2. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
3. A drug (trade names Calan and Isoptin) used as an oral or parenteral calcium blocker in cases of hypertension or congestive heart failure or angina or migraine.
4. An accountant certified by the state.
5. God of the Underworld.
6. Being ten more than one hundred forty.
7. Ctenophore having tentacles only in the immature stage.
8. A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
9. A soft yellow wax secreted by glands in the ear canal.
10. A dispenser that turns a liquid (such as perfume) into a fine spray.
11. A local computer network for communication between computers.
12. A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
13. United States physiologist (born in Germany) who did research on parthenogenesis (1859-1924).
14. (informal) Exceptionally good.
19. A port city in southwestern Iran.
24. Used as an Italian courtesy title.
25. The basic unit of money in Ghana.
27. The cry made by sheep.
30. Someone who bakes commercially.
34. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
35. A tributary of the Ohio River.
36. (comparative of 'near') Being the one of two that is less distant in space.
38. Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
40. United States feminist (1885-1977).
42. Two items of the same kind.
43. United States playwright (1906-1963).
44. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
49. The shore of a lake.
51. Small South American marmoset with silky fur and long nonprehensile tail.
53. The capital and largest city of Jordan.
57. United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
59. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
62. Native to Egypt but cultivated widely for its aromatic seeds and the oil from them used medicinally and as a flavoring in cookery.
63. Having an owner.
65. Goddess of fate.
66. An Asian peninsula (off Manchuria) separating the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan.
68. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
69. Mentally healthy.
71. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
72. The highest level or degree attainable.
74. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
78. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
79. A public promotion of some product or service.

Friday's Solution

A	T	O	P		A	S	S	E	T	S		R	A	G	I	
B	E	M	A		P	E	O	R	I	A		A	D	A	R	
B	R	E	N		P	L	A	T	A	N		B	A	B	A	
E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R			A	B	A	D	A	N	
		A	P	I	A	N		K	I	A	A	T				
P	H		A	C	R	E	S				C	O	S	T	S	
A	O	R	T	A			S	A	B	A	H		T	R	H	
T	E	A		D	P		P	R	O	M			R	I	M	
A	N	I	L		A	C	E			H	I	P	B	O	N	E
C	I	T	A	D	E	L				M	A	L	A	N	G	A
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			L	E	N	D	L			R	A	D				
M	A	M	A			A	L	C	E	A		A	H	A	B	
A	K	A	B	A			A	R	A	B		D	A	B	A	
F	H	A		S	P	A	R	E	R	I	B		L	E	T	
A	A	R		H	A	C	I	E	N	D	A		F	D	A	

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today you will be able to tackle tasks that require real discipline or organization. You will find yourself in a very practical mood—working with, instead of against, yourself. You may have some serious or contemplative moments. There is a yearning for adventure and far horizons or to just have fun; you remain steadfast in your determination to finish whatever project you start. Travel may be in order soon so pull out the patient side of you as the opportunities will come to you soon. This evening you may find yourself in a poetic mood. You are able to put your dreams and ideals into words and communicate them through speaking and writing.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

An emotional beginning, a fresh start, perhaps the establishment of a new relationship or new patterns of living is coming up for you now. Your conversations today are full of quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights and solutions. This is a wonderful time to write and communicate with real originality. Inventions and breakthroughs are possible. Completing a short story and submitting it to be published can be accomplished this day. You may be sought after for your advice regarding very personal issues. You will be able to be understanding and handle this very volatile material.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You find yourself at your most imaginative, at least when it comes to ideas and thoughts. Today you will have an opportunity to rise above the everyday thoughts and soar into more cosmic musings. Libraries, museums and perhaps art shows—all have a particular appeal for you just now. You have a desire to explore all kinds of new horizons. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons will open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have special appeal for you; transmitting ideas on a broad scale brings gain. This is a time in your life where you will be able to enjoy those that support you, as well as the accomplishments you have achieved.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find the need to be persuasive today. You are able to be most successful in this endeavor. A good conversation with those you love is possible. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on greater importance. It's wisdom, not knowledge, that counts now. Coming to grips with the past or getting in touch with the mystical and the spiritual are the things that give you a sense of completeness. There is time today to have a little private conversation with someone you love. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony makes this a happy time. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general become simplified and receive encouragement.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This morning is a good time to devote time and energy to completing some creative project. Take a survey of your property now—draw up a plan for a spring planting. Romantic and social relationships are apt to be in a state of change; respond to the challenge and establish new directions and you will stave off those feelings of dissatisfaction. Feel good about yourself. This is a great day to partake in self-improvement activities. Start with a new hairstyle or outfit. Your support system is becoming more secure. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential and develop what is most basic in your environment. You encourage better support. Friends find you most caring and in a listening mood.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Making a good impression and putting your best foot forward take on a greater importance as a new cycle gets underway in your life now. Appearances and style may count more than substance. Romance, the arts and life's other pleasures seem to take center stage. There is a pronounced curiosity about taboos and mysteries in which you may soon become quite interested. You could feel great support from those around you, or circumstances could dictate your taking action—you feel healthy and natural.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Comedy Movies 1

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

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

- ALL OF ME  
ANNIE HALL  
BABE  
BEING THERE  
BIG  
BOB ROBERTS  
BULL DURHAM  
CARS  
CAT BALLOU  
CITY SLICKERS  
CLERKS  
CLUELESS  
DUCK SOUP  
ELECTION
- FLETCH  
GHOSTBUSTERS  
HAPPY GILMORE  
HARVEY  
HOLIDAY  
HOTSHOTS  
LEGALLY BLONDE  
LIAR LIAR  
LOCAL HERO  
MALLRATS  
MANHATTAN  
MEATBALLS  
MOONSTRUCK
- OH, GOD!  
PLAZA SUITE  
REPO MAN  
RUSHMORE  
SHREK  
SLACKER  
SLAP SHOT  
SLEEPER  
THE RUTLES  
TOOTSIE  
TRADING PLACES  
UNCLE BUCK  
YES MAN

Daily Sudoku

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

Clothing

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

- BELT  
BLOUSE  
BOOTS  
CARDIGAN  
CORDUOYS  
DRESS  
GLOVES  
HAT
- JACKET  
JEANS  
MITTENS  
OVERALLS  
PANTS  
PARKA  
ROBE  
SANDALS
- SCARF  
SHIRT  
SHOES  
SHORTS  
SKIRT  
SLIPPERS  
SOCKS  
SUIT
- SWEATER  
TANK TOP  
TIE  
UNDERWEAR  
VEST

The hidden clothing item is: SWEATSHIRT

Friday's Solution

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



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019



A cat wearing glasses leans on the shoulder of its owner at the 'Pet Expo Championship' in Bangkok. — AFP

## Magnet fishing: The explosive hobby cleaning up French rivers

Equipped with powerful magnets, history enthusiasts and environmentalists scour France's rivers, pulling out bits of scrap metal, bikes, scooters and the odd kitchen appliance. Sometimes, too, they fish other more unexpected objects out of the water, such as unexploded munitions. Magnet fishing has fast become a popular pastime, according to public safety officials, but French authorities have clamped down over fears that historical battle sites could still harbor active weapons.

As in other countries, participants in France tie a super magnet to a rope and drop it into waterways, partly for treasure hunting, partly for environmental reasons. On the banks of the Oise river, in a town about 75 kilometers (47 miles) north of Paris, Owen Gressier, 20, and his three fellow magnet fishermen cast their neodymium magnets.

After several attempts at their spot near a bridge in La Croix-Saint-Ouen, they latch onto something. It takes a few minutes to haul out the item with the help of a grappling hook. A rusty, cast-iron pipe emerges: "Nice catch," they say. It's the best find that afternoon. "We've been fishing here for a number of years, the bottom (of the river) is pretty clean," Gressier, a forklift truck operator, says. Driven by what he calls his passion for World War II and a quest to find medals, military gear and other historical objects, Gressier says that he also "quickly realised that it was possible to clean up the waterways".

### 'It's crazy what you can find'

In 2017, he set up a Facebook page, which now has more than 500 subscribers, where members share photos, advice and organize outings. "It's crazy everything you can find in the water," Gressier says, listing anything from electric scooters to traffic signs and microwaves. "With a dozen people, you can sometimes pull out 50 kilos (around 110 pounds) of scrap metal in a few hours," he adds. In the neighboring Somme department, site of



Fishermen remove a metallic barrier they caught with a "super-powerful" neodymium magnet.

one of the largest battles of World War I, Christophe Devarenne started magnet fishing three months ago.

He says the thrill comes from "not knowing what will be at the end of the magnet". But the 52-year-old driver warns that "if you expect to find treasures, there are not many". Although he did pull out a rifle dating from 1914 to 1918, he says that it was "downright rusty after 100 years in the water". "Even the Museum of the Great War did not want it," he jokes, adding that nothing goes to waste as it is resold or given to scrap merchants.

### 'My teenage son found a grenade'

In other French regions too, where bloody battles were fought during both world wars, magnet fishing

enthusiasts have discovered shells, ammunition and grenades. And they can still be active, warns the national public safety authority. Faced with the hobby's rising popularity in the last nearly two years, including under the Pont des Arts pedestrian bridge in central Paris, the authority has recently made police across France aware of the dangers.

In May, a man was seriously injured after pulling out a shell that emitted mustard gas, in the Nord region, home to the town of Dunkirk. Two young magnet fishers in the Somme at the end of July also hauled out a phosphorus grenade, which irritated their eyes, police said. The pastime is now illegal in France without a permit issued by the state or landowners.

"We were not aware of the risks... until my son found a grenade," says Helene Lédien, who lives in the Somme. She said that her 14-year-old son Arthur bought a magnet for about 30 euros (\$33) on Amazon and regularly fishes with his friend for environmental reasons.

### 'Good for the planet'

Gressier said that his group had hauled out one active shell and hundreds of rusty weapons but knows what to do in that case. "We establish a security perimeter and we warn the disposal experts," he adds. Despite the warnings, his group says it won't stop the activity that has got them hooked.

"It's a passion, good for the planet, we will not stop overnight," says his 26-year-old friend Nicolas, who declined to give his full name. "People will play cat and mouse," Devarenne chimes in. "Nobody is really afraid, because the police have better things to do than chase after magnets," he adds. — AFP



Fishermen remove scrap metal they caught with a "super-powerful" neodymium magnet.



Fishermen remove a metallic barrier they caught with a "super-powerful" neodymium magnet.



Fishermen throw their "super-powerful" neodymium magnets to catch and remove scrap metal.



## Statues for equality: Australians unveil NY sculptures of 10 women

Ten statues of famous women were installed in New York this week as the first part of an international project by Australian artists to highlight gender imbalance in monuments. Media mogul and talk show queen Oprah Winfrey, Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett and three-time Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas were among the personalities chosen by the public to be carved in bronze. The statues, which stand around 6.5 feet (two meters) tall, are the work of husband-and-wife sculpting duo Gillie and Marc Schattner, who want women to be fairly represented in public art.

They say on their website that less than three percent of New York's statues are of women. The figure is three percent in London and four percent in Sydney, they add. "It's gorgeous!" said 46-year-old Leslie Daniels as she stopped to look at the installation

on Manhattan's Sixth Avenue near Rockefeller Center. "We women are great contributors to society and they just overlook us. It is uplifting to see this," she added. The statues, unveiled on Monday to mark Women's Equality Day, feature inspirational women from different walks of life. They are mostly American and were nominated online.

Astronaut Tracy Dyson, the singer Pink, actress Nicole Kidman, and transgender author and activist Janet Mock are among those striking a powerful pose on a flower of their choosing. Writer Cheryl Strayed, women's empowerment campaigner Tererai Trent and English conservationist Jane Goodall are also featured. "I think it's great," said 42-year-old Corinne Gudovic from Chicago as she eyed the statue of Goodall. "I wasn't extremely sure what it was for at first but I'm always for women's empowerment and anything that demonstrates that is a good thing," she added.

Only five out of New York's 150 public statues are of women, according to the city's government. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio has committed to building more. The Schattners plan to put up sculptures in other countries as well, including Australia and Britain, and are welcoming nominations on their website. — AFP





# Serge Pizzorno took on Damon Albarn’s advice for solo project

**S**erge Pizzorno swapped his studio hours on the advice of Damon Albarn and it made him more productive. The Kasabian star has just launched his solo project The S.L.P. and has revealed he spent time in the studio watching the Blur and Gorillaz star work and he inspired him to change working in the early hours to normal office hours and he hasn't looked back since. He told the latest issue of Q magazine: "I always thought my powers came at night between, like, 12 and three. "But then I met Damon Albarn, I went to see him in the studio - we had a game of table tennis, it was mega - and he was saying that he does nine to six or something. "I was like, 'What d'ya mean?' and he went, 'No, it's great!' "So I thought I'm gonna give that a go. "Office hours. It was unbelievable

with a couple of weeks, I was going, 'Man, I've done more work, got more done, and more finished than ever.'" Serge released his debut solo album on Friday (and he has already started work on the next Kasabian record. The 'Fire' hitmakers have been on an extended break since touring their 2017 LP 'For Crying Out Loud' and, although the guitarist used the hiatus to work on 'The S.L.P.', things have gone so well he's now turned his attention to the group's seventh studio record. He said: "It's really exciting. I'm in an amazing space where if I go into the studio, something's going to happen. They're good times because they're rare - usually it's an absolute slog."

## Bell delighted Groff gets to 'really sing' in Frozen 2

**K**risten Bell is glad Jonathan Groff gets to "really sing" in 'Frozen 2'. The 39-year-old actress and her co-star are back as Anna and Kristoff respectively for the upcoming Disney animated sequel, and she's delighted Groff will have the chance to show off his talents in the movie. She told Entertainment Tonight: "You are going to get to see Jonathan Groff sing! Really sing! Finally! "That was my one critique. We didn't get enough Jonathan Groff singing, and to me, he has one of the best singing voices I've ever heard. "I would listen to him singing the alphabet forever, and he really gets his dessert in this movie." Bell revealed she is close to



her co-stars - including Idina Menzel (Elsa) and Josh Gad (Olaf) - despite not getting to actually work together while recording their lines for the film. She said: "It's so much fun to sing with those three. I mean, truly, You don't get to record with your cast mates when you're doing an animated movie, but every time we're together to do press like this and stuff, we are in love with each other. "We have too much fun together!" Meanwhile, the star recently admitted she told her two daughters - four-year-old Delta and six-year-old Lincoln, whom she has with husband Dax Shepard - "everything" about the movie and has warned them they could get "big time busted" if they let anything slip. She confessed: "I did explain to my kids that they can't talk about it. "I was singing the songs to them very early on and thank god their words are still muddled when they're singing, which has saved me a couple times when they've gone full voice with a new hit from 'Frozen 2' in the middle of the living room. "I'm like, 'Oh, oh, don't.' I had to explain to them they couldn't really talk about it, this had to be a secret." She added: "I have told them the entire plot line. They know everything, they know all the new characters, they know all the new songs. "And they can sing them, but they know they're gonna get big time busted if they tell anyone."

## Lana Del Rey to release new LP White Hot Forever in 2020

**L**ana Del Rey will release new album 'White Hot Forever' in 2020. The 'Doin' Time' singer has just dropped her new album 'Norman Rockwell' and the prolific star has already revealed the title of her next full-length project, which she is planning to "surprise" fans with in the next year or so. She told The Times newspaper: "I've already written parts of it. "It's called 'White Hot Forever'. "I feel like it probably will be a surprise release sometime within the next 12 or 13 months. "I'm really excited right now. I don't want to take a break." Meanwhile, the 'Video Games' hitmaker also discussed the wave of honest artists coming through, like 17-year-old pop phenomenon Billie Eilish, who aren't afraid to sing about sadness, and admitted she feels she paved the way for modern pop stars who have "a little bit more thoughtfulness" in their lyrics. She said: "She's so sweet and very prodigious. "The culture is catching up to how people really are. People aren't always cheerful 24/7. They have losses and things they go through things. I like to think I had a

part in it, in opening that door for a little bit more . . . thoughtfulness." On 'Norman Rockwell', Lana appears to take aim at Kanye West for his support of America's President Donald Trump and also addresses the mass shootings in the country. The 34-year-old singer recently admitted she doesn't want Kanye to respond to her mention of him in 'The Greatest'. Lana - who performed at the rapper's wedding to Kim Kardashian West in 2014 - said about the lyric, "Kanye West is blond and gone": "Here's the thing: I don't want to elicit a response. You never feel better for having written something like that. But Kanye just means so much to us. And by the way, I'm grateful to be in a country where everyone can have their own political views. I'm really not more of a liberal than I am a Republican-I'm in the middle. But it was more like the mood and the vibe around, Yo, this man is the greatest! Really? The greatest? It hurt me. Did I have to say anything? No. But it's more just a line that represents a lot of things."



## Fletcher gets Ritchie's blessing to direct Sherlock Holmes

**D**exter Fletcher has been given Guy Ritchie's blessing to direct 'Sherlock Holmes 3'. The 53-year-old filmmaker has been hired by Warner Bros. to helm the next installment in the detective franchise - which is based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's world famous - following Guy's 2009 movie 'Sherlock Holmes' and 2011's 'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows'. Dexter has now revealed he has spoken to Guy about taking over the reins and get-



ting to shape the new story for Robert Downey Jr's Sherlock and Jude Law's Dr. John Watson and the 50-year-old filmmaker has given him his full backing. When asked if he'd discussed the project with his predecessor, Dexter said: "Yeah I have, he's very generous about it. He's like, 'You're gonna have a great time, go and have a great time. It'll be exciting.' "Robert's fantastic, Jude's amazing, it's an incredible cast there and a great opportunity and he's not around to do it. He's off doing what he's doing. It feels good to be a part of that. Guy and I go way back and he's very generous and sort of think he finds it rather fun that it's me." Dexter starred in Guy's 1998 debut feature film, the crime caper 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels' which launched his career as a director. The 'Rocketman' director insists he won't "ignore" the style of Guy's Sherlock previous films but it is "inevitable" that there will be differences because they are different creatives. Dexter said: "I think it's inevitable isn't it? We're different filmmakers. I'm not gonna kind of ignore what he did so brilliantly before, I mean they'll be an element of that but I'll also bring my own voice to it as well and it will be something sort of different. That's the idea of bringing in somebody new and that thing happens." 'Sherlock Holmes' is scheduled for release in December 2021.

## Elliott teases second collaboration with Lizzo

**M**issy Elliott and Lizzo have another collaboration on the way. The rappers teamed up on trap banger 'Tempo' - which featured on Lizzo's debut studio album 'Cuz I Love You' - earlier this year, and now the 'Work It' hitmaker has revealed they've recorded a second track for her own project. In an interview on 'The Angie Martinez show', Missy teased: "Lizzo, I love Lizzo. "We have kicked it so many times in the studio. "We've got a record together on my other thing that is coming up that is coming up." Missy's next project will follow her EP 'Iconology', her first full body of work in 14 years. The 48-year-old superstar - who hadn't released a record since 2005's 'The Cookbook' - surprised fans with a last-minute announcement last week, before dropping the mini album at midnight, after a "tremendous year" so far. Announcing the news on Instagram, she wrote: "This year has been a tremendous year for me...I am humbled and grateful. THANK YOU for allowing me to smell the roses. You, my fans, and God are the reason I am here and have celebrated every milestone with me! So, I have a SURPRISE for you... let's continue the celebration at midnight tonight...I'm dropping a collection of new songs! Let's #ThrowItBack to a time when music just felt good and made us want to dance! Sincerely, Dr. Melissa "Missy" Elliott #Iconology (sic)" The 'Work It' hitmaker's latest song collection was produced by herself, Timbaland, and Wili Hendrix, and includes the single 'Throw It Back'. While Missy hadn't released an album since 2005 before 'Iconology', she has appeared on several



songs in the meantime, including Little Mix's 'How Ya Doin'?' in 2012, Ariana Grande tune 'Borderline' last year, and 'Tempo'. The album announcement came just days ahead of the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs), where the 'Lose Control' star was honored with the Video Vanguard Award for her music video contributions over the years. The 'Get Ur Freak On' hitmaker also gave her first performance at the ceremony in 16 years.

## Rak-Su 'dropped by record label'

**R**ak-Su have reportedly been dropped by their record label. The 2017 'X Factor' winners - comprised of childhood friends Mustafa Rahimtulla, Ashley Fongho, Jamaal Shurland and Myles Stephenson - were tipped to be the next One Direction by the show's boss Simon Cowell, but just two years after winning the ITV talent show and two EPs, they are said to have been given the boot by RCA. An insider told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "It's a tough time to be in pop and the buzz for Rak-Su fizzled out fast. They haven't delivered the huge chart singles which bosses were convinced they would, despite being so popular on the show. "The feeling is that their moment has passed and it's gong to be tough to revive it. "The boys are determined though and are planning to continue as a band, trying to get a record deal elsewhere." The boyband reached number two in The Official UK Chart with 'Dimelo' featuring Wyclef Jean, but their self-titled EP, released on Syco last year, and February's

'Rome' didn't achieve the same success. In November, the band split from Syco along with Little Mix after the label stopped working with Modest! Management, who manages both acts. And Ashley admitted it was "frustrating" because they were unable to get their music out. He explained: "How was it last year? Frustrating, confusing mostly because it affected us putting out music. "When we came off 'The X Factor' there were suddenly a lot of cooks in the kitchen. "It has taken us a while to get back to where we were before." Whilst Myles had insisted that the move to RCA was working out and denied a feud with Simon. He said: "Since we've been on RCA we've released the Rome EP, filmed four videos and released 'Yours Or Mine', so for us, as long as music is released, we're happy." On the music mogul, he added: "Simon said, 'I had faith in you guys, I just want what is best for you going forward'."







Ivorian singer Tina Glamour (center on the giant screen) pays her respects to his late son Ivorian singer DJ Arafat, during his funeral ceremony at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny stadium in Abidjan, Ivory Coast yesterday. — AFP photos



Congoese singer Koffi Olomide (center) leaves after paying his respects to late Ivorian singer DJ Arafat, during his funeral ceremony at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny stadium in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.



The coffin of late Ivorian singer DJ Arafat is exposed during his funeral ceremony at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny stadium in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.



Relatives of late Ivorian singer DJ Arafat react during his funerals at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny stadium in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.



Warriors walk ahead of the convoy escorting the coffin of late Ivorian singer DJ Arafat which leaves the Felix Houphouet-Boigny stadium in Abidjan, at the end of his funeral ceremony.

# IVORIAN MUSIC STAR DJ ARAFAT GETS ROYAL SEND-OFF WITH GRAND FUNERAL CONCERT

Tens of thousands of fans of Ivorian singer DJ Arafat, star of the hugely popular musical style “coupe-decale” who died this month in a motorbike accident, gave him a spectacular send-off at the country’s main stadium early yesterday. The overnight funeral concert at the 35,000-capacity Felix Houphouet-Boigny stadium in Abidjan began Friday evening and ended early yesterday when Arafat’s body was brought for a final farewell.

Placed in the center of the football pitch, it drew wild applause. Then the mood turned sombre with fans bursting into tears. “The ceremony was really moving,” said Raymonde Nguessan. “We have lost a great man.” Another fan, Samuel Kablan, was in tears as he declared: “Arafat was my life, my source of inspiration.”

Throughout the night, A-list African stars such as Davido, Sidiki Diabate, Fally Ipupa and Serge Beynaud sang for the music sensation, who died aged 33 on August 12 after a motorbike crash in Ivory Coast’s main city Abidjan. Before the ceremony, Ivorian Culture

Minister Maurice Bandaman conferred on him the national order of cultural merit for “his immense contribution to the artistic radiance” of Ivory Coast. DJ Arafat, whose given name was Ange Didier Houon, was one of the most popular African musicians in the Francophone world, and had been referred to as the “king” of coupe-decale (cut and run), an Ivorian form of dance music.

News of his death led to scenes of hysteria among some of his fans and Twitter tributes from fellow artists. President Alassane Ouattara called him “a youth icon and ambassador of Ivorian music and culture”. Coupe-decale originated in the bars of the lively Rue Princesse in the working-class Yopougon district of Abidjan and clubs and spread across West Africa.

**‘Curious about everything’**

DJ Arafat was due to be buried in the Williamsville cemetery in the working-class Adjame district. His five children were present at the concert. There was tight security at the venue with some 6,500 security forces

deployed across the stadium overlooking Abidjan’s picturesque lagoon. State radio and television broadcast the event live and giant screens installed in Yopougon and other working-class areas, as well as the upmarket Cocody-Angre district where DJ Arafat lived.

With a professional recording engineer for a father and a singer for a mother, the young DJ Arafat was well placed to discover musical techniques on the job. “He toured the studios to learn, he was curious about everything,” said Franck Alcide Kacou, label and publishing manager of Universal Music Africa, a subsidiary of the multinational Vivendi, which produced DJ Arafat’s work from 2013. Working as a disc jockey on Rue Princesse, DJ Arafat made his breakthrough with “Jonathan” in 2003, which he followed with a string of other hits.

**‘Divisive personality’**

He “revolutionized coupe-decale by mixing sounds and rhythms. For instance he was inspired by African traditional music, but also by Nigerian Afrobeat, by rap

and by Brazilian funk,” Kacou said. “He was also an exceptional dancer and he linked the music he made to new dance forms.” Such broad interests were reflected on DJ Arafat’s last album “Renaissance”, released in December 2018 and featuring Maitre Gims, Dadju, Davido and Fally Ipupa. The Ivorian star could also be prone to controversy.

“He had a divisive personality. He was very sensitive, which explains his ‘unfiltered’ reactions and clashes with other artists, which formed part of his musical career,” Kacou said. “But this was also a matter of marketing. Arafat was a genius for communication, he used social media very well.” Twice winner of the best artist of the year in the Coupe-Decale Awards of 2016 and 2017, Arafat already had recognition across the continent in 2012, when he was named “Best African Artist” in the pan-African Kora Music Awards. — AFP



## Linklater to spend 20 years making new movie

Pioneering director Richard Linklater, known for his wildly ambitious projects, has announced that his latest movie will be filmed over a 20-year span. Linklater famously shot his Oscar-winning “Boyhood” over 12 years, allowing its star Ellar Coltrane to naturally age on screen from a five-year-old up to his first day of college. He will go one step further with his adaptation of Stephen Sondheim’s musical “Merrily We Roll Along,” which tells the story of a Broadway composer who moves to Hollywood to produce movies. “I first saw, and fell in love with ‘Merrily’ in the ‘80s and I can’t think of a better place to spend the next 20 years than in the world of a Sondheim musical,” Linklater said in a statement.

“I don’t enter this multi-year experience lightly, but it seems the best, perhaps the only way, to do this story justice on film.” The musical begins in Hollywood and moves back in time—meaning that if Linklater mirrors this, he will need to film the movie’s final scenes first. A statement from studio Blumhouse said principal photography has been completed for the “first segment of the film.” “The most ambitious thing about this tremendous project we are undertaking with Richard Linklater is that we boldly assume there will be a planet in 20 years,” the studio added in a tweet. The movie stars Beanie Feldstein (“Booksmart”), Ben Platt (“Pitch Perfect”) and Blake Jenner (“Everybody Wants Some!!”).

Linklater came to fame with films including 1991’s era-portraying “Slacker” and his trilogy starting with 1995’s “Before Sunrise,” which follows a couple’s romance over a period of 20 years. The 59-year-old Texan’s cult classic “Dazed and Confused,” about the adventures of 1970s students on the last day of school, brought a young Matthew McConaughey to the screen in 1993 with his catchphrase “Alright, alright, alright.” — AFP

## CONTROVERSIAL POLANSKI DIVIDES CRITICS AT VENICE

Roman Polanski’s “An Officer and a Spy” drew mixed reactions from critics Friday at its Venice premiere, hailed as “handsome and involving” by one but “lacking” by another who said parallels drawn by the director between his life and his art were “obscene”. The 86-year-old, a fugitive from the US since he was convicted for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old in 1978, did not attend the red carpet event for his film about French Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus.

But its stars, including “The Artist” Oscar-winner Jean Dujardin and fellow French actor Louis Garrel, cracked smiles as they signed autographs for fans. Campaigners have said the mired-in-controversy Polanski’s inclusion in the running for the top prize is out of touch in the era of

#MeToo movement. Argentine filmmaker Lucrecia Martel, president of the judging panel for this year’s Golden Lion top award, told the festival’s opening news conference that the inclusion of Polanski had made her “uncomfortable”, but later released a statement stressing that she had no “prejudice” against his film.

**‘J’accuse’**

“An Officer and a Spy” tells the powerful story of the Dreyfus case, a miscarriage of justice against a backdrop of virulent anti-Semitism that shook France to its core in the late 1800s and continued to reverberate for years. The Oscar-winning director of “The Pianist” and “Chinatown”, Polanski spent part of his childhood in Poland’s Krakow ghetto with his Polish-Jewish parents. “The film must be allowed to speak,” said one of the producers, Luca Barabareschi, at the press conference for the movie Friday, adding that the festival was not a “moral trial”.

But Polanski seemed to undermine that aim, with the release of an interview with French writer Pascal Bruckner in the press notes for the Venice premiere that

appeared to draw a link between Dreyfus case and his own life. “In the story, I sometimes find moments I have experienced myself, I can see the same determination to deny the facts and condemn me for things I have not done. Most of the people who harass me do not know me and know nothing about the case,” Polanski said.

Variety film critic Owen Gleiberman described that comparison as “obscene”, adding that the film is “grandly mounted” but “still feels lacking, maybe because Polanski thinks it’s about him”. “The first half of the movie sucks you right in, but after a while it starts to play like the dramatized version of a Wikipedia entry,” he added. The Guardian’s Xan Brooks also balked at suggested parallels, but said the film was “handsome and involving”.

Screen called it “procedural” but predicted it would be a “sturdy international performer”, while Le Figaro termed it a “message film” and praised Dujardin for his “bold and nuanced” performance. “An Officer and a Spy” is based on the book of the same name by British novelist Robert Harris but is filmed in French.—AFP



(From left) French composer Alexandre Desplat, French actor Jean Dujardin, French actress Emmanuelle Seigner and French actor Louis Garrel arrive for the screening of the film ‘J’Accuse’ (An Officer and a Spy) presented in competition.



US director Julian Schnabel and his partner screenwriter Louise Kugelberg arrive for the screening of the film ‘J’Accuse’ (An Officer and a Spy).



French actor Vincent Cassel and his wife French model Tina Kunakey arrive for the screening of the film ‘J’Accuse’ (An Officer and a Spy) presented in competition during the 76th Venice Film Festival. — AFP photos





Competitors jump during the Dods World Championship 2019.

# ‘Dods’ or alive: Defying gravity in Norway’s ‘death diving’

They throw themselves into the air, twisting their bodies and seemingly making time standstill, before landing with a splash: originally a pastime to impress girls, Norway’s sport of “death diving” now attracts dozens of daredevils. Around 40 divers converged in the capital, Oslo, in mid-August for the annual world championship of the sport, officially known by its Norwegian name of “dods”, meaning death.

Some svelte and muscular, others paunchy and tattooed, nearly all the competitors are Norwegian, apart from a few from Sweden, Spain, Denmark and Finland. At



first glance, it might look like just another belly flop competition. But death diving requires an element of skill. Jumping off a 10-metre (33-foot) tower, competitors perform a stunt, holding the pose for as long as they can until it looks like they’re about to do a massive belly flop, before tucking their body into a tight curl at the last second as they are about to hit the water.

At Oslo’s Frognerbadet municipal pool, the divers vying for the world title warm up with stretches, push-ups and headstands to prepare their bodies for the grueling challenge to come. “You do have a few nerves,” admits Morten Falteng, the oldest competitor at almost 60, who, with four friends, started the sport back in 1972. “We didn’t think too much about it back then, we just wanted to have fun. We dived, we jumped, we wanted to do something new,” he recalls, clad in an old-fashioned, red-and-white striped swimsuit. “And there were these five girls that always came to watch us,” he says, his voice trailing off at the memory.

“the shrimp”, before reopening their body immediately after impact to make the biggest splash possible. For the freestyle contest, spectacular flips, twisting acrobatics and other “slow motion” moves that create a sense of suspending time—all, often improvised—are de rigueur.

Poolside, a jury scores the competitors on their style, timing, originality—and, the size of their splash. “It’s difficult to describe,” says Joan “Fly” Fuster, a 29-year-old Spaniard, who travelled from Menorca for the competition. “I really love the feeling of flying and being free. Like there’s no gravity for just a second.”



Spectators at the stands cheer during the Dods World Championship 2019.

**‘Fear locks out’**

It was another group of Norwegian friends, who in 2008 set up the world championships. Organizers say it was meant as a somewhat tongue-in-cheek title at the time as the only “international” diver that year was a Norwegian adopted from Guatemala. To blaring music, competitors flex their muscles, dab, twerk and otherwise entertain the spectators below from the top of the diving tower. “When I’m up there and it’s a competition, all the fear just locks out. I can do anything when I’m up there,” says Miriam Hamberg, a 22-year-old from Sweden.

For the past two years, the competition has been open to women, who compete in their own category. Hamberg has won the title both times. “My brothers have always done this and I’ve always done the same things as they do. I never want to be worse,” she says.

**‘No gravity for just a second’**

The world championship comprises of two events: classic and freestyle. In the classic event, divers jump, their arms straight out to form a cross. Then, just before impact, they tuck their body into a tight ball or pike position called

**‘A blast’**

Hitting the water at 70 kilometers (45 miles) an hour leaves little room for error. While dods dives are far from the spectacular, death-defying swan dives performed off the cliffs of Mexico and elsewhere, they can still involve bruises and knees-in-the-nose when things don’t go as planned.

Divers occasionally emerge from the water limping or in need of consolation, but mostly there’s a lot of camaraderie among competitors, with cheering, hugging and high fives. “It’s not a very demanding sport,” says French-Norwegian Paul Rigault, an official from the Norwegian death diving federation. “All you need is a swimsuit and a diving tower and everyone has a blast.” — AFP



## Brace for food wars: Science writer issues warning to world

The world must act now to avoid conflict over food, land and water spreading from hot spots such as Syria to power centers like London and New York, according to a top science writer. Julian Cribb, an award-winning Australian journalist, called for an overhaul of global food production to avoid disputes over resources proliferating in new territories. “We tend to think of food crises as something that happens in Africa or some other developing country,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

“We think supermarkets will always be full of food... But the world only has about three months supply of grain in store at any one time,” said Cribb. The world’s food systems are coming under increasing strain from a combina-

tion of climate change, water scarcity and soil and biodiversity loss, he said. Yet if harvests were to fail in a major grain-growing region, prices of grain and bread would spike, he said.

“Supermarkets can be emptied in 24 hours, if people panic. We are far closer to hunger than most of us suspect,” said Cribb, whose book ‘Food or War’, published by the Cambridge University Press, comes out in October. Globally, more than one in four people struggles to eat healthy food and one in nine goes hungry, according to the United Nations.

Cribb identified seven “powder kegs” at risk of conflict in the coming four or five decades. South Asia topped the list, followed by Africa and China. United States also made

the cut. South Asia and China are facing critical water shortages that could unleash conflict while fights are already breaking out in parts of Africa over water and grazing rights, he said. “In America, it is going to take 6,000 years to replace the groundwater they’ve taken out in the last 150 years,” according to Cribb, referring to heavy use by farmers.

“Even though America is an advanced country, with all the technologies and solutions, they’ve not managed their water well, and they are as vulnerable as many other countries to groundwater shortages.” “I’m not saying a shooting war would break out over water. But there is definitely danger of conflict of various kinds.” He said confrontation could take many forms, from physical to legal,

affecting neighbors, governments and industries.

Farming guzzles freshwater, uses fossil fuels and relies on pesticides, he said, urging a new system that is climate-resilient, environmentally-friendly, nourishing and affordable. Cribb proposed three new options: farming that repairs natural resources, deep-ocean aquaculture that avoids pollution and disease, and the recycling of urban water and nutrients. There is no time to be lost, Cribb said, as humans devour fertile soil and water at record speed. “The most destructive object on the planet...is the human jawbone.” — Reuters



# Classifieds

Sunday, September 1, 2019

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



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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

**BY NIGHT:** Hot to relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	33 °C	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	27 °C	
ABDALY	47 °C	29 °C	
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C	
JAHRA	49 °C	33 °C	
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C	
SALMIYAH	39 °C	32 °C	
AHMADI	38 °C	33 °C	
NUWAISIB	44 °C	27 °C	
WAFRA	48 °C	26 °C	
SALMY	47 °C	30 °C	

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures MAX. MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed	
Sunday	09/01	Very hot and some scattered clouds will appear	48 °C 28 °C	N-NE	12 - 38 km/h	
Monday	09/02	Very hot	50 °C 29 °C	NW-N	12 - 40 km/h	
Tuesday	09/03	Very hot	49 °C 28 °C	NW	10 - 32 km/h	
Wednesday	09/04	Very hot	48 °C 27 °C	NW	12 - 40 km/h	

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:03
Sunrise	05:25
Zuhr	11:48
Asr	15:22
Sunset	18:12
Isha	19:31

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	49 °C
MIN. Temp.	28 °C
MAX. RH	48 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	E 32 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

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Timing: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm & from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, MASCARENHAS (given name) SWEDEL (Surname), holder of Indian passport no J3963803 do hereby change my name as SWEDEL (given name) MAS-CARENHAS (surname) for all purposes. I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents.

I, Javid Khan, Passport No. N5299475 have changed my name from Saddam Hussain to Javid Khan, hereafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by the name Javid Khan. (C 5582) 30-8-2019

I, ROCHELLE D MELLO (given name) holder of Indian Passport No. Z2814386 do hereby change my name as ROCHELLE (given name) D MELLO (sur-

name) for all purposes. I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents.

I, NOREEN MARGARET D MELLO (given name) holder of Indian Passport No. Z2809495 do hereby change my name as NOREEN MARGARET (given name) D MELLO (surname) for all purposes. I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents. (C 5581)

My name as per Indian Passport No. Z1847102 is Chodisetty Madhavi and permanent address being, 67-8-5B, Ashok Nagar, Behind GPT, Kakinada-533003, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. Hereby correct my given name as Sri Lakshmi Madhavi and surname as Chodisetty. Immediate effect. (C 5670) 28-8-2019

**EMERGENCY ☎ 112**



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 Sunday 1/9/2019					Departure Flights on Sunday 1/9/2019									
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	SAW	3620	Addis Ababa	12:30	SAW	708	Damascus	11:40			
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	THY	766	Damascus	12:30	JZR	309	Beirut	11:45			
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	UAE	871	Istanbul	12:30	MEA	405	Damascus	11:55			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	MSR	610	Dubai	12:45	SYR	342	Jeddah	12:00			
JZR	130D	Dubai	00:20	KAC	742	Cairo	12:45	JZR	213	Doha	12:05			
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	KAC	393	Dammam	12:55	JZR	1075	Doha	12:10			
DLH	625	Dammam	00:20	AXB	774	Kozhikode	13:10	MSR	735	Cairo	12:30			
KAC	102	Dammam	00:50	KAC	774	Riyadh	13:35	BBC	1756	CNN	12:30			
AHY	119	London	00:50	UAE	877	Dubai	14:00	MEA	8962	Dubai	13:10			
JZR	722	Baku	00:55	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	JZR	723	Doha	13:25			
KAC	504	Alexandria	01:00	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	FEG	342	Cairo	13:30			
JZR	734	Beirut	01:00	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	JZR	405	Delhi	13:30			
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	QTR	1078	Doha	14:25	IGO	1759	Kochi	13:30			
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	792	Madinah	14:40	KAC	677	Dubai	13:45			
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	562	Amman	14:40	KAC	2707	Madinah	13:45			
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:45	THY	773	Istanbul	14:00			
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	222	Riyadh	14:45	DLH	625	Frankfurt	14:10			
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	AHY	120	Baku	14:15			
JZR	726	Alexandria	01:55	KAC	618	Doha	14:50	KAC	417	Manila	15:00			
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	JZR	111	Doha	15:00			
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	JZR	602	Baku	15:00	THY	765	Istanbul	15:00			
MSR	3035	Sohag	02:25	KAC	118	New York	15:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	15:00			
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	692	Muscat	15:00	KKK	1269	Istanbul	15:05			
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	15:30			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	KLM	446	Doha	15:30			
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	MSR	3036	Cairo	15:45			
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	UAE	854	Dubai	16:00			
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	546	Cairo	15:50	THY	769	Istanbul	16:00			
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	FEG	341	Sohag	16:00	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	16:10			
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	OMA	644	Muscat	16:15			
PGT	856	Istanbul	03:10	JZR	732	Cairo	16:10	QTR	1087	Doha	16:20			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	MSR	613	Doha	16:20			
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	502	Beirut	16:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	16:20			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	FEG	241	Alexandria	16:45	PGT	857	Istanbul	16:25			
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	SAW	705	Damascus	17:00	JZR	1735	Cairo	16:55			
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	116	Doha	17:05	QTR	1077	Doha	17:00			
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:10	LMU	511	Cairo	17:10			
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	OHY	351	Istanbul	17:25			
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	IRA	665	Shiraz	17:35	IGO	1752	Chennai	17:40			
JZR	1738	Cairo	04:45	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:35	KAC	303	Mumbai	17:40			
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	JZR	124	Dubai	17:40	KAC	103	London	17:40			
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	JZR	104	Bahrain	18:00	JZR	703	Asyut	17:45			
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:05	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	JZR	737	Cairo	17:50			
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	516	Tehran	18:20	FDB	070	Dubai	17:50			
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10	JZR	302	Istanbul	18:20	THY	1465	Istanbul	17:55			
JZR	770	Istanbul	05:20	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	IGO	1760	Delhi	18:00			
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	736	Cairo	18:55	JZR	771	Istanbul	18:10			
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	FDB	063	Dubai	19:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	18:15			
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	RJA	640	Amman	19:05	RJA	649	Amman	18:20			
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	251	Amman	18:20			
BAW	157	London	06:10	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	121	Dubai	18:25			
JZR	708	Luxor	06:15	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	JZR	113	Doha	18:35			
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:25	RBG	550	Alexandria	18:35			
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	KAC	165	Rome	18:35			
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40	KAC	171	Frankfurt	19:10			
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	BAW	156	London	19:10			
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	178	Vienna	19:50	IGO	1767	Mumbai	19:20			
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	JZR	310	BJV	19:50	KAC	177	Vienna	19:20			
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	KAC	158	Istanbul	19:55	KAC	545	Cairo	19:30			
QTR	8511	Doha	07:15	KAC	166	Rome	20:00	KAC	501	Beirut	19:45			
KAC	2708	Madinah	07:25	KAC	104	London	20:00	KAC	561	Amman	19:50			
KAC	358	Kochi	07:50	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	117	New York	20:00			
JZR	724	Alexandria	08:00	KAC	624	Frankfurt	20:10	KAC	641	Madinah	20:05			
QTR	1084	Doha	08:05	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	QTR	8512	Doha	20:20			
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:10	KAC	542	Cairo	20:15	QTR	1085	Doha	20:30			
KAC	384	Delhi	08:25	KAC	620	Doha	20:30	KAC	671	Dubai	20:35			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:50	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	KAC	161	Geneva	20:45			
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	20:55			
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00	JZR	601	Baku	21:05			
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10	KAC	691	Muscat	21:05			
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	198	Baku	21:10	KAC	741	Dammam	21:15			
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	773	Riyadh	21:25			
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	21:50			
JZR	410	Delhi	09:50	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	JZR	731	Cairo	21:50			
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	KAC	676	Dubai	21:45	UAE	856	Dubai	22:00			
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	JZR	301	Istanbul	22:10			
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	622	Doha	21:50	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	22:15			
SAW	707	Damascus	10:40	KAC	564	Amman	21:55	OMA	642	Muscat	22:20			
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	KAC	101	London	22:25			
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	QTR	8513	Doha	22:35			
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	612	Geneva	22:15	KAC	617	Doha	22:35			
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:20	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:50			
JZR	114	Doha	11:10	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	IGO	1754	Ahmedabad	22:55			
IGO	1755	CNN	11:30	JZR	128	Dubai	22:50	FDB	556	Dubai	23:00			
JZR	122	Dubai	11:45	KNE	233	Riyadh	22:55	SVA	513	Cairo	23:00			
JZR	704	Asyut	11:55	MSC	405	Sohag	23:15	SAW	704	Bangkok	23:00			
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	KAC	157	Damascus	23:05			
JZR	738	Cairo	12:20	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	221	Riyadh	23:45			
				MEA	400	Beirut	23:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	23:45			



# Dorian shifts; Georgia, Florida and Carolinas in the path

JACKSONVILLE, FL: Hurricane Dorian spun west yesterday, putting Georgia and the Carolinas in the path of a possible landfall as well as Florida, where some beaches were all but deserted on the holiday weekend as visitors braced for the dangerous category 4 storm.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center said there had been a “notable change” since Friday night, with the latest forecasts showing the eye of the storm could veer north and stay out at sea.

But it warned that its course remained unpredictable. Dorian still poses a threat to millions of people, as well as holiday attractions such as Walt Disney World, the NASA launchpads along the Space Coast, and even President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach.

The NHC said Dorian was packing maximum sustained winds of 150 mph (240 kph) and was expected to pass north of the southeastern and central Bahamas today and be near Florida’s east coast late Monday through Tuesday. Of immediate concern were Bahamas tourist hotspots Great Abaco and Grand Bahamas, where up to two days of hurricane-force winds were set to start today as Dorian slowed to a 2 mph (3.2 kph) crawl.

“This is a very dangerous situation for the Bahamas,” NHC Director Ken Graham said in a Facebook Live video. After so much focus on a possi-

ble Florida landfall, Graham said other southeast US states now had to be on alert.

“Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina have got to pay attention as well,” he said. The governors of Florida, Georgia and North Carolina have all declared states of emergency. On Florida’s east coast, popular surfing spot Cocoa Beach was quiet as tourists stayed away, while locals worked on putting up hurricane shutters and buying supplies ranging from water to power generators.

“It’s pretty slow, there’s not many people on the beach,” said Alex Hendricks, a saleswoman at the Cocoa Beach Surf Company. In the Bahamas, most tourists who planned to leave had already gone after Freeport’s international airport was scheduled to shut down at 10 p.m. on Friday.

The NHC urged Florida residents to remain on alert. “It should be noted that the new forecast track does not preclude Dorian making landfall on the Florida coast, as large portions of the coast remain in the track cone of uncertainty,” the center cautioned yesterday.

Trump said South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia could all be hit harder by the storm than had been previously expected. “It’s moving around and very hard to predict, except that it is one of the biggest and strongest (and really wide) that we have seen in decades. Be safe!” Trump wrote on Twitter. — Reuters



FORT PIERCE, Florida: Rain clouds move toward the shore as Hurricane Dorian churns off the coast yesterday near Fort Pierce, Florida. — AFP

## New images from asteroid probe yield clues on planet formation

WASHINGTON: Photographs snapped by a shoeboxed probe that explored the near-Earth asteroid Ryugu offer new clues about its composition, insights that are expected to help scientists understand the formation of our solar system. The German-French Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout (MASCOT) was dropped off by Japan’s Hayabusa2 spacecraft on October 3, 2018, free-falling from a height of 41 meters (135 feet) for six minutes before it hit the surface.

It then bounced a couple of times-reaching a height of 17 meters on the first bounce-before coming to rest. Ryugu is just 900 meters wide and so its gravity is 66,500 times weaker than Earth’s. Had MASCOT been equipped with wheels, its forward motion would have launched it back into space.

Instead, it hopped around the surface using the tiny amount of momentum generated by a metal swing arm attached to its boxy body, which weighed 10 kilograms (22 pounds).

In addition to taking temperature readings and other measurements, MASCOT sent back a series of pictures showing the asteroid is covered with two types of rocks and boulders: dark and rough ones with crumbly surfaces resembling cauliflowers, and bright and smooth ones. “The interesting thing there is, it really shows that Ryugu is the product of some kind of violent process,” Ralf Jaumann of the German Aerospace Center told AFP. He is the lead author of a paper describing the findings, published Thursday in the journal Science.

Ryugu may be the “child” of two parent bodies that collided, broke up and were then pulled back together by gravity, the researchers say. Alternatively, it could have been struck by another body that created different interior temperature and pressure conditions, creating the two types of material.

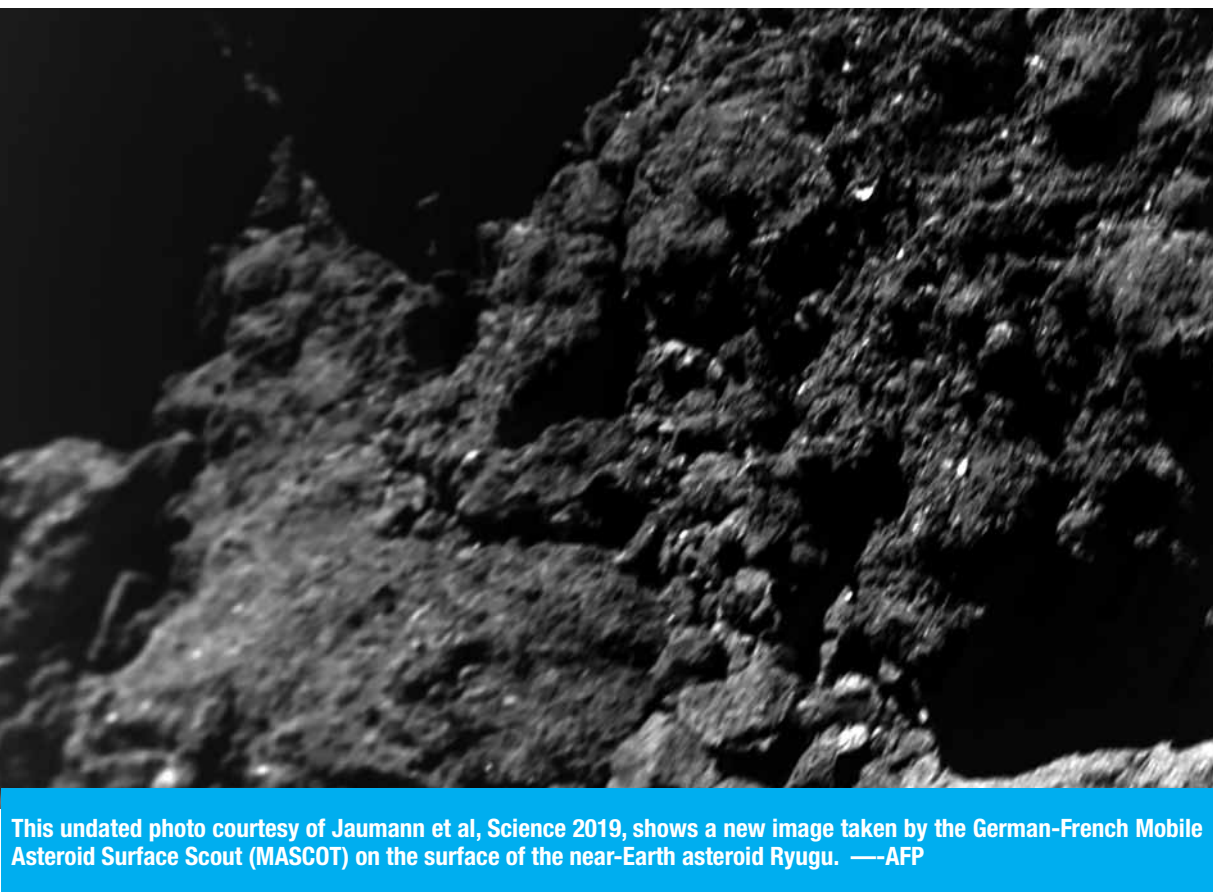
Many of the rocks contain small blue and red “inclusions”—material trapped in the rock during its formation—much like a type of rare, primordial meteorites found on Earth called carbonaceous chondrites. “This material is primitive material—it’s the very first material of the solar nebula,” or the cloud of interstellar dust and gas that formed the planets of our system, said Jaumann.

Hayabusa2, which set off from Earth in 2014 and itself touched down twice on the asteroid’s surface, most recently in July, will arrive home next year carrying samples for analysis in the lab. MASCOT’s observations provide, for the first time, information on the material’s original geologic context, including how it is exposed to temperature changes and how it is “weathered” in space.

“We don’t know how planets formed in the beginning,” said Jaumann. “And in order to understand this, (we must) go to the small bodies, these primitive bodies, primordial in their history in their evolution, in order to understand the first 10 to 100 million years of planetary formation.”

MASCOT also presented scientists with a new mystery: its lack of fine particles, or interplanetary dust, which would normally accumulate through millions of years of space weathering. The paper offered theories but no definitive conclusions. The dust might have fallen into tiny holes in Ryugu’s surface when the asteroid was struck by other bodies.

Alternatively, temperature changes could have resulted in an electrostatic force that expelled the dust into space. Or water might once have existed on Ryugu, and its evaporation would have carried away the smaller particles. There’s another reason to study asteroids:



This undated photo courtesy of Jaumann et al, Science 2019, shows a new image taken by the German-French Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout (MASCOT) on the surface of the near-Earth asteroid Ryugu. —AFP

humankind’s survival could one day depend on it. Ryugu’s orbit places it mainly between Earth and Mars. Though it comes close, it’s not thought to pose a danger to us, but other asteroids could.

If their composition is like Ryugu’s, trying to take them out with a missile would probably just break them into smaller rocks still headed toward Earth. One possi-

bility would be to build a large, reflective solar sail and place it on the asteroid’s surface, so that the pressure from solar radiation would gradually alter its course, said Jaumann. Whatever strategy is adopted, he and other astronomers say it’s clear these small, enigmatic bodies are of not-so-small importance in our solar neighborhood. — AFP

## Bashir charged with illegal use...

Continued from Page 1

funds were the remainder of the equivalent of \$25 million that he had received from the Saudi crown prince. “My office manager... received a call from the office of Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman saying he has a ‘message’ that will be sent on a private jet,” Bashir told the court.

“We were told that the crown prince did not want his name to appear (linked to the transaction)... and if the funds were deposited with Sudan’s bank or the finance ministry, the source would have to be identified,” he said. Dozens of Bashir’s relatives attended yesterday’s session, chanting “Allahu Akbar (God is Greatest)” as he entered the courtroom pointing his index finger to the sky.

Bashir failed to specify when the funds were received but said they “were not used for private interests but as donations”. The funds were used to support individuals and entities including wheat import companies, a university and a hospital, he said. Sudanese law punishes illegal acquisition of wealth by up to 10 years in jail while illicit use of foreign funds carries up to three years, according to judge Abdelrahman. Bashir’s defense lawyers insisted their client was “not guilty” and said witnesses would be brought to court. “We have witnesses, proof and documents that we will present to court to refute these charges,” said lawyer Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Taher.

An investigator had previously told the court that Bashir received \$90 million in cash from Saudi royals including payments of \$35 million and \$30 million from Saudi King Abdullah, who died in 2015. After two-and-a-half hours, the judge ordered that the trial be adjourned until September 7. He was escorted to and from the Khartoum courthouse by a convoy of military vehicles, as dozens of his supporters were gathered outside waving Sudanese flags.

Following his ouster, Bashir was transferred to the capital’s maximum-security Kober prison, where thousands of political prisoners were held during his 30 years in power. Sudan has embarked on a transition to civilian rule following a power-sharing deal signed on August 17 by protest leaders and the generals who ousted Bashir. A civilian-military ruling body is now at the helm to steer the country through a three-year transitional period. Protesters have called for Bashir to face justice not just over corruption but for his role in the country’s deadly conflicts as well as repression of dissent.

Bashir is wanted by the Hague-based International Criminal Court over his role in mass killings in the western region of Darfur. More than 300,000 people were killed and 2.5 million displaced in the conflict which erupted in 2003, according to the United Nations.

“Now is the time for the people of Sudan to choose law over impunity and ensure that the ICC suspects in the Darfur situation finally face justice in a court of law,” ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda told the UN Security Council in June. Sudan’s prosecutor general has said Bashir would also be charged over the killings during the anti-regime protests which eventually led to his ouster. — AFP

## UAE firms scout trade at Syria fair...

Continued from Page 1

“Our goal is to create a market in Syria and take part in big construction projects,” said Mohamed Hamad Awad Al-Karim, Business Development Manager at Dubai-based Al-Shamsi, a supplier of ceramic products. A representative of Arabtec declined to comment when approached by Reuters in Damascus and its head office did not respond to an emailed request.

The head of the UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce who led the delegation to Damascus was unavailable for comment. In a statement, the fair’s organizers said 26 UAE-based companies had stands at the fair. A UAE trade delegation document with the logo of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce, obtained by Reuters, listed at least 42 delegates.

Washington has been lobbying Gulf states including the UAE to hold off restoring ties with Syria, sources told Reuters earlier this year. “I am not happy to see a delegation of Emirati businessmen in Damascus to take part in a conference organized by the butcher regime of Bashar, whose hand is stained with the blood of the Syrian people,” Emirati political scientist Abdulkhaleq Abdulla wrote on Twitter on Thursday. — Reuters

## India leaves nearly 2m...

Continued from Page 1

and bad weather to check their names on the list. Only those who can demonstrate they or their forebears were in India before 1971 could be included in the list. But navigating the complex process is a huge challenge for many in a flood-prone poor region of high illiteracy where many lack documentation. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party runs Assam, and critics say the NRC process reflects the BJP’s goal to serve only its co-religionists.

In January India’s lower house passed legislation that would grant citizenship to people who moved to India as recently as six years ago—as long as they are not Muslims. This has stoked fears among India’s 170-million Muslim minority for their future.

Home Minister Amit Shah, Modi’s right-hand-man, has called for the ejection of “terminals” and said before the BJP’s thumping re-election victory in May that it would “run a countrywide campaign to send back the infiltrators”. Those left off the NRC have 120 days to appeal at special Foreigners’ Tribunals, which the government says are being expanded in number.

But activists say that tribunal members are often underqualified and are subject to “performance” targets, and that the process has been riddled with inconsistencies and errors. Instances of people being declared foreigners because of clerical errors, such as differences in the spelling of names, are “appallingly

common”, Amnesty International said yesterday.

Local lawmaker Ananta Kumar Malo, whose name was missing from the list, said he was appalled by the process. “There are some problems with the system, otherwise how can they exclude my name?” he said. The number of mistakes and the fact that those left off the NRC were expected to include large numbers of Bengali-speaking Hindus has also turned some in the BJP against the process. With many “genuine Indians” left off, the party is mulling a “fresh strategy on how we can drive out the illegal migrants”, said Himanta Biswa Sarma, a local BJP minister.

## US blacklists Iranian oil tanker Adrian...

Continued from Page 1

Lebanon swiftly dismissed the scenario, stressing that it never buys crude oil because it does not have refineries, and adding that it had not received any docking requests from the tanker. Iran said Monday it had “sold the oil” aboard the tanker and that the owner will decide the destination.

It did not identify the buyer or say whether the oil had been sold before or after the tanker’s detention in the Strait of Gibraltar. It also said it could not name the actual destination due to “economic terrorism” by the United States and its sanctions on Iran’s oil sales. In July, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps impounded a British-flagged tanker in strategic Gulf

waters. Britain called it a tit-for-tat move but Tehran denied any connection.

The Adrian Darya 1 set sail for the eastern Mediterranean three days after it was released. According to maritime traffic monitoring websites, the huge tanker has changed direction multiple times, following no apparent logic. The specialized TankerTrackers social media account noted Friday after the vessel listed Iskenderun as its destination that little could be read into it.

“Consider this just a record update rather than anything substantial. We believe a transfer is still a few days away. Turkey will not import this oil,” it said. It earlier described it as “aimlessly moseying around the Med”. Tensions between arch-enemies Iran and the US have soared ever since Washington stepped up its campaign of “maximum pressure” against Tehran and reimposed sanctions after leaving the landmark 2015 nuclear deal last year. Syria, which has ports on the Mediterranean, is also under a raft of US and European sanctions over its eight-year-old conflict. —Agencies



# Betts homers in 1st, 15th as Red Sox edge LA Angels

## Pirates pound Rockies, continue Coors Field success

**ANAHEIM:** Mookie Betts' two-out home run in the top of the 15th inning snapped a tie and lifted the Boston Red Sox to a 7-6 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Friday night/Saturday morning in Anaheim, Calif. It was Betts' second home run of the game — he also went deep in the first inning, on the fifth pitch of the game. His 15th-inning homer, his 23rd of the year, came on the 473rd pitch of the game. Andrew Cashner (11-7), the last of eight Red Sox pitchers, did not allow a hit in four scoreless innings to get the win over Trevor Cahill (3-9), who was the Angels' eighth pitcher as well. J.D. Martinez had a home run and a double for Boston. Albert Pujols had four hits and drove in three runs, and Brian Goodwin hit two home runs for the Angels, who lost for the seventh time in eight games and fell a season-worst eight games under .500 (64-72). Shohei Ohtani had a rough game, going 0-for-8 with four strikeouts.

### PIRATES 9, ROCKIES 4

Melky Cabrera hit a three-run homer, Starling Marte had three hits and tied a career high with four runs, and Pittsburgh beat Colorado in Denver. Josh Bell also had three hits while Kevin Newman, Bryan Reynolds, Colin Moran and Cabrera had two hits each for the Pirates, who continued their domination of the Rockies at Coors Field. Pittsburgh has won 13 of 17 games in Denver dating back to July 27, 2014. Every position player had at least one hit and starting pitcher Dario Agrazal (4-3) drove in a run for the Pirates, who have won six of their last eight games. Agrazal (4-3) allowed three runs on nine hits in five-plus innings.

### A'S 8, YANKEES 2

Jurickson Profar and rookie Seth Brown drove in three runs apiece as Oakland won at New York. Profar homered in the second inning off CC Sabathia, and then snapped a 2-2 deadlock with a two-run double down the right field line off Tommy Kahnle (3-1) in the sixth. Brown came off the bench to go 3-for-3, giving him seven hits in his past seven at-bats, one hit shy of the longest streak in franchise history. A's starter Brett Anderson (11-9) tossed six innings of two-run ball, allowing six hits and two walks with one strikeout.

### DIAMONDBACKS 5, DODGERS 4

Tim Lincecum scored the go-ahead run in the eighth on a balk after reaching base on a strikeout as Arizona rallied to beat the Los Angeles in Phoenix. Lincecum opened the eighth with a swinging strikeout, but the pitch got away from catcher Russell Martin for a passed ball. Lincecum stole second, went to third on a soft single to center by Adam Jones and was awarded home plate when right-hander Yimi Garcia (1-4) balked. Garcia failed to step off the rubber while looking to throw to first base. Arizona tied its season high with its fifth consecutive victory.

### ASTROS 7, BLUE JAYS 4

George Springer had a three-run homer and drove in four runs as Houston defeated host Toronto in the opener of their three-game series. Springer's home run broke a 1-1 tie in the fifth inning, and his RBI double in the sixth stretched the lead to 6-1. Alex Bregman

had two hits and an RBI, and Michael Brantley and Jose Altuve also had two hits for the Astros, who have won seven of their past eight games and 10 of 12. Astros starter Wade Miley threw 95 pitches before he was removed after 3 2/3 innings. He allowed just one run and two hits, but walked five and struck out five. Collin McHugh (4-5) pitched one third of an inning to get the win.

### TWINS 13, TIGERS 5

C.J. Cron blasted a three-run homer and Minnesota rolled to its sixth straight victory and eighth consecutive on the road by pounding host Detroit. It was the only homer of the night for the Twins, who now have 262 home runs, five shy of the single-season record set by the New York Yankees last season. Seattle hit 264 in 1997. Minnesota scored 12 runs in the first four innings. Eddie Rosario had two hits, two runs scored and three RBIs. Max Kepler doubled twice, scored three runs and drove in another. Jorge Polanco had three hits and scored twice, while Nelson Cruz collected three hits, a run scored and two RBIs.

### RAYS 4, INDIANS 0

Jesus Aguilar belted a three-run homer to cap a four-run seventh inning as Tampa Bay blanked Cleveland in St. Petersburg, Fla. Avisail Garcia had an RBI single with one out in the seventh inning for the Rays, who have won two consecutive overall and four of five against Cleveland this season. The teams combined for just eight hits through the first 6 1/2 scoreless innings before Austin Meadows singled to right field off Shane Bieber (12-7) to lead off the seventh. Meadows advanced to third on a shallow single to center by Travis d'Arnaud before coming around to score on Garcia's single to left field.

### CUBS 7, BREWERS 1

Nicholas Castellanos hit a pair of two-run home runs, and host Chicago cruised past Milwaukee behind starting pitcher Jose Quintana. Castellanos hit home runs No. 21 and 22 in the first and second innings, and Quintana (12-8) helped himself with his first career extra base hit, a run-scoring double in the Cubs' three-run second inning. Castellanos has 11 home runs in 27 games with the Cubs, after hitting 11 in 100 games as a Detroit Tiger before being traded.

### BRAVES 10, WHITE SOX 7

Adeiny Hechavarria's pinch-hit single in the seventh inning drove home two runs and gave host Atlanta some breathing room in withstanding a rally to beat Chicago. The Braves loaded the bases on walks, and Hechavarria greeted reliever Evan Marshall with a two-out liner to center field that extended Atlanta's lead to 8-5. Hechavarria has 10 hits and nine RBI in 12 games with the Braves since joining them on Aug. 16. The White Sox scored twice with two outs in the ninth against reliever Anthony Swarzak. That forced the Braves to bring in closer Mark Melancon, who struck out Tim Anderson for the final out to earn his seventh save.

### NATIONALS 7, MARLINS 6

Anthony Rendon hit a two-run, walk-off single in



**ANAHEIM:** Luis Rengifo #4 of the Los Angeles Angels is forced out at home by Sandy Leon #3 of the Boston Red Sox in the fifth inning at Angel Stadium of Anaheim in Anaheim, California. —AFP

the ninth inning, leading host Washington to a wild win over Miami. Washington's Daniel Hudson blew a one-run lead in the top of the ninth, allowing a two-run homer to Starlin Castro, who finished 3-for-5 with three RBIs. But Miami's Ryne Stanek (0-4) also blew a save chance, giving the win to Hudson (8-3). Howie Kendrick started the winning rally with a leadoff single, then advanced to second on Trea Turner's walk and to third on a Jorge Alfaro passed ball. That set up Rendon, who lined a 2-1 slider to left.

### METS 11, PHILLIES 5

Amed Rosario keyed a five-run outburst in the eighth inning with a tiebreaking two-run single and New York snapped a six-game losing streak at the expense of host Philadelphia. Todd Frazier followed Rosario's hit with a three-run homer for the Mets, who hadn't led for more than a single inning in any of their losses to the Atlanta Braves or Chicago Cubs over the past week. That was the first of two late three-run homers for Frazier, whose second blast capped a five-run ninth. Michael Conforto hit a two-run homer earlier in the ninth.

### GIANTS 8, PADRES 3

Brandon Belt hit the third pitch of the bottom of the first inning for a two-run home run, and Madison Bumgarner threw a dominant seven innings, highlighting host San Francisco's victory over San Diego. Belt finished with three RBIs, Buster Posey had three hits, and Mike Yastrzemski homered and scored three times for the Giants. Belt's homer was his 16th of the season. Bumgarner (9-8) allowed only one run, on Machado's 28th homer, while giving up four hits and two walks. He struck out nine.

## Harasawa bounced by Czech Krpalek at world judo

**TOKYO:** Czech giant Lukas Krpalek beat Japan's Hisayoshi Harasawa to capture judo's world heavyweight title yesterday and fire a warning for next year's Tokyo Olympics.

The hulking 28-year-old won half-heavyweight gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics and looked ominously strong after stepping up to the +100-kilogram class. Entering with a roar at Tokyo's iconic Budokan, venue for the 1964 Tokyo Games and next year's Olympics, Krpalek was awarded victory after Harasawa picked up his third penalty deep into the golden score.

Harasawa, the 2016 Rio Olympic silver medalist, had stunned Georgian giant Guram Tushishvili in the semi-finals, robbing him of his world title.

In the absence of France's Olympic champion Teddy Riner, the 27-year-old ran out of steam in the final, although still secured an upgrade on

the bronze medal he won at last year's world championships in Baku.

Earlier, Japanese teenager Akira Sone bagged gold on her world championship debut, upsetting Cuba's former Olympic champion Idalys Ortiz in the women's heavyweight final.

The 19-year-old Asian Games gold medalist quickly forced Ortiz onto the back foot, sustained pressure bringing a third penalty against the +78-kilo division's top-ranked fighter and giving Sone victory.

"All I was thinking about today was winning that gold medal," said a sweat-drenched Sone after capturing Japan's fourth gold of the week.

"I was determined not to show any weakness or give her any opening because she's so strong. I didn't care how I won. I just wanted it so badly. "I tried to attack and set the tempo," added the Fukuoka native. "The goal now is to do the same at the Tokyo Olympics and make sure I win gold there too."

Japan's defending world champion Sarah Asahina had to settle for bronze. Japan top the medals table after Jushiro Maruyama, Uta Abe and Shohei Ono bagged golds earlier in



**TOKYO:** Czech Republic's Lukas Krpalek (white) competes against South Korea's Kim Min-jung in men's over 100kg category semi-finals match during the 2019 Judo World Championships at the Nippon Budokan, a venue for the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

the week. The hosts have also picked up six silver and five bronze medals. France have won three gold medals but no silvers and just two bronzes.

Japan also dominated the 2018 world championships in Baku, capturing

eight of the 15 gold medals available. But the host nation could face more resistance at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on the evidence of the past week, the amuse-bouche to next summer's main event. —AFP

you want to get over to Japan and spend six weeks with the boys and hopefully there is a pretty big trophy at the end of it."

Anscombe, who said he felt "pretty numb" when the scan revealed the anterior cruciate ligament damage to his right knee and also an injury to his meniscus, said he was not sure teams required four warm-up games before the tournament itself.

"They are tough," he said. "It's pretty rare that you go ten weeks without a game and then your first game is a game of international rugby. "We need the games. Whether four is the magic number I don't know." Anscombe, who revealed the surgeon took a graft from his hamstring — "that's my new ACL," he says nonchalantly — believes Wales have a chance of winning their first World Cup and give the departing Gatland the ultimate leaving present.

"It's not the be-all and end-all but I do think it's really important that we can win the pool (the winners would play the runners-up in Pool C likely to be either England or France)," he said. —AFP

## World Cup heartbreak yet to fully hit Wales star Anscombe

**LONDON:** Gareth Anscombe says the impact of missing the Rugby World Cup will not hit home till the star fly-half sees his Wales team-mates run out for their first pool match in Japan.

The 28-year-old New Zealand-born playmaker — who was man of the match when Wales overwhelmed Ireland 25-7 in March to win their third Six Nations Grand Slam under Warren Gatland — will miss the sport's quadrennial showpiece due to a knee injury he suffered in a warm-up match with England earlier this

## All Blacks fuelling Italy rugby ambitions

**MILAN:** For the European youngsters camp finished with an emotional presentation of the traditional All Blacks ceremonial "Haka". For five days 42 youngsters — including three girls — aged 12 to 18 years had been immersed in Kiwi culture during the inaugural "All Blacks Clinic" on the outskirts of Milan.

Former players Anthony Tuitavake, 37, and 43-year-old Norm Maxwell — with 42 All Black caps between them — directed sessions in the classroom and on the pitch along with New Zealand coaches Evan Crawford and PJ Williams. Run in conjunction with Rugby Milano, a club in the Italian second tier Serie A, the clinic attracted children from not only Italy but Greece, Belgium and Slovenia. "It may sound arrogant but it's about bringing the game of rugby to Italy and to share the All Black way of doing things," said Crawford.

"Just like Italy have wonderful football teams like Juventus and AC Milan, in New Zealand rugby is in our blood." There was the technical side of the game, but also how their culture has made New Zealand world champions a record three times.

The fact that Wales have ousted New Zealand from the top of the world rankings after a decade was also discussed along with the choices of All Blacks coach Steve Hansen and Conor O'Shea's 13th-ranking Italians before the World Cup starting on September 20 in Japan. "In New Zealand when you sing together it brings everybody together," continued Crawford. "When the boys and girls arrived on Monday we started singing. They found that surprising but it's all about bringing people together than makes rugby great."

Maxwell, who racked up 36 Tests with the All Blacks as a rampaging lock forward, also stressed the community aspect of the game. "We worked on the basics, but the first message of the New Zealand champions is linked to the concept of kindness, smile and encourage," he said. "We start the day with a 'Buongiorno' and from there we build strength in the field. "Together" is the other key word. The All Blacks uses a Maori song to explain it — Tutira mai nga iwi, Tatou tatou e" (Stand together people, all of us, all of us). "Always focus on your objective. Success depends on you. We are never alone but we take strength from our companions." —AFP



# Rubio stars as Spain shrug off slow start to Basketball WCup

## Serbia make emphatic start to Basketball World Cup

GUANGZHOU: Phoenix Suns star Ricky Rubio led Spain with 17 points as the title contenders made a slow start to their Basketball World Cup campaign in a 101-62 victory over Tunisia yesterday. The Olympic bronze medallists have been touted as a threat to reigning two-time champions the United States, who are without their big names in China.

But the Spanish were not at their best in the first half against minnows Tunisia despite boasting Marc Gasol, the 34-year-old centre who played a key role in the Toronto Raptors' historic run to the NBA crown.

Spain led by just three points at half-time and there was the whiff of a huge upset, but they stepped on the gas after that in Guangzhou with Rubio also clocking up a leading nine assists. "Always the first game is a little tricky, you don't know how it will go," said the 28-year-old point guard, who joined the Suns this summer, adding his team had not been aggressive enough at the outset.

"Playing with the national team is different (from the NBA)," he added. "You play with your friends, for your country, and for your family too. 'It's huge.'" Hosts China suffered a fright against the Ivory Coast before battling to victory against the lowest-ranked in the 32-team competition.

A rabid sell-out crowd at Wukesong Arena in Beijing was silenced as the Ivorians, ranked a lowly 64th in the world to China's 30th, took a shock lead into the second quarter. The home side, who boast a towering front court of three seven-footers — Yi Jianlian, Zhou Qi and Wang Zhelin — were in danger of getting swallowed up by high expectations.

But China pulled level 29-29 at the break and willed

on by the home crowd suffocated the Ivory Coast into submission, 70-55. There was disappointment for visiting President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, whose side were well beaten 108-62 by Italy.

### Savage Serbia

Strongly fancied Serbia made a similarly ruthless start to their World Cup assault, thrashing Angola 105-59 in the opening match of the tournament. Serbia were strong favourites against Angola in the southern city of Foshan and wasted no time stamping their mark on the World Cup.

The United States, who have named a young side, open their title defence on Sunday in Shanghai against the Czech Republic. The Americans are without the likes of LeBron James, but Serbian coach Sasha Djordjevic said that Gregg Popovich's team — still packed with NBA talent — remain the side to beat in China. "I am not thinking about the USA team," Djordjevic said. "I do respect them, I think they are the biggest favourites." "They don't have some of the players but they still have a great, great team with great players, great coach."

Guard Bogdan Bogdanovic, of the NBA team Sacramento Kings, led the way for Olympic and world silver medallists Serbia, scoring 24 points against the wilting Angolans. "Serious game, serious approach, serious preparation," said the stern Djordjevic.

"It's our trademark all these years — playing together, we like to share the ball, we like to pass, we have a lot of guys who are not selfish. "This is really great for a coach, I'm proud when I see that, it's the trademark of Serbian basketball." — AFP



GUANGZHOU: Tunisia's Ziyed Chennoufi (R) dribbles past Spain's Victor Claver during the Basketball World Cup Group C game between Spain and Tunisia in Guangzhou yesterday. — AFP

## Kuwait wins third place in Budapest International Open Tennis tournament

KUWAIT: Kuwait's table tennis player won third place in the Budapest International Open for the individual Juniors Tournament, which concluded on Thursday.

Kuwait National Table Tennis Team participated as part of its training camp which was held in Hungary for two weeks, with 20 players from various age groups. Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Table Tennis Federation Khalid Al-Khudhari said the training camp was a success both physically and technically, and many matches were held. He said the players benefited from the daily training, in addition to official matches.

Al-Khudhari lauded the support of Chairman Ali Al-Dabbous and board members and their follow up of the team progress in the camp. He also lauded the role of the Public Authority for Sports and its keenness to



enhance the technical level of the team.

Meanwhile the team's manager Sabri Jamaan said the beginners and juniors had an interaction with many European players and appeared in good technical

shape. He said "we participated in two categories U11 and U13, and competition was very strong with the participation of 180 players, who competed with the knock out system.

## Green seizes LPGA Portland lead with 63 as Kim chases with 61

LOS ANGELES: Hannah Green fired an eagle and seven birdies in a nine-under par 63 on Friday, seizing the second-round lead as low scores abounded at the LPGA Portland Classic. Green's round, following on the heels of a first-round 64, was the lowest of her career and gave her a 17-under total of 127.

But it was just one of the sizzling efforts at Edgewater Country Club, where Kim Sei-young posted a tournament record 10-under 61 for a share of second on 132. She was tied with fellow South Korean Park Sung-hyun, who carded a 65.

"I don't really feel like I've shot nine-under, I feel like I've maybe shot five or six — which is nice," said Green, who made her first LPGA win a major title at the Women's PGA Championship in June. It "means I'm probably not too nervous."

Green made a strong start with birdies at the first and third — and said she could easily have been three-under through the first three holes. "I actually missed a short putt on two for birdie," she said. "But I just gave myself really good opportunities all day.

"I think when I had the eagle on five, that's when I was like 'OK I think I can go low again today,'" said Green, who added birdies at six and seven, 10 and 11 and 17. She hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation and needed just 27 putts — including her eagle bomb.

"I had like a 30-foot putt so I wasn't thinking about holing it too much, just wanted to make sure if I did miss it I gave myself a tap-in. "I had the flagstick in and it just knocked in."

Kim surged up the leaderboard with 11 birdies and no bogeys — a 10-stroke improvement on her opening 71. "I wanted to shoot low because yesterday I wasn't playing good," she said. "So I wanted to bounce back today. I tried to keep going, focus whatever happened. — AFP

## Starc strikes as Australia thrash Derbyshire

DERBY: Mitchell Starc pressed his case for a Ashes berth with a four-wicket haul as Australia completed their preparations for next week's fourth Test at Old Trafford with a comfortable innings and 54-run win over Derbyshire yesterday.

Starc, yet to feature in the Ashes, ended the match 15 minutes before lunch on the third day in Derby with two wickets in two balls. He had Hamidullah Qadri caught in the slips by Matthew Wade before clean bowling Dustin Melton.

With Derbyshire paceman Tony Palladino unable to bat because of an ankle injury, the match ended with Derbyshire 112 all out. Left-arm fast bowler Starc finished with figures of 4-39 in 10.4 overs. Australia came into this three-day game after a stunning one-wicket loss in the third Test at Headingley where England all-rounder Ben Stokes's superb 135 not out saw the hosts level the five-match series at 1-1.

Derbyshire resumed yesterday on 53-3, 113 runs behind Australia's first innings 338. Australia opener Marcus Harris was off the field with stomach illness. After Australia star batsman Steve Smith had made 23 on Friday in his first competitive innings since returning from concussion on Friday, attention turned to Starc.

### QUICKEST PITCH

Australia's World Cup spearhead could be recalled for the fourth Test, with the pitch at Old Trafford expected to be the quickest of the series. But it was fellow paceman Michael Neser, uncapped at Test level, who struck first yesterday when he bowled Alex Hughes for 11 to leave Derbyshire 58-4.

After a brief rain break, fast bowler Peter Siddle — looking to regain his Test place after being omitted at Headingley — had Harvey Hosein (eight) caught behind by diving wicketkeeper Alex Carey, added to the squad for this match to deputise behind the stumps for Tim Paine.

Australia captain Paine was one of several front-line players rested from this match including opening batsman David Warner and the Headingley attack of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, James Pattinson and off-spinner Nathan Lyon. Mitchell Marsh, like Starc pushing for his first Test of the series, then took two wickets in three balls to reduce Derbyshire to 99-7. He had left-hander Leus du Plooy, who made 86 in Derbyshire's first innings, lbw for 37 and then bowled Alfie Gleadall for a second-ball duck.

This was former Australia captain Smith's first match since being hit on his unprotected neck by a 92 mph bouncer from England fast bowler Jofra Archer in the drawn second Test at Lord's.

But against Derbyshire he batted with a stem guard neck protector on his helmet despite previously saying he felt uncomfortable using one. The 30-year-old Smith is set to return to Test duty at Old Trafford. His absence was a blow to Australia at Headingley given Smith's sparkling form in his first Test series since completing a 12-month ban for his part in a ball-tampering incident in South Africa that cost him the captaincy.

Smith scored two centuries — 144 and 142 — in Australia's 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston and made 92 at Lord's after retiring hurt on 80 when felled by Archer. In order to accommodate Smith and Marnus Labuschagne — who has made three successive Test fifties since coming in as a concussion substitute for Smith at Lord's — in Manchester, Australia may leave out Harris and promote Usman Khawaja to open with Warner. — AFP

## Zhang wins China's first UFC title in stunning style

SHENZHEN: Zhang Weili thrilled a Chinese home crowd with an upset knockout of UFC strawweight champion Jessica Andrade that took just 41 seconds yesterday, making her China's first champion in the world's biggest mixed martial arts (MMA) promotion.

The experienced Andrade, who came into the fight tied for the most wins by a woman in UFC history with 11, charged the underdog Zhang from the start. But the Brazilian ran into a barrage of punches and knee kicks from Zhang that sent her staggering to the canvas as the referee waved the fight over.

"Last year in Beijing I vowed to become the first Chinese champion, and I did it!" Zhang, 30, declared afterwards at the UFC Fight Night event in a sports arena in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen.

Zhang was the first Chinese fighter to even get a title shot from the UFC, which is pushing hard into a Chinese market where interest in MMA is growing rapidly. The decision had raised some eyebrows as Zhang was only the sixth-ranked strawweight in the world, and given

Andrade's reputation for brutally seeing off opponents.

Andrade has six years' experience in the UFC and was coming off a crushing first-round title victory in May over then-champ Rose "Thug" Namajunas of the United States. But Zhang, who is known for her ferocious buzzsaw attacking style, never allowed Andrade to get going. "As a Chinese person, I feel so proud," she said.

"Today, I want to dedicate this victory to the 70th anniversary of the motherland," she added, referring to the approaching anniversary on October 1 of the founding of Communist-ruled China. Zhang has now won all four of her UFC fights, and has a 20-fight winning streak in all competitions.

She moves to 20-1, with that single loss coming in her first MMA bout in 2013. Zhang trained in martial arts as a child but was inspired to enter MMA by the success of pioneering former women's world champion Ronda Rousey, who dominated the sport for years.

The Zhang-Andrade bout was the third time this year that female fighters had topped the card at an event staged by the UFC, with one more on the horizon before the end of 2019. Earlier this year, the UFC opened what it bills as the world's largest MMA training and development base in Shanghai.

The center is aimed at building the UFC brand in China and at nurturing the next generation of Chinese mixed martial arts fighters, who can now draw inspiration from Zhang's victory. — AFP



SHENZHEN: Zhang Weili (C) of China celebrates after defeating Jessica Andrade of Brazil (not pictured) during in their UFC mixed martial arts (MMA) bout in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, yesterday. — AFP



# Djokovic rolls on while Federer, Serena breeze at US Open

## Australia’s Alex de Minaur causes upset

**NEW YORK:** Top-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic rolled into the US Open fourth round on Friday while Serena Williams and Roger Federer cruised into the last 16 and Kei Nishikori was eliminated. Djokovic, champion in four of the past five Slams and 16 overall, was less bothered by left shoulder pain that nagged him in the second round in defeating 111th-ranked American Denis Kudla 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

“That I managed to play almost pain-free, that’s a big improvement from last match obviously,” Djokovic said. “I didn’t know how my body would react. That was nice.” Djokovic, who needed treatment throughout his second-round triumph, skipped practice Thursday in favor of shoulder treatment.

“I’m not going to go into the medical details,” he said. “But it definitely was bothering me in the past couple weeks.” The 32-year-old Serbian, a three-time US Open winner, booked a Sunday showdown with three-time Slam winner Stan Wawrinka, the Swiss 23rd seed who eliminated Italian lucky loser Paolo Lorenzi 6-4, 7-6 (11/9), 7-6 (7/4).

“There’s something with him that when I get into my best game, I know that it’s going to have some big rallies and I’m going to play good tennis,” Wawrinka said. Djokovic, no worse than a US Open semi-finalist since a third-round exit in 2006, leads Wawrinka 19-5 in their all-time rivalry, but they haven’t met since Wawrinka beat Djokovic in the 2016 US Open final.

“We’ve had some great battles over the years, but especially here,” Djokovic said. “Let the better player win.” Federer routed Britain’s 58th-ranked Dan Evans 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 in only 80 minutes, blasting 48 winners to just seven for Evans. After dropping the first set in his first two matches, the 20-time Grand Slam champion

was solid from start to finish.

“What matters the most is that I’m in the third round after those two sort of slow starts,” Federer said. “I actually can go through three sets in a row playing really good tennis.”

Evans blasted organizers for giving him short rest after a rain-delayed match while his 38-year-old Swiss rival rested after playing Wednesday under the roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Williams continued her quest for a 24th career Grand Slam title to equal Margaret Court’s all-time record by crushing 44th-ranked Czech Karolina Muchova 6-3, 6-2 in 74 minutes.

“I had a lot of intensity today, which is really good for me,” said Williams, whose next opponent is Croatian 22nd seed Petra Martic. The 37-year-old American, a six-time US Open champion, last won a Slam at the 2017 Australian Open and hasn’t won the US Open since 2014. Japanese seventh seed Nishikori, the 2014 US Open runner-up, lost to Australia’s Alex de Minaur 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3. The 20-year-old Aussie, on his deepest Grand Slam run, took his first victory over a top-10 foe in 12 tries.

“This is where I feel like my game’s at. I want to be pushing second weeks of Grand Slams and putting myself out there,” De Minaur said. “Hopefully I can just keep it rolling.”

Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev made an obscene gesture during his 7-6 (7/1), 4-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 victory over Spain’s Feliciano Lopez. The ATP Cincinnati winner was booed by the crowd repeatedly after holding an upraised middle finger aside his head for stadium cameras but away from chair umpire Damien Dumusois after receiving a code violation.

“It was tough,” Medvedev said. “I was in the heat of



**NEW YORK:** Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after defeating Denis Kudla of the US during the Round Three Men's Singles match of the 2019 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York. — AFP

the moment and started losing the momentum so... was tough. I don't really remember but I paid for it the whole match after.”

Reigning French Open champion Ashleigh Barty, the Aussie second seed, and Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova, chasing her first Slam title, also advanced.

Pliskova, the 2016 US Open runner-up, outlasted Tunisia's Ons Jabeur 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 while Barty dispatched Greek 30th seed Maria Sakkari 7-5, 6-3. Pliskova next plays British 16th seed Johanna Konta while Barty, a possible Williams quarter-final foe, meets Chinese 18th seed Wang Qiang. — AFP

## Lukaku hits back at critics of his weight

**LONDON:** Inter Milan striker Romelu Lukaku defended his professionalism in the wake of criticism over his weight towards the end of his time at Manchester United.

The Belgian joined Inter in a 65 million euro (\$73 million) move earlier this month after two years at Old Trafford.

Lukaku scored 42 goals for the Red Devils, but just 15 of them came last season as he fell down the pecking order once Ole Gunnar Solskjaer replaced Jose Mourinho.

And former Manchester United captain Gary Neville was among those to criticise Lukaku's physical condition, claiming he weighed over 100 kilograms.

“He (Neville) can talk about my fitness but he should never say anything about my professionalism, that I don't work hard enough,” Lukaku told the BBC. “That is something he cannot say. All the coaches I have had say the same thing about me.

“What did Ole Gunnar Solskjaer say when I was on the training ground? What did he say? That I always work hard and always do my best to try and improve myself. Same with Jose Mourinho and (Belgium and former Everton manager) Roberto Martinez. Now (Inter coach) Antonio Conte will say it.

“Last year was just a bad year. It happens in football. You just have to move on. I am not going to sit here and react in a negative way.”

Hopes were high that Lukaku could spearhead a new era for United when he joined from Everton for £75 million (\$91 million) in 2017, but he left Manchester having failed to win a trophy.

“For me, the Manchester United experience is one I am grateful for - not a good one



**MILAN:** File photo shows Inter Milan's Belgian forward Romelu Lukaku celebrates after scoring during the Italian Serie A football match Inter Milan vs US Lecce on August 26, 2019 at the San Siro stadium in Milan. — AFP

because we didn't win and I wanted to win with the club - but they gave me a chance,” added Lukaku.

“I got to play for one of the biggest clubs in the world, so I will always be respectful to them. At the end, I thought it was better for me to move on and try different things.”

Lukaku was particularly complimentary on the way Solskjaer handled his exit.

“Me and Ole tried to work together but at one point I had to be honest with him. He was also honest with me. We found an agreement. I wanted to go. He understood why I wanted to go. “It is something I will always be grateful to him for. We had a conversation man to man. I told him how I felt and he understood. He will always get massive respect from me and massive protection.”

Alexis Sanchez followed Lukaku's path by also leaving United to join Inter on a season-

long loan deal this week. United will still pay a large chunk of the Chilean's reported £400,000 a week wages so keen were they to cut their losses on a disastrous signing.

Sanchez has scored just five times in 45 appearances since joining from Arsenal in 2018, but Lukaku believes the two can form a potent partnership in Serie A. — AFP

## Zidane happy with Madrid squad: Perez

**MADRID:** Zinedine Zidane insists his relationship with Real Madrid president Florentino Perez is strong and he is happy with his squad ahead of the transfer window closing tomorrow. Madrid have spent around 300 million euros this summer but Zidane has not selected a single new signing in his first starting line-ups for the first two games of the season.

Zidane hoped the club would sign Paul Pogba, but Manchester United would not sell, and sell Gareth Bale, but the Welshman remains determined to see out his contract, which expires in 2022. “The decisions that are up to me are on the pitch,” said Zidane in a press conference on Saturday, ahead of Sunday's league game away at Villarreal.

“My relationship with Florentino Perez has always been very good, he will always be the president that brought me here and I will never forget that. “Sometimes it is better to clarify

## Arsenal sense chance to further unsettle Spurs

**LONDON:** Arsenal used to take ruling the roost over Tottenham for granted, but the balance of power has swung Spurs' way over the past three seasons as they have become north London's Champions League regulars.

Today's derby clash between the two offers the Gunners an early chance to show why this season will be different. Spurs appeared to have all the momentum at the end of last season after reaching the Champions League final for the first time and moving into a new 62,000 capacity stadium — 2,000 more than Arsenal's Emirates.

However, another frustrating transfer window followed despite making their first signings for 18 months. A club record fee was splashed on Tanguy Ndombele along with the arrivals of Ryan Sessegnon and Giovanni Lo Celso.

However, all three are unlikely to start today with Ndombele and Sessegnon injured, while Lo Celso is still getting up to speed after arriving on transfer deadline day for English clubs.

The words and actions of Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino suggest Spurs' season will only get off the ground once the upcoming international break after the transfer window across Europe has closed. Pochettino claims his squad are “the most unsettled group” he has worked with during his six years in charge, with doubts over the futures of Christian Eriksen, Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld.

All three have entered the final year of their contracts meaning they can leave the club for free next summer, pre-

suming they remain at Tottenham beyond tomorrow's European transfer deadline.

“For us and the club it is difficult to handle. Only we can wait,” said Pochettino on still not knowing how his squad will look for the rest of the season. Eriksen has started just once, while Vertonghen has missed out on all three games so far this season.

Their presence has been missed in a worrying trio of performances that continued a stark drop-off in results in the second half of last season. Eriksen came off the bench to help turn around a 1-0 deficit at home to newly-promoted Aston Villa on the opening weekend of the season into a 3-1 win.

A 2-2 draw at Manchester City was only respectable on the scoreboard as the Premier League champions peppered Pochettino's men with 30 shots on goal to three. And worse was to come in a shock 1-0 home defeat by Newcastle last weekend that means Spurs have taken just 15 points from their last 15 Premier League games.

Arsenal hold a two-point advantage over their local rivals heading into this weekend and remain a work in progress themselves. Yet, having missed out on the riches of the Champions League again last season, Unai Emery cannot share Pochettino's frustration at not being sufficiently backed in the transfer market.

Emery could unleash £72 million (\$87 million) club record signing Nicolas Pepe alongside Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette for the first time from the start.

Pepe showed why he was so coveted this summer with flashes of brilliance even in defeat by Liverpool last weekend that ended Arsenal's perfect start to the season. The Ivorian will have the chance to make himself an instant Arsenal hero against a struggling Spurs defence. — AFP

## Leclerc claims pole as Ferrari lock out front row

**SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS:** Charles Leclerc claimed pole position for today's Belgian Grand Prix with a dazzling lap in a dramatic qualifying session yesterday as Ferrari delivered a dominant front row lockout.

The Monegasque, who was quickest in two of the three practice sessions and is seeking his maiden victory in Formula One, clocked a fastest lap in one minute 42.519 seconds. He was 0.748sec clear of his Ferrari team-mate Sebastian Vettel.

It was his third pole of the season after successes in Bahrain and Austria, but he goes into the race seeking to claim his maiden victory, having been left frustrated at both previous races.

It was Ferrari's first lockout since the Bahrain Grand Prix in March and the 63rd in the team's F1 history, one fewer than Mercedes.

Defending five-time world champion and series leader Lewis Hamilton was third for Mercedes ahead of his team-mate Valtteri Bottas, Max Verstappen, who was fifth for Red Bull, and Daniel Ricciardo of Renault.

“That felt good,” said Leclerc. We were struggling a little bit more for race pace and we

need to work on that, but I am sure we will be strong.” Vettel was left frustrated by traffic on his final run. “At the end, it's good we secured the front row, but to fight for pole I was in the queue!”

Referring to his big crash in final practice in the morning, Hamilton said: “P3 was a terrible session for me and it's painful because I know how much it takes to build the part and put the car together. “Ferrari have done a great job and I hope we can bring the fight to them.”

Nico Hulkenberg was seventh in the second Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo, Sergio Perez of Racing Point and Kevin Magnussen of Haas. Hamilton has won eight of this year's 12 races to date to lead Bottas by 62 points in the championship.

On a near-perfect day in the Ardennes forests, the air temperature was 31 degrees centigrade and the track 42 as the session began, the session was halted after five minutes when Robert Kubica pulled up with flames pluming from the rear of his Williams as another new Mercedes power-unit failure.

It was the second stoppage of the day following Hamilton's crash in third practice, an accident that resulted in high-speed repairs on his Mercedes as it was fitted with new front wheels, a new nose, bargeboards and floor.

The session resumed after 10 minutes, with Hamilton immediately back in action courtesy of the unexpected extra time. He responded with a fast lap. That was, topped immediately by Bottas and then the two Ferraris. — AFP



Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Everton FC v Wolverhampton Wanderers FC

16:00

beIN SPORTS HD 2

Arsenal FC v Tottenham Hotspur

18:30

beIN SPORTS HD 2

SPANISH LEAGUE

Valencia C.F v Real Mallorca

18:00

beIN SPORTS HD 1

RCD Espanyol v Granada CF

20:00

beIN SPORTS HD 3

Atletico de Madrid v SD Eibar

20:00

beIN SPORTS HD 3

Villarreal CF v Real Madrid CF

22:00

beIN SPORTS HD 3

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

SS Lazio v AS Roma

19:00

beIN SPORTS HD 4

Atalanta v Torino FC

21:45

Premiere Sport 2

US Lecce v Hellas Verona FC

21:45

beIN SPORTS HD 10

Udinese Calcio v Parma Calcio 1913

21:45

beIN SPORTS

Genoa CFC v ACF Fiorentina

21:45

beIN SPORTS HD 5

Cagliari Calcio v Internazionale Milano

21:45

beIN SPORTS HD 4

US Sassuolo Calcio v UC Sampdoria

21:45

beIN SPORTS

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

SV Werder Bremen v FC Augsburg

16:30

beIN SPORTS

Eintracht Frankfurt v Fortuna D.sseldorf

19:00

beIN SPORTS

FRENCH LEAGUE

Stade Rennais v OGC Nice

16:00

beIN SPORTS HD 6

Stade Reims v LOSC Lille

16:00

beIN SPORTS HD 4

RC Strasbourg v AS Monaco FC

18:00

beIN SPORTS

Olympique Marseille v Saint Etienne

22:00

beIN SPORTS HD 6



# Sport Times

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

**25** Harasawa bounced by Czech Krpalek at world judo



**26** Zhang wins China's first UFC title in stunning style



**27** Djokovic rolls on while Federer, Serena breeze at US Open



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva (R) shoots past Brighton's English defender Lewis Dunk (L) to score their fourth goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Brighton and Hove Albion at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

## Manchester City cruise to the top

### Leicester moves third, Chelsea flop again

**LONDON:** Manchester City cruised to the top of the Premier League with a 4-0 win over Brighton yesterday as Chelsea lost further ground in disappointing draws with Southampton and Sheffield United.

Leicester moved up to third as the Foxes unbeaten start to the season continued in a 3-1 win over Bournemouth thanks to two goals from Jamie Vardy, while victories for Crystal Palace and West Ham take them into a share of fourth.

#### CITY WIN COMES AT A COST

Liverpool can move back above City should they continue the only 100 percent start left in the Premier League later at Burnley, but City were never in danger of dropping points at the Etihad as Kevin de Bruyne tapped home David Silva's cut-back after just two minutes.

Victory came at a cost for Pep Guardiola's men as

Aymeric Laporte was stretchered off with a knee injury that looks certain to rule him out of winning a first cap for France in upcoming Euro 2020 qualifiers.

City may come to regret not buying a replacement for departed captain Vincent Kompany at centre-back as holding midfielder Fernandinho had to deputise at the heart of the defence for the final 52 minutes.

However, Aguero soon made the game safe by blasting high into the net just before the break and produced another sublime finish to curl into the top corner for his second 10 minutes into the second-half. Substitute Bernardo Silva then rounded off the scoring for the champions.

#### BLADES BLUNT CHELSEA

After scoring his first Chelsea goals away to Norwich last weekend, Tammy Abraham thought he

had given the Blues all three points at home to newly-promoted Sheffield United by scoring twice more before the break.

However, the Blades hit back at the start of the second-half through Callum Robinson and Kurt Zouma's own goal a minute from time earned the visitors an unlikely point in a 2-2 draw.

As United and Chelsea stumble, Leicester are the closest challengers to the top two so far as Jamie Vardy scored twice and teed up Youri Tielemans for his side's other goal, but Brendan Rodgers's men were also lucky Tieleman's did not see red in another controversial VAR call.

Vardy opened the scoring in stunning fashion by lobbing Aaron Ramsdale from outside the box, but Bournemouth levelled thanks to a neat finish from Callum Wilson. Tielemans tapped home Vardy's low

cross to restore Leicester's lead, but the Belgian should have been sent-off for a high challenge on Wilson.

However, after a VAR review, the original decision to let Tielemans escape unpunished stood, and Vardy sealed the points 17 minutes from time. Crystal Palace backed up their shock victory at Old Trafford last weekend with a 1-0 win over 10-man Aston Villa thanks to Jordan Ayew's goal 17 minutes from time.

But Villa, who had Egyptian international Trezeguet sent-off early in the second-half, felt aggrieved as Henri Lansbury's late goal was harshly ruled out for a dive before the ball reached the midfielder by Jack Grealish.

West Ham also have seven points from four games as goals either side of half-time from Sebastien Haller and Andriy Yarmolenko secured a comfortable 2-0 over Norwich. Watford got their first point of the season, but remain bottom after a 1-1 draw at Newcastle. — AFP

### Solskjaer bemoans missed chances as Man Utd held by 10-man Southampton

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer admitted his side are lacking a clinical touch in front of goal after they were held 1-1 by 10-man Southampton at St. Mary's yesterday.

United have now dropped points for the third time in the first four Premier League games of the campaign and have won just one of their last 10 matches stretching back to the end of last season.

Daniel James's fine start to his United career continued with his third goal in four games to give the visitors an early lead. But despite spending £130 million (\$158 million) on improving their defence with the signings of Harry Maguire and Aaron Wan-Bissaka, United are still susceptible at the back and Jannik Vestergaard powered home Southampton's equaliser after half-time.

The hosts then had Kevin Danso sent-off for a second bookable offence, but United could not make the extra man count despite relentless late pressure. "We started off well, got the game exactly where we wanted and that's when you need to finish the game off and score the second and the third," said Solskjaer.

"There are so many spaces on the pitch because they have to press and we weren't clinical enough, we create loads of chances and the last bit is missing," Solskjaer insisted on Friday he is happy to rely on Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial to carry the goalscoring burden this season with no replacement

signed for the departed Romelu Lukaku or Alexis Sanchez, who have both joined Inter Milan.

With Martial sidelined by a thigh injury, there was even more responsibility on Rashford's shoulders, but it was James who impressed most to again show signs his £15 million move from Swansea will be a bargain.

The Welsh winger was allowed too much room by the Saints defence to cut inside onto his favoured right foot and rifled a shot into the top corner. However, Solskjaer's men failed to build on that advantage, with Rashford guilty of two missed chances before Southampton levelled just before the hour mark.

Just like for the opening goal in last weekend's shock 2-1 home defeat to Crystal Palace, Victor Lindelof was too easily beaten in the air as Vestergaard powered home his first goal for Southampton from Danso's cross.

Danso almost undid his good work, 17 minutes from time recklessly diving in on Scott McTominay to earn a

second yellow card and give United the upper hand in the closing stages. The lack of striking options available to Solskjaer saw him turn to 17-year-old Mason Greenwood in the search for a winner and he nearly provided it for his first Premier League goal as Angus Gunn made a flying save to his right.

But Southampton held out to leave United with just five points from their opening four games to sap the optimism from a convincing 4-0 win over Chelsea on the opening weekend of the season. "The strange thing about it is the three other games that we haven't won were better than the Chelsea one," added Solskjaer.

"The Chelsea one is the game that they pressed us, pushed us back and we counter-attacked. The other three we've been dominating, creating chances and just haven't been clinical in front of goal to win the games.

"We missed penalties, missed chances and should have won today as well. It's not a dip in form, (but) it's a dip in results definitely." — AFP