



**5** Crown Prince and Indonesia Foreign Minister hold talks



**6** 'Catastrophic' Dorian pounds Bahamas, US evacuates coast



**7** 30 trapped on burning boat, many feared dead



**28** Wawrinka advances; Djokovic quits, Federer rolls at US Open



# MP Adasani threatens to grill PM, ministers over violations

## Lawmakers oppose involuntary retirement of Kuwaitis



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday travelled to the United States for a private visit. His Highness the Amir will visit Washington DC for official talks with US President Donald Trump on September 12th. — (See Page 3)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani said yesterday he will file to grill Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah over alleged administrative, security and financial violations. Adasani said on his Twitter account that his decision is final and the grilling will be filed at the start of the next assembly term late October. He said the grilling will be filed over "serious security, financial, administrative violations," in addition to flagrant breaches in contracts and projects and the double standard policy.

The lawmaker also accused the minister of playing favoritism in the transfer and promotion of personnel. Adasani has also threatened to file to grill the prime minister and the minister of finance over similar allegations. Several lawmakers have already threatened to grill various ministers over several allegations which makes the next Assembly term which is the final term before elections, very explosive and tense.

In the meantime, lawmakers continued to criticize the government for forcing Kuwaiti employees to go into retirement before time based on a law

approved by the National Assembly just before the last Assembly term closed. MP Saleh Ashour called on lawmakers to ensure justice for Kuwaiti employees who were forced by the government to retire based on the newly approved early retirement law.

Ashour said the government forced Kuwaiti employees to retire in defiance of a pledge it made during the debate on the early retirement law, adding that this was the reason for opposing and rejecting the law. He said that the law gives ministers the right to force employees to retire against their desire, adding this will add financial burdens on those employees.

MP Humoud Al-Khudhair said that lawmakers will not accept the government measures based on the early retirement law, saying this involves rights of Kuwaiti employees which will be protected. He said that if the law includes some legal errors, it must be rectified within the legal framework to safeguard the rights of Kuwaitis. MP Awdah Al-Awdah insisted that lawmakers will not allow the rights of Kuwaitis to be undermined and will take the necessary legal measures to rectify any error.

## Dubai in push to rebalance bloated property market

DUBAI: Dubai's ruler announced yesterday the creation of a panel to address a glut in the property market, a key part of the economy but in decline for the past five years. The committee charged with rebalancing the industry will be headed by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum's son and deputy, Maktoum bin Mohammed, and include representatives of top property developers in Dubai.

"Today, we formed in Dubai a higher committee

for real estate planning... with the aim to achieve a balance between supply and demand," Sheikh Mohammed, who is also prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, said on Twitter. Dubai's property market has been in a downturn since mid-2014, with sale prices and rents shedding around a third of their value.

Economic outlooks indicate that the sector, which contributes some seven percent to Dubai's gross domestic product, will slump further due to the extent of oversupply and an economic slowdown caused by low oil prices. In an emirate where glitzy apartments line the coastline, and gated communities stretch back into the desert, Sheikh Mohammed called on the committee to ensure that property projects add value to the economy and do not duplicate each other.

He also said the panel should guarantee that giant

semi-state real estate companies do not compete with private sector developers, and to draw up a 10-year strategic plan for the sector. Standard and Poor's ratings agency said earlier this year that property prices in Dubai, where full foreign ownership is allowed, have slumped to levels close to those seen in the 2009-2010 crash.

It said prices will continue to fall until they stabilize either next year or in 2021. Property prices in Dubai plummeted in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis which hit the emirate's economy hard, triggering a 2.6 percent contraction the following year. The main drive behind the current glut of new housing projects in the market is excitement over Dubai's hosting of the global trade fair Expo 2020, which experts project will generate some 300,000 new jobs and attract over 20 million visitors. — AFP

## Kuwait lifts ban on working outdoors in summer midday

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) yesterday announced the end of the ban for working outdoors that was from 11 am to 4 pm in the summer. PAM's spokesperson Aseel Al-Mazyad said that this order was made to protect the workers from the hot weather, and it was

Continued on Page 24

## India govt defends citizenship register after UN criticism



ASSAM: Photo shows an under-construction detention centre for people who are not included in a 'citizens register' in Kadamtola Gopalpur village, in Goalpara district. — AFP

GUWAHATI: India's foreign ministry has again defended a controversial citizenship register in northeast Assam after criticism from the United Nations, saying the almost two million people excluded from the list would not become "stateless". The National Register of Citizens (NRC) was drawn up by India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - which also runs Assam state - saying it was necessary to detect "foreign infiltrators".

Critics say it is being used by the BJP to push a Hindu nationalist agenda and marginalize the state's large minority of Muslims - many who fled there when East Pakistan broke violently from Islamabad in 1971 to become Bangladesh. Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, had on Sunday called on New Delhi to avoid stripping people of their nationality, saying it "would be an enormous blow to global efforts to eradicate statelessness".

Continued on Page 24

## Israel-Hezbollah tensions remain high

AVIVIM: An escalation between Israel and Hezbollah has ended after a brief exchange of fire, but tensions remained high along the Lebanese border yesterday after a series of accusations from the two enemies. Burnt fields could be seen in the border area and a new military checkpoint was set up outside the Israeli community of Avivim. Schools were however open and residents were returning to normal activity in Avivim, from where the Lebanese town of Maroun Al-Ras is clearly visible on a nearby hill.

"The war can start in a minute. I am worried it could happen," Dudu Peretz, 35, said as he was dropping his son off at kindergarten. Sunday's incident - which caused no casualties - followed a week of rising tensions that included what Hezbollah described as an Israeli drone attack on its Beirut stronghold on August 25. Israel has not acknowledged that attack but

Continued on Page 24

## PM threatens Brexit rebels with expulsion

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson threatened to expel rebel lawmakers from his Conservative Party if they thwart his Brexit plans by voting to prevent a no-deal exit from the European Union. Johnson's promise to leave the EU on Oct 31 with or without a divorce agreement has propelled the United Kingdom towards a constitutional crisis and a showdown with the 27 other members of the bloc, with an election one of the possibilities.

Conservative Party rebels are plotting with opposition parties to take control of

parliament and tie the government's hands with legislation that would block a no-deal exit from the EU which they say would be ruinous to the economy. With just over 24 hours until parliament returns today from its summer break, Johnson's enforcers warned rebels that if they voted against the government they would be giving control of parliament to Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

"If they fail to vote with the government on Tuesday they will be destroying the government's negotiating position and handing control of parliament to Jeremy Corbyn," said a source in the whips office, which is responsible for party discipline. "Any Conservative MP (member of parliament) who does this will have the whip withdrawn and will not stand as Conservative candidates in an election," the source said.

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HAIFA: Israeli paramedics and soldiers evacuate a mock wounded comrade at a helipad in Ramban hospital in the Mediterranean city of Haifa as part of a deception operation of the Israeli army in order to mislead the leadership of Lebanon's Shiite group Hezbollah. — AFP



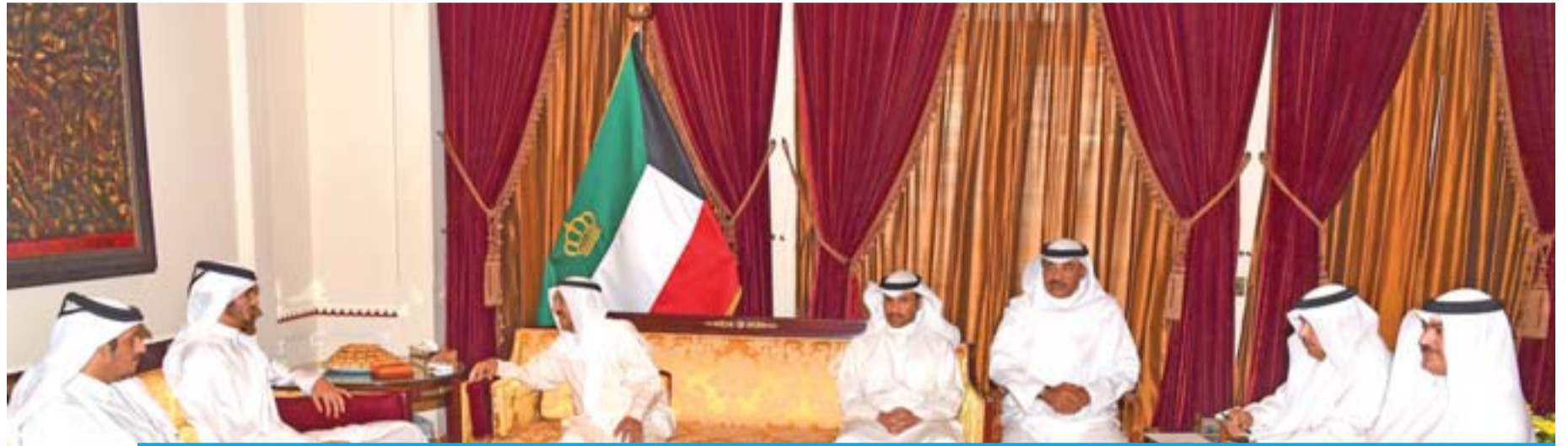
LONDON: Anti-Brexit campaigner Steve Bray (left) and pro-EU protesters gather outside the cabinet office on Whitehall in London yesterday. — AFP

## Local

# Kuwait's Amir receives written letter from Qatar's Sheikh Tamim

## Sheikh Sabah receives cable on his recovery from Turkey's President

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, received yesterday Sheikh Jassem bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Representative of the Qatari Amir and his accompanying delegation. Sheikh Jassem delivered a written letter from Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani which highlighted bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in all fields. The letter also delved into issues of mutual interests



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Jassem bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Representative of the Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. — Amiri Diwan photo

### Amir offers condolences over West Texas shooting

and the latest developments in the region. His Highness the Amir conveyed his greetings to the Qatari Amir, expressing his best wishes, good health, and prosperity to the Qatari people. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received a cable from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressing sincere congratulations on his recuperation from the recent

health setback, and wishing more prosperity and thrive to the State of Kuwait and its leadership. In return, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to the Turkish leader thanking him for his kind words and sentiments, wishing all the best for him and his country prosperity and thrive.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to US President Donald Trump, expressing his sorrow over the rampage killings in West Texas which

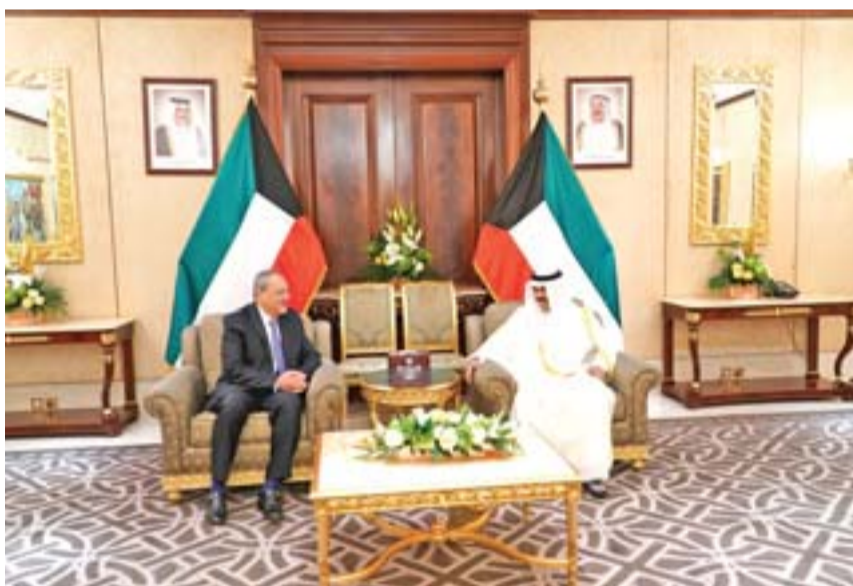
resulted in killing five people and 21 injured. In his cable, His Highness the Amir expressed condemnation to such criminal act that targeted innocent civilians and hoped for a speedy recovery to all those injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables on the occasion. Up to five people were killed and over 21 others

were wounded, including three law enforcement officials west of Texas State. In the meantime, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to the President of the Republic of Mali Ibrahim Kieta over the tragic incident and casualties in the capital Bamako after a building collapse, which resulted in the injury of many people. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables of condolences. — KUNA

## Crown Prince meets Egyptian prosecutor

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at the Amiri Airport the visiting Egyptian General Prosecutor Nabil Ahmad Tawfiq and his accompanying delegation. His

Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, General Prosecutor Dharar Al-Asousi and Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Egyptian General Prosecutor Nabil Ahmad Tawfiq. — KUNA

## Kuwaiti students win medals in South Korea IESO 2019

**SEOUL:** Kuwaiti students won five medals, two silver and three bronze, in the International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) 2019 held in South Korea, the Ministry of Education said yesterday. Zainab Al-Saffar from Al-Ahmadi educational zone won a bronze medal in the sciences category, while Mariam Al-Rifai from Al-Asima educational zone took two bronze medals for the best poster and a silver one for presentation. Meanwhile, Shaimaa Al-Khabbaz from Al-Farwaniya educational zone bagged a silver medal for the best poster. The International Earth Science Olympiad was established as one of the major activities of the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO). IGEO is affiliated to and sponsored by International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). It aims to promote Geoscience education at all international levels, encourage and develop public awareness of Geoscience, especially among young people and work on the improvement of quality of Geoscience education all over the world. IESO aims to encourage students' interest and public awareness of Earth science and to enhance Earth science learning. With the IESO, the organizers hope to pick out talented and gifted Earth science students and to promote the improvement of teaching Earth sciences at schools. The IESO is the only International Olympiad that includes an International Team Field Investigation (ITFI).



**SEOUL:** The Kuwaiti students pose with their medals at the International Earth Science Olympiad. — KUNA

ITFI turns out to be a special IESO tool to encourage friendly relationships among young learners from different countries and to promote international cooperation. Meanwhile, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi stressed the ministry's keenness to support talented students and encourage them

to participate in local and international competitions. Azmi congratulated the winners, praising students' high abilities that enable them in competing at all levels. He also hailed the achievements of the Kuwaiti delegation that participated in the competition, wishing them further progress and success. — KUNA

## Zain strategic partner of MOI's school awareness campaign

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its strategic partnership of the awareness campaign for the school year 2019-2020 for the second consecutive year. The campaign, organized by the Ministry of Interior's Relations and Security Media Department, targets all school levels, and includes many programs and awareness activities that will extend throughout the new school year.

Zain participated in the opening ceremony of the campaign's awareness exhibition at the Avenues Mall, which witnessed the attendance of Deputy General Director of MOI's Relations and Security Media Department Brigadier General Tawheed Al-Kandari, Director of MOI's Security Media Department Colonel Nasser Boslaib, as well as a number of Zain officials and the ministry's representatives.

Zain's strategic partnership of this awareness campaign for the second year running comes as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy that aims at serving the community. The company will always be keen on shouldering initiatives that work towards enhancing the society's welfare in partnership with the various ministries and public authorities, including the Ministry of Interior, especially in regards to spreading positive awareness to children and youth who are considered the nation's future.

Zain's support to this campaign will extend throughout the new school year of 2019-2020. The campaign targets all educational levels, starting with kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school, and university students. The campaign is centered around five main elements: traffic awareness, drug abuse awareness, protecting and guiding minors, introducing cybercrimes and safety on social media, as well as enriching national pride and strengthening values.

The campaign's exhibition, held at the Avenues Mall from 2-4 September, mainly aims at spreading positive awareness among visitors, especially young people, about traffic safety through a number of activities that contribute to delivering a positive message in a creative way. The exhibition works to enrich traffic and legal awareness within students, parents, and road users, as well as enriching national pride and responsibility by bringing citizens and police officers closer. MOI specialists will also be



**KUWAIT:** Deputy General Director of MOI's Relations and Security Media Department Brigadier General Tawheed Al-Kandari and Director of MOI's Security Media Department Colonel Nasser Boslaib with Zain officials during the exhibition.

available to explain various traffic rules and organize fun competitions for children.

As part of its ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Interior, Zain sponsored the National Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign during last June for the second consecutive year. The campaign, which came on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June of every year, mainly aimed at spreading awareness among young people about the various types of illegal drugs, their dangers, and how to prevent their abuse.

Zain will continue to find ways to serve the community as to foster a better world and be a productive member of the society, being a leader in the Kuwaiti private sector. The company is proud to be one of the first organizations to partner with the Ministry of Interior for two consecutive years to make this campaign a success and contribute to saving lives.

Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the well-being of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference in people's everyday lives.



Local

# Amir heads to United States on private visit

Sheikh Sabah to hold official talks with President Trump on Sept 12



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah bids farewell to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —Amiri Diwan photos



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem bids farewell to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman bids farewell to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah bids farewell to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Al-Khedhr bids farewell to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah bids farewell to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by Vice President of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah, headed yesterday to the United States for a private visit. His Highness the Amir will visit Washington DC for official talks with US President Donald Trump on

September 12th. Upon departure, His Highness the Amir was seen off by His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Hamad Al-Sabah, and senior state officials. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan met with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman at the newspaper's headquarters in Shuwaikh yesterday. The two spoke about a range of issues of mutual concern to Kuwait and the US. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

## Kuwaiti minister, Omani official discuss common interests



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Oman's Assistant Attorney General Ali Al Mamari. —KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah held talks yesterday with Oman's Assistant Attorney General Ali Al Mamari, focusing on matters of mutual interest. Kuwait and Oman are bonded by amity and goodwill, the Kuwaiti minister was quoted as saying. Meanwhile, the Omani official said that both sides have agreed to step up cooperation across various levels. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem received yesterday in his office Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah. —KUNA

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## Local

# Kuwait Cabinet rewards inspectors who seized ecstasy pills in July

## Ministers informed about Amir's private visit to US

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet announced presenting a financial reward for inspectors from the General Administration of Customs, who took part in seizing ecstasy pill, estimated at ten million pills last July. In a statement yesterday, the Cabinet hailed the efforts of the administration's workers to protect the country against such destructive drugs.

### Amir's US visit

The Cabinet held its regular weekly session yesterday at Seif Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Following the session, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh stated that the session kicked off by informing the executives about the departure of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the United States on a private visit. They were also informed about formation of the official delegation accompanying His Highness during his official visit to Washington. His Highness the Amir delegation includes Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of Finance Nayef Al-Hajraf, senior officials from the Amiri Diwan, the

ministry of foreign affairs and other departments, along with security and media personnel.

His Highness the Prime Minister briefed the ministers about outcome of the recent visit to the country by Egyptian President Abdel Fatah Al-Sisi. They were also



## Govt discusses recent int'l developments

informed about a recommendation included in minutes of a meeting of the economic affairs commission regarding the report by bureaus of financial auditors about the second half of the financial year 2018-2019, including proposals on tackling some defects in government apparatuses.

### Recent developments

The Cabinet also discussed the overall recent political developments on regional and international arenas.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

The Cabinet strongly denounced the air attack carried out by Israeli drones on Lebanon's southern lands, affirming Kuwait's stand by the brotherly republic and support of all measures and procedures it takes to defend its territories, protect its sovereignty, and preserve its security and stability. The session also addressed, with sincere sorrow, the heavy rains that recently lashed upon several areas in Morocco, causing several casualties. The government prayed to Allah

Almighty to bestow his mercy upon the deceased victims and inspire their families with patience and solace. The Cabinet also expressed deep sorrow over the rampage shooting in the town of Midland in West Texas, US, which killed five people and wounded 21 others, in addition to the stabbing incident in the city of Lyon, France, that caused several deaths and injuries. Kuwait strongly condemns such hostile actions that target innocent lives, the government affirmed. — KUNA

## Council panel approves Shaheed Park expansion

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Municipal Council's Capital Committee approved an Amiri Diwan request to design, build and develop the third stage of the Shaheed Park project. The Amiri Diwan plans to expand the park by annexing and developing the area adjacent to it, which includes the ice skating rink and fountain park. Located in the heart of Kuwait City, the Shaheed Park is Kuwait's largest urban park, developed by the Amiri Diwan over an area of 200,000 square meters and opened in 2015. Meanwhile, the panel also approved the construction of a multi-storey car parking in Sharq's Block 6.

Separately, Social Affairs Ministry Undersecretary Abdelaziz Shuaib said that there are 2,840 people entitled to social aid and who are yet to update their data, adding that those are given one extra week to update their information to be paid their dues. "The ministry spared no effort in an attempt to keep the aid going for those who have failed to respond to calls to update their data," Shuaib said. He noted that 1,635 people had updated their data, which helped bring down the number of non-updated cases from 6,579 in July 10th to 4,940 by the end of July, while the number was further dropped to 2,840 as of yesterday.



**KUWAIT:** This file photo shows an aerial view of the Shaheed Park in Kuwait City.

## Interior Ministry waits on hiring bedoon cops

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry rejected applications of bedoons to join its military sectors, despite the fact that the Defense Ministry is accepting their applications, ministry source said, adding that the ministry prefers to continue accepting children of Kuwaiti women who are married to Gulf nationals only. The source said that the Interior Ministry prefers to continue this policy until the civil and social rights law for illegal residents is approved at the National Assembly, which is expect-

ed to happen in November. Meanwhile, the sources noted that the Interior Ministry conducted a study to find out ways to fill shortages in its police force, and how to encourage enrollment in light of the lack of Kuwaitis' turnout to join the police force.

While the admission of children of Kuwaiti women married to Gulf nationals fills the void to some extent, the sources noted that the shortage remains in light of the increasing demand in security work, which makes accepting bedoons' applicants one of the solutions discussed.

"The Interior Ministry may start accepting bedoon children of Kuwaiti women next year if the illegal residents law is finished," the source said. "But this will be limited to those with 1965 census and without security restrictions." In the meantime, the sources said that accepting bedoons in administrative positions is not possible, because that is covered by enough number of Kuwaitis.

## Kuwait floats 50% of hydroelectric company for public

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) said yesterday that subscription for 50 percent of Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula Power and Water Company's shares will begin on October 1, 2019. Kuwaiti citizens, whose names are registered with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) no later than September 15, are eligible to buy shares. KAPP said in a post on its Twitter account. Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula is the first private company in

Kuwait, specializing in electric power generation and water desalination with a productive capacity of up to 1,539 MW of electricity, which equals 10 percent of the country's production capacity, it noted. KAPP urged all citizens wishing to subscribe to check validity of their civil IDs and complete their new born children data no later than September 15 to enable them, along with other family members, to buy their investment stocks in the company. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Paramedics examine the victim's body shortly after it was retrieved by firemen.



Drugs found with a passenger at Kuwait International Airport.

## Worker dies at bridge construction site

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A worker died after he fell into a hole at a bridge's construction site on the Sixth Ring Road yesterday. Firefighters retrieved the Arab man and

handed him over to paramedics, who pronounced him dead on the scene. The body was moved to the coroner, and an investigation was opened to reveal the circumstances behind the incident.

In other news, customs officers at Kuwait

International Airport found 500 grams of hashish that a passenger had hid in candy bags inside his luggage. The passenger was placed under arrest and sent to concerned authorities.

## Kuwaiti aid continues to pour into flood-hit Sudan

**KHARTOUM:** A second Kuwaiti plane carrying humanitarian aid meant for the victims of flash floods across Sudan landed yesterday, said a Kuwaiti diplomat. The Gulf state's efforts to come to the aid of the Sudanese people come upon the instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's deputy chief of mission in Khartoum Abdulkarim Al-Majim said. The Kuwaiti plane is laden with 40 tons of food to be delivered to the people of Sudan, according to the Kuwait-based Direct Aid Society's Director General Abdullah Al-Sumait. He thanked all concerned parties in Sudan for their efforts to allow unimpeded and timely delivery of the crucial aid across the impoverished nation. Sudan's Commissioner-General for Humanitarian Aid Mohammed Fadlallah Siraj was appreciative of the Kuwaiti aid, thanking the country for its swift response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the natural disaster. Torrential rains and floods have battered Sudan for over a month, affecting nearly 200,000 people across 15 states. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Faisal Sadeq formed a team to care for Husselniyas on the occasion of the month of Muharram 1441 AH. The team is led by Sadeq, and includes director of cleanliness department in Hawalli and Mubarak Al-Kabeer, and cleanliness supervisors in Mubarak Al-Kabeer and the Capital, as well as heads of emergency teams in the governorates.

Local

# Crown Prince meets Indonesian Foreign Minister at Bayan Palace

Kuwaiti, Indonesian foreign ministers discuss promoting ties, latest developments



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, along with his visiting Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi. The meeting was held with presence of Kuwait's Minister of State for Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. His

Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received the visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister, with attendance of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. The meeting was attended by the assistant foreign minister for Asian affairs Ambassador Ali Suleiman Al-Saeed and the State of Kuwait Ambassador to Indonesia Abdulwahab Al-Sager.

Later yesterday, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met with the visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, and the two sides discussed promoting bilateral relationships. The two ministers also mull the latest developments on both regional and international arenas, as well as issues of common concern. The meeting

was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, assistant foreign minister for Asian affairs Ambassador Ali Suleiman Al-Saeed, Kuwait Ambassador to Indonesia Abdulwahab Al-Saeed, and other senior ministry officials. —KUNA

## Indonesia calls for joint commercial committee with Kuwait

KUWAIT: Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi called for establishing a joint commercial committee with Kuwait to boost economic ties. Indonesia offers great investment opportunities and has a strong economy, Marsudi said during her visit to Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) yesterday. The two countries share relations

in the oil and gas field, however, they need to boost their investment cooperation, especially in technology, she noted. The minister added that Indonesia's economy saw a growth of five percent in the past five years, hoping it will grow further in the coming years. Meanwhile, she hoped Kuwaiti companies and businessmen would take part in the 'Halal Indonesia Expo 2020' in the capital Jakarta next year, which will be held along with the 'Trade Expo Indonesia' conference.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan said that Kuwait is eager to develop investment ties with Indonesia, as the country's economy is improving fast. He expected Indonesia to

have the fifth strongest economy in the world in the coming years. Investing in the Indonesian market could benefit both the Kuwaiti and Gulf economies, Wazzan said. He added that Kuwait can strongly rely on the Indonesian labor market, since Indonesian workers are highly qualified in computer sciences and technology.

As for supporting projects to develop Jakarta's infrastructure with a cost of up to \$40 billion, Al-Wazzan noted that the chamber called on Kuwaiti businessmen to visit the capital to closely evaluate the situation and take a decision on funding these projects. He also said that commercial exchange between the two countries is estimated at about \$264 million, according to statistics by Kuwait Embassy in Jakarta. —KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan presents a memento to Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

## 1st Kuwait-Indonesia committee meeting witnesses inking accords



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi co-chair the first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee between Kuwait and Indonesia. —KUNA Photos



Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi pose for a picture after signing an agreement during the meeting.

KUWAIT: The first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee between Kuwait and Indonesia was held in Kuwait yesterday under chairmanship of Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his visiting Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi. Kuwaiti and Indonesian officials, during the session, examined various spheres of cooperation particularly at the economic and development levels and means of boosting such cooperation toward close integration between the two countries. They signed accords and memorandums of understanding with respect of exemption from visa for carriers of diplomatic and special passports, cooperation in the realm of building diplomatic potentials, coordination in education and scientific research. Moreover, the inked agreements deal with cooperation in the sectors of oil, gas and petrochemicals.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled in his inaugural speech warmly welcomed the Indonesian officials, noting that the two countries have been bonded with diplomatic relations since 51 years ago. He expressed gratitude for Indonesia's efforts to resolve the 'Gulf crisis' and its full support for the initiative masterminded by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for 'tackling the rift in the single Gulf home.' "With these meetings, the relations between our two friendly countries enter a new phase of cooperation, thus warranting utmost efforts to activate our bilateral and

international cooperation," he said, affirming the signing of up 10 accords for cooperation in various vital fields.

Four of the inked accords tackle training, building potentials via the diplomatic institutes in the two friendly countries, exempting carriers of diplomatic and special passports from visas, coordination in higher education and scientific research, in oil and gas, he said. Affirming noticeable growth of the bilateral relations, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said Kuwaiti investments in Indonesia reached more than \$1.7 billion in 2019, compared to \$460 million in 2014, rising by 300 percent. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled affirmed the desire to boost further the Kuwaiti businesses and enterprise in the Asian nation, to be parallel with the close and friendly relations at the political level. Alluding to the latest Kuwaiti achievement in this respect, the minister noted that Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), has recently won the auction for investing the 'Anpas' oil field. Meanwhile, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has executed nine enterprises in Indonesia. Kuwaiti tourists spending leisure times in the beautiful country exceeded 20,000 over the past three years. Kuwait for its part hosts 7,000 Indonesian workers and students. Capitalizing on the great harmony of the two countries political views regarding diverse regional and international issues, Kuwait desires to deepen the coordination with Singapore at various quarters, he has affirmed. —KUNA

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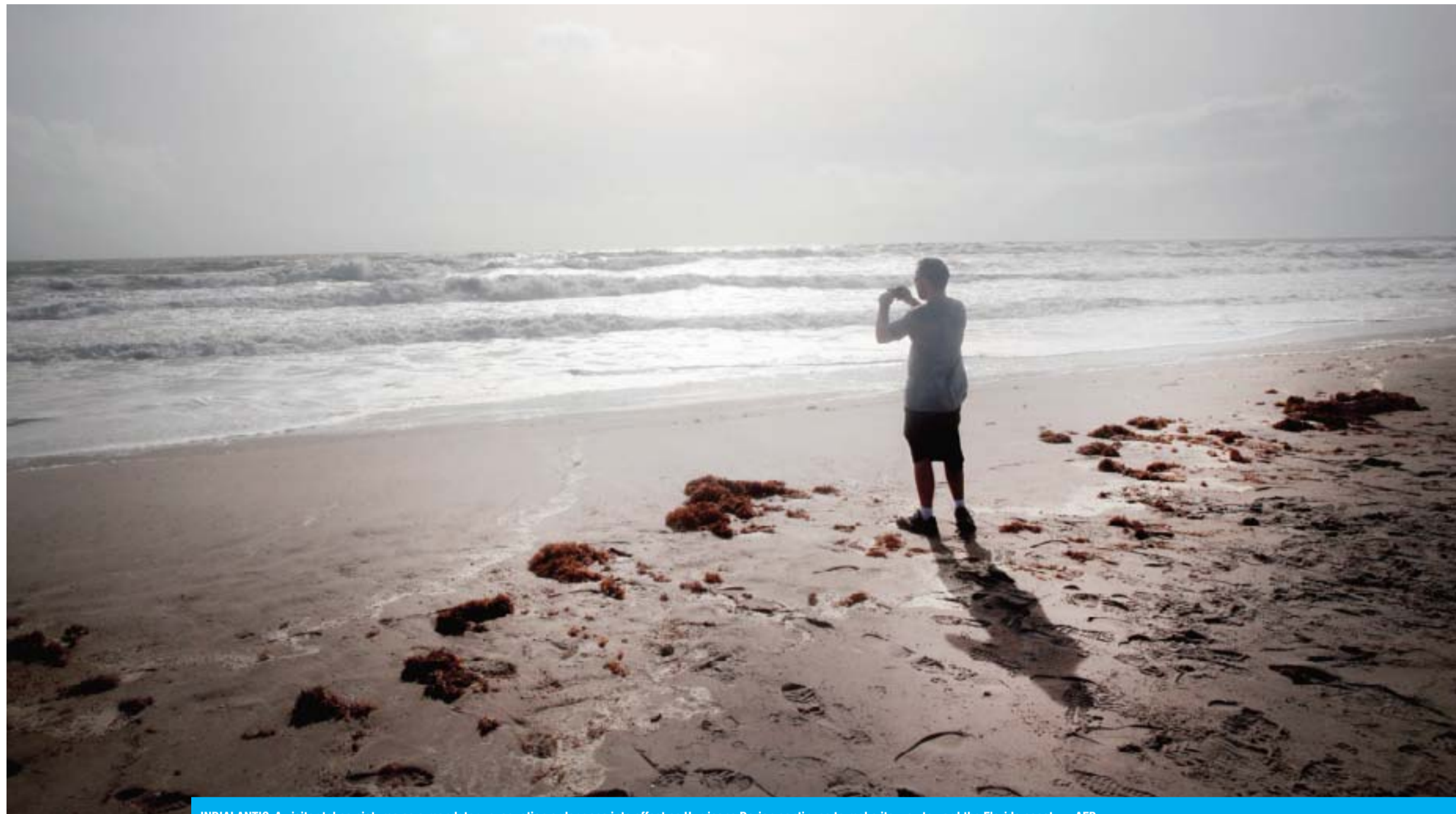
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Pakistan grants India access to alleged spy on death row

## Hundreds of migrants moved from 'hell' of overcrowded Greek island



INDIAN OCEAN: A visitor takes pictures as a mandatory evacuation order goes into effect as Hurricane Dorian continues to make its way toward the Florida coast. — AFP

# 'Catastrophic' Dorian pounds Bahamas

## 'Our focus right now is rescue, recovery and prayer'

PORT SAINT LUCIE: Monster storm Dorian came to a near stand-still over the Bahamas yesterday, prolonging the agony as surging seawaters and hurricane winds made a shambles of low-lying island communities and spurred mass evacuations along the US east coast. Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said reported "devastation is unprecedented" in the Abaco Islands, which on Sunday received the full brunt of Dorian as it came ashore as the most powerful storm ever to hit the archipelago. "Our focus right now is rescue, recovery and prayer," Minnis said on Twitter.

The storm's toll was still untallied nearly 24 hours after it made landfall as a Category 5 with sustained winds of 290 kph (185 mph). It weakened slightly yesterday to a still-devastating Category 4 storm, punishing Grand Bahama Island with "catastrophic winds and storm surge," the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said in its 1500 GMT bulletin. It was grinding its way westward yesterday at a speed of one mile per hour (2 kph), laying siege for hours to Grand Bahama Island, with sustained winds of 250 kph (155 mph).

Fear gripped residents of Freeport, as winds tore off shutters and water began coming into homes, said Yasmin Rigby,

reached by text in the Grand Bahama island's main city. "People who thought they were safe are now calling for help," Rigby said. "My best friend's husband is stuck in the roof of their house with 7 ft water below." Initial Red Cross estimates were that 13,000 buildings may have been damaged or destroyed by Dorian, officials in Geneva said.

### 'Get out NOW'

Images of wrecked and flooded homes in the Abacos appeared on social media and local press accounts. Video posted on the website of the Bahamian newspaper Tribune 242 showed water up to the roofs of wooden houses in what appeared to be a coastal town. Capsized boats floated in muddy brown water dotted with wooden boards, tree branches and other debris. The Miami-based National Hurricane Center forecast an 18 to 23 foot storm surge above tide levels in parts of Grand Bahama, accompanied by large and destructive waves.

Water levels in the Abacos, swamped by a similar surge Sunday, were expected to slowly subside. "On this track, the core of extremely dangerous Hurricane Dorian will continue

to pound Grand Bahama Island through much of today and tonight," the center said in its 1200 GMT bulletin. "The hurricane will move dangerously close to the Florida east coast tonight through Wednesday evening," it said.

Florida, Georgia and South Carolina ordered hundreds of thousands of coastal residents to evacuate, beginning at noon yesterday. "A slight wobble West would bring this Cat 5 storm on shore with devastating consequences," said Florida Governor Rick Scott on Twitter. "If you're in an evacuation zone, get out NOW. We can rebuild your home. We can't rebuild your life."

### 'My life's more important'

Joe Lewis, a 41-year-old navy veteran, echoed the sentiment as he secured an air conditioner to his mobile home in Jensen Park, Florida — one of several in the area that were all-but emptied of their residents. "There's only one thing that's important. It's not what you own, it's who you are, and your life. It doesn't matter if I've got a million-dollar home, I leave it. My life's more important," he said as he prepared to join those fleeing the storm.

In nearby Saint Lucie, Dan Peatle, 78, had likewise fled his retirement community to take shelter in a hotel. "It makes me sick. I don't like it," he said as he stepped outside for air before the storm closes in. "I've been through seven or eight of them since I've been in Florida, since '73. And, they're all the same, you know. Tear everything up, put it back together. "But, I chose to live here so I might as well live with it, you know."

In Washington, President Donald Trump met with his emergency management chiefs on Sunday and declared "this looks monstrous." "We expect that much of the eastern seaboard will be ultimately impacted and some of it very, very severely," he said. Florida issued its first evacuation orders in parts of Palm Beach, home of Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, and Martin Counties. South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster followed suit Sunday ordering mandatory evacuations of the state's coast — affecting some 800,000 people — while Georgia gave orders to evacuate six coastal counties. Both orders take effect yesterday at noon. Neighboring North Carolina has also declared a state of emergency. "Given the strength and unpredictability of the storm, we must prepare for every possible scenario," McMaster said. — AFP

## Poland opposes Trump bid for Russia's G7 return

WARSAW: Poland's president yesterday opposed a proposal by US President Donald Trump to reintegrate Russia into the elite G7 group, insisting that "business as usual" was unacceptable given Moscow's occupation of Ukrainian territory. "Should we have a business as usual approach towards Russia? ... I believe that we cannot under the current circumstances," President Andrzej Duda told reporters at a joint press conference with visiting US Vice President Mike Pence.

The issue of Russia's reintegration into the G7 group of the world's rich nations divided leaders at its summit last week in France, as Trump pushed for Moscow to be allowed back after its 2014 expulsion. Russia was kicked out of what was then the Group of Eight after it annexed Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, a move never recognized by the international community. But Trump, who will host next year's G7 summit, said he would invite Russia to the event, a move supported by France but criticized by Britain and Germany. Poland is not a G7 member.

Speaking alongside Duda yesterday, Pence struck a different tone, insisting that it was crucial to "remain vigilant" towards Russia. He accused Moscow of attempting to meddle in elections and use its oil and gas supplies to "divide our alliance", in an apparent reference to the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline set to send Russian gas to Germany.

Washington and Warsaw, among others, oppose the pipeline, fearing it will increase Europe's reliance on Russian energy supplies which Moscow could then use to exert political pressure. Poland has long cultivated close ties with the US, which it regards as the primary guarantor of its security within the NATO alliance and as a bulwark against Russia, its Soviet-era master with whom tensions still run high.



BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS: Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R), flanked by French President Emmanuel Macron (C), gives flowers to French President's wife Brigitte Macron (L), at the French President's summer retreat of the Bregancon fortress on the Mediterranean coast, near the village of Bormes-les-Mimosas, southern France, on August 19, 2019, for talks days before the G7 Summit. — AFP

### Judicial independence

Pence confirmed that the US and Poland would sign a joint declaration on digital infrastructure security. "This declaration, we believe, will set a vital example for the rest of Europe on the broader question of 5G," he told reporters. The US is pressing allies, with mixed success, to reject Chinese 5G technology, especially from the giant mobile phone company Huawei. Washington fears that Huawei will provide Beijing with a way to spy on communications from the countries that use its products and services.

Pence also said he had discussed the "importance of judicial independence" with Duda in the wake of a string of controversial judicial reforms pushed through by

Poland's right-wing government since taking office in 2015. The EU has slammed the measures as a threat to the rule of law and ultimately democracy. Pence also said that Poles travelling to the US would soon be covered by Washington's visa-waiver program, allowing them unrestricted entry. "We are literally weeks away from being able to make that a reality," Pence said.

The US vice president travelled to Warsaw for Sunday ceremonies marking 80 years since the outbreak of World War II. President Trump had planned to attend the war commemorations but cancelled at the last minute to monitor Hurricane Dorian. Without going into detail, Trump confirmed on Sunday in Washington that he had only postponed his trip and would travel to Poland "soon". — AFP

## As fires ravage the Amazon, its tribes pray for protection

FEIJO: As thousands of fires ravage the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest, some indigenous tribes are turning to prayer in a bid to halt the destruction and protect their environment for future generations. In the village of Feijo, in the West of Brazil, approaching the border with Peru, indigenous people from the tribe of Shanenawa on Sunday performed a ritual to try to find peace between humans and nature. With faces painted, dozens danced in circles as they prayed to put an end to the fires.

"We want peace and love," Tekahyne Shanenawa, a Shanenawa leader, told Reuters as he danced in a circle as part of their ritual. "Peace, harmony and education to stop these fires that have attacked the Amazon." Tens of thousands of forest fires have been recorded in the Amazon during this year's dry season, the most in at least a decade, at the same time as Brazil's new far-right president Jair Bolsonaro has argued that the forest needs to be exploited, and Indian reservations vastly reduced.

"If the fires continue the way they are, in 50 years time we will no longer have the forest standing up," said Bainawa Inu Bake Huni Kuin, another Shanenawa leader. "And we will not feel secure in what we have, in our culture, in our language, in our songs. Us without the forest, we won't be able to farm, we won't be able to eat, without our land we won't be able to live." Most of the Amazon is located in Brazil, but significant parts are also located in Colombia and Peru, where fires have also been detected. — Reuters

## International

# Israel 'ruse' in spotlight after Lebanon flare-up

## Psychological warfare meant to 'confuse Hezbollah'

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli troops roll a comrade wrapped in apparent blood-stained bandages on a stretcher, but the dramatic scene shot after a flare-up with Lebanon's Hezbollah may not have been what it seemed. Reports of an alleged military ruse filled Israeli front pages yesterday, along with a photo of the soldier with mock wounds, purportedly as part of a plan to restore calm after Sunday's cross-border spat with the Iran-backed Shiite movement.

Israeli media said the thinking may have been that faking casualties would de-escalate the situation by allowing Hezbollah to believe it had successfully carried out its revenge mission. That coupled with the fact that casualties among Israeli soldiers would lead to a harsh response from the Israeli military would then cause Hezbollah to halt its assault, the reports said. There would then be time for Israel to respond.

Israel's military declined to comment on the reports, but a hospital issued a statement that added fuel to accounts that such a plan existed. The Rambam hospital in the northern Israeli city of Haifa distributed a video showing what appeared to be a military helicopter landing there. It then shows what seems to be two people being taken out on stretchers. "They were removed from the helicopter, examined in the emergency room and released without treatment," it said, without providing further details.

Israel's military said after Sunday's exchange of fire that there had been no casualties, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later took it further by saying "not even a scratch". The escalation, which followed a week of rising tensions, began with Hezbollah firing up to three anti-tank missiles at an Israeli military vehicle and a bat-

alion headquarters near the Lebanese border. Israel retaliated with around 100 artillery shells targeting the squad that fired the missiles. Hezbollah issued a statement soon afterwards saying it had destroyed an Israeli military vehicle and killed and wounded those inside. It was unclear if the reported ruse by Israel had fuelled Hezbollah's statement.

### 'Type of fog'

One retired Israeli general who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity called it psychological warfare meant to "confuse Hezbollah". He said he believed that it was a mistake to later reveal there had been no casualties. "It should have remained as a type of fog — that was the military plan at least," the ex-general said. Netanyahu's main opponent in the upcoming September 17 elections, Benny Gantz, said "the government's policy of ambiguity was harmed".

Israel had been on alert for an attack from Hezbollah after it threatened to respond to an alleged Israeli drone attack on the group's Beirut stronghold. Israel has not acknowledged the August 25 drone attack, but it subsequently accused Hezbollah of working with Iran to produce precision-guided missiles in Lebanon. The drone incident came hours after Israel had launched strikes in Syria to prevent what it said was an impending Iranian drone attack on its territory. Hezbollah says two of its members were killed in that strike. A source connected to Hezbollah called Sunday's missile fire a response to those deaths and said a reaction to the alleged drone attack would take place in the air. — AFP



United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peace keepers patrol the border between Israel and Lebanon, in the Maroun Al-Ras area. — AFP

## Scores arrested in S Africa looting, anti-foreigner protests

**JOHANNESBURG:** South African police yesterday arrested more than 60 people following looting in Johannesburg and protests in the transport industry linked to a wave of anti-foreigner sentiment. At least 41 people were arrested after hundreds of people marched through Johannesburg's Central Business District (CBD), plundering shops and torching cars and buildings, the police said in a statement.

The unrest started on Sunday when an old building in the CBD caught fire and collapsed, killing at least three people. It then spread to eastern suburbs. Such violence breaks out sporadically in South Africa, where many nationals blame foreigners for high unemployment, particularly in manual labor. Police Minister Bheki Cele insisted the violence was linked to "criminality" rather than "xenophobia". "Xenophobia is used as an excuse," Cele told journalists after a tour of the CBD. "For now there is nothing that has sparked any form of this conflict between the South Africans and foreign nationals."

Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama reacted strongly to the scenes of violence. "Received sickening and depressing news of continued burning and looting of Nigerian shops and premises in #SouthAfrica by mindless criminals with ineffective police protection," he said on Twitter. "Enough is enough. We will take definitive measures." Separately, police in the southeastern province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) said at least 20 individuals had been arrested "in connection with incidents related to protests within the trucking industry".

Taxi drivers clashed with police in the capital Pretoria last week, and truckers started a nation-wide strike on Sunday to protest against the employment of foreign drivers. Eleven trucks on Sunday blocked the road to Richards Bay Harbor, one of the deepest natural harbors in Africa. KZN police spokesman Jay Naicker said. In the Western Cape province, several protesters blocked roads with their vehicles. "Several roads had to be closed for traffic from early morning due to trucks blocking the road while others were seen offloading sand on the road," said a statement from the provincial transport minister, Bonginkosi Madikizela.

Human Rights Watch last week reported that dozens



TURFFONTEIN: A South African looter takes items from an alleged foreign-owned shop during a riot in the Johannesburg suburb of Turfontein on September 2, 2019 as a part of a new wave of violence targeting foreign nationals. — AFP

of truck drivers in the country had died in attacks against foreigners since March 2018. The report was released after a recent spate of xenophobic violence fuelled by economic decline and record unemployment. A South African truck owners' association quoted by the HRW reported 75 such incidents since March this year, 15 of which were independently confirmed by the watchdog. Lieutenant-General Khombinkosi Jula, police chief for KZN province, where at least two trucks were torched, said they had intensified patrols along major routes. South Africa is a major destination for economic migrants from the southern Africa region, with many moving from neighboring Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in search for work.

### 'Hungry and angry'

The latest population census in 2011 shows that numbers surged in the previous decade, with nearly half of interna-

tional migrants having moved to South Africa between 2005 and 2010. An unknown number of the migrants are undocumented. Labor ministry spokesman Makhosonke Buthelezi last week told AFP that employers "prefer (foreign truck drivers) because they can work long hours at a much cheaper cost, so they tend to exploit them".

Sipho Zungu, chairman of the All Truck Drivers Foundation told AFP his group had had "nothing to do with the strike", but stressed that it was fighting for the employment of South African drivers. "People of South Africa are hungry, they are sitting at home... while companies in South Africa are employing foreigners...(because) its cheap labour. We are hungry and angry," Zungu said. But the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU), which has over 200,000 members, distanced itself from the violence. "Whenever there are faceless people calling a strike, there tends to be violence," SATAWU spokeswoman Zanele Sabela said. — AFP

## UN orders Bosnia to compensate wartime rape victim

**SARAJEVO:** The UN Committee Against Torture has made a "landmark" ruling calling on Bosnia to compensate a victim of wartime rape and provide free medical and psychological care, according to the NGO Trial International. The legal organization helped file a complaint to the UN committee (CAT) after the victim won her case in a Bosnian court in 2015 but never received the 15,000-euro (\$16,500) compensation because the rapist did not have the funds to pay.

A statute of limitations then prevented her from filing a civil case asking the state to foot the bill. In an preliminary decision posted on Trial's website, the UN committee said Bosnia had "failed to fulfill its obligations... by failing to provide the complainant with redress including fair and adequate compensation". It said the government is now required to ensure "prompt, fair and adequate compensation" to the victim, as well as immediate and free "medical and psychological care".

Bosnia is also required to "offer public official apologies", the committee said. Trial International hailed the decision as "highly important." "It is the first decision by the CAT relating to a victim of conflict-related sexual violence," the NGO's senior legal advisor in Sarajevo, Adrijana Hanusic Becirovic, was quoted as saying. The decision also calls on Bosnia to establish a national reparations scheme for all victims of war crimes, including sexual violence. Some 20,000 women are estimated to have been raped during Bosnia's 1992-1995 civil wars. Yet only 1,000 receive a small pension as civilian victims of the war. — AFP



In this photo released by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department yesterday, a boat burns off the coast of Santa Cruz Island, California. — AFP

## Over 30 trapped on burning boat off California

**LOS ANGELES:** Rescuers scrambled yesterday to reach as many as 34 people trapped below the deck of a burning commercial scuba-diver boat off the coast of California, US Coast Guard officials said. Many were feared dead. Firefighters converged on the scene near Santa Cruz Island but the blaze and intense heat prevented them from breaching the hull of the 75-foot (23-meter) vessel to see if there were survivors, they said.

"I'm unaware of any survivors at this time," Coast Guard Petty Officer Aaron Bemis told CNN, adding that it was too early to confirm casualties. Bemis said the fire broke out at around 3:15 am local time (1015 GMT) as passengers were below deck in a sleeping area. Five crew members who were in a cabin above deck made it off the boat, Bemis said. But those below deck, who he said were reported to number 34, had not been accounted for.

"The fire was so intense that even after it was put out, we're not able to actually embark the vessel and, you know, look for survivors at this point. It's still ongoing," he said. He said the fire was put out multiple times but flared back up, apparently because of the amount of fuel in the vessel. Bill Nash, a spokesperson for Ventura County, told CNN many people were feared dead. "It's a large boat, and we know we have numerous fatalities. I don't have an exact number," Nash said. — AFP

## Elections begin in Tunisia with 26 candidates

**TUNIS:** Campaigning for Tunisia's presidential elections opened yesterday with 26 candidates vying to replace late leader Beji Caid Essebsi in a vote seen as vital to defending democratic gains in the cradle of the Arab Spring. Seven million Tunisians are expected to head to the ballot box in the September 15 poll, which was brought forward from November following Essebsi's death in July.

He had been elected in the wake of the 2011 uprising that overthrew former dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and set off revolts in many Arab countries that forced other veteran leaders out. Tunisia has been praised as a rare case of democratic transition after the Arab Spring, and Essebsi in 2014 became the country's first democratically elected president. But the North African country has struggled with repeated jihadist attacks, along with inflation and unemployment that have hit the popularity of Prime Minister Youssef Chahed.

The election comes as Tunisia has been wracked by internal conflict, including struggles between Chahed and the late president's son that led the premier to quit the ruling Nidaa Tounes party and form Tahia Tounes. Launched at the start of the year, Tahia Tounes has become the second largest party in parliament behind the Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party.

Aged 43, Chahed is the country's youngest prime minister and has delegated his powers to the public services minister to devote himself to the election campaign. He faces competition from a slew of candidates, including interim parliamentary speaker Abdelfattah Mourou, of Ennahdha, as well as former defence minister Abdelkrim Zbidi. Another powerful opponent could be media magnate Nabil Karoui, who despite his arrest on August 23 for alleged money laundering is still eligible to run according to Tunisian law.

### 'Everything is possible'

"It is the first time that Tunisians have no idea who will become their president," according to the Tunis-based Jousour think tank. Jousour noted there were only two frontrunners in the last election in 2014 — Essebsi and former president Moncef Marzouki. "Now everything is possible," it said. Chahed launched his overseas campaign Saturday in the French city of Lyon, casting himself as a human rights defender. Some 1.2 million Tunisians live overseas, mainly in Europe.

"We hope to speak with Tunisians to explain to them... our vision for a stronger Tunisia, a more modern and developed Tunisia, and a Tunisia that truly believes in the universal values of human rights," he told AFP ahead of a campaign meeting. He also denied accusations from Karoui backers that he had masterminded the arrest of the controversial media magnate. "I had nothing to do with this," he said, stressing that Karoui's arrest was a legal issue.

Karoui, who recently set up a political party, Heart of Tunisia, has said he was targeted by "attempts to undermine his growing popularity". In recent years, Karoui used his popular Nessma TV — which is now facing a ban to cover the election — to launch high-profile charity campaigns, handing out food and clothing in front of the cameras. Chahed's government tried to eliminate Karoui from the race, by voting earlier this year on an amended electoral code which was passed by parliament in June but not ratified by Essebsi before his death. Tunisia's electoral commission, which approved Saturday the final list of 26 presidential hopefuls, has banned the publication of surveys, making it difficult for pundits to evaluate each candidate's strength.

Zbidi told AFP in an interview that if he were elected he was determined to "restart the social ladder" and improve public services so they become "accessible" for all Tunisians. The 69-year-old former defence minister, who presents himself as an independent technocrat, said he would also like to revise the constitution in order to give the head of state more powers. "Power cannot be shared," he said, adding however that it would be up to the Tunisian people to choose, through a referendum, if they want a "parliamentary regime or a presidential one". — AFP

## International

# Hundreds of migrants moved from 'hell' of overcrowded Greek island

## The crushing heat have made conditions unbearable

**MORIA:** Greek officials and UN workers began evacuating hundreds of migrants from the Greek island of Lesbos yesterday, where overcrowding and the crushing heat have made conditions unbearable. A first group of 635 Afghans at the Moria camp were transferred early yesterday towards the north of Greece, scrambling into police buses under the supervision of UN refugee agency workers. "I hope to get out of this hell quickly," 21-year-old Mohamed Akberi, who arrived at the camp five days earlier, said.

The migrants were taken onto a ship, the Caldera Vista, bound for the port of Thessaloniki on mainland Greece. Another 700 migrants are due to be transferred today, under a decision taken by the Greek government at an emergency meeting Saturday. The government agreed on the emergency transfer of the migrants, prioritizing unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable people. But they also agreed to do away with the appeal procedures for asylum seekers to facilitate their swift return to Turkey.

Greece will also step up border patrols with the help of the EU border control agency Frontex. AFP journalists could see regular Greek police boat patrols off the island. There has been growing tension between the two countries over the steady flow of migrants arriving on the Greek islands in the Aegean, which lie just off the Turkish coast. After the EU signed an agreement with Turkey in March 2016, tighter checks made access to the Greek islands from Turkey more difficult. But in recent months, nearly a hundred people on average have managed to make the crossing every day.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said that the island of Lesbos was sheltering nearly 11,000 people at the end of August — four times its capacity. In August alone, more than 3,000 people had arrived there, said the agency. And last Thursday, 13 boats carrying 540 people, 240 of the children, arrived at the island — an unprecedented surge in arrivals that

has alarmed the relatively new conservative government. Migrants at the Moria camp have complained that the hygiene conditions are sub-standard and that there are no tents for the new arrivals.

### Migrant vessel seized

Elsewhere, Italian authorities yesterday seized the charity rescue vessel Eleonore with around 100 migrants aboard, who are to disembark after the ship entered Italian territorial waters despite a ban. "The Eleonore will soon arrive at Pozzallo," Sicily, tweeted German charity Lifeline which operates the vessel.

The ship has been at sea for eight days waiting for a safe port to dock after rescuing around 100 migrants in distress while crossing the Mediterranean. Three charity vessels are currently banned from entering Italian territorial waters in accordance with the hardline politics of the outgoing League-Five Star Movement coalition government.

Italy customs officers seized the Eleonore as part of the draconian legislation after it sailed into Italian waters yesterday. The ship's captain Claus-Pieter Reisch said he headed for Italy as "the situation on board is life-threatening" because of heavy rain overnight and stormy seas. Another rescue vessel, the Mare Jonio, with 31 rescued migrants on board was yesterday holding its position in international waters off Italy's southern Lampedusa island awaiting a safe port. Luca Faenzi spokesman said.

The Mare Jonio rescued 98 people in distress off Libya last week, with 67 vulnerable people disembarked to Italy, including women, children and urgent medical cases, Faenzi said. A third vessel, the Alan Kurdi operated by German charity Sea Eye, was yesterday sailing between Malta and Italy after also being banned from Italian waters by outgoing far-right interior minister Matteo Salvini.



**LESBOS:** Refugees and migrants board a ship at the port of Mytilene, on the island of Lesbos yesterday as hundreds of migrants leave Lesbos, helping to ease overcrowding at the Moria camp. —AFP

Salvini, who is being removed from the government after he tried to bring it down, issued a tough security decree earlier this year which fines rescue vessels a million euros and provides for them to be

seized and their captains prosecuted if they enter Italian waters without authorization. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte is in talks to form a new government without Salvini. —AFP

## Pontiff to travel in locally-made popemobile for Madagascar trip

**ANTANANARIVO:** Over the decades, popemobiles have typically been the preserve of major car manufacturers such as Mercedes, Ford and Fiat. But the vehicle that will carry Pope Francis around the streets of the capital of Madagascar for his visit there this week is locally-made — and its furnishings are simple and open, in line with the pope's distaste for luxury and aloofness.

Painted in an immaculate white and adorned with two Vatican flags, the open-topped vehicle is made by a Madagascar company called Karenjy. "It's with great joy that we present you the pope-mobile," the apostolic nuncio, or Vatican envoy, to the island, Paolo Rocco Gualtieri, told the press ahead of the visit. "Pope Francis will be delighted to visit Madagascar in this car."

The pope, making his maiden visit to Madagascar, arrives in the capital Antananarivo on Friday from Mozambique, the first port of call on an East African tour that will also include Mauritius. Karenjy, whose name means "Stroll" in the Malagasy language, has followed familiar design principles for the vehicle. It has a high roof to protect the pope from sun or rain, a pivoting seat from which he can salute the crowds and a glass screen to allow all-round visibility for the public.

But it breaks with classic popemobiles in that the canopy is not bullet-proof. "The specifications set by the Vatican for the manufacture of this car have been met in every aspect," Karenjy's representative Jean Fleuris Jaotody told reporters. "The pope chose not to have bulletproof glass. He prefers simple cars," said Father Germain Rajoelison, deputy coordinator of the papal visit to Madagascar. "He doesn't like to have a wall separating him (from the faithful). He really wants to be close to the people."

The one-off vehicle is the fruit of five months of labour by 15 workers at Karenjy's site in Fianarantsoa, southeastern Madagascar. The company, which started life in 1984, uses French-made engines for the sturdy, if boxy, all-terrain vehicles, priced at a relatively modest \$7,100 (6,500 euros) and adapted for local needs. It makes just a few dozen a year. In 1989, the little-known company scored a PR coup when taking Pope John Paul II for a spin when he visited Fianarantsoa. —AFP

## Afghan man who stabbed US tourists on trial in Amsterdam

**THE HAGUE:** An Afghan man suspected of stabbing two American tourists last year at Amsterdam's Central Station told judges yesterday he travelled to the Netherlands "to protect the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)". The

20-year-old man, only identified as "Jawed S", appeared at a two-day hearing in a heavily fortified courtroom in Amsterdam, where he faces two attempted murder charges with the aim of committing an act of terror.

"I came to the Netherlands to protect my prophet," Jawed S told the judges in reference to the August 31 incident last year that sent midday commuters into a panic and left two severely injured victims. "I was planning to kill unfair and cruel people, those who make it possible for the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) to be insulted," national news agency ANP quoted him as saying. Jawed S previ-

ously mentioned anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders, and his knife assault came a day after the far-right MP announced he was cancelling moves to stage a cartoon competition to caricature the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

Wilders pulled the plug on the competition at the time saying he wanted to "avoid the risk of making people victims of Islam violence". Asked what Jawed S planned to achieve with his action, he told judges "I wanted to defend my religion and make it clear that my religion should be left alone. If you don't do that, you should be prepared for these kind of actions," he said. —AFP

## Italy's Five Star Movement joins establishment

**ROME:** Born 10 years ago from a grass-roots rebellion against traditional politics, Italy's Five Star Movement has evolved into a party capable of forging alliances with the far-right and now the left. Founded by comedian Beppe Grillo and digital marketing specialist Gianroberto Casaleggio, the anti-establishment M5S initially refused any alliances. But March 2018 elections saw the M5S become the biggest party in Italian politics with 32 percent of the vote, and they eventually formed a coalition with Matteo Salvini's populist, anti-migrant League.

A little over a year later, the M5S is now in talks with the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) to form a new coalition after Salvini tried to bring down the government in a failed power grab. The M5S has lost ground to the League over the last 14 months, dropping to 17 percent in May's European parliamentary elections, while the League went from 17 percent last year to 34 percent this year. "In Italy, given

the constitution and the electoral law (which mixes proportional representation with first past the post), the only way to enter into power is to make compromises and that's what M5S has learned," said Emiliana De Blasio, political science lecturer at Rome's Luiss University.

"Without these compromises, they would have stayed in the corner of the political landscape without ever being able to play a role in the country's public life," she said. The M5S is atypical in its organization and ideology, neither right nor left wing, but rather created as an alternative to "establishment" parties, as typified by their latest ally, the PD. Its transformation from protest movement to governing party played out in successive elections, starting in 2013 when it came in a surprise third place. At the time, it was the charismatic Grillo and his diatribes against Italy's political "caste" that dominated the M5S.

### U-turns

Dignity, hope, transparency were the watchwords on Grillo's extremely popular blog and in his rally speeches. "This position seduced voters exasperated by a political class characterized by scandals and corruption, who felt abandoned by those in government," said

## Seven dead after 'out of nowhere' flood in Kenya

**HELLS GATE NATIONAL PARK:** A tourist who lost his wife and four other family members in a flash flood in Kenya told AFP yesterday the wall of water surged "out of nowhere" as they hiked to a popular gorge. Seven bodies have been recovered since Sunday when floodwaters rushed through Hell's Gate National Park, a weekend getaway from Nairobi that featured in "Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life". Six others from the hiking party of 13 managed to escape.

The violent torrent swept away five people from the same family — four Kenyans and an Indian resident. Two other Kenyans — one a family friend, and another a hiking guide — also perished. At least two minors were among the dead, a family member told AFP. Ivraj Singh Hayer, who lost his wife,

cousin, his cousin's wife, a niece and a nephew, said it was drizzling when they arrived at the picturesque gorge and their guide advised them to stay at the entrance. "Then at around 3 o'clock, water came out of nowhere," he said. "It's still difficult for me to understand how exactly this happened. We were trying not to get caught by the water but my family, they were taken one by one". A police officer taking part in the recovery operation told AFP: "All seven bodies of those swept away have been found."

### Desperate escape

The deep gorges of the Hell's Gate park are often lashed by heavy rains. In 2012, seven young Kenyans drowned at the same spot in the Ol Jorowa gorge, a highlight of the park about 100 kilometers northwest of the Kenyan capital Nairobi, and just south of Lake Naivasha. Since then, tour guides have "been trained to detect storm water flowing downstream towards the gorge," said the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), which manages the park.

"Every group is usually accompanied by experienced guides who are able to alert



**ROME:** Head of the M5S Five star political movement, outgoing Italy's Labor and Industry Minister and deputy PM Luigi Di Maio (C) waves as he arrives along with Head of Senate M5S Five Star movement parliamentary group Stefano Patuanelli (L) for a meeting with the Italian President as part of a second round of consultations with political parties at the Quirinal presidential palace. —AFP

political analyst Gianfranco Pasquino. "But once in government the movement was confronted with the reality of power and had to change its political line on a raft of subjects, which disconcerted its own voters," Pasquino said.

This change coincided with the naming of Luigi Di Maio as the Movement's political leader. In his 30s, with a relatively slick image compared to the

unkempt Grillo, the choice of Di Maio showed a party transformed and ready to move on from its purely protest logic. Besides forming political alliances, Di Maio's M5S changed course on several policies, notably on remaining in the eurozone. For years M5S had a highly eurosceptic position, which went as far as calling for a consultative referendum on keeping the single currency. —AFP



**NAKURU:** Rescue team carry bodies of 7 tourists retrieved at Suswa area of Nakuru County yesterday after they were swept by flash floods the day before while hiking a gorge at Hells Gate National Park in Naivasha, Nakuru. —AFP

tourists of impending emergencies and direct them to exit points. "Since the last similar tragedy in 2012, we have created clearly marked emergency exits along the whole gorge as escape routes in case of danger like the flash floods," Hayer said he waited for the

raging waters to ease before scrambling up an embankment with his niece's friend and their drive to escape. "We ran upwards. We all got stuck in the quicksand, we thought we were gone. But then we just had hope, and we pulled ourselves out," he said. —AFP

## Aussie newbie pilot lands plane after instructor blacks out

**SYDNEY:** An Australian man venturing into the skies for a first flying lesson has been forced to make an "amazing" solo landing after his instructor blacked out mid-flight. Max Sylvester's wife and three kids watched from the ground as air

traffic control talked him through safely landing the Cessna two-seater at Perth's Jandakot airport on Saturday.

The 30-something had issued a panicked mayday call from an altitude of 1,900 meters, after his instructor slumped onto his shoulder and could not be woken. "Do you know how to operate the aeroplane," the air traffic controller in Perth asked urgently, according to a recording of their exchange. "This is my first lesson," Sylvester responded, adding that he had never landed an aircraft before.

Realizing the enormity of the task at hand, the tower responded: "The first thing that we are going to do is make sure that the wings stay level." He was instructed to maintain altitude and to make a pass above the runway to get a sense of the terrain and become more at ease. "You're doing a really great job," the operator reassures the trainee as someone more familiar with the aircraft was rushed to the tower. "I know this is really stressful. But you're going to do an amazing job and we're going to help you get down to the ground, OK?" —AFP



## International

# Pakistan grants India access to alleged spy on death row

‘Pakistan will ensure the meeting is free, fair, meaningful and effective’

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan said it would grant consular access to an alleged Indian spy on death row yesterday, weeks after the International Court of Justice called for a review of his sentence in a case that has stoked tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals. “Consular access for Indian spy Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian naval officer and RAW operative, is being provided on Monday 2 September 2019,” tweeted foreign ministry spokesman Mohammad Faisal late Sunday.

A senior Indian government official confirmed the meeting, and told AFP that New Delhi hoped “Pakistan will ensure right atmosphere so that the meeting is free, fair, meaningful and effective in keeping with the letter and spirit of the ICJ orders”. The decision comes weeks after the ICJ in July ordered Islamabad to provide the prisoner with consular access but rejected India’s demand that Jadhav be freed.

The former Indian naval officer was arrested in March 2016 in Pakistan’s restive southwestern province of Balochistan — a region where Islamabad has long accused New Delhi of backing separatist rebels. According to Indian officials, Jadhav retired from the navy in 2001 and was running a “logistics” business in the Iranian port of Chabahar. New Delhi insists he was taken captive in Iran before being moved to Pakistan and then forced to confess.

Tensions have soared between the arch-rivals in recent weeks following Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s move last month to revoke the autonomy of its portion of the disputed Kashmir region. In response Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has launched a diplomatic offensive against India and led mass protests lambasting Modi. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan

since independence, and has been the spark for two major wars and countless skirmishes between the rivals.

## 9/11 plotters

In other news, alleged 9/11 plotter Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others held at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp will finally go on trial in 2021, almost two decades after the devastating Al-Qaeda attack, the New York Times reported Friday. A military judge at the US Navy’s Guantanamo, Cuba base set the date for the death-penalty trial for January 11, 2021, according to the newspaper. The date was included in a scheduling order for pre-trial activities by the military judge, Colonel Shane Cohen, the Times said.

The five will be the first to go on trial in the military commissions established to handle the “War on Terror” detainees captured and sent to Guantanamo after September 11, 2001 attacks that left 2,976 people dead in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington. Mohammed, Walid bin Attash, Ramzi Binalshibh, Ali Abd Al-Aziz Ali, and Mustafa Al-Hawsawi were accused of planning and participating in the plot hatched by Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden to hijack four airliners and crash them into New York’s World Trade Center and buildings in Washington.

Two of the planes struck the World Trade Center, another hit the Pentagon and a fourth crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers, having learned of the other flights, fought the hijackers. The five were formally charged in 2012 with conspiracy, attacking civilians, murder in violation of the law of war, aircraft hijacking and terrorism.

Mohammed, a Pakistan native thought to be about 54,



**ISLAMABAD:** A car carrying Indian diplomats is pictured as they leave the Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry building after meeting with an Indian spy Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian naval officer and RAW operative. — AFP

is a key figure in the trial: he has been accused of being the mastermind of the 9/11 plot. He was captured in Pakistan in 2003. Turned over to the US Central

Intelligence Agency, he underwent severe torture, including repeated waterboarding, as US officials sought to learn more about the plot and Al-Qaeda. — AFP

## Indonesia deports four Australians for demonstrating in Papua

**JAKARTA:** Four Australians were deported from Indonesia’s Papua region yesterday, the immigration department said, after they allegedly took part in demonstrations demanding independence for the restive province. Impoverished Papua, where a low-level insurgency against Indonesian control has simmered for decades, has seen two weeks of mass protests and deadly riots sparked by anger over racism and fresh calls for self-rule.

The four foreigners entered the island region on a yacht through the port of Sorong on August 10, Indonesian immigration official Erlangga Dwi Saputra told AFP. They were “suspected of taking part in demonstrations demanding Papua’s independence in front of Sorong mayor’s office”, the local immigration department said in a statement. It came as police in Papua, Indonesia’s easternmost territory which shares a border with independent Papua New Guinea, banned demonstrations that could lead to “anarchist acts”.

On Sunday, police said dozens had been arrested in connection with rioting in the region’s capital, while Indonesia said it would deploy around 2,500 more police and troops to the province. The Australians — identified as Tom Baxter, 37, Danielle Hellyer, 31, Ruth Irene Cobbold,



**BANDUNG:** Papuan students take part in a rally in Bandung yesterday, calling for Papua’s independence from Indonesia. — AFP

25, and Cheryl Melinda Davidson, 36 — were flown out of Papua to the island of Bali on Monday, Saputra said. Three were due to fly to Australia on Monday evening, while Davidson will be sent there tomorrow.

According to Saputra, three of the four had participated in a demonstration in Sorong and raised the forbidden “Morning Star” Papuan flag on August 27. Police found the fourth on the group’s yacht, he added. The unrest across

Papua appears to have been triggered by the mid-August arrest of dozens of Papuan students in Java, who were also racially abused. Jakarta took control of the former Dutch colony in the 1960s after an independence referendum widely viewed as a sham. Indonesian authorities are deeply sensitive about Papua. In May, a Polish man was sentenced to five years in prison for plotting with rebels to overthrow the government in the province. — AFP

## US envoy meets with Afghanistan president

**KABUL:** The US envoy leading efforts to forge a deal with the Taliban has met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul, officials said yesterday, as a historic agreement with the insurgents appeared close. Zalmay Khalilzad has spent about a year meeting with the Taliban in Doha in a series of talks aimed at ending America’s 18-year-old war in Afghanistan.

The deal centers on a US troop withdrawal in return for several security guarantees from the Taliban, broader peace talks between the insurgents and the Afghan government, and an eventual ceasefire. Khalilzad — a former US ambassador to Afghanistan and Iraq — arrived in Kabul Sunday evening following a ninth round of talks up with the Taliban in the Qatari capital. He met with Ghani then and on Monday, when he showed the Afghan leader a draft of the US-Taliban agreement, officials said.

“We will look into the document and discussions with Amb Khalilzad and team will continue,” Ghani’s advisor Waheed Omar tweeted, adding that additional details would be provided later in the day. Afghanistan’s Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said in a statement he too had been briefed and assured of “a thorough and sustainable peace in Afghanistan”. The discussions are significant because the Afghan government has been largely sidelined from talks until now, though any eventual deal would require the Taliban to talk to Ghani, whom they view as a US stooge.

On Sunday, Khalilzad said the US and the Taliban were at the “threshold” of a deal that would reduce violence and pave the way for “sustainable” peace. But even as negotiations have entered their apparent final stage, violence has continued apace across Afghanistan. On Saturday, the Taliban attempted to seize Kunduz in the north, and on Sunday, they launched an operation in the city of Pul-e Khumri, the capital of neighboring Baghlan province.

Afghan officials yesterday said Pul-e Khumri had been cleared of Taliban fighters. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has previously said he hoped a peace deal would be finalized before September 1, ahead of Afghan polls due September 28. Suhail Shaheen, the Taliban’s spokesman in Doha, said Saturday a deal was “near to finalized” but did not specify what obstacles remain. — AFP



**MAPUTO:** A woman runs by the Statue of Samora Machel, the first Mozambican President, in downtown Maputo. — AFP

## Mozambique: From civil war to fragile peace

**MAPUTO:** Pope Francis flies out tomorrow to Mozambique, where a historic peace deal last month has promised to end a decades-long conflict that left around a million people dead. The country’s government and rebel group Renamo, which is now the main opposition party, signed the pact after marathon negotiations. Here is a timeline of developments.

### 1975: Independence

Civil war breaks out after Mozambique gains independence from Portugal in 1975. The Marxist-inspired Frelimo government and rival rebels Renamo begin a 16-year conflict which devastates the economy and leaves around a million people dead.

### 1992: Peace deal

Renamo enters politics after a peace pact signed in Rome, paving the way for multi-party general elections two years later. The rebel group loses that vote as well

as subsequent elections and becomes the official opposition party.

### 2013: Fresh violence

Renamo takes up arms again, rejecting the 1992 peace deal. Clashes erupt again between government forces and Renamo combatants, lasting until 2016.

### 2016: Ceasefire

Frelimo’s candidate, Filipe Nyusi, is elected president in 2014. Two years later, the long-running leader of Renamo, Afonso Dhlakama, declares a unilateral ceasefire and starts talks with Nyusi’s government. The two leaders agree to give Renamo control of several provinces, but disarmament of rebel forces proves a major stumbling block.

### 2019: Fragile peace

After Dhlakama’s death in 2018, his successor Ossufo Momade takes up negotiations with the government. On August 6 2019, the two sides sign an accord under which they formally agree to end military hostilities. The deal requires Renamo fighters to either return to civilian life with financial help or join the police and army. In all, more than 5,000 Renamo members are required to surrender their weapons. However, the agreement remains fragile. Presidential, legislative and provincial elections, in which both Renamo and Frelimo will take part, are due to be held on October 15. — AFP

## Polarizing Sri Lankan politician reaches out to minorities

**BERUWALA:** Sri Lanka presidential candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa has been a polarizing figure for much of his political life. It is an image he is trying to change. When he was defense chief in his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa’s government he crushed ethnic Tamil separatist rebels, bringing a 26-year-long civil war to a close. But relatives of dead or missing Tamils have accused him of war crimes, including extra-judicial killings and abductions, in lawsuits filed against him in the United States. Rajapaksa has denied the accusations.

His failure to publicly distance himself from radical Buddhist monks makes him a figure of suspicion in the minority Muslim community, as well as among some in the small Christian community. In 2013, he was chief guest at the opening of a leadership academy run by a hardline Buddhist group, the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS). Groups such as BBS see the minorities as a potential threat to the Sinhala Buddhist majority in Sri Lanka. But that hasn’t stopped Rajapaksa and his Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party from seeking to woo Muslim and Christian voters after he recently declared he was standing in the election due to be held by Dec. 9.

His overtures might work in parts of the Christian community fearful after Easter Sunday bombings of churches and hotels by Islamist militants that killed 250 people. Some Christians say they are looking for stronger security policies, even if that means going with a hardliner like Rajapaksa. But Muslims are less convinced because they suspect a Rajapaksa government may turn a blind eye to attacks by Buddhist extremists. That is what some say happened in 2014 when anti-Muslim riots in the southwestern Kalutara district displaced thousands during the time of his brother’s presidency.

A spokesman for the Rajapaksa’s SLPP, Keheliya Rambukwella, said the riots were orchestrated to turn Muslims away from the Rajapaksa camp. As a politician who respected all communities and religions, Rajapaksa was doing the “right thing” by visiting houses of worship, Rambukwella said. “It gives a message very clearly that he wants communal harmony.” Rajapaksa’s office declined a request for an interview with him.

### Tamil fears

He has yet to tour the Tamil-dominated north and east of Sri Lanka but has said he would work toward fulfilling their aspirations, including more regional autonomy. Relatives of Tamils missing since the end of the war, former cadres of the Tamil Tiger insurgent group and people who say their land has been occupied by the military, interviewed by Reuters in recent days, said they feared a military clampdown if Rajapaksa rose to power. But one Tamil party, the Eelam People’s Democratic Party, is pro-Rajapaksa and says only his leadership can fulfil regional demands.

The political calculations are clear. While Sri Lanka is 70% Sinhala Buddhist, some Buddhists support current Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe’s rival centre-right United National Party (UNP). Muslims account for about 10% of the island nation’s 21 million population and Christians nearly 7%. Hardline Buddhist monks enjoyed impunity during Mahinda Rajapaksa’s government, antagonizing minorities who voted overwhelmingly against him in 2015, said Hilmy Ahamed, vice president of the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka.

Muslims would not be safe if Rajapaksa won the presidential election, said A.R.M. Badiuddin, a former local council head in Dharga Town, about 80 km south of Colombo, which was caught up in the 2014 riots. “The Rajapaksa have betrayed us,” said Badiuddin, on a day Rajapaksa was due to visit a historic mosque, near his village home. “Muslims won’t forget and won’t help them.”

On Aug. 17, the centuries old Kechimale Mosque, which looks out over the Indian Ocean, was unusually busy for a Saturday evening as it prepared for the first ever visit by Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brother, Mahinda. Hundreds waited for nearly four hours before they arrived in the late evening. — Reuters

## Analysis

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EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
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## Killings, threats and delays disenchant Colombia ex-FARC

Ricardo Bolanos lays out a camouflage vest, a small battery radio and old rubber boots on his bed, cherished relics from his 45 years as a FARC guerrilla fighter. Bolanos, 64, who lives at the Ponedores reintegration camp in the arid La Guajira region of northeast Colombia, committed to a peace process with the government that he hopes will bring a different life.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels signed a controversial peace deal in 2016 with the government of former President Juan Manuel Santos, ending five decades of conflict that killed 260,000 people. The guerrillas agreed to disarm in return for promises of reintegration into society, economic benefits for former fighters, political representation in Congress, and guarantees of their safety. But Bolanos, like many other ex-rebels, is worried about whether right-wing President Ivan Duque, who took office last year, is committed to helping former fighters achieve reintegration.

Duque's right-wing government has opposed many aspects of the peace deal and has unsuccessfully tried to make amendments via Congress, requesting tougher punishments for ex-rebels who committed war crimes. Another source of fear is the killings of dozens of ex-FARC fighters around Colombia - some just outside the camps where ex-rebels live. "We're worried about our personal security," Bolanos says, from his cramped and overheated living space. "You start to lose confidence in the credibility of the peace process."

Some 13,018 ex-guerrillas are in the reincorporation process. Around a quarter of those live in 24 reintroduction camps, while two-thirds live outside them, according to think tank Ideas para la Paz. The whereabouts of the remaining 8% are unknown. The United Nations says 137 ex-combatants have been killed since the deal was signed, leaving many scared of life outside the camps. The United Nations was unable to say who was responsible for these killings and impunity rates are high.

The killing of human rights activists has also spiked, though sources disagree on numbers. Estimates range from government figures of 289 killings to think tank Indepaz, which pegs them at 738. "We're worried about lives as people in the reincorporation process are being murdered and so are hundreds of social leaders," Marcos Calarca, a FARC spokesperson and member of Congress, told Reuters at the Ponedores camp.

Threatening flyers have made their way to some ex-guerrillas. Reuters was shown one supposedly from the 'Black Eagles' paramilitary group. "Colombia cannot be a cradle for guerrillas disguised as supposed leaders and we've begun the fight to exterminate them throughout Colombia," one flyer stated. The government's reintegration agency said more security is being provided to ex-combatants in the reintegration process. In June, Duque announced 23 new measures to ensure their security, including closer work with the ombudsman to spot risks sooner, less waiting time for personal security assignment and self defense training.

But killings have continued. According to the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), a think tank, the murders showcase the lack of capability and willingness the Duque government has to implement the accord, weakening the prospect of peace and jeopardizing the prospect of any future peace talks with remaining guerrilla groups.

"Killings of former combatants could be a direct threat to the foundation of any peace accord," said WOLA director Geoff Thale. "If this trend continues, it could push more demobilized ex-combatants into the growing FARC dissidence." The dissident movement is a growing concern. A group of former rebels announced a new offensive in late August, saying in a YouTube video that the peace process was not being properly implemented.

The announcement drew condemnation from the government, the United Nations and the FARC political party, whose leadership said the majority of ex-rebels remain committed despite "difficulties and dangers". Some 2,300 people were classed as FARC dissidents in the most recent official count by military intelligence in May. Many are thought to be based in Venezuela, where President Nicolas Maduro has said former rebel commanders are welcome.

UN figures show just 10% of ex-guerrillas have been granted credit for farming and development projects meant to provide jobs for them in civilian life. The projects were meant to ensure former fighters did not return to cultivating coca, the raw material for cocaine. The government says it will extend a monthly \$200 stipend to ex-combatants until Dec. 31, as they did not meet a August 15 cut-off date to hand over the loans. So far, the government has paid almost \$65 million in stipends, and the extension will cost them another \$12.7 million. The government also announced a \$4.6 million investment to purchase land for the FARC for economic projects. — Reuters

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This photograph shows a tourist posing for a photograph in front of a statue of Vietnam's revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh, at the Ho Chi Minh museum in Hanoi. — AFP

## Body politics: Famous preserved corpses

Monday marks 50 years since the death of Vietnam's revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh, whose embalmed corpse is on show at a stately mausoleum in Hanoi where it is visited by millions annually — despite his dying wish to be cremated. Posters, busts, statues and plaques honoring the father of modern-day Vietnam are ubiquitous across the country, today a bustling capitalist one-party state where communist politics still reign supreme. The embalmed body of "Uncle Ho" has been on show under a glass sarcophagus since 1975 at his towering tomb. It is expected to draw huge crowds on his death anniversary Monday, which also happens to be Vietnam's National Day. Here are some other preserved figures around the world:

### Vladimir Lenin

Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin was the original communist leader to be embalmed, starting a trend among hard-left regimes around the world. Lenin died in 1924 aged 53, and had wanted to be buried with his mother in the former imperial capital of Saint Petersburg, but was instead preserved in a mausoleum on Red Square, where he remains, attracting visitors curious to see the Bolshevik founder of the Soviet Union. Debates on whether to remove the body started after the collapse of the USSR in 1991 but Russia's Communist party has vehemently lobbied to keep Lenin in situ.

### Egyptian mummies

Say "Ancient Egypt" to any schoolchild and the first thing they'll think of is the mummies - preserved remains of important figures. The British Museum in London houses a collection of 120 human mummies from Egypt and Sudan, which counts as one of its biggest draws for many visitors. The museum also has 300 mummified animals, including dogs, cats and even a crocodile. None of the mummies has been unwrapped since the 1790s and museum experts have used x-rays and CT scans to carry out research on them.

### Mao Zedong

The Chinese revolutionary leader, who died on

## Biden seen as weak front-runner; 2020 US race heats up

As summer ends and the race for the 2020 Democratic US presidential nomination shifts into a higher gear, former Vice President Joe Biden's perilous position atop the vast field stands to be tested under even more pressure. Biden, 76, has consistently maintained a comfortable lead over his rivals. But his campaign has been plagued by doubts over his age, fitness for office and whether, as a moderate, he can be a standard-bearer for a party that has grown increasingly liberal.

Those questions are likely to be magnified in the coming weeks. Labor Day serves as the traditional marker for the White House race to intensify, with five months to go until the first nominating contest - February in Iowa - in the state-by-state process of picking the party's nominee to challenge Republican President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election. Democrats enter the next phase of the contest lacking a true consensus candidate, one who can unite a party fractured along ideological and generational lines.

While Biden enjoys widespread name recognition because of his eight years as Barack Obama's vice president and a long Senate career before that, he stands to suffer as voters begin to focus on other candidates, according to strategists. That may open the door wider for his closest competitors, US Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren - or another rival - to seize momentum.

"Biden is the weakest front-runner in a contested primary in a long time," said Democratic operative Joel Payne, who worked on 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's campaign and attributed Biden's standing largely to voters' familiarity with him rather than his performance on the campaign trail. The Democratic field shrank a bit in the past month, with US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand dropping out last week. But 20 contenders continue to vie for the nomination.

Ten Democrats will square off on Sept 12 at a debate in Houston. Right now, Democratic strategist Delacey Skinner said, "most people don't even know who most of the candidates are." Jeff Link, a longtime Democratic strategist in Iowa, likened the primary-season campaign to an American football game and said Labor Day marks the start of second half. "The only thing that matters is the fourth quarter," Link said. Biden has weathered fierce attacks from his rivals

September 9, 1976, has been embalmed and on show since 1977 in a glass cubicle in the Mao Zedong Memorial Hall in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Mao's body was placed in formaldehyde and other preserving fluids, according to an account in the People's Daily newspaper, and today the parts of Mao's body that cannot be seen are bathed in liquid. When the mausoleum is closed, the cadaver is lowered into a container maintained at a low temperature, the paper said.

### Eva Peron

Eva Peron, Argentina's emblematic first lady of the 1940s and 50s, was embalmed when she died of cancer in 1952 at age 33. "Evita" was as adored by her husband's poor and working-class base as she was reviled by the military and elite. After Juan Peron was toppled in a 1955 coup, army officers secretly removed Evita's corpse from its resting place at a pro-Peron trade union headquarters and hid it. Worried that Peronist militants would find it, then-dictator Pedro Aramburu had the body taken to Italy and buried in Milan under a false name. Peron's third wife and successor, Isabel, finally struck a deal: Evita's body was returned to Argentina in 1974 and she has rested ever since in her family mausoleum in Buenos Aires, a place of pilgrimage for her admirers and fans of the musical and movie about her life.

### Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il

The bodies of North Korea's founder Kim Il Sung and his son and successor Kim Jong Il are on permanent display at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun mausoleum in Pyongyang. Their embalmed corpses rest in glass coffins on biers in separate halls suffused with dim red light, soldiers stand guard in each corner as a steady stream of visitors - foreigners are allowed and everyone must adhere to a strict dress code - bows before them three times. Attendants glide silently across marble floors at the cavernous complex on the outskirts of the capital, where exhibits display the two men's possessions, vehicles and awards.

Kim Il Sung died in 1994 but remains Eternal President



Photo shows a bust of Vietnam's revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh for sale at a shop in the old quarters of Hanoi. — AFP

of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the isolated country is officially known, while Kim Jong Il, who died in 2011, is Eternal General Secretary of the ruling Workers' Party. Both men suffered heart attacks. Russian scientists helped embalm their bodies and are said to assist with maintenance. Current leader Kim Jong Un, the third generation of the family to rule, and his close aides visit the mausoleum on key national holidays - such as their birthdays - to pay their respects.

### Ferdinand Marcos

The divisive Filipino dictator died in exile in 1989 after he was booted out in a "People Power" revolt, but his embalmed body was returned to his ancestral home where it lay on display for over two decades. In 2016 his mortician told AFP that Marcos's face was made of wax, but insisted the rest of the body - covered up by clothes - was original. He was finally interred in a Heroes' Cemetery three years ago, sparking controversy in the Philippines, and removing him from the relatively exclusive global club of famous embalmed bodies on display. — AFP

## Will Britain have an election to break Brexit impasse?

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to clash with lawmakers in parliament this week over his plans to take Britain out of the European Union with or without an exit deal, a showdown that could see Brexit delayed and the government toppled. That has raised the chances of an early parliamentary election, before the next scheduled vote in 2022. An election can be triggered in two ways:

### Johnson calls an election

If Johnson decides parliament is intent on thwarting his plan to deliver Brexit on Oct. 31, he could try to call an election, seeking a majority that would allow him to push his plans through. He would need to put the proposal for an election to parliament and win a two-thirds majority in the 650-seat legislature. The opposition Labor Party has long called for an election, so there should be enough votes to support holding one, although Tony Blair, a former Labor prime minister, has warned it would be an "elephant trap" for the party that it should avoid. If successful, an election could be held in mid- to late-October, before the Brexit deadline. The law states there must be 25 working days between an election being formally called and polling day, which is traditionally a Thursday. Therefore an Oct. 17 election is possible if the steps have been taken by the end of Sept. 12.

### No-confidence vote

The opposition Labor Party can call a no-confidence vote in the government. If a majority of lawmakers back the no-confidence vote, then it sets off a 14-day period where either an alternative government can be formed and take control without an election or the government can win back power. If neither an alternative government nor the existing government can win a confidence vote within this period, an election is called. There are legal restrictions setting out a minimum period before an election can take place after the government loses a no-confidence vote, but not on the maximum period before one needs to be held. — Reuters



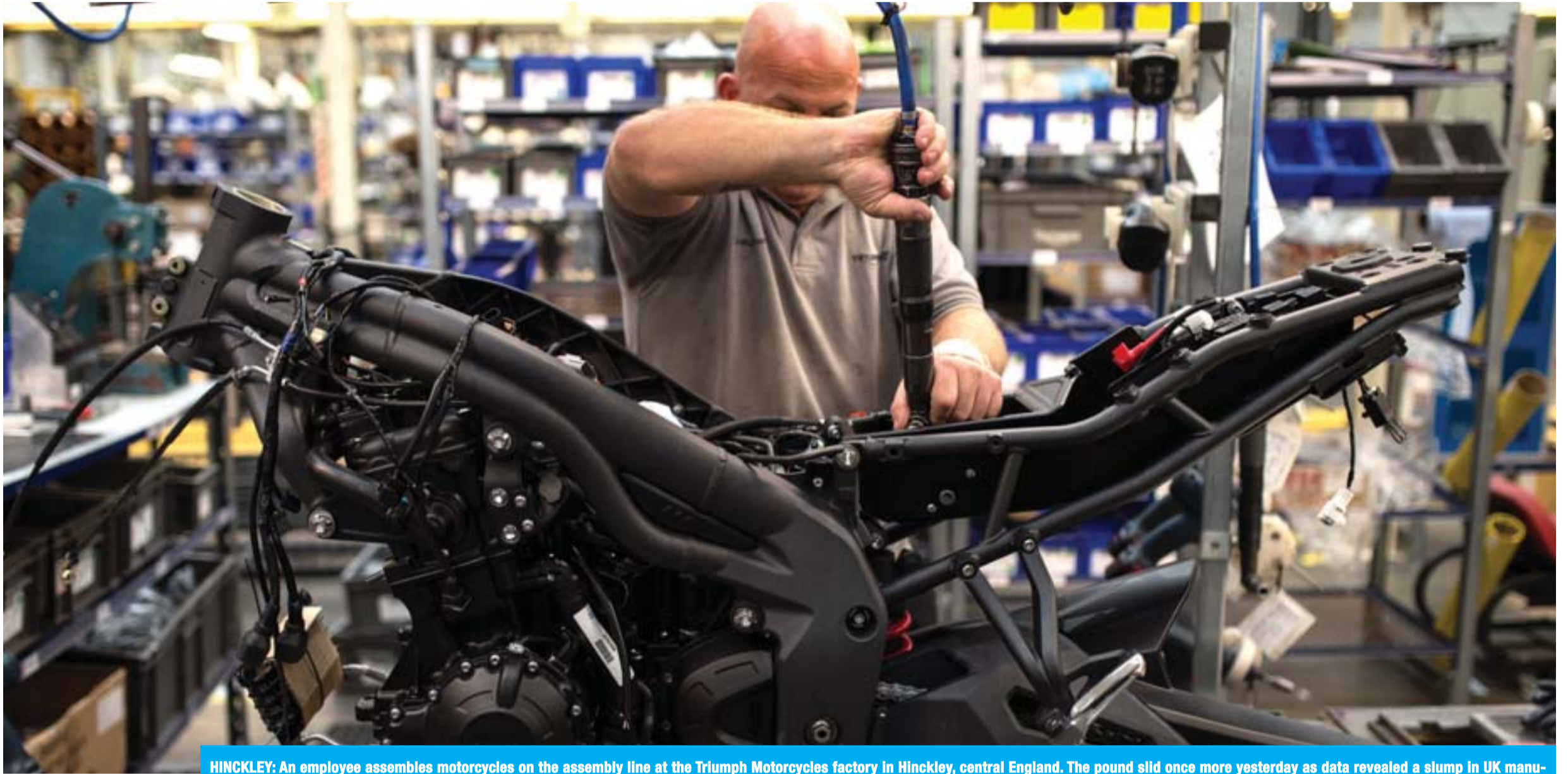
Democratic presidential candidate and former US Vice President Joe Biden greets fans after a town hall event at Clinton College in Rock Hill, South Carolina. — AFP

and his own penchant for misstatements to remain in front. Yet his string of gaffes and episodes of faulty memory have sparked concern over his age and his capacity to battle Trump next year if he is the party's nominee. Biden is also viewed skeptically among some Democrats who dismiss him as an out-of-touch moderate in a party moving leftward. Even so, "if Biden is able to minimize his vulnerabilities, it's still his race to lose," Payne said.

Beyond Biden, the story of the contest's first few months was the rise of Warren, whose relentless campaign schedule and formidable state-level organization have made her a serious threat to win the nomination. She particularly has emerged as a rival to Biden in Iowa, a state he desperately needs to win to reinforce his argument that he is the candidate best equipped to take down Trump. But questions persist about Warren's ambitious liberal agenda - she advocates "big, structural change" - and whether she can attract moderate and black voters, as Biden does. Skinner said Warren can expand her appeal beyond siphoning liberal voters from Sanders and other candidates on the left. "She actually is starting to draw moderates. She doesn't feel like a Bernie (Sanders). She doesn't feel like she's out to blow things up," Skinner said. "I see her as someone who can draw supporters from Bernie and from Biden." All of the top-tier contenders have faced questions about whether they can bring together a deeply divided party and, ultimately, defeat Trump. Sanders is a self-described "Democratic socialist" who employs the rhetoric of a revolutionary and has seen his support slide as compared to his 2016 presidential bid when he gave Clinton a tough fight for the party's nomination. — Reuters

## Business

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

**12** The Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV Tyre, ongoing success in Kuwait**13** Benghazi port bustling again despite Libya's divisions**14** Lexus Design Award 2020: Call for entries now open

**HINCKLEY:** An employee assembles motorcycles on the assembly line at the Triumph Motorcycles factory in Hinckley, central England. The pound slid once more yesterday as data revealed a slump in UK manufacturing fuelled by Brexit uncertainty and wider global growth weakness, traders said. — AFP

# Brexit crisis dents UK manufacturing

## Pound slides as traders brace for Brexit showdown

**LONDON:** The pound slid once more yesterday as data revealed a slump in UK manufacturing fuelled by Brexit uncertainty and wider global growth weakness, traders said. Sterling was down around half a percent versus the dollar and euro approaching midday in London.

That helped lend strong support to London's FTSE 100 shares index that features numerous multinationals earning in dollars and euros. "Sterling fell out of bed as the UK manufacturing sector was shown to suffer its sharpest decline in seven years," said Neil Wilson, chief market analyst at Markets.com.

The IHS Markit UK Manufacturing purchasing managers' index dived to 47.4 in August, which was the lowest level since July 2012, languishing below the 50 mark that indicates growth.

Market expectations had been for an August print of 48.4, after 48 in July. "High levels of economic and political uncertainty alongside ongoing global trade tensions stifled the performance of UK manufacturers in August," said Rob Dobson, director at IHS Markit. Sterling traders are

preparing for the battle for Brexit to enter the endgame this week when opposition lawmakers, and possible ruling party rebels, seek to either change the law, or the government, in their drive to block what they say would be an economically damaging no-deal Brexit.

Johnson has threatened to expel any rebel lawmakers from his Conservative Party if they try and vote to prevent a no-deal exit from the European Union. Sterling dropped more than 0.8 percent to as low as \$1.2067 - a two-week low - as talk of an imminent election mounted. Against the euro it declined as much as 0.6 percent to 90.90 pence. "The Prime Minister is willing to resist all attempts to prevent a no-deal Brexit and call an election. The House (of Commons) will try and stop him. GBP shorts are big, but a bit smaller than they were. A no-deal Brexit is partly, but not wholly priced in," said Kit Juckes, currency strategist at Societe Generale.

According to the latest positioning data, speculators cut their short positions against the pound but - at \$6.8 billion - the size of the bet against sterling remains near its

biggest since 2017. Traders are expecting much more volatility in sterling in the coming months, with implied volatility gauges at or near their 2019 highs.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson raised the stakes yesterday in a pivotal week of the Brexit saga by threatening to purge ruling party lawmakers who try to block a no-deal divorce with the EU. The warning came as UK Conservative heavyweights such as former finance minister Philip Hammond plotted a way to keep the premier from taking Britain out of the European Union without an agreement on October 31 amid warnings it could be disastrous for the economy.

Earlier yesterday, most Asian stock markets fell after fresh Chinese and US tariffs on goods worth hundreds of billions of dollars kicked in, though US President Donald Trump reiterated that the two sides were still due to hold talks this month. Hong Kong was additionally weighed down by another weekend of violence, fuelling worries about possible Chinese intervention in the financial hub, while the unrest has hit property firms and Macau's casinos.

But Shanghai rose more than one percent after a better-than-expected reading on Chinese factory activity. Washington's latest levies on imports from China meanwhile took effect on Sunday and were followed by Beijing's retaliation. The measures are the latest in the long-running trade war between the world's top two economies, which has rattled markets and hit growth across the globe.

Still, Trump said negotiators would meet this month to discuss the issue. "We are talking to China, the meeting is still on," he told reporters. Investors were keeping an eye also on Argentina, which Sunday imposed foreign-exchange controls on exporters as it closed out a week of financial uncertainty that saw a sharp drop in the peso. Elsewhere yesterday, oil prices fell further after Friday's steep losses triggered by worries about the impact of the trade war on demand. Dealers were concerned also about reports that the Russian output cut last month fell short of an agreement with OPEC. —Agencies

## Return to capital controls sends Argentina assets tumbling

**LONDON/BUENOS AIRES:** Argentina's international dollar and euro-denominated bonds fell to record lows yesterday while its financial stocks tumbled and risk premiums shot up after President Mauricio Macri reimposed capital controls on Sunday as the country's debt crisis spirals.

The about-face by Macri, who had previously reversed many protectionist practices of his predecessor, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, came after the government failed to stem heavy investment outflows and to shore up its tumbling currency. The central bank has been authorized to restrict purchases of dollars as it burns through its reserves to prop up the peso. Investors fretted that once the controls are in place, they will be difficult to end, possibly leaving Argentina with an economy once again distorted by government intervention.

The reintroduction of controls was a sharp turnaround for Macri, a free-trade advocate who won the presidency in 2015 on promises of "normalizing" Latin America's No 3 economy by ditching the heavy-handed currency and trader controls favored by the previous administration.

"The problem with restrictive, emergency measures is that

they are easier to apply than to retract," said Buenos Aires-based financial analyst Christian Buteler in a tweet. Argentina's benchmark international 2028 dollar bonds dropped more than 2 cents to a new low of 36.58 cents, according to Refinitiv data. Bonds maturing in 2023 and 2038 recorded similar losses.

Argentina's euro-denominated sovereign bonds also suffered hefty losses to hit record lows yesterday. The 2022 bond dropped 9.2 cents to 35.8 cents while the 2027 issue tumbled 7.5 cents to 33.218 cents, according to Refinitiv data. American depository receipts (ADRs) of Argentina's financial institutions also came under pressure. Grupo Financiero Galicia's Frankfurt-listing tumbled 9.15 percent while Banco Macro SA fell 6.5 percent. Yesterday was an official holiday in the United States, which could help control losses in Argentine asset prices by reducing trading volumes, Buteler tweeted.

The risk premiums demanded by investors to hold Argentina's dollar bonds over safe-haven US Treasuries rocketed to 2,534 basis points on J P Morgan's index of hard-currency emerging market bonds - levels last seen in the wake of a major 2001 default. "Capital controls are a sign of distress in the market and reflect that the new parameters on Argentina are weak and when the peso weakens further it weighs on the credit profile," said Michael Bolliger, head of asset allocation for emerging markets at UBS Wealth Management.

"There remains a lot of pressure on the currency ... There's a limit to what they can do without capital controls." The peso has lost more than a third of its value year-to-date, following a more than 50 percent drop last year. The central bank has burned through nearly \$1 billion in reserves since Wednesday but failed to stem the peso's slide.—Reuters



**BUENOS AIRES:** Passersby are reflected in the buy-sell board of a bureau de exchange in Buenos Aires. The government of President Mauricio Macri on Sunday imposed foreign-exchange controls on Argentine exporters at the end of a week of financial uncertainty that saw a sharp drop in the value of the peso. — AFP

Business

# The Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV Tyre, ongoing success in Kuwait

## A safe tyre with long-lasting performances

**KUWAIT:** The SUV segment has seen huge growth in recent years with the launches of several really serious high performance SUVs. These present a new challenge for tyre designers - a much higher centre of gravity than your typical sports car and heavier body weights which necessitate a tyre that works with higher and larger centrifugal/ lateral forces.

That is why Michelin has developed the new specialist Pilot Sport 4 SUV range - real sports tyres adapted to an SUV - rather than a sporty SUV tyre. The new Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV replaces the Michelin Latitude Sport 3 and can be used for the full range of SUVs - 4X4, compact, medium, premium and sports, the latter being a sector with strong growth. This new tyre benefits from the powerful innovation capacities of the Michelin Group and the latest technologies of the Michelin Pilot Sport range, with an emphasis on control and stability at high speed while guaranteeing safety and a long tyre life.

The Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV tyre will change the way high performance tyres for premium and sporty SUVs are perceived. The tyre was developed in cooperation with the most demanding car manufacturers and is part of the Michelin Pilot family of safe and versatile high-performance tyres.



The Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV tyre delivers exceptional comfort and the pleasure of driving sporty SUVs, in safe conditions on dry and wet roads alike, while having a longer tyre life compared to its competitors. Michelin has managed to combine all these features by using motorsport tyre technologies in addition to innovations taken from the latest Formula E tyres.

### An asymmetrical tread design

The new Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV tyre has exceptional grip compared to its competitors thanks to the asymmetrical design of its tyre tread: the outer part for dry conditions and the internal part for wet conditions. It also features a new compound mix of special operational and innovating elastomers and fine silica. The ultra-reactive tyre tread design adapts to road conditions through dynamic interaction between the tread pattern and the advanced tread compounds to deliver perfect management of the tyre contact patch.

The tread grooves are designed to provide a stiffer tread and improve lateral grip. To optimize driving precision, the tyre tread is equipped with the 'Dynamic Response' technology, a belt with a hybrid reinforcement made of aramid and nylon.

### A long life tyre

While the asymmetrical tyre tread provides exceptional grip, the Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV tyre also has

an excellent tyre life due to the rigid tread blocks and a two-layer high density casing ply which reinforces its stiffness

### Maximum comfort - minimum noise

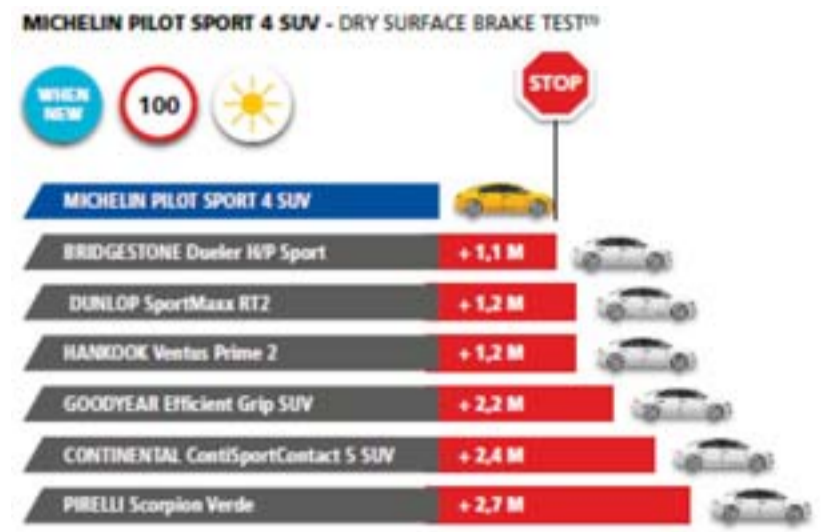
The tyre was designed with the objective of providing maximum driving pleasure in safe conditions for drivers of a premium SUVs with long-lasting performance. It was also developed to improve driving comfort and to reduce the associated noise.

### An attractive finish for SUVs

The Pilot Sport 4 SUV has 'Michelin Premium Touch Technology' sidewalls, or in other words, high contrast sidewalls with a velvet touch. It makes the tyres easily recognizable and stand out in the universe of these exclusive vehicles. The majority of premium or sporty SUVs are equipped with large diameter alloy rims and the Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV incorporates a rim-protector to protect the alloy wheels from kerbs and pavements during town driving.

### Number 1 in independent tests

The Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV tyre is the result of Michelin's unique 'know-how' and has been developed by passionate and dedicated tyre designers this tyre redefines the standards in its category and is already Number 1 in its category. During tests carried out by



the independent TUV SUD in Germany, the Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV has outperformed its six competitors in several key performance areas.

An operational elastomer improves the distribution of the load (silica) inside the tyre mix and reinforces its performance.

Number 1 for braking on dry and wet surfaces  
The Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV is ahead of its competitors when braking on dry and wet surfaces. Tests carried out by the TUV SUD showed that on dry surfaces the Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV brakes 1.8 meters shorter than the average of its competitors.

On wet surfaces and in new condition, it stops 3.15 meters shorter than the average of its competitors. The difference in braking distance widens when comparing worn tyres - the braking distance of the Michelin Pilot Sport 4 SUV tyre is 5.2 metres shorter compared to the average of its competitors.

## AUB announces winners of first draw of summer campaign

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank announced the winners in the first draw of its new promotional campaign with "Pearls Points Program" when using AUB credit and prepaid cards. The draw took place at the Bank's Head Office under the supervision of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Tareq Foad Alali won the first prize of 500,000 points, Basel Yaqoub Alghanim won the second prize of 250,000 points, and Adnan Mohamed Alqallaf won the third prize of 150,000 points.

AUB summer promotional campaign was launched on July 8th and lasts till September 9, 2019. The campaign was designed to enable the Bank's customers to win prizes of up to 500,000 points with "Pearls Points Program" where they can redeem these points for free tickets from Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air or Qatar Airways. Second draw in this promotional campaign is expected to take place on September 12, 2019.

During the campaign, customers are able to enter the draw when they spend KD 100 before the draw date. The campaign gives a customer one chance to enter the draw for every KD 10 spent locally using their credit or prepaid cards, and three chances to enter the draw for every KD 10 spent internationally using their debit cards. The higher amount they spend, the higher winning chance they get.

Commenting on the campaign, Ranjan Sen, General Manager, Retail Banking at AUB said in a press release: AUB pays special attention to its customers; holders of different banking cards. Sen added: In recognition to our valued customers, we will continue to provide them with more attractive offers, and we always strive to innovate new and appealing ways to make shopping more enjoyable and profitable for AUB credit/debit cardholders, adding that AUB promotional campaigns are one of the added value offered by the Bank to its customers this year.

Sen pointed out that this time to launch the campaign was selected successfully as it coincides with the summer and holidays season which usually sees a high shopping movement by customers, pushing the bank to enhance the cards benefits and rewards to encourage cardholders to use their banking cards in their shopping due to the benefits and added value they offer.

## Mexico president doubles down on management of economy

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, in his first state of the union address on Sunday, doubled down on his approach to managing Latin America's second-largest economy, saying the interests of private firms would be subordinated to those of the nation.

After taking office in December vowing to revive a sluggish economy and reduce violence, the veteran leftist has so far fallen short

of the goals he set himself. Lopez Obrador said last Tuesday that after a months-long dispute, he had saved taxpayers \$4.5 billion by making companies renegotiate several natural gas pipeline contracts agreed to by the last government.

"The companies accepted the principle that the national interest must be above the private interest, however legitimate (those interests) may," Lopez Obrador said in his Sunday speech.

Supporters of Lopez Obrador hailed the accord as a political victory for the president, who has spent years accusing business leaders of colluding with corrupt politicians to get rich.

Lopez Obrador underscored on Sunday that his economic plan would look to promote private enterprise, boost foreign trade and promote the attraction of foreign investment.

It is unclear if companies will feel encouraged to bet on Mexico as a result of the agreement and his comments. Some of the decisions made by Lopez Obrador, an exponent of economic nationalism, have shaken investor confidence in Mexico. Among them, his cancellation of a partly built \$13 billion Mexico City airport rattled markets.

The central bank said on Thursday the economy was facing headwinds, including stagnating private investment, which was affected by a persistent environment of uncertainty stemming from the public policy decisions made by the government and concerns over insecurity and corruption.

In his state of the union address, Lopez Obrador also said that income distribution would remain a priority over economic growth. The administration will "gradually push aside the technocratic obsession of

measuring everything based simply on economic growth," he said. "The equitable distribution of income and wealth" will be his government's guiding principles. He has argued that by redistributing wealth better, his government is able to help economic development among the poor even with lower headline growth numbers.

Mexico narrowly avoided entering a recession in the second quarter, prompting the central bank to cut its economic outlook for the year to forecast virtually no growth, citing slack conditions that will persist longer than expected. In his first nine months in office, Lopez Obrador has repeated the message that the chronic inequality, gang violence and tepid growth afflicting Mexico are the product of decades of government by a corrupt political and economic elite still trying to resist his promise of change. —Reuters

## KLM scraps 28 return flights after ground crew strike

**THE HAGUE:** Dutch national carrier KLM said it scrapped 28 round-trip flights yesterday across Europe after ground staff downed tools in a two-hour strike for higher wages. Airline spokeswoman Manel Vrijenhoek said the move came after a section of ground crew belonging to the largest Dutch union federation FNV stopped work from 8:00 am to 10:00 am (0600 GMT to 0800 GMT).

"We announced yesterday that 11 return flights will

be preventively cancelled with a decision to scrap another 17 today," Vrijenhoek told AFP. "Our operations in the meantime have started up again with a delay of about half-an-hour," she said.

The FNV said Saturday it was demanding a four percent increase for some 15,000 ground staff, with KLM's latest offer stalling at two percent over the next three years, with three percent offered in the first year. "It's no good. Therefore we are calling a work stoppage," FNV campaign leader Joost van Doesburg said. "If KLM retains its position after the strike, new labor actions cannot be excluded," he said in a statement. A strike by public transport workers in May forced dozens of flights to be cancelled at Schiphol, one of Europe's busiest hubs. More than 41 million passengers passed through Schiphol in the first six months of the year, according to the latest figures. —AFP



## EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>	
US Dollar Transfer	304.700
Euro	339.740
Sterling Pound	373.560
Canadian dollar	230.660
Turkish lira	53.180
Swiss Franc	311.080
US Dollar Buying	297.400
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>	
Japanese Yen	2.867
Indian Rupees	4.266
Pakistani Rupees	1.943
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.692
Nepali Rupees	2.663
Singapore Dollar	221.200
Hongkong Dollar	38.843
Bangladesh Taka	3.595
Philippine Peso	5.858
Thai Baht	9.985
Malaysian ringgit	77.928
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>	
Saudi Riyal	81.308
Qatari Riyal	83.743
Omani Riyal	791.943
Bahraini Dinar	809.620
UAE Dirham	83.013
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.405

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.224
Tunisian Dinar	110.800
Jordanian Dinar	430.550
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.346
<b>Rate for Transfer</b>	
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

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.363134	0.377034
Czech Korune	0.004890	0.014190
Danish Krone	0.040843	0.045843
Euro	0.327066	0.340766
Georgian Lari	0.132174	0.132174
Hungarian 0.001149	0.001339	
Norwegian Krone	0.029370	0.034570
Romanian Leu	0.065312	0.082162
Russian Ruble	0.004582	0.004582
Slovakia	0.009113	0.019113
Swedish Krona	0.026984	0.031984
Swiss Franc	0.300792	0.311792
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.196470	0.208470
New Zealand Dollar	0.185794	0.195294
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.223305	0.232305
US Dollars	0.300600	0.305900
US Dollars Mint	0.301100	0.305900
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002965	0.003766

Chinese Yuan	0.041317	0.044817
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036974	0.039724
Indian Rupee	0.003709	0.004481
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002790	0.002970
Korean Won	0.000241	0.000256
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068989	0.074989
Nepalese Rupee	0.002681	0.003021
Pakistani Rupee	0.003342	0.003212
Philippine Peso	0.005758	0.006058
Singapore Dollar	0.213989	0.223989
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001198	0.001776
Taiwan	0.009706	0.009886
Thai Baht	0.009617	0.010167
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.802070	0.810130
Egyptian Pound	0.018666	0.022016
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000210	0.000270
Jordanian Dinar	0.424856	0.433856
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021407	0.045407
Omani Riyal	0.786297	0.794198
Qatar Riyal	0.083037	0.083871
Saudi Riyal	0.080167	0.081467
Syrian Pound	0.001292	0.001512
Tunisian Dinar	0.101854	0.109854
Turkish Lira	0.045595	0.055440
UAE Dirhams	0.082325	0.083153
Yemeni Riyal	0.000991	0.001071

## Business

# Benghazi port bustling again despite Libya's divisions

## Port attempts to raise revenues for restoration and expansion

**BENGHAZI, Libya:** The commercial port in Libya's second city Benghazi is working round the clock three years after reopening, attempting to raise revenues for its restoration and expansion.

The port was caught in the crossfire as rival factions battled for control of Benghazi from 2014 in a conflict that left parts of the eastern Libyan city in ruins. It suspended operations as the main gate and some buildings were destroyed and the roads strewn with shells. Forces led by Khalifa Haftar eventually declared victory in Benghazi in 2017. Repairs and reconstruction have been limited-two out of three damaged tug boats are still out of service.

But the port is now doing brisk business and trucks loaded with cars and containers carrying foodstuffs, motor oils and other goods can be seen streaming out of the main gate near the city center. Port manager Yzaid Bozraida said monthly revenues stood at more than seven million Libyan dinars (\$4.9 million) before the war, though the income had not been used to develop the port. "We have not got back up to that previous rate yet," Bozraida said. "But every month is better than the previous one, we are seeking to get to more than 7.8 million dinars (monthly). We have extended working times to 24 hours."

"All shipping lines have returned. The last one began with just eight containers and its last shipment was already about 400 containers," he added. Before the war, revenues were deposited with Libya's General

Administration of Ports in the western city of Misrata, but the management of Benghazi port is now separate, he said, a situation that reflects the divisions in the country.

Misrata, a coastal city in western Libya with a major port of its own, is a hub of opposition to Haftar's LNA, which since April has been waging a military campaign to try to take control of the capital Tripoli.

### Hope

Since reopening, Benghazi's port has been receiving more than 400,000 tons of grains at 18 docks, twice what the port was receiving before 2014. It pays salaries of 2.25 million Libyan dinars to 1,400 employees. It does not export oil, but imports gas and some petroleum products as well as general cargo. Living standards have declined drastically during the conflict, and conditions remain tough across Libya. Governments have done little to alleviate economic suffering.

But Benghazi's port is well placed to supply the city and hinterland, and its revival has given staff there hope. "Work has returned to this vital facility which will revive the city's economy," said port employee Naser Bozaid. "It is a source of livelihood for us."

Customs broker Sabri Imraj said the port was loading more containers than it had before 2011. "We've now got to uploading 1,500 containers weekly," Imraj said. "Before 2011 it was 400." —Reuters



**BENGHAZI:** Benghazi the port is now doing brisk business and trucks loaded with cars and containers carrying foodstuffs, motor oils and other goods can be seen streaming out of the main gate near the city center.

## Global stocks slip on tariffs, US markets shut

**LONDON:** Global markets remained subdued yesterday after the United States and China imposed new tariffs on each other, while the spotlight returned to emerging-market risk as Argentina imposed capital controls. Argentina's international dollar bonds dropped to record lows, its financial stocks tumbled and risk premia shot up after President Mauricio Macri re-imposed capital controls on Sunday as the country battled to avoid its ninth sovereign default.

The about-face by Macri, who had previously lifted many protectionist practices of his predecessor, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, came after the government failed to stem heavy investment outflows and to shore up its tumbling currency. MSCI's All-Country World Index, which tracks shares across 47 countries, was down 0.04 percent on the day.

US markets were shut for a holiday yesterday. European shares ticked higher as surprisingly positive data helped China weather the latest round of tit-for-tat tariffs between the United States and China that came into effect over the weekend.

Washington imposed 15 percent tariffs on a variety of Chinese goods and China began to impose new duties on a

\$75 billion target list. However, both sides will still meet for talks later this month, US President Donald Trump said. Trade-sensitive German shares were 0.4 percent higher and the pan-European stocks benchmark index STOXX 600 was up 0.63 percent by midday in London, beginning September higher. It fell 1.6 percent in August as the trade war intensified.

"Despite the market's sanguine take, we believe the ultimate outlook for the trade dispute has become harder to predict with confidence," said Mark Haeefe, chief investment officer at UBS Global Wealth Management. "Since trade tensions have become the major driving force for stocks, even greater than monetary policy, we advise against adding significantly to equity exposure - particularly for those who have an adequate strategic allocation."

Income-generating carry positions such as select emerging market currencies will perform well as central banks ease policy in response to weaker growth, Haeefe added.

Eurozone manufacturing activity contracted for a seventh month in August as declining demand sapped optimism, a survey showed, strengthening expectations for monetary easing by the European Central Bank next week. At its July meeting, the ECB all but promised to ease policy as the growth outlook worsened.

Italian bond yields fell towards recent multi-year lows after Italy's prime minister said at the weekend talks on a new government should be completed by



**KARACHI:** A stockbroker points out the latest share prices on a screen during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi. —AFP

Wednesday. The 5-Star Movement and the Democratic Party held talks over the weekend on cabinet posts and a common agenda

In currency markets, the dollar was 0.1 percent higher against a basket of peers. The euro was 0.2 percent lower at \$1.09665, not far from two-year low of \$1.0963 hit in US trade on Friday.

### Trade war

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan dropped 0.24 percent, led by 0.5 percent drop in Hong Kong's Hang Seng after another week-

end of violent anti-government protests. Chinese shares rose, however, with the CSI300 index gaining 1.1 percent despite the trade row escalation. A pledge by China's State Council to boost support for the economy helped. Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a private sector survey, yesterday showed factory activity unexpectedly expanded in August, though gains were modest and contrasted with official data that pointed to further contraction. Studies suggest the tariffs will cost US households up to \$1,000 a year. —Reuters

## Tata Steel to shut UK operations employing 400 staff

**LONDON:** Tata Steel is to shut a plant in Wales but has agreed to safeguard jobs elsewhere, the Indian giant announced yesterday, as it restructures amid the collapse of a mega-merger. Tata, Britain's biggest steel operator, said it will close its Orb Electrical Steels in Newport, South Wales, that employs 380 staff. It added in a statement that it had been unable to find a buyer for UK-based Wolverhampton Engineering Steels Service Centre, potentially costing a further 26 jobs.

However it has agreed to sell Canada-based Cogent Power Inc (CPI) to Japanese group JFE Shoji Trade Corporation, protecting 300 positions. In addition, Tata will keep Swedish operation Surahammars Bruks AB that employs around 100 people.

"We have been able to secure the

future for almost 400 colleagues in CPI and Surahammars Bruks," said Henrik Adam, CEO of Tata Steel's European operations. "However, today's proposal will be sad news for colleagues at Orb in South Wales. This is necessary, enabling us to focus our resources, including investment, on our core business and markets, helping us build a long-term sustainable future in Europe."

Tata is a major employer in Wales, with its Port Talbot plant employing more than 4,000 staff. However there is uncertainty also over Port Talbot's future after the Indian group and German industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp scrapped merger plans in May. The pair acted after the EU made clear that it would not allow the merger on competition grounds.

The aim of the merger had been to create the second largest European steel company behind multinational ArcelorMittal and to join forces in the face of the surge of Chinese steel. Following the collapse, Thyssenkrupp announced plans to slash 6,000 jobs, mainly in Germany. Tata's latest announcement meanwhile comes a couple



**LONDON:** In this file photo, the Tata Steel plant is pictured in south Wales. Tata Steel is to shut a plant in Wales but has agreed to safeguard jobs elsewhere, the Indian giant announced yesterday. —AFP

of weeks after the Turkish military pension fund OYAK signed a provisional deal to buy British Steel after the UK steelmaker was forced into liquidation in May.

Tata's Adam added yesterday: "Continuing to fund substantial losses at

Orb Electrical Steels is not sustainable at a time when the European steel industry is facing considerable challenges. "We saw no prospects of returning the Orb business to profitability in the coming years." —AFP

## Norwegian Air asks for more time to pay off bonds

**OSLO:** Norwegian Air is asking bondholders for up to two more years to pay back \$380 million of outstanding debt, in the loss-making airline's latest attempt to shore up its finances.

The company said yesterday it would pledge lucrative take-off and landing slots at London's Gatwick Airport as security. Norwegian Air is Europe's third-largest budget airline by passenger numbers after Ryanair and easyJet and has shaken up the market with cut-price transatlantic fares. But its rapid expansion

has left it with hefty losses and high debt.

It was forced to raise 3 billion Norwegian crowns (\$335 million) from shareholders this year, and said yesterday its working capital had decreased in 2019, partly due to tighter industry rules on advance ticket payments. It also said the worldwide grounding of Boeing's 737 MAX plane was lasting longer than expected, dealing another blow to its finances. Norwegian has 18 of the aircraft.

The company's bonds, which mature in December 2019 and August 2020, will be extended to November 2021 and February 2022 if bondholders accept the revised terms. A bondholders' meeting will take place on Sept. 16. "What we are doing now is to make sure that we have sufficient liquidity for the next twelve months," interim Chief Executive Geir Karlsen told Reuters, adding he expected to repay bondholders with cash on hand.

Norwegian's shares pared early losses to trade down

0.9 percent at 1130 GMT. "On the one hand, it is a bad sign that the company's funds are drying up, but we knew by looking at the financials that this could be an issue," said Sydbank analyst Jacob Pedersen. "But it's a good sign the company is doing everything it can to mitigate the issue and the financial troubles ... It is a fine solution to the issue. We have to see whether the bondholders will think the same."

Co-founder Bjoern Kjos stepped down as CEO in July in a move some analysts said could make it easier to sell the airline after talks about a deal with British Airways parent IAG fell through in January.

Shares in IAG, as well as those of Ryanair and Wizz Air, rose yesterday on speculation there could be more consolidation in a sector that has for months struggled with overcapacity, traders said. In May, Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary predicted four or five European airlines were likely to emerge as industry winners. —Reuters

## Euro slides to 16-month lows on gloomy outlook

**LONDON:** The euro plunged to a 16-month low yesterday as the impact of Washington and Beijing's trade war on the European economy dominated investor sentiment. Germany's export-dependent manufacturing sector remained in contraction in August as weaker demand pushed companies to scale back production and cut jobs.

With its sales abroad hit by a worsening trade climate, a global economic slowdown and an increasingly chaotic run-up to Brexit, most of Germany's growth momentum and consequently Europe's growth outlook has cratered. "There are very few places in the currency market world to hide if trade tensions escalate, with emerging market currencies and the euro particularly vulnerable because of their trade linkages," said Timothy Graf, head of macro strategy at State Street Global Advisors in London.

The euro was 0.3 percent lower versus the dollar at \$1.0958 after falling below \$1.10 on Friday for the first time since May 2017. The euro's more than 4 percent slide this year is a big reversal in fortunes for the single currency after ECB chief Mario Draghi first indicated a likely pullback in its extraordinary stimulus policies in a speech in Sintra in June 2017.

But since then an escalation in trade tensions between the United States and China, plus a growing swathe of government bond yields sinking into negative territory thanks to a worsening economic outlook, has sapped demand for the euro. Money markets were assigning a bigger probability of a 20 basis point rate cut on Monday by the ECB this month.

Though latest futures data indicated that net hedge fund positions in the single currency are broadly at neutral levels, they are quite some way from record high levels seen last year.

With US markets shut for a holiday yesterday, though, investors remained on the sidelines while looking to see what expansionary policies the European Central Bank and the US Federal Reserve could unveil this month.

"The trade war appears to have ushered in a complex and prolonged geopolitical & economic rivalry between the US and China, which is unlikely to subside on either side of the 2020 US elections," strategists at BMO said in a note. Broader market sentiment remained on the back foot too with net positions in the Japanese yen creeping up to its highest levels in nearly three years.

Elsewhere, the dollar index which measures the greenback's performance against a basket of six major currencies was broadly steady at 98.87. —Reuters



**Norwegian Air's** working capital has decreased this year amid ongoing engine problems and the grounding of its fleet of Boeing MAX aircraft. —Reuters

## Business



Last year's LDA mentoring workshop



**LEXUS**  
**DESIGN AWARD 2020**

# Lexus Design Award 2020: Call for entries now open

Prestigious award provides a unique platform for aspiring designers

**KUWAIT:** Announcing the launch of Lexus Design Award 2020, Lexus International is calling talented creators to submit their entries to its annual design competition. Now in its eighth year, the prestigious award provides a unique platform for aspiring designers to demonstrate and further develop their talents.

Founded in 2013, the program continues to evolve and inspire innovations in design that lead to a better tomorrow, and each year has seen a steady increase in the number of entries from across the world. Last year, creators from 65 countries submitted 1,548 design proposals, many of which leveraged the power of technology.

Inspired by its "Design for a Better Tomorrow" directive, Lexus is looking for design that goes beyond the mastery of shape, form and function, and anticipates the future needs of individuals and society, by incorporating three principles fundamental to Lexus: Anticipate, Innovate, and Captivate.

"We are excited to launch the eighth edition of this celebrated award and invite ground-breaking and captivating entries from emerging creatives who will benefit from this opportunity to translate their ideas into new possibilities under the expert guidance of acclaimed professionals," said Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "Breaking conventions and going

- Lexus continues its commitment to nurturing up-and-coming designers by launching the eighth Lexus Design Award
- The program offers a unique opportunity for six finalists, handpicked and mentored by some of the most respected names in the design industry
- Prototypes to be showcased to a global audience at the world-renowned Milan Design Week

beyond the boundaries of imagination are at the heart of Lexus' approach to design, and the Lexus Design Award offers us an opportunity to take this approach forward and continue our passion for creating amazing experiences that ignite the emotions. We would like to thank all of the design enthusiasts and past participants for contributing to the long-standing success of this program and inspiring Lexus and this year's entrants to scale new heights of creativity."

In early 2020, Lexus will announce the six finalists who will go on to participate in an extraordinary and exclusive mentorship program in New York City, under the guidance of prominent design leaders from a variety of design fields. With an individual production budget of up to JPY 3 million (over \$25,000), each finalist can develop their design concept into functional prototypes, which will be exhib-

ited at the Lexus design installation at Milan Design Week 2020.

The Lexus Design Award will conclude with the announcement of the Grand Prix winner following the presentation of prototypes by each of the six finalists on a world stage during Press Day at Milan Design Week. The complete list of Lexus Design Award 2020 judges and mentors will be announced in the fall of 2019. Entries to the Lexus Design Award 2020 competition will be accepted through October 14, 2019. Please visit [LexusDesignAward.com](http://LexusDesignAward.com) for additional information.

**Title**  
Lexus Design Award 2020

**Last Submission Date**  
October 14, 2019

#### Judging criteria

- Anticipate  
Do the concept and design anticipate not only the needs of user experience but also society?
- Innovate  
Does the design demonstrate new thinking and originality in its proposal and execution?
- Captivate  
Is the design intriguing and compelling when in concept and execution?

#### Judges

To be announced in Fall 2019

#### Mentors

To be announced in Fall 2019

#### Award categories

- One Grand Prix winner (selected from the six finalists)
- Six finalists
- Rizes/benefits
- Six finalists invited to the mentorship a session with mentors from diverse fields who provide guidance to help elevate prototype design.
- Six finalists invited to Milan Design Week 2020.
- Six prototypes exhibited at the Lexus exhibition space during Milan Design Week 2020.
- Six finalists receive up to JPY 3 million (over \$25,000) each to cover prototype production costs. Prototypes are to be produced between January and March 2020.

## Malabar Gold & Diamonds opens its 2nd outlet at Iselin, New Jersey

**ISELIN, New Jersey:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 250 outlets has opened its 2nd outlet in USA at Iselin, New Jersey. The brand new outlet of Malabar Gold & Diamonds was inaugurated by John McCormac, Mayor of Woodbridge Township, New Jersey in the presence of MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group; Dr PA Ibrahim Haji, Co-Chairman, Malabar Group; Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Abdul Salam KP, Group Executive Director, Malabar Group; Asher O, Managing Director - India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Joseph Eapen, President - US Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; other directors, management team members, media and well-

wishers on 31st August. The new showroom is located at 1348 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, New Jersey. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has made their grand entry in USA on November, 2018 by opening their 250th store globally and the first showroom in USA at Chicago, 2652 West Devon Avenue, Illinois.

The Group currently operates retail outlets spread across ten countries in the India, Middle East, Southeast Asia and USA. The company's plan of major expansion includes expansion within existing markets and new territories such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, Canada, Egypt and Turkey. As a part of expansion in India and abroad in line with its FY2023 global expansion plan, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will open 21 new stores in the coming 6 months.

To celebrate the launch, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has announced fabulous inaugural offers with the gold & diamond jewelry purchases. The new outlet unveils a significantly large collection of modern, stylish, traditional as well as contemporary designer jewelry. The exquisite range of collections can hold you spell-bound with their awe-inspiring beauty and classic designs. A true shopper's delight, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is displaying an eye catchy collection of trendy designs in gold, platinum, IGI/GIA certified diamonds and precious gems from different parts of the world.



ISELIN, New Jersey: Malabar Gold & Diamonds' brand new store in USA at Iselin, New Jersey was inaugurated by John McCormac, Mayor of Woodbridge Township, New Jersey.

## Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 1st September 2019 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 25-29 August 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

#### The winners this week are:

Anfal Hasan Darweesh Abbas  
Imad Chafik Makarem  
Fatima Abdulkareem Mohammed Al-Saqer  
Humoud Soud Hamad Al-Subaie  
Fahmi Abdulhameed Al-Mifeelany

Gulf Bank's third Al-Danah quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 25 September 2019. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1,000,000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event.

Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services. Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their conven-

ience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2019 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw. Furthermore, loyal Al-Danah customers are rewarded with loyalty chances. Loyalty chances are the total chances accumulated from the previous year which are added to the customer's chances the following year. Terms and conditions apply.

The Al-Danah draws are all approved by and held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce. Furthermore, Gulf Bank have partnered with Ernst and Young Kuwait (EY) with reference to "Al Danah Prize Draw" system in order to assist in assessing processes, technical controls considering relevant parameters and provide recommendations in-line with industry leading practices. The study was conducted in line with industry standards and control requirements relevant to similar prize draw schemes wherein, a detailed review of prize draw management system along with draw scheme parameters, data extraction for draw, filtration of customers as per defined business criteria and necessary system interactions was conducted to advise on any potential areas of improvements.

## Ukraine president plans land reform, large privatizations

**KIEV:** Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy ordered his new government to submit a draft law for land market reform by the start of

October and to prepare large-scale privatizations of state companies starting in April next year.

Zelenskyy has pledged to lift a longstanding ban on the sale of farmland, a move that supporters say will unlock enormous opportunities for investment in the agriculture sector of one of the world's largest grain exporters. It is part of a push to make Ukraine more attractive to investors and tackle entrenched corruption. The coun-

try's economy has been propped up by Western aid since the 2014 Maidan protests and the outbreak of a conflict with Russian-backed forces in the eastern Donbass region of Ukraine. Speaking at a televised meeting alongside his newly appointed Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk, Zelenskyy said he wanted parliament to "adopt a law on the agricultural land market and lift the moratorium on the sale of land by Dec. 1, 2019." —Reuters

Features



# An '80s cult classic returns with a Netflix prequel and London exhibit



**A**head of its global Netflix debut on 30 August, *The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance* received the royal treatment at London's BFI Southbank. On from now through 6 September, The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance Exhibition features character studies, original puppets and props, and recreated sets from the 1982 cult classic. Directed by Jim Henson and Frank Oz, the fantasy film takes place in Thra, a world populated by heroic Gelflings, villainous Skeksis, and wise Mystics, and the ten-episode series returns to that strange land, before the events of the original, when Gelflings Jen and Kira sought to repair the crystal that would bring balance to the universe.

"What Jim wanted to do, and it was totally his vision, was to get back to the darkness of the original Grimm's fairy tales. He thought it was fine to scare children. He didn't think it was healthy for children to always feel safe," Oz told SFGate in 2007, when the film enjoyed a brief theatrical return. "It was an incredible undertaking. It was massive."

Among the sets recreated for the BFI Southbank exhibit is the Stone-in-the-Wood's Brew Trough, where the Gelflings meet to quaff a brew or two-and to give the location the extra breath of life, craft brewery Verdant have created a pale ale especially for the occasion. There are also screenings, workshops, and special events leading up to the show's premiere.

The movie starred an all-puppeteer cast of primarily unknowns, but this new chapter is a veritable who's who of Hollywood royalty, from *Game of Thrones* alumni Lena Heady and Natalie Dormer to *Kingsman* stars Taron Egerton and Mark Strong to talent like Alicia Vikander, Helena Bonham Carter, and Eddie Izzard voice as an array of Gelflings, while professional funny folks like Keegan-Michael Key, Simon Pegg, Andy Samberg, and Awkwafina play Skeksis and Mystics. -www.lonelyplanet.com



## BLUE-RIBBON APPLE PIE

**Ingredients**

Pastry for double-crust pie (9 inches)  
**WALNUT LAYER:**  
 3/4 cup ground walnuts  
 2 tablespoons brown sugar  
 2 tablespoons lightly beaten egg  
 1 tablespoon butter, melted  
 1 tablespoon 2% milk  
 1/4 teaspoon lemon juice  
 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

1-1/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
 1/8 teaspoon salt  
 3 tablespoons butter, cubed

**Topping**

1 teaspoon 2% milk  
 2 teaspoons sugar

**Directions**

Preheat oven to 375°. On a lightly floured surface, roll one half of pastry dough to a 1/8-in.-thick circle; transfer to a 9-in. pie plate. Trim pastry even with rim.

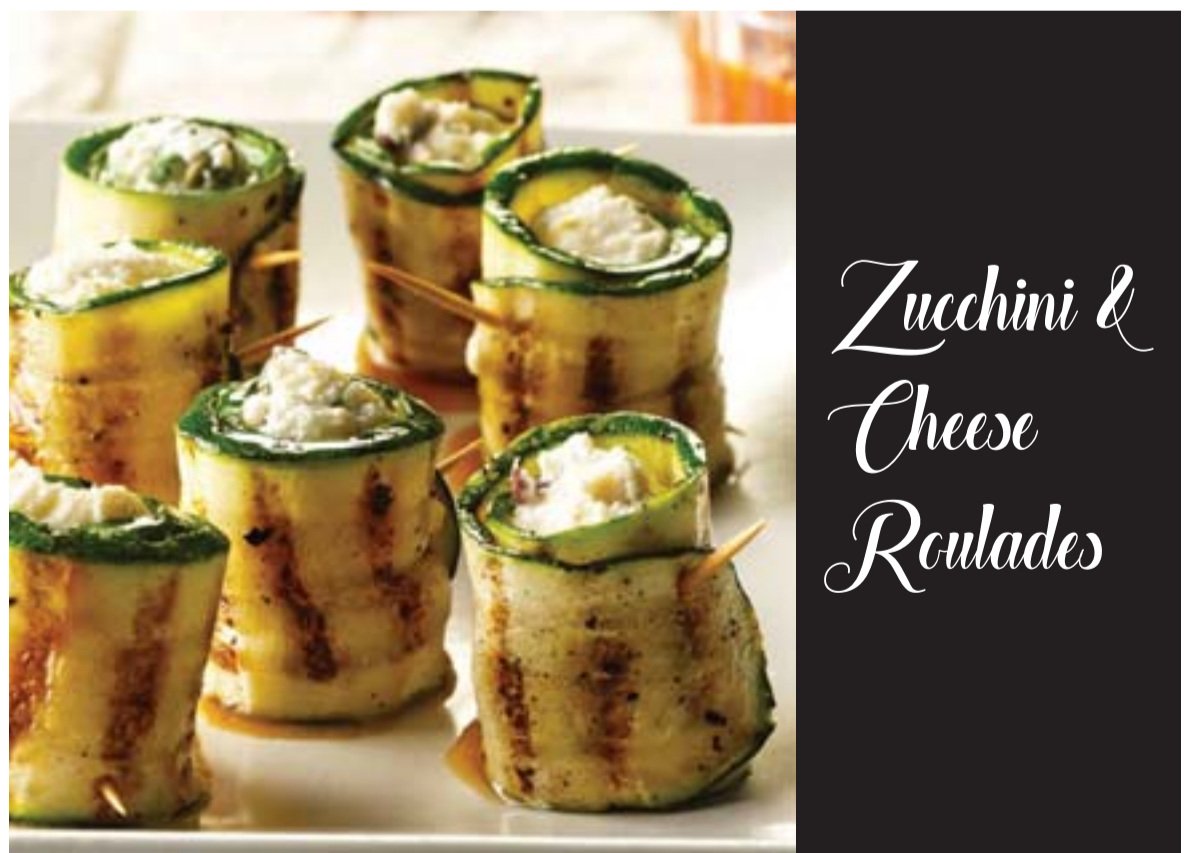
In a small bowl, mix walnut layer ingredients until blended. Spread onto bottom of pastry shell. Refrigerate while preparing filling.

For filling, in a large bowl, toss apples with lemon juice and vanilla. In a small bowl, mix sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt; add to apple mixture and toss to coat.

Pour filling over walnut layer; dot with butter. Roll remaining pastry dough to a 1/8-in.-thick circle. Place over filling. Trim, seal and flute edge. Brush top with milk; sprinkle with sugar. Cut slits in pastry.

Place pie on a baking sheet. Bake 55-65 minutes or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cover edge loosely with foil during the last 10 minutes if needed to prevent overbrowning. Remove foil. Cool on a wire rack.

Pastry for double-crust pie (9 inches): Combine 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour and 1/2 tsp. salt; cut in 1 cup shortening until crumbly. Gradually add 4 to 5 tablespoons ice water, tossing with a fork until dough holds together when pressed. Divide dough in half and shape into disks; wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate 1 hour.



## Zucchini & Cheese Roulades

**Ingredients**

1 cup part-skim ricotta cheese  
 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
 2 tablespoons minced fresh basil or 2 teaspoons dried basil  
 1 tablespoon capers, drained  
 1 tablespoon chopped Greek olives  
 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest  
 1 tablespoon lemon juice  
 1/8 teaspoon salt  
 1/8 teaspoon pepper  
 4 medium zucchini

**Directions**

In a small bowl, mix the first 9 ingredients. Slice zucchini lengthwise into twenty-four 1/8-in.-thick slices. On a greased grill rack, cook zucchini in batches, covered, over medium heat. Grill until tender, 2-3 minutes on each side.

Place 1 tablespoon ricotta mixture on the end of each zucchini slice. Roll up and secure each with a toothpick.

# What is a Category 5 storm?

## Climate change supercharges weather as Dorian hits Bahamas

WASHINGTON: Hurricane Dorian has slammed into the northern Bahamas, one of the strongest storms to make landfall in history. It's also the fifth Category 5 storm to form in the Atlantic in the past four years. Here are some facts about what makes a Category 5 storm and what to expect as climate change supercharges our weather.

### What is a Category 5?

Scientists rank hurricanes from one to five on what is called the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Category 5 storms have sustained winds of at least 157 miles per hour. In addition to devastating winds, Category 5 storms unleash catastrophic storm surge-tsunami-like flooding when they make landfall. Hurricane Dorian's sustained winds reached 185 miles per hour, tying the top speed at landfall ever recorded in the Atlantic, according to the National Hurricane Center. Dorian's arrival also makes the past four years the longest consecutive stretch on record with at least one Category 5 storm per year in the Atlantic. The last longest stretch was from 2003 to 2005.

### Storms big and small

Hurricane Matthew in 2016 was the first Category 5 storm in the Atlantic since 2007. Other recent Category 5's include Hurricane Irma, which battered the Caribbean and the southern United States in September 2017. Hurricane Katrina, which killed over 1,800 people across the US Gulf Coast in 2005, was also a Category 5. In contrast, Hurricane Florence in



NASSAU, Bahamas: A view of the waves near the beach during the approach of Hurricane Dorian in Nassau, Bahamas. — AFP

2018 weakened to a Category 1 event before touching down in the Carolinas, though it was still extremely dangerous.

"A lower category storm can still be dangerous and do a lot of damage," Emmanuel Bocrie, a forecaster at the Météo France weather service, warned at the time. Florence dumped massive amounts of rain in the Carolinas, causing flooding and leaving hundreds stranded without electricity.

### Violent times

In 2018, a string of catastrophic storms including Florence and Hurricane Michael, in September and October-killed dozens of people and caused a total of \$32 billion (29 billion euros) in damage in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. Michael was the

strongest storm to hit the continental United States since 1969. In May, the NOAA forecasting service predicted a "near-normal" Atlantic hurricane season for 2019. But authorities encouraged Americans to prepare, as more than 80 million people live in high-risk areas, even if they aren't actually on the coast. Damage from hurricanes is usually caused more by flooding than by high winds.

### Worse to come?

Scientists have long predicted that global warming will make tropical storms more destructive, and some say the evidence for this may already be visible. Warmer oceans add to the raw fuel on which hurricanes feed, and higher sea levels boost storm surges that may overcome coastal defenses. — AFP

## In US, 84% of donor kidneys rejected at least once, says study

WASHINGTON: When a patient dies waiting for a kidney in the United States, they're generally considered the unfortunate victim of a growing donor shortage. But the reality is more troubling: in the vast majority of such cases, patients had multiple opportunities to receive a transplant, but the organs were declined by their transplant team. "What we found is 84 percent of kidneys in the US get turned down at least one time, which is crazy," Sumit Mohan, lead author of a study published Friday in the influential JAMA Network Open journal, told AFP.

It comes on the heels of another paper this week that found the US rejects about 3,500 kidneys each year because of the donors' advanced age, even though 60 percent of these would be used in France where they prolong life and are useful especially for older recipients. The new analysis found that for each patient who received a kidney from 2008 to 2015, their medical team rejected a median of 17 organs before finally accepting one.

The teams of patients who died while waiting received a median average of 16 offers that they turned down. Overall, 10

candidates with at least one previous offer died each day during the study period. "What's more problematic is that people are saying no without talking to the patients," said Mohan. When a potential donor dies, their kidney is removed and offered to dialysis patients on a waiting list. It is sent to the patient's hospital, which is given one hour to respond.

Most of the time, hospitals will reject the offer in the hope that another of a higher quality score comes along. For Mohan and his colleagues, the excessive focus on this score is a problem, because patients would be more inclined to accept a kidney with a lower score if it means being able to get off dialysis, a procedure that requires multiple hospital visits per week and has an average life expectancy of 5-10 years. This cautious approach could be explained in part by hospitals' desire to maintain a high one year survival rate for transplant patients, because their certification depends on this. But "it's always better to get a transplant than to die, obviously, getting a low quality kidney transplant will also have been better than dying," said Mohan. — AFP

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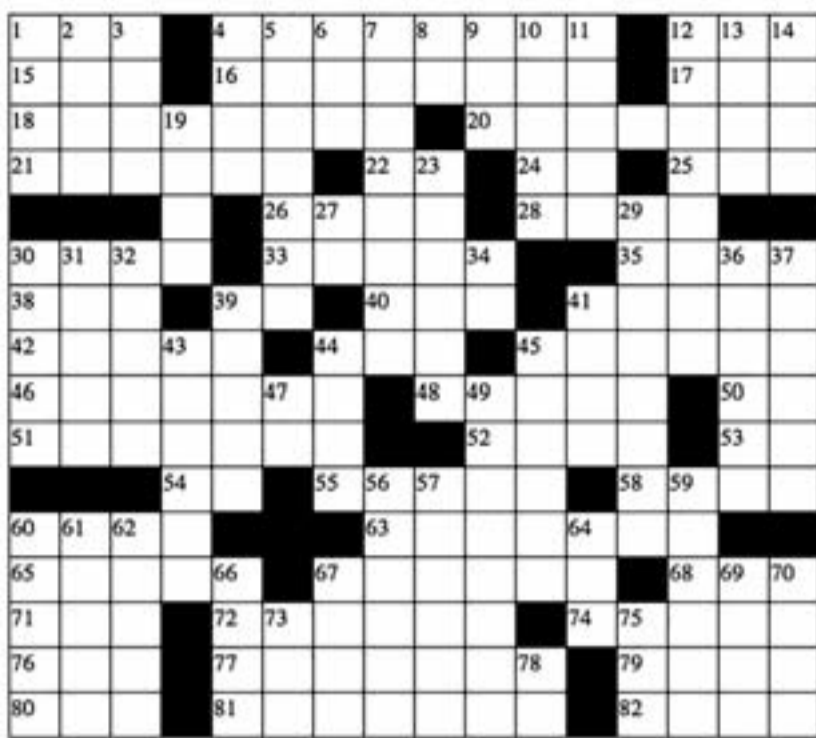
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Stars

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ACROSS

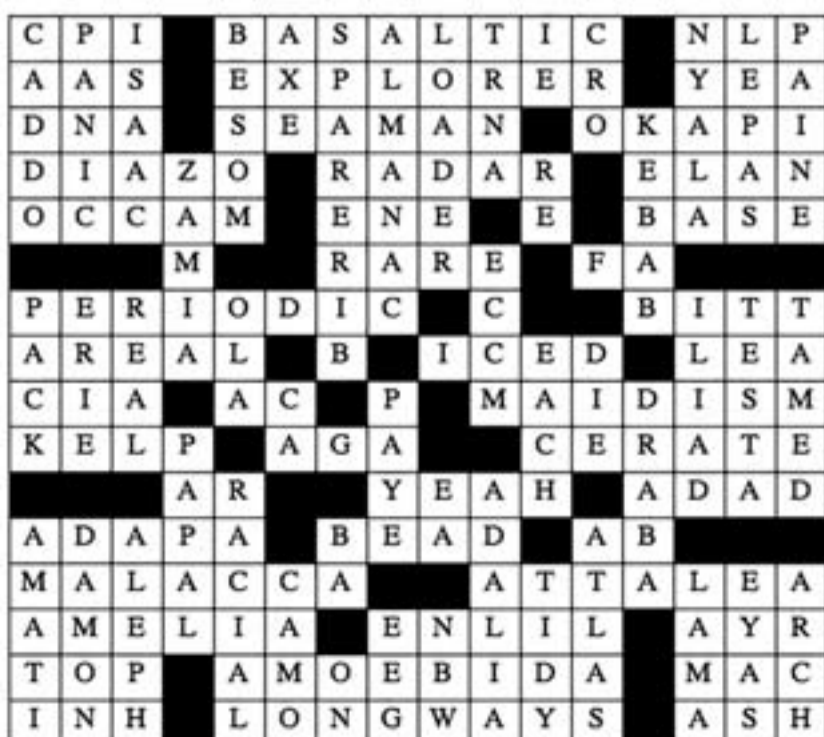
1. An alliance made up of states that had been Soviet Socialist Republics in the Soviet Union prior to its dissolution in Dec 1991.
4. Someone who draws sketches.
12. The compass point that is one point north of due east.
15. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
16. The angular distance between an imaginary line around a heavenly body parallel to its equator and the equator itself.
17. Towards the side away from the wind.
18. A resident of Alabama.
20. Water scorpions.
21. To patch up or renovate.
22. 1,000,000,000 periods per second.
24. A state in New England.
25. Not divisible by two.
26. Type genus of the Amidae.
28. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
30. A thin coat of water-base paint.
33. A spoon-shaped vessel with a long handle.
35. An aromatic ointment used in antiquity.
38. Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydravid) used to treat tuberculosis.
40. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
42. Become less tense.
46. Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
48. Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
50. A ductile silvery-white ductile ferromagnetic trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
51. Copy that is not the original.
52. United States educator who introduced reforms that significantly altered the system of public education (1796-1859).
53. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
54. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
55. Having the slant of a bevel.
58. A challenge to do something dangerous or foolhardy.
60. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
63. Capital of Armenia.
65. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
68. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.
71. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus Iva with small greenish flowers.
72. A family of Ural-Altaic languages.
74. A form of Japanese poetry.
76. Remaining after all deductions.
77. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
79. Someone whose job is to dye cloth.
80. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
81. The great hall in ancient Persian palaces.
82. A sign of something about to happen.

DOWN

1. A human female who does housework.
2. Not in action or at work.
3. Speaking a Slavic language.

4. Winning all or all but one of the tricks in bridge.
5. The capital and largest city of Uganda on the north shore of Lake Victoria.
6. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
7. Lace bugs.
8. A New England state.
9. A member of a nomadic people who invaded Europe in the 4th century.
10. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
11. Cause to move back by force or influence.
12. An imaginary place of great wealth and opportunity.
13. A small ball with a hole through the middle.
14. A condition requiring relief.
19. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
23. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
27. Informal terms for a mother.
29. Large arboreal boa of tropical South America.
31. Administer an oil or ointment to.
32. Walk or tramp about.
34. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
36. A member of the Texas state highway patrol.
37. Deprive of by deceit.
39. Being three more than sixty.
41. English actor noted for his portrayals of Shakespeare's great tragic characters (1789-1833).
43. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
44. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
45. An electronic pulse counter used to count pulses that occur too rapidly to be recorded individually.
47. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
49. Of or relating to the United States of America or its people or language or culture.
56. Either of two folds of skin that can be moved to cover or open the eye.
57. A distensible membranous sac (usually containing liquid or gas).
59. A fictitious name used when the person performs a particular social role.
61. A shelter serving as a place of safety or sanctuary.
62. Make less active or intense.
64. A doctor who practices veterinary medicine.
66. A member of the Athapaskan people of the Trinity River valley in California.
67. An informal term for a father.
69. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
70. A mountain lake (especially one formed by glaciers).
73. Informal abbreviation of 'representative'.
75. A rapid bustling commotion.
78. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is an easy, calm day that should find everything running smoothly. Ideas and interaction with authority figures or older people may be in the forecast. Working with—rather than against—the flow should be easy to do. Your basic talents are such that you can aspire to a position of prominence when you are ready. Lightning fast when it comes to the business deal, you seem to have direct insight into what is worthwhile as well as what is worthless in a situation. You will find a way to cut through the red tape and get at what is important. You can resolve debts and find it easier to add to your income at this time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A practical and conscientious attitude is of special importance now. Sorting things out and getting them organized to the utmost efficiency keeps you busy. You may adopt a more unconventional appearance or manner of communicating with others. This may mean that you have been called in to solve delivery problems or perhaps to rearrange some scheduling. You have more personal insight and are more inventive than most people, etc. Others sense your concern over their welfare and you may not be able to escape the positive admiration coming your way. Someone may take you to lunch or do you a favor without expecting reciprocation.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The workday flows along without too many problems at this time. Your evaluation of matters and decisions made this day will be clear and focused. There could be a slowdown in transportation, but confirmation of schedules should help assuage this situation. There is much communication with friends and family now, especially those at a distance. A love of authority figures, plus an appreciation for authority and your elders in general, makes you welcome at any social scene. You may find yourself involved in a golf game, tennis or other similar sport activity later today. Not only do you enjoy all sorts of sports—you enjoy the time of simple chatter with friends. A new partnership can be entered into now.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The power of organization on a social scale—business, politics and such—comes to your attention this day. Among your basic talents is your sense of fairness and justice. You are a wonderful judge of personality and character, so you can excel as a supervisor or in marriage and business counseling, in legal work and decisions as lawyer or judge. Today you may find yourself solving more problems and keeping the peace between co-workers before working with the files on your desk. The demand for your skills intensifies and you are aware of new options for professional growth. You are starting a six-week cycle of tremendous energy and enthusiasm.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Ambition and the desire for status can get a little out of touch with reality. Stay focused—attend to the normal duties and then you can move forward. Business opportunities that include conferences and perhaps lectures open new doors for you now. Circumstances move you into position where you must use your mind and deal with communications, service or enclosed hidden interests. You may deal with education, psychology, spiritual enlightenment or teaching principles and techniques. This afternoon a friend may interest you in a competitive sport that is good for your mind as well as your body. Learning ways to increase your energy level is a wise move and this new activity may be a heart-healthy, fun activity.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without emotion. You are called on to make use of your natural abilities. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking up different methods than the usual—new approaches. You may be especially dynamic and assertive today—knowing just what to do. There is a lot of energy available for whatever needs to be done.



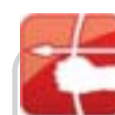
Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may be very forceful in what you say and think. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well. You have much mental drive. Perhaps through teaching you will find yourself serving to guide someone younger than you. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others just now and are in a good position to communicate or guide others. This afternoon your friends may include you in some group activity. It is certainly a good time to be with your friends. This evening there is a kind of romantic dreamy mood. This could mean a longing for a soul mate or a yearning to save the world; it could mean carrying a torch, as well. Secret loves, lost loves—all you need is love.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may discover. You joke with co-workers or friends about how computers are advanced enough to be taught to think and you think about how that would be. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste and emotion. You are called on to make use of your natural abilities and common sense. You feel successful and able to solve problems—quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights and solutions are in readiness.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Keep those positive thoughts coming—you are learning how to transmute the negative. This is a great day to work with others. Round table discussions or conferences with higher-ups may be in order all day. Financial savvy and a practical turn of mind are qualities that take on greater importance in your life now. You have a wheel-dealer attitude with a knack for knowing how to put people, ideas and things together profitably. Playing the role of coordinator can be rewarding. If you are not in a permanent love relationship, you may find one developing this afternoon.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Figuring things out, spotting the fly in the ointment, separating the sheep from the goats: these things take on special significance now. You may be involved in some detective work but you will be pleasantly surprised at the result. This is a perfect time to be assertive and to move forward in your career decisions. You have all the enthusiasm that is needed and it should be easy to direct your path. Because you appear so self-sufficient, others may find it difficult to imagine that you might need love and attention. Step back and allow others to help you. Sometimes your friends just want to do things for you with a simple compliment for their effort.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your mind is very quick and you find a great deal of fun in trivial pursuit games with friends and co-workers. This morning may be such a morning—some fun time with trivial pursuit. Among co-workers you find a good amount of teamwork and goodwill. This is a time of much energy and drive, perfect for starting out on something or taking care of business. Exercise is a necessity today and if the weather is acceptable, get outside and walk, skate, or ride your bike. Your mind runs to humanitarian values and thoughts of what could and should be improved upon.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This morning you may find yourself unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unexpected backing and, in general, your efforts are successful in reaching new heights of creativity. You may want to take a new look at where you are in your career at this time—is this your lifework? determine as soon as possible, just where you want to apply your energies with regard to your career. New and unexpected emotions may surface. It is easy for you to find the proper motivation to fulfill your ideals or make your dreams into a reality. You may decide to reevaluate your diet for this winter. Adding a bit more protein will help increase resistance to colds and flu. This is a good time to schedule a flu shot, if you take them.

Wordsearch Puzzle

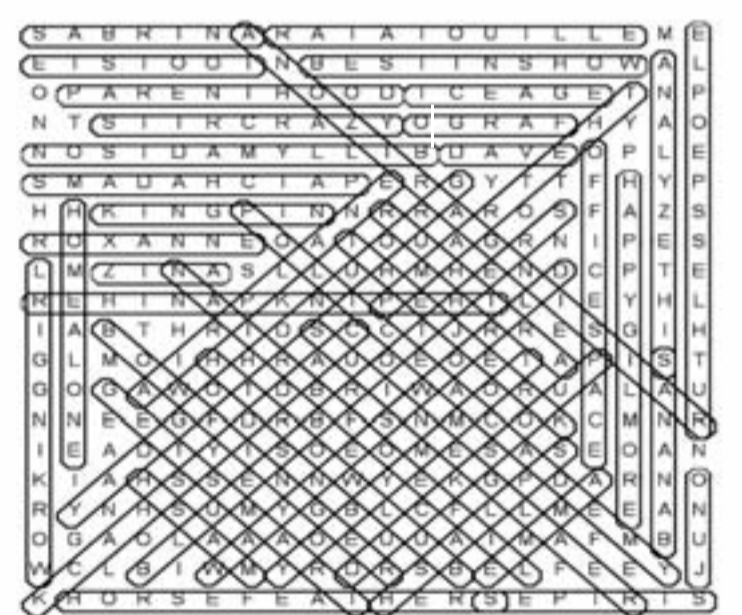
Computer Jargon 1

Find and circle all of the computer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word.



- |             |            |            |              |           |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| APPLICATION | DEFRAGMENT | GOOGLE     | NANOSECOND   | SCANNER   |
| BACKUP      | DIRECTORY  | HTML       | NETWORK      | SECURITY  |
| BINARY      | DISK DRIVE | ICON       | PARTITION    | SHAREWARE |
| BLUETOOTH   | DOS        | INTERNET   | PASTE        | SOFTWARE  |
| BOOT        | DRAG       | JAVASCRIPT | PDF          | SPAM      |
| BYTE        | EMAIL      | KERNAL     | PIXEL        | TASKBAR   |
| CHAT        | ENCRYPTION | LCD        | POWER SUPPLY | THUMBNAIL |
| CLICK       | FILE       | LOGIN      | PROGRAMMER   | UNIX      |
| COOKIE      | FIREWALL   | MEMORY     | ROUTER       | WALLPAPER |
| CURSOR      | FOLDER     | MONITOR    | SAVE AS      | WIRELESS  |
| DATA        | GIF        | MOUSE      |              |           |

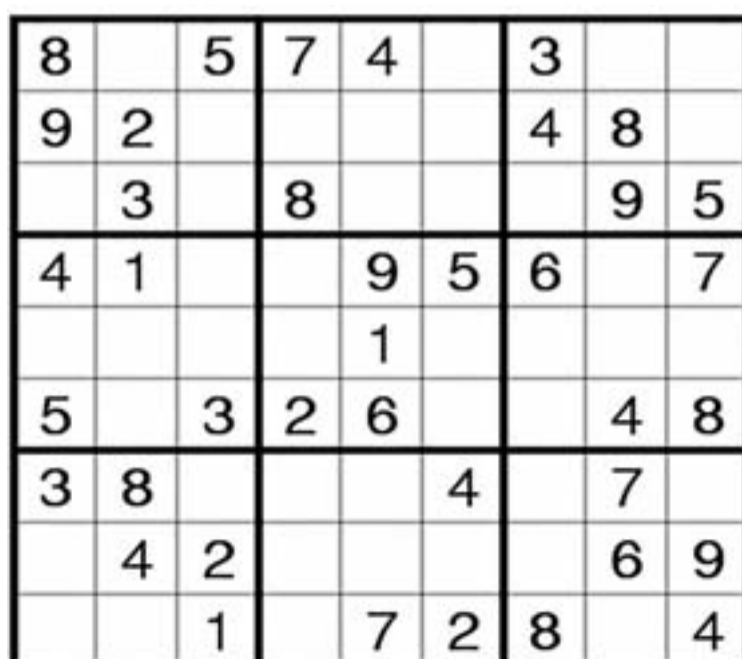
Comedy Movies 2



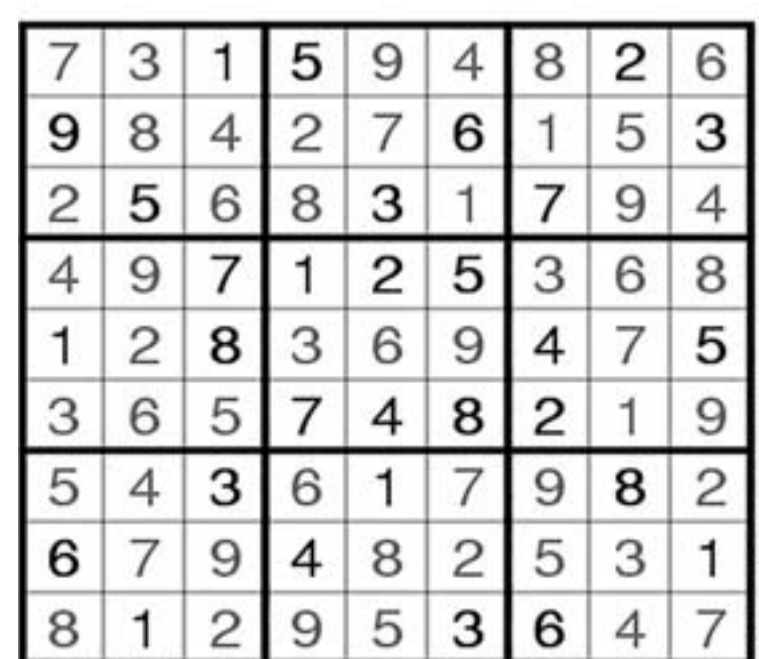
- |                |                |                 |                  |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| AIRPLANE       | DUCK SOUP      | LIFE OF BRIAN   | SABRINA          |
| ANALYZE THIS   | EMMA           | MASH            | SPLASH           |
| ANTE           | FARGO          | OFFICE SPACE    | STAR CRAZY       |
| ARTHUR         | GET SMART      | PARENTHOOD      | STRESS           |
| BANANAS        | GROUNDHOG DAY  | PATCH ADAMS     | THE JERK         |
| BEST IN SHOW   | HAPPY GILMORE  | POLICE ACADEMY  | THE PINK PANTHER |
| BILLY MADISON  | HOME ALONE     | RAISING ARIZONA | THE TRAMP        |
| BLUES BROTHERS | HORSE FEATHERS | RATATOUILLE     | TOMMY BOY        |
| BOWFINGER      | ICE AGE        | REAL GENIUS     | TOOTSIE          |
| BULWORTH       | JUNO           | ROXANNE         | WAYNES WORLD     |
| CADDYSHACK     | KINGPIN        | RUTHLESS PEOPLE | WORKING GIRL     |
| DAVE           |                |                 |                  |

The hidden movie title is: MONTY PYTHON'S THE MEANING OF LIFE

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019



A woman visits the annual contemporary art fair 'Art Jakarta 2019' in Jakarta on September 1, 2019. The art festival features some 70 galleries comprising of 40 international and 30 local galleries. — AFP

## Circus reinvented in Montreal, this time with high-tech vibe

Montreal—the Canadian city that spawned the global juggernaut Cirque du Soleil—has once again reimagined the circus, this time tapping into the rich animation and video game production talent found in the Quebec metropolis. In the old port district, between a giant bridge over the Saint Lawrence river and a Ferris wheel, two strange white pyramids sprouted up this summer—an edgy 21st century big top. They are part of the latest act from Guy Laliberte, the founder of the venerable Cirque du Soleil who, after selling his company to Chinese and American investors in 2015, started a new venture: Lune Rouge (Red Moon).

That company is behind the strange pyramids of PY1, a show that blends acrobatics and multimedia flair with vibrant sounds, lasers, 360-degree projections and special effects. "Montreal is undeniably the circus capital of the world, but is also becoming known as a hub for creative entertainment," says Lune Rouge's artistic director Jean Guibert. Its first show, "Through the Echoes," tells audience members in a jam-packed 60 minutes "the story of the creation of the universe up to now," according to Guibert, a Frenchman who came to Canada in the early 2000s to work for Cirque.

What does that mean in real terms? The interior of the main big top is turned into a giant four-sided screen, where abstract images are projected, accompanied by a voiceover about our collective cosmic history to an electro-pop soundtrack. Beyond the actual show, the PY1 venue is transformed on some nights into a massive futuristic dance club. In the morning, it's used as a huge yoga studio. In the fall, the 600-seat white pyramids will be moved from Montreal to Miami, where augmented reality glasses will be handed out to showgoers to watch virtual actors and acrobats leap off the screens.

### Hive of talent

Montreal, a city of four million, boasts an eye-popping 140 video game studios, including a branch

of one of the world's largest, Ubisoft. "We are looking to tap into the expertise of video game makers and others as we begin to break barriers between the worlds of showbiz, circus arts, theater and video games, and merge these disciplines to create new forms of entertainment," Guibert told AFP. The city hosts several annual major cultural events such as the annual Montreal Jazz Festival and comedy festival Just For Laughs, attracting scores of entertainers who, according to Guibert, have helped turn it into "a world center of expertise in creativity but also in production."

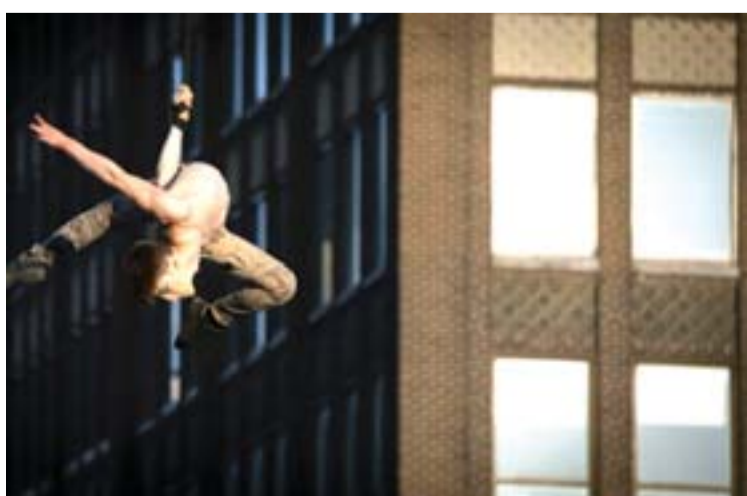
For Nadine Marchand, director of the Montreal Cirque Festival, which grew out of the global success of Cirque du Soleil, many circus companies are now mixing elements of dance, visual arts and music into their shows. Guibert says that added to these elements is "technology which allows us to cross-breed various forms of entertainment and continue to surprise people."

Bosch Dreams, which was showcased at the Montreal Cirque Festival in July, has also sought to blend technology, theater and circus arts. Written and directed by the Montreal artist collective The 7 Fingers, it delves into the world of Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch, bringing to life his best-known paintings through digital animations on a giant screen, interspersed with performances by acrobats. Montreal's National Circus School has also been pumping out highly-skilled acrobats since its founding in 1981, noted Anthony Venisse, who also produced a show for the street festival this year.

"The National Circus School has placed a lot of focus on technique... and that bolsters graduates' artistic abilities," Venisse said. Marchand noted: "These artists who could have gone into theater or dance have instead opted to join the circus," thanks to the wealth of "inventiveness." — AFP



People perform during "The Minutes" at the Montreal Cirque Festival in Montreal, Quebec, where thirty-two acrobats took over the street for a traveling performance. — AFP photos



A performer performs during "The Minutes" at the Montreal Cirque Festival.



Two performers perform during "The Minutes" at the Montreal Cirque Festival.



A performer at the 2019 Montreal Cirque Festival.

## Lifestyle | Gossip



# ABBA'S bond is closer than ever before

**A**BBA are closer than ever before since coming together to record their new songs. The 'Dancing Queen' hitmakers surprised fans last April, when they announced they had been in the studio for the first time since in 37 years and were set to release new tracks 'I Still Have Faith In You' and 'Don't Shut Me Down' - their first new music since 1982. Band member Bjorn Ulvaeus says seeing his bandmates - Agnetha Fältskog, Benny Andersson and Frida Lyngstad - at work again, only "strengthens and solidifies" their "bond". In an interview with The Sun newspaper, he said: "Coming together like that, for me at least, strengthens and solidifies and confirms our bond. And especially when the ladies went into the studio and stood by their mics and started singing, then, oh, it's that sound-the quality of the two ladies when they sing." The 'Waterloo' group went their separate ways in 1982 at the height of their career, and during their final years Bjorn, 74, divorced bandmate Agnetha, 69, whilst Benny, 72, and Frida, 73, split up, too. Bjorn admitted that their reunion is proof of "two former married couples getting along very well". However, he insisted that he still believes they would have disbanded whether they were still in couples or not. He said: "We could never have just gone on with ABBA having

one hit every five years or so. No! It was never in the cards." The Swedish superstars - who shot to fame after winning 'The Eurovision Song Contest' in 1974 - will be giving fans the chance to see their biggest hits and new songs performed on their digital tour by computer-generated 'Abbatars', but Bjorn has said the much-delayed new music won't be released until 2020 now, due to the complex technical nature of the show they are creating. Speaking about Agnetha and Frida's involvement, he said: "They are very much involved and they think this is great. They love it. Technically it is very advanced and complicated." ABBA were one of the most commercially successful acts in pop music, topping the charts worldwide, but Bjorn previously admitted "you never know" when you are onto a hit. He said: "The thing is you never know. I mean in our heyday we kind of knew the next single would be played and so forth, but we never knew if it was going to reach number one, if people would like it. It's easy to forget that there is a before, and in the 'before' you don't know. You take a risk and that's what I still do." ABBA's music went on to feature in two blockbuster musical movies, 2008's 'Mamma Mia' and last year's 'Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again'.

## Mark Strong wanted Bond role

**M**ark Strong wanted to be the villain in 'No Time To Die'. The 56-year-old actor has been friends with Daniel Craig for years and thinks it would have been "nice" to appear alongside his close pal in the star's final outing as James Bond in the upcoming movie. He said: "It would have been nice to act together as it's Daniel's last Bond. We'd have had great fun, but I think maybe it's better that we're not doing it because people might not accept it as a genuine thing within the Bond movie, knowing that we're pals." The 'Kingsman' actor has previously made another bid to land a role in the franchise but admitted things didn't go well in his audition. He added in an interview with Event magazine: "I did audition for a Bond film once, back when Pierce Brosnan was in the role, but the audition didn't go particularly well, so that was that." And Mark even thinks he would have made a good 007 himself. On the suggestion he'd have been right for Bond, he replied: "Thank you, I think so too! It just never came my way." But the 'Temple' star insisted he's never been jealous of Daniel for landing the coveted role. Asked if he'd ever felt jealous, he said: "No. It doesn't help to obsess about things that might have been." Mark and Daniel have been friends since working together in 'Our Friends In The North' in 1996 and even shared a flat, where the 'Kick-Ass' star took on many of the domestic tasks. He said: "Well, I'm quite tidy, so maybe I did all the dishes and the tidying up. [As for women], I'm staying schtum. We were young actors just at the start of our careers and we did have a great time, so I'll leave it to your imagination."



## BLOSSOMS TEASE 'BANDY' THIRD ALBUM

**B**lossoms' upcoming album is "bandy with a few more guitars". Tom Ogden and co have switched it up once again for their third studio album - the follow-up to their 2018's synth-heavy 'Cool Like You' and their 2016 self-titled debut - which has been built around their live show. Tom told the Daily Star newspaper's Wired column: "We have just finished recording and hopefully it will be out over the next few months. "It doesn't sound like the other two. "The second one was synth heavy and this one is more real again. "You know 'bandy' with a few more guitars, a bit of

piano sprinkled over it and there's a lot of live precision." The 'Charlemagne' rockers - completed by Charlie Salt, Josh Dewhurst, Joe Donovan and Myles Kellock - released the single 'Your Girlfriend' in June and its B-side 'Torn Up', and the band have continued working with The Coral's James Skelly, who is in charge of production. Tom says their dream is to play "bigger" shows and he admitted that if they ever fell out as friends, they wouldn't want to continue as a band. He said: "As long as we get on we will still keep going. "Radio seems to be picking up for us and we like playing live and want shows to get bigger." Meanwhile, the 'Honey Sweet' rockers have just created their own beer, Blossoms' SK-Brew, which will be available at their headline Goose Island Hop Party gig at Oval Space in London on Saturday. And the frontman can't wait to play to an intimate crowd. He said: "We did a beer when we launched our first album. Then the opportunity came to do this one, also paired with the fact you get to play to an intimate crowd in London. We like those club shows; sweaty ones which remind us of our start."



## Sean Paul to play KISS Haunted House Party

**S**ean Paul is set to play the 2019 KISS Haunted House Party. The 'Temperature' hitmaker will be joined by rap duo Young T & Bugsey at the Halloween extravaganza at London's The SSE Arena, Wembley on October 25. He said: "I always love doing shows in London and I heard that KISS Haunted House Party is always a great vibe, so I'm looking forward to smashing it! "Wembley better be ready! "I've got all the KISS STORY anthems and of course my new tune 'When It Comes To You.' Liam Payne and Rita Ora were joined by the likes of Clean Bandit, Stefflon Don and Jess Glynne at last year's event. Rita was the talking point of the concert as she transformed into rapper Post Malone. The 'Anywhere' hitmaker shocked her fans when she dressed up as the 'Wow' hitmaker but she later claimed her transformation didn't require much effort. Shown a picture of herself as Post, she said: "That's literally me with no make-up, all that happened was they drew some face tattoos and I put a wig on and had no make-up touch ups, so that's scary what I look like in real life." Despite her dramatic transformation, the 28-year-old singer was stunned when the audience didn't recognize her. She said: "I literally did a concert and they didn't clap because they were like 'Who is this weird human being on stage?' "I had to talk in the mic and still they didn't believe me and then I had to sing and they were like 'OK, we believe her.' " More acts for this year's gig will be announced in the coming weeks.



## Camila Cabello teases romance themed project

**C**amila Cabello is set to release the "first installment" of her new romance-themed project on Thursday. The former Fifth Harmony star - who is dating Canadian pop hunk Shawn Mendes - has been dropping teasers for her new music on social media, firstly with a video titled 'What Do I Know About Love?'. In the YouTube clip, the 'Havana' hitmaker explains that she wants her "life to be a work of art" and her "songwriting to be the camera that I take a picture of it with". She says: "I've learned a lot about love in my 20s, but not enough to maintain any control in the face of its power. "And for every new thing I learned, there was something else I couldn't understand. "I thought I was making art before. "Writing songs was me making art but now I want my life to be a work of art, and my songwriting to be the camera that I take a picture of it with." The pop star then shared a video of her with a golden bra on with a heart keyhole, which when unlocked, turns into a mechanical box, like the children's toy Polly Pocket, with a purple heart and princess castle inside. A message is then shown, which reads: "Welcome to the world of Romance. "You are cordially invited to experience the first installment on September 5, 2019. Truly surrender to the drama. Courtesy of Camila Cabello. (sic)" The new music will follow Camila and Shawn's steamy duet 'Se?orita'. Meanwhile, 'In My Blood' hitmaker Shawn recently insisted he won't talk about his relationship without consulting his girlfriend first. The 21-year-old singer was asked at a recent concert if his thoughts on love had changed since romancing Camila, but he played coy about their romance, saying he doesn't want to get too personal without checking if she is comfortable with the publicity of their love life. Speaking as



he chatted to fans after his concert at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut, he said: "Honestly, I want to talk to you guys about this stuff, because it's not just me in the relationship, you know? There's another person involved, and I can't say things that I feel ... It's not just me deciding, you know?" Shawn and Camila, 22, were first romantically linked in June, but have yet to speak in detail to confirm their rumored relationship.

## Gunn to reveal The Suicide Squad news 'very soon'

**J**ames Gunn is to "release some news very soon" on 'The Suicide Squad'. The movie's director responded to a user on Twitter who asked when fans can expect some more information and pictures from the follow-up to the 2016 DC ensemble movie 'Suicide Squad' - which is thought to be a reboot of sorts rather than a direct sequel. Gunn replied: "It's been an unbelievably rewarding experience so far, and a real dream come true for me. I'm hoping to release some news VERY SOON. (sic)" The filmmaker's teaser comes after Nathan Fillion boarded the flick. The 48-year-old actor, who has a long-history with Gunn, having previously starred in his films 'Guardians of the Galaxy', 'Slither' and 'Super', is the latest name attached to the film in an as-yet undisclosed role. German star Flula Borg was recently confirmed and will reportedly play a love interest to one of the characters in the Warner Bros. release. The rest of the cast is comprised of villains Margot Robbie (Harley Quinn), Jared Leto (The Joker), Jai Courtney (Captain Boomerang) and government official Viola Davis (Captain Waller). Storm Reid will play the on-screen daughter of Idris Elba's new character, which is replacing Will Smith as hitman Deadshot. This is so the 50-year-old star can return to the DC Extended Universe in the future. It is currently not known what DC Comics villain role Idris will take on instead, but reports claim that the decision was made as bosses didn't want to disrespect Will by replacing him, as he'd helped to bring Deadshot to life on screen for the first time. WWE wrestler John Cena has also joined the cast alongside Daniela Melchior,

who will portray Ratcatcher while David Dastmalchian will portray Polka-Dot man, a villain who is able to use his ability to turn the polka-dots covering his costume into a variety of devices, launches a crime wave based on spots and dots in Gotham City. The film's release date is currently set for August 2021. — Bang Showbiz



Lifestyle | Venice Film Festival



Spanish actress Penelope Cruz poses as she arrives for the screening of the film 'Wasp Network' presented in competition during the 76th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP



(From left) Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal, Spanish actress Penelope Cruz, Venezuelan actor Edgar Ramirez and French director Olivier Assayas arrive for the screening of the film 'Wasp Network'. — AFP

Tech making 'our brains explode', says star *Penelope Cruz*

Hollywood star Penelope Cruz warned Sunday that technology was driving high anxiety that would one day make "all our brains explode". The Spanish mother-of-two said she was worried about how children's mental health and development were being affected by the ubiquity of tech. "I have my personal war with it," she told reporters at the Venice film festival.

"I wish we could have lived in the 1990s for a little longer. For mental health issues that would have helped a lot, because I think things are going at a speed that we are

unprepared for," said the actress. Cruz, 45, who is starring in "Wasp Network", a thriller about five Cuban undercover agents who became heroes for infiltrating radical exile networks in Florida, said tech was coming to utterly dominate children's lives, hogging their time and imaginations. "This might seem like an exaggeration to other people, but I am convinced that we were raised with a different relationship with technology," she said.

"Right now children and teenagers are in contact so much with electronics and it takes the time away from chil-

dren to learn to play, to have conversations, to be at a table having dinner talking to their family, or to be bored—which is something important we all should learn as children." Cruz, who has an eight-year-old son and six-year-old daughter with fellow Spanish star Javier Bardem, said our lives were being swallowed up by it.

Tech's daily dominance was "not only affecting children, but all of us.... It is something that is creating a lot of general anxiety and I wonder if this continues all of our brains are just going to explode," said the actress,

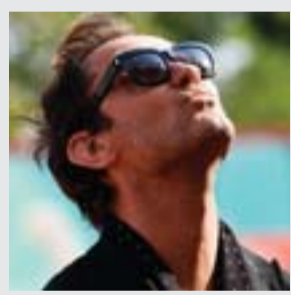
who made her name in "Jamon, Jamon" when she was only 15. Cruz said that she hoped that rising fears about what we are doing to the planet would chime with a harder look at what tech was doing to us. "I hope that there will be a movement for people to live in a different way, that will value a different pace, which leads us to the other big issue, what happens to the environment," she added. — AFP

Jude Law brings papal drama follow-up to Venice

Jude Law brought the follow-up to "The Young Pope" to the Venice Film Festival on Sunday, presenting a glimpse of his return in the Paolo Sorrentino-directed papal drama, which at one point sees him wearing just "a napkin". The second series, called "The New Pope", sees Law reprise the role of Lenny Belardo, who becomes Pius XIII, the first American pope in history.

After Law's character falls into a coma, the sophisticated John Brannox, played by Hollywood actor John Malkovich, is elected to the papal throne, taking the name John Paul III. Two episodes out of the series' nine screened at the festival, which runs until Saturday. A teaser trailer shows Law strolling down a beach wearing white swimwear and surrounded by women. He is mirrored by Malkovich, who walks through the Vatican in full papal garb. "You'll be surprised to know that those swimming trunks actually weren't the smallest costume I got to wear," Law told a news conference on Sunday.

"There's actually one scene where I was wearing a napkin. I have a photo of it because it was truly the smallest costume I was ever given." In the drama, miracles appear to take place and both popes have to learn to co-exist. "The main inducement was to work with Paolo Sorrentino," Malkovich said of joining the project. "The Vatican or even religious things in general are probably not a primary field of interest for me, but I thought he made it very interesting in the first series in a way that was quite unexpected and something with a very unique vision." — AFP



British actor Jude Law arrives for the screening of the upcoming television series 'The New Pope'. — AFP



US actress Meryl Streep arrives for the screening of the film "The Laundromat".



(From second left) British actor Gary Oldman, US actress Meryl Streep and US director Steven Soderbergh arrive for the screening of the film "The Laundromat".

Panama Papers star *Streep* says rich playing 'black joke' on world

The world's richest people are playing a "black-hearted joke on all of us" Hollywood star Meryl Streep said Sunday as a new movie based on the Panama Papers scandal was premiered. The American actress plays a cheated widow out to right financial chicanery in "Laundromat", a deft satire on the maze of shell companies that criminals and the super-rich use to hide their billions. "This movie is fun and it's funny, but it's really important," Streep told reporters at the Venice film festival.

Director Steven Soderbergh shows how the massive 2016 leak of documents from the Panama law firm Mossack & Fonseca exposed the lengths the rich and powerful go to avoid paying tax—mostly legally. It sent shock waves across the world when the off-shore dealings of leaders in a string of countries were exposed, leading to the resignation of the

Icelandic prime minister Sigmundur Davio Gunnlaugsson. But rather than casting the firm's partners as shady baddies, Soderbergh lets the pair—played by British actor Gary Oldman and Spanish star Antonio Banderas—dig their own graves by telling it from their point of view. "This is a funny way to tell a black-hearted joke, a joke that's been played on all of us," Streep told reporters in Venice.

'It's a crime'

"But it's a crime not without victims, and many of them are journalists. The reason the Panama Papers were exported out to the world was the work of journalists. "People died because of this," Streep said, referring to the Maltese columnist Daphne Anne Caruana Galizia, who was killed in a bomb attack in 2017 after taking part in the Panama Papers investigation. Soderbergh, the maker of classics such as "Sex, Lies and Videotape", "Traffic", "Erin Brockovich" and the "Ocean's" trilogy, said he hoped the Netflix film would increase pressure for real change. "Along with climate change, this kind of corruption is the defining issue of this moment. In 2000 the top 1 percent controlled a third of the world's wealth. They now control half."

"That does not seem sustainable and yet here we are. Transparency is the only solution," he added. In the film Soderbergh admits that five companies he has been involved with have been registered in the low-tax US state of Delaware, where more than quarter of a million shell companies are registered to a single address.

US and UK big offenders

The director hailed the new Unexplained Wealth Order in Britain which targets "people with extreme wealth which seems to have come from nowhere". However, Gerard Ryle, head of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), which led the year-long secret inquiry by a global network of 400 journalists into the Panama Papers cache, said the US and Britain were now among the two worst offshore offenders, "crusading against it internationally but sweeping up the benefits themselves".

While he welcomed the spotlight being turned back on the issue, Ryle told AFP that it "was a pity" it had somewhat overlooked the patient and dangerous work done by investigative reporters. Jake Bernstein, who wrote "Secrecy World", an account of the ICIJ investigation on which the film is based, said America is now "one of the biggest tax havens in the world, and there is a lot of vested interests in keeping the system exactly how it is. "Delaware is a factory for anonymous shell companies, and making a billion dollars a year from that business. That is something they fight zealously to protect. Transnational gangs and all kinds of malefactors are using Delaware companies around the world to do terrible things." — AFP

KHODORKOVSKY CALLS RUSSIA 'MAFIA' STATE AT 'CITIZEN K' VENICE SCREENING

Oligarch-turned-dissident exile Mikhail Khodorkovsky said Russia had been taken over by a "mafia" as he appeared in Venice for the launch of Alex Gibney's "Citizen K" documentary, described by one critic as a "scalding portrait" of the country under Vladimir Putin. Gibney, known for his meticulous non-fiction films including "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room" and "Taxi to the Dark Side", turns a journalistic eye on the complex and contradictory figure of Khodorkovsky for his latest film to examine "how power works in Russia".

The film is a portrait of the shadow dance of wealth and influence in Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union, tracing Putin's two-decade grip on power. It follows the story of Khodorkovsky, once one of the country's richest men, who was jailed in 2003 and spent a decade in a Siberian prison for tax evasion after clashing with Putin. The former oil tycoon now lives in exile in Britain and has become one of Putin's most prominent critics.

"Today Russia is not just an authoritarian state, it is a state that has been taken over by the mafia," Khodorkovsky told a news conference on Saturday ahead of the screening of "Citizen K" in Venice, the film festival's biggest documentary so far. It has had an enthusiastic reception, with David Rooney of Hollywood Reporter calling it a

"lucidly accessible account of post-Soviet Russia's lurching transition out of communism into a free-market economy that became a Wild West of gangster capitalism" and a "scalding portrait of Putin's Russia".

The US director described his film as a "cautionary tale" for other democracies, adding that "Americans are somehow haunted by Russia" in the wake of the 2016 elections. He interviewed Khodorkovsky for more than 20 hours for the film, saying it was necessary to "penetrate what is sometimes a necessary reserve". Variety's Guy Lodge described the film as "bristling tension between heroism and villainy" in its portrayal of Khodorkovsky, who has a "political about-face that feels almost too good, too neat, to be true".



Russian businessman Mikhail Khodorkovsky attends a photocall for the film 'Citizen K'. — AFP

"In Alex Gibney's chewy, engrossing documentary, it's a reversal that unlocks many of the conflicts and contradictions ailing post-Soviet Russia's capitalist democracy," he said. Khodorkovsky was one of a handful of individuals who were able to accumulate staggeringly vast wealth through the free market reforms of the 90s at the helm of up the former oil giant Yukos. In the same period Putin was nimbly climbing the ladder of the country's intelligence service, before being named prime minister by an ailing Boris Yeltsin in 1999 and then becoming president in 2000.

The Russian leader quickly set about consolidating power—reinforcing control over parliament, demanding loyalty from the media and taking on the super-rich oligarchs. As he enters his third decade in power, Putin's approval ratings have dropped significantly and recent weeks have seen thousands take to the streets in Moscow calling for free and fair elections. Khodorkovsky, who funds the Open Russia movement, said that the number of political prisoners in the country was increasing. "In Russia democracy is something we have to fight for and something for which we have to pay a lot," he said. — AFP

Controversial Black Lives Matter film hailed at Venice

Controversial US director Nate Parker said yesterday that he hopes his powerful new film about police violence against black men will help save lives. "American Skin" received an eight-minute standing ovation after it premiered at the Venice film festival, with Spike Lee—who travelled to Italy to support Parker—comparing its impact to "scoring a goal to win the World Cup or a home run at the bottom of the ninth in American parlance". The veteran maker of "Do The Right Thing" and "Malcolm X" had earlier declared that "I haven't been affected by a film like this... in a long, long time."

The movie about a black Iraq war veteran, whose 14-year-old son is killed by police when they stop their car in a wealthy white area, is a blistering indictment of institutional racism. It culminates in the avenging father taking his son's killer hostage and putting him—and racist police attitudes—on trial after storming his local precinct. Parker said he hopes the film will



Nate Parker and Spike Lee attend a photocall during Venice Film Festival. — AFP

start a debate within US police forces about the way they deal with black people. "This experience is happening all too often in America. I hopeful that it can resonate and people will hopefully be moved into action. "Our mantra was take a beat [stop and think] and save a life. We can make a film that inspires not only conversation but real action. If we can save one life... this film will be the most important thing we have ever done," he added.

'Tone deaf' about rape case

Parker's acclaimed debut 2016 film about a slave revolt, "The Birth of a Nation", was derailed after it emerged that he was accused of raping a fellow student while at university. She later killed herself. Parker's presence added further flames to a row raging at the festival over the inclusion of a new film by Roman Polanski, who has spent decades as a fugitive from US justice for the rape of a 13-year-old girl.—AFP

## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies

A Minute with: **Brian De Palma** on horror, #MeToo and critics

Veteran film director Brian De Palma, maker of "Carrie" and "Scarface", has no intention of retiring yet, though he is 78, and is now working on a horror movie inspired by the scandal engulfing Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. Some 70 women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct dating back decades. Once among Hollywood's most powerful producers, Weinstein has denied the accusations and said any sexual encounters were consensual. He has pleaded not guilty to the criminal charges against him.

In an interview with Reuters during the Venice Film Festival, where De Palma revisited his career in a masterclass, the director spoke about sexual misconduct in Hollywood, dealing with bad reviews and adapting to changes. Below are edited excerpts of the interview.

**Q: There is talk you are looking to revisit the horror genre maybe with a take inspired by the Harvey Weinstein scandal. Why that subject matter?**

**De Palma:** "Because my years of working in and out of Hollywood you were very aware of the kind of abuse to women that was going on. And

being a director who directs women all the time you are very sensitive in how they are treated in the movie that you are making. So I was aware of some of the things that were happening during the Harvey Weinstein era and it is an interesting story to tell, plus, I like the sort of suspense drama and I created a script that is sort of based on some of the real cases reported in the New York Times. But it is basically a suspense film using that as the historical backdrop.

**Q: Did the #MeToo movement need happen to bring change?**

**De Palma:** "It annoyed directors like myself and others of my contemporaries because as directors you deal with actors all the time. And you must engender their trust. And if you... take them out to dinner or abuse them, it goes against what you are trying to do to gain their trust in order for them to be as free when they perform in their movies. It is basically crazy and people who do it, I always have felt are misusing their power."

**Q: You have had a feisty relationship with some of the film press. Do you think some of that was unjustified in the past?**

**De Palma:** "You are always judged against the fashion of the day so you can't take it too seriously. A lot of my films did not do well when they came out and were not particularly reviewed well and people are still talking about (them) today. At the time it can be quite hurtful but if you outlive it you will be surprised what remains important in cinema over the years."

**Q: A number of your films in the 1980s had the feistiness of Hollywood then. It seems those films are now out of vogue.**

**De Palma:** "It is a skill. Not only that, whatever happened to beauty in cinema? When was the last beautiful picture you saw where people were lit beautifully? That means you have to sit or be in a particular light and say your lines so that you are hit a certain way like they did in the 1930s and the 1940s. You don't see that anymore."

**Q: What challenges have you faced as the industry changed?**

**De Palma:** "You try to do the best you can but in the immortal words of (director) William Wyler 'Once your legs go it is time to hang up your riding crop' basically. It gets more difficult



to make movies if you physically have limitations so if I get to make a couple more pictures, great, but as you are heading into 80, it becomes quite a challenge." — Reuters

US director Brian De Palma signs autographs for fans as he arrives for the screening of the film 'Marriage Story' during the 76th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP



(From left) Jay Ryan, Jeremy Ray Taylor, Isaiah Mustafa, Chosen Jacobs, Jaeden Martell, Jack Dylan Grazer, James Ransone, Sophia Lillis, Jessica Chastain, Bill Hader, Finn Wolfhard, Andy Bean, and Wyatt Oleff attend the Premiere of Warner Bros Pictures' 'It Chapter Two' at Regency Village Theatre. — AFP photos



In this file photo director Andy Muschietti rides a bicycle on the red carpet during the World premiere of 'It Chapter Two' at the Regency Village theatre in Westwood, California.



In this file photo a poster is seen on the red carpet ahead of the World premiere of 'It Chapter Two' at the Regency Village theatre in Westwood, California.

## Dark comic: Bill Hader on 'Barry' and 'It 2'

For one of the funniest men in America, Bill Hader is definitely drawn to darkness. Critics agree that the "Saturday Night Live" alumnus steals the show in horror blockbuster "It: Chapter 2," out this Friday, while his acclaimed HBO hitman comedy "Barry" is tipped to win multiple Emmys once again next month. In both, the in-demand star steers the mood rapidly from terrifying brutality to hilarity and back again, often several times within a single scene. "I've always been weirdly interested in violence ... people's inherent violence, which is kind of what 'Barry' is about," says Hader, who created and co-wrote the show, as well as directing several episodes.

"It's about a guy saying, 'Well I can quit this' and realizing 'Oh, no, this is in me, and maybe it's in most people.'" The acclaimed series sees Hader's former US Marine-turned-hitman pursue his target into a Hollywood acting class, where he quickly enrolls. Its second season—which earned a whopping 17 Emmy nominations—follows Barry's bid to swap contract killings for casting calls, an ambition which is constantly thwarted by his own inner turmoil and an assortment of larger-than-life mobsters. "You have to have some levity because that's just life," says Hader.

"If there's no humor in it then I don't feel like it's very realistic, because life is very funny, you know? Life doesn't make a lot of sense." It is a lesson Hader learned as a teenager growing up in Oklahoma when he was in a bad car accident—but remembers laughing with his sister on the way to hospital. "I was 16, and we went through a fence and hit a tree, and spun around ... I did something to my foot and I hurt my neck," said Hader. "And then this drunk guy who was walking home just started directing traffic around us—it was just super surreal ... He was yelling at people and then when the cops came he took off running." "On the way to the hospital my sister and I were just like, 'Who the hell was that guy?'"

## 'A mask'

Those intense contradictions underline much of Hader's career. As a hugely popular cast member for eight years on "SNL," he famously suffered severe anxiety live on air, even as he reduced audiences to stitches. Having spent years as a Hollywood production assistant on Arnold Schwarzenegger and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson films before joining the venerable comedy show, Hader's profile rose substantially following his scene-stealing role as a police officer in "Superbad" alongside regular collaborator Seth Rogen.

Director **Costa-Gavras** honored in Venice

Greek-born French director Costa-Gavras has been recognized for his "particularly original contribution to innovation in contemporary cinema" at the Venice Film Festival, where the Oscar winner also presented his new movie about the Greek debt crisis. The 86-year-old filmmaker, known for "Z" and "Missing", was presented with the Jaeger-LeCoultre Glory to the Filmmaker award late on Saturday.

While in Venice, he also presented "Adults in the Room", which is adapted from the book by former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis and follows Greece's bailout negotiations in 2015. "There's a lot of muddled politics in Europe, it has to clear itself up one day, not in the way it's been clearing itself up over the past few years," Costa-Gavras told a news conference, citing concerns over rising populism. "I hope that all of that will change." —Reuters



French Greek director Costa-Gavras arrives for the screening of the film 'Adults in the Room' presented out of competition, and to the JLC Glory To The Filmmaker Award. — AFP



In this file photo US actor Bill Hader arrives for the World premiere of 'It Chapter Two' at the Regency Village theatre in Westwood. — AFP photos



In this file photo posters are shown on the red carpet ahead of the World premiere of 'It Chapter Two' at the Regency Village theatre in Westwood.

Since leaving "SNL" in 2013 his star has risen further, becoming one of the most sought-after funny men in Hollywood, and lending his voice to mainstream hits such as "Toy Story 4" and "Finding Dory." But in "It: Chapter 2" Hader—a lifelong Stephen King fan—enjoyed flexing his dramatic muscles as well as bringing many of the laughs.

His character, the trash-talking Richie Tozier, is struggling with a secret which is hinted to be his repressed homosexuality—something which he seeks to deflect by regularly cracking jokes. "I liked that Andy and I talked about just giving the character something to play... it's all kind of a mask," says Hader, referring to director Andy Muschietti. In a separate interview with AFP, Muschietti praised Hader's "phenomenal" performance, while also describing him as "one of the funniest guys on Earth." But Hader says he wants to focus more in the future on his directing and writing, with writing on season three of "Barry" due to begin later this month. The show will continue for "as long as we're enjoying it," he says, but admits he is uncertain of its future direction. "We'll have to figure it out," he says. "I don't know what it is, but we're gonna figure it out." — AFP



(From left) File photo shows Ronnie Wood, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger and Darryl Jones of The Rolling Stones perform onstage at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. — AFP

## Rockin' 'n' rollin on Mars: Rolling Stones have space rock named after them

The Rolling Stones have rocked stages around the world in their more than 50-year career. But now their influence has gone into space after NASA's Mars InSight Mission named a rock on the planet after the band. Slightly larger than a golf ball, the "Rolling Stones Rock" is said to have rolled some 3 feet (1 metre), spurred by the InSight spacecraft's thrusters during touchdown on Mars in November, NASA said.

"In images taken by InSight the next day, several divots in the orange-red soil can be seen trailing Rolling Stones Rock," it said. "It's the farthest NASA has seen a rock roll while landing a spacecraft on another planet." Hollywood actor Robert Downey Jr. announced the name as Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts were about to perform on Thursday night at Pasadena's Rose Bowl Stadium, close to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. —Reuters

## Trump, King and a \$70m budget: The making of 'It Chapter Two'

Pennywise, the murderous clown who lurks in sewers and feasts on terrified children, is perhaps the most evil creation to ever emerge from the warped mind of Stephen King. But the director of the record-breaking, two-part film adaptation of "It" has controversially claimed that King's horrifying invention shares a lot in common with a real-life figure—President Donald Trump. "He does exactly what the clown does, you know?" Andy Muschietti told AFP. "The clown is trying to divide the 'Losers' all the time, to turn them against them(selves) and make them weaker," said the Argentine director, referring to the nickname for the group of pre-teen misfits who are the heroes of "It."

"That's how he conquers, he tries to conquer them and destroy them." Drawing parallels between high-concept horror icons and the current White House inhabitant is certain to shock many. But beyond the killer clown's gruesome theatrics, King's novel is already an exploration of the dark underbelly of small-town America, said Muschietti, tackling sinister yet tragically real themes such as spousal abuse and incest. Movie sequel "It Chapter Two," out Friday, covers the concluding sections of the novel in which the children—now grown up and enjoying successful lives elsewhere—return to their hometown to confront a resurgent Pennywise.

It features a famous scene from the novel in which a young gay man suffers a savage homophobic assault by a local gang, which was based on a real-life incident in Bangor, the town in the northeastern state of Maine where King lives. While it was omitted from the popular 1990 TV mini-series adaptation, Muschietti said that including the scene was crucial for making "a movie that is connected to the times that we live in."

"We live in a culture of fear, leaders that are trying to divide people, to control us, to conquer us, and to turn us against each other," he said. The performance of the first "It" movie at box offices in 2017 leaves no doubt that the franchise resonates today with audiences, more than three decades on from King's novel. The R-rated blockbuster took in a whopping \$700 million around the world to become the highest-grossing horror film of all time. "Yeah, that was ridiculous!" said Muschietti. "The first weekend was just insane ... it just went through the roof."

## 'Different beast'

Of course, King could not have intended Muschietti's startling analogy back in 1986 — even if the outspoken Trump critic did famously create a populist outsider who shocks and bullies his way to the US presidency in his prescient 1979 novel "The Dead Zone." But according to Muschietti, the horror master was nothing but supportive of the direction of his film adaptations—to the point of making a cameo appearance in the sequel. "He's very respectful of adaptations. It was I who actually reached out to him," said Muschietti, who showed King the sequel's script ahead of filming.

"I really wanted to include him at least from an opinion standpoint. But he liked the first one so much and he liked the script of the second one so much that he didn't really have much to change."

It is a far cry from the famous rift between King and Stanley Kubrick, who adapted his novel "The Shining" into a 1980 movie widely seen as a genre masterpiece, but reviled by its original author for its departures from his plot. "That was a long time ago," said Muschietti, adding: "He felt insulted, but he's changed so much since. I think he learnt to embrace the idea that the adaptation is a different beast."

## Bigger, longer, richer

Muschietti said his own craftsmanship has come a long way from his 2013 breakthrough film "Mama," which like "It Chapter Two" was produced by his sister Barbara and starred Jessica Chastain. "I learnt to relax a little more and enjoy the process, which is something I didn't do in my first movie—understandably, I guess," said Muschietti. Made for around \$20 million, "Mama" was no small fry, but still a world away from Muschietti's new film, which he says cost between \$60-\$70 million.

Some are predicting even higher box office returns this time around, potentially approaching the billion-dollar mark, and Muschietti admits the pressure is on. "I don't want to think about that too much—I'd rather have low expectations to start with," he said, before conceding that the nearly three-hour-long sequel is more ambitious in scope. "It's bigger. It's a longer, richer story—it's a little more intense in every box... it's a bit of a stab in the heart." — AFP

# Classifieds

Tuesday, September 3, 2019



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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Very hot with light to moderate freshening gradually north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 45 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

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

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 02/09/2019 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	47 °C	34 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	35 °C			
ABDALY	48 °C	30 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	49 °C	35 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	43 °C	34 °C			
AHMADI	42 °C	36 °C			
NUWASIB	46 °C	30 °C			
WAFRA	48 °C	30 °C			
SALMY	47 °C	29 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	09/03	Very hot	48 °C	32 °C	NW	12 - 40 km/h
Wednesday	09/04	Very hot	47 °C	32 °C	NW	12 - 45 km/h
Thursday	09/05	Very hot	47 °C	33 °C	NW	10 - 38 km/h
Friday	09/06	Very hot	48 °C	32 °C	NW	12 - 38 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:04
Sunrise	05:26
Zuhr	11:48
Asr	15:21
Sunset	18:09
Isha	19:29

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	49 °C
MIN. Temp.	31 °C
MAX. RH	34 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	N 46 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAIKH RAYHAN ABDUL RASHID holder of Indian Passport No. N9725965 having permanent address - Flat No. 504, B wing, Sanghvi Empire Naya Nagar, Mira Road, Dist Thane, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 401107, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: RAYHAN and surname: SHAIKH (C 5583)

I, THOMAS VALLIAMANNIL JOHN, holder of Indian Passport No. Z1923841, having permanent address-Valliyannil House, Keezhvaipur Post, Pathanamthitta District, Pin-689587, Kerala State, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare the name changes as given name: THOMAS VALLIAMANNIL and surname JOHN (C 5586)

I, SHALIN ANNA SIMON, holder of Indian Passport No. J6453526, having permanent address-Thengazhikathu Sams, Cantonment North, Kollam-691001 Kerala, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby

declare the name changes as given name: SHALIN ANNA and surname: SIMON (C 5586)

I, AARON YOHANN THOMAS, holder of Indian Passport No. S5770896, having permanent address- Thengazhikathu Sams, Cantonment North, Kollam-691001 Kerala, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare the name changes as given name: AARON YOHANN and surname: THOMAS (C 5586)

I, ADITYA SIMON THOMAS, holder of Indian Passport No. P9488122, having permanent address-Thengazhikathu Sams, Cantonment North, Kollam-691001 Kerala, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare the name changes as given name: ADITYA SIMON and surname: THOMAS (C 5586)

I, MASCARENHAS (given name) SWEDEL (Surname), holder of Indian passport no J3963803 do hereby change my name as SWEDEL (given name) MASCARENHAS (surname) for all purposes. I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents. (5584)



Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22087426
FlyDubai	22924455
Qatar Airways	22414400
KLM	22423888
Royal Jordanian	22425747
British Airways	22418064/5/6
Air France	22425635
Emirates	22430224
Air India	22921555
Air India EXPRESS	22456700
Sri Lanka Airlines	22438185/4
Egypt Air	22424444
Swiss Air	22421578
Saudia	22421516
Middle East Airlines	22426306
	22423073

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

### Flight Schedule

### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 3/9/2019				Departure Flights on Tuesday 3/9/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEW	241	Alexandria	00:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:20
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
KAC	122	AGP	00:20	JZR	128	Dubai	22:50
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50				
JZR	722	Alexandria	01:00				
KAC	734	Cairo	01:00				
KAC	182	NCE	01:10				
MSR	3033	Asyut	01:10				
JZR	716	Sohag	01:20				
RJA	642	Amman	01:20				
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40				
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45				
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50				
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50				
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55				
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15				
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25				
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40				
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50				
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50				
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55				
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05				
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05				
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05				
NIA	1601	Luxor	03:10				
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15				
KAC	418	Manila	03:20				
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30				
OHY	1352	Istanbul	04:00				
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00				
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00				
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05				
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10				
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15				
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25				
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50				
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05				
DHX	708	Bahrain	05:05				
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05				
IGO	1759	Delhi	05:10				
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20				
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25				
UAE	873	Dubai	05:40				
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50				
JZR	112	Doha	05:50				
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05				
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10				
BAW	157	London	06:10				
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:15				
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20				
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30				
KAC	106	London	06:40				
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45				
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45				
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50				
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05				
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05				
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10				
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25				
JZR	724	Alexandria	07:50				
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50				
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00				
IRA	675	Lar	08:00				
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00				
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05				
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10				
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25				
JZR	708	Luxor	08:45				
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50				
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00				
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00				
JZR	746	Sharm el-Sheikh	09:05				
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20				
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40				
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40				
SAW	703	Dammam	10:00				
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00				
JZR	726	Alexandria	10:20				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
KAC	624	Doha	10:55				
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55				
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00				
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00				
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05				



ADAISSE: A photograph taken from near the southern Lebanese village of Adaiseh shows vehicles driving along the border wall with Israel. — AFP

## Hezbollah and Israel: New war or restraint?

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's Hezbollah movement and Israel traded cross-border fire on Sunday, in a spat that came after a week of heightened tensions between the two rivals. Are both sides heading towards a repeat of a deadly 2006 war or was the latest carefully weighted exchange a sign they will step back from all-out conflict? Analysts lean towards the latter but warn that Israel and Hezbollah don't hold all the cards.

### Border flare-up?

Hezbollah on Sunday said it destroyed a military vehicle in northern Israel. Israel's army said it responded with around 100 artillery shells. Israeli officials refuted Hezbollah claims that it had killed and wounded those inside the military vehicle, saying there were no casualties. The episode came amid soaring tensions after Israel targeted Hezbollah with an air strike in Syria on August 24, which the Iran-backed group said killed two of its members.

Hezbollah also accused Israel of conducting a separate drone attack hours later in its southern Beirut stronghold, an incident it described as the most serious attack on

Lebanon since the 2006 conflict. Hezbollah said the unit behind Sunday's attack on northern Israel was named after its two militants killed in the Syria strike. "This is a clear message that this is a response to the attack in Syria... and not a response to the (Beirut) drone attack," said Hezbollah expert Amal Saad. "It was definitely a very calculated, contained and I would call it a responsible response," she said.

The response she said "takes care of not escalating the situation and safeguards Lebanon" from an all-out conflict. Hezbollah's number two Naim Qassem in an interview with Russia Today last week played down talk of a fresh war. "The atmosphere is an atmosphere of response to an aggression," he said.

### Incident closed?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after Sunday's attack that his government was mulling the next steps: "I have ordered that we be prepared for any scenario." Experts expect tensions to ease off, at least temporarily. Saad said Hezbollah may be planning a separate response to the Beirut drone attack "further down the

line", saying it may be "low key". "I don't think it would be the kind of attack that would ignite a war by any means," she said. An official close to Hezbollah told AFP that the second part of the retaliation "will be aerial and confront Israeli drones". Analyst Karim Bitar said he would expect the tit-for-tat to end here if it was up to Hezbollah and Israel. "There is no real interest among the two parties for a rapid escalation," he said.

But a de-escalation is contingent on the state of affairs between Hezbollah and Israel's respective main allies, Tehran and Washington. "The Trump administration's policy of maximum pressure on Tehran not only aims to weaken the Iranian economy, but also aims to crush Iran's wings by weakening its regional partners in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon," Bitar said. Another element of concern is Israel's September 17 election, Bitar said. "The history of the last 20 years shows that election periods are sometimes conducive to flare-ups," he said.

### Balance of deterrence?

In 2006, after the killing and abduction of Israeli soldiers by Shiite militant group Hezbollah, Israel launched a

devastating offensive in Lebanon. The 33-day war killed 1,200 Lebanese - mostly civilians - and 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers. Israel has since carried out hundreds of strikes against Hezbollah targets in Syria, where the Iran-backed party has deployed thousands of fighters since 2013 to help the regime battle rebels and jihadists.

Israel killed senior Hezbollah figures in separate attacks in 2015. In both cases, the Shiite group responded with border attacks. Analysts and Hezbollah's number two Naim Qassem himself, speaking to the movement TV channel, said Sunday's attack was aimed at maintaining "a balance of deterrence". "Hezbollah firmly believes that any response is a move that is actually preventing war," Amal Saad said.

Hezbollah, which has grown into Iran's most powerful regional proxy, wields huge influence in Lebanese politics and its military might is said to outstrip the state's. Israel's military capabilities, which include cutting-edge technology and a fleet of the world's most advanced fighter jets, are vastly superior. But reports that Hezbollah is acquiring precision-guided missiles with Iran's help are raising alarm across the border. — AFP

## Israel-Hezbollah tensions remain...

Continued from Page 1

subsequently accused Hezbollah of working with Iran in Lebanon to produce precision-guided missiles.

Hezbollah had warned of retaliation, and on Sunday it fired up to three anti-tank missiles from Lebanon at an Israeli battalion headquarters near Avivim and at a vehicle Israel said was a military ambulance. Israel retaliated with around 100 artillery shells targeting the squad that fired the missiles. Hezbollah issued a statement soon afterward saying it had destroyed an Israeli military vehicle and killed and wounded those inside. Israel's military later refuted the claim, saying no one was injured, but Israeli media reported that a ruse may have contributed to Hezbollah's statement.

According to the reports, Israel's military staged an evacuation of two supposedly injured soldiers who were not in fact wounded in order to deescalate the situation. The thinking was that Hezbollah could expect a major response from Israel if soldiers were wounded and would stop its assault, according to the reports. Israel's military declined to comment on the reports. It appeared neither side wanted a prolonged escalation.

After the exchange of fire began, Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri contacted senior US and French officials to urge their countries and the international community to intervene. The UN called for restraint and France said it had made "multiple contacts" to avert further fire. The United States voiced concern while noting it "fully supports Israel's right to self defense."

Israel had been on alert for a response from Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite movement backed by Iran. Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said Saturday his movement had decided to respond to the alleged Israeli drone attack.

The pre-dawn August 25 attack involved two drones - one exploded and caused damage to a Hezbollah-run media centre and another crashed without detonating due to technical failure. The incident came hours after Israel had launched strikes in Syria to prevent what it said was an impending Iranian drone attack on its territory. Hezbollah says two of its members were killed in that strike. A source connected to Hezbollah called Sunday's missiles a response to those deaths and said a reaction to the alleged drone attack would take place in the air.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes against what it says are Iranian and Hezbollah targets in neighboring Syria since the civil war began there in 2011. It has pledged to prevent its arch-foe Iran from entrenching itself militarily in Syria. Iran and Hezbollah, along with Russia, have backed Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in the conflict. But a drone attack by Israel inside Lebanon would mark a departure - what Nasrallah had called the first such "hostile action" since a 2006 war between them.

Sunday's escalation came ahead of Israel's September 17 election. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seen as wanting to avoid a major conflict before the vote, but he has also warned that Israel was "prepared for any scenario." Shlomi Flax, head of the emergency team in Yiron, another Israeli community near the Lebanese border, said he was concerned but felt the military was prepared. "We have zero minutes to go to the shelters," he said. "We are so close to the border the army can't notify us with a siren. But we are used to it." — AFP

ended at the end of August. She noted that inspections were conducted round the clock on construction sites to monitor violations. Up to 1,551 breaches were recorded at 1,519 sites, she added.

Kuwait Times monitored outdoor worksites across the country during the ban period and reported numerous violations including at construction sites in Kuwait City, Salmiya, Shuwaikh, Jleeb, Farwaniya and other locales around Kuwait.

## Kuwait lifts ban on working outdoors...

Continued from Page 1

activated in the beginning of June and effectively

## PM threatens Brexit rebels...

Continued from Page 1

More than three years since the United Kingdom voted 52-48% in a referendum to leave the European Union, it is still unclear on what terms, or indeed whether, Brexit will take place. Corbyn, Labor's veteran socialist leader, will say he is ready to do everything possible to stop a no-deal Brexit, describing it as a final attempt to pull "our country back from the brink".

In the parliamentary chess game over Brexit, it is also unclear what Johnson's response will be if the alliance of rebel Conservative lawmakers and opposition parties succeed in defeating the government. Johnson, the face of the 2016 Vote Leave campaign, has cast rebels as EU "collaborators" who are undermining the government's negotiating hand by blunting his threat of a no-deal Brexit.

"Their (the government's) strategy, to be honest, is to lose this week and then seek a general election," said

## India govt defends citizenship register...

Continued from Page 1

But foreign ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar defended the process, saying the NRC "does not make the excluded person 'stateless'" and any decisions taken would be consistent with Indian laws and its "democratic traditions". "It (the NRC) also does not make him or her a 'foreigner', within the legal meaning of the term," Kumar said in a statement released late Sunday. "For those who are not in the final list, (they) will not be detained and will continue to enjoy all the rights as before till they have exhausted all the remedies available under the law."

David Gauke, a former justice minister who is one of the rebel Conservative lawmakers. An election is one of the options under consideration, BBC Political Editor Laura Kuenssberg said. House of Commons Leader Jacob Rees-Mogg said any wise party would prepare for an election and that the rebel legislation would be considered a matter of confidence in the government.

"It is important for the government to establish the confidence of the House of Commons and this is essentially a confidence matter: Who should control the legislative agenda, Jeremy Corbyn or Boris Johnson?" Rees-Mogg said. An election would open up three main options: a Brexit-supporting government under Johnson, a Labor government led by Corbyn or a hung parliament that could lead to a coalition or minority government of some kind.

After Johnson moved to suspend parliament ahead of Brexit, opponents of a no-deal exit are seeking to overturn his decision in the courts. Hearings are due on Sept 3, Sept 5 and Sept 6. Nick Boles, a former Conservative who now sits as an independent member of parliament, said the rebels would seek to force the government to ask the EU for a Brexit delay if it was unable to ratify a revised Withdrawal Agreement by a certain date in October. — Reuters

Assam is largely surrounded by Bangladesh and has long seen influxes of migrants - even during Britain's colonial rule. But under the NRC, only those who can demonstrate they or their forebears were in India before 1971 can be included in the list. Those left off have 120 days to appeal at so-called Foreigners Tribunals, and can also appeal their case through the courts. Critics have said the NRC process reflects the BJP's goal to serve Hindus, with a large chunk of those excluded expected to be Muslims.

But there has been growing outrage among local BJP leaders, who claim many Bengali-speaking Hindus - a key vote bank for the party - had also been left off the list. It is not yet clear what will happen to people who have exhausted their legal avenues. In theory, they can be placed in one of six detention centers with a view to possible deportation to Bangladesh. Dhaka has said previously the NRC is an "internal matter" for India and none of its citizens had moved across the border since 1971. — AFP



## Sports

## Astros' Verlander records third career no-hitter in win over Jays

## Pederson's homer in 11th lifts Dodgers past D-backs

**TORONTO:** Houston Astros right-hander Justin Verlander threw a no-hitter Sunday in a 2-0 win over the host Toronto Blue Jays, becoming one of just six major league pitchers with three or more no-hitters. After walking Cavan Biggio with one out in the first inning, Verlander (17-5) retired 26 in a row, with rookie Bo Bichette grounding out to third baseman Abraham Toro to end the game. The Astros ace struck out 14 and walked one. Entering the ninth inning, the game was a scoreless tie, with four Blue Jays pitchers holding the Astros to just four hits. The Astros then took a 2-0 lead in the top of ninth inning on a two-run home run from rookie Toro. Verlander joins Larry Corcoran, Cy Young and Bob Feller in the club with three no-hitters. Sandy Koufax had four, and Nolan Ryan fired seven.

## YANKEES 5, AS 4

Brett Gardner hit a game-tying home run leading off the ninth, and pinch hitter Mike Ford followed with a walk-off blast as New York stormed back from a four-run deficit to record a victory over visiting Oakland. Gardner forged a 4-4 tie when he lined a 2-1 fastball by Liam Hendriks (4-2) into the right-center-field seats. Ford then slammed a full-count fastball into the Yankees' bullpen beyond the right-center field fence for his first career pinch-hit homer and first career walk-off hit. Six outs away from being shut out for the first time in 220 games since June 30, 2018, against Boston, the Yankees stormed back in the eighth for three runs before picking up their second straight against Oakland after dropping their first four meetings with the As.

## TWINNS 8, TIGERS 3

Michael Pineda struck out nine over six innings, Nelson Cruz had three hits and drove in two runs, and Minnesota won at Detroit. Pineda (11-5), who gave up two runs on five hits, matched his season high for strikeouts while winning his fifth consecutive decision. Jake Cave added two hits and two RBIs as the Twins won for the seventh time in eight games. Detroit starter Spencer Turnbull (3-14) gave up six runs on eight hits in 4 2/3 innings. He has lost his last 10 decisions, including his last five starts. Jordy Mercer homered for Detroit, which has lost seven of its past eight games.

## RAYS 8, INDIANS 2

Nate Lowe belted a two-run homer as Tampa Bay recorded a victory over Cleveland to complete a three-game sweep at St. Petersburg, Fla. Travis d'Arnaud drove in a pair of runs and Austin Meadows had an RBI single to highlight a three-hit performance for the Rays, who moved a half-game ahead of the Indians in the American League wild-card race. Cleveland's Carlos Carrasco received a standing ovation from both teams prior to coming on in relief in the seventh inning, marking his first game action since being diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia. Carrasco retired the first two batters he faced before allowing a double and an RBI single.

## BREWERS 4, CUBS 0

Christian Yelich clubbed a three-run home run, and seven pitchers combined for a four-hit shutout as Milwaukee won at Chicago. Orlando Arcia also drove in a run for the Brewers, who blanked the Cubs for the second consecutive contest. Milwaukee notched its seventh shutout of the season, with three of those coming against Chicago. Kris Bryant, Victor Caratini, Addison Russell and Ian Happ each singled for the Cubs' only hits. Chicago dropped its second home series in a row.

## DODGERS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 3 (11 INNINGS)

Joc Pederson hit a 454-foot homer to lead off the 11th inning, and Los Angeles rode four solo shots to a win over Arizona in Phoenix. The Diamondbacks had a season-high, six-game winning streak snapped and were seeking the first four-game sweep of the Dodgers in franchise history. Cody Bellinger tied the game with a one-out homer in the ninth inning as the Dodgers set a franchise season record with 238 homers. They hit 235 last year. David Freese and Russell Martin also homered for the Dodgers, who had lost five of seven. Casey Sadler (4-0) stranded two runners in the 10th inning, and Pedro Baez retired the side in order in the 11th for his first save of the season. Closer Kenley Jansen had worked the eighth.

## CARDINALS 4, REDS 3 (GAME 1)

Harrison Bader's walk-off RBI single lifted St. Louis to a victory over visiting Cincinnati in the first half of a day-night doubleheader. Jose Martinez drew a leadoff walk in the ninth. Pinch runner Tyler O'Neill had to stop at third when Yadier Molina's ground-rule double hopped into the right-center-field seats. That set the stage for Bader, who lifted a fly ball over the pulled-in defense to win the game. Carlos Martinez (4-2) pitched a scoreless ninth inning to earn the victory.

## REDS 5, CARDINALS 3 (GAME 2)

Phillip Ervin homered, had three hits and drove in two runs as visiting Cincinnati posted a win over St. Louis to earn a doubleheader split. Nick Senzel also hit a homer and scored twice for the Reds. Luis Castillo (14-5) worked six innings, striking out eight batters while allowing three runs on five hits and three walks. Raisel Iglesias struck out all three batters in the ninth inning to earn his 28th save. Reds slugger Eugenio Suarez exited in the fifth inning due to a left hand injury after Cardinals starting pitcher Daniel Ponce de Leon hit him with a pitch. Suarez will undergo further examination Monday in Cincinnati.

## PHILLIES 5, METS 2

Scott Kingery laced a tiebreaking, three-run double in the eighth inning for host Philadelphia, which salvaged the finale of a three-game series against New York. Hector Neris (3-5) uncorked a wild pitch that allowed the tying run to score in the top of the eighth, but he recorded the final five outs to earn the win. Pete Alonso homered for the Mets in the first inning, his 43rd of the season. New York's Wilson Ramos doubled in the fourth inning to extend his hitting streak to a career-long 25 games — the longest run in the majors this year.

## BRAVES 5, WHITE SOX 3

Freddie Freeman smacked a pair of two-run home runs and added an RBI single to support six strong innings from Julio Teheran and lift the Atlanta past Chicago for its fourth straight victory. Atlanta secured a three-game series sweep while prevailing for the 12th time in the past 14 contests to surge to a season-high 30 games over .500 at 84-54. Mark Melancon pitched a perfect ninth inning to earn his eighth save and send the White Sox to their sixth straight defeat. Teheran (9-8) limited the White Sox to two runs and three hits with four walks and five strikeouts.

## RED SOX 4, ANGELS 3

Xander Bogaerts finished a triple shy of the cycle, leading Boston to a victory over Los Angeles in Anaheim, Calif. Bogaerts hit an RBI single in the first inning, homered in the third and doubled in the fifth. With one opportunity to



**TORONTO:** Justin Verlander #35 of the Houston Astros celebrates with teammates after throwing a no-hitter at the end of the ninth inning during a MLB game against the Toronto Blue Jays at Rogers Centre in Toronto, Canada. — AFP

complete the cycle, he grounded into a double play in the seventh. J.D. Martinez hit his team-leading 34th home run of the season, and Rafael Devers chipped in with two hits as the Red Sox took two of three in the weekend series and six of eight in a now-concluded road trip. Justin Upton homered for Los Angeles.

## MARINERS 11, RANGERS 3

Tom Murphy and Daniel Vogelbach hit back-to-back home runs in the third inning, and Kyle Seager added a three-run shot as Seattle defeated Texas to earn a split of a four-game series in Arlington, Texas. Mariners left-hander Yusei Kikuchi (6-9) allowed three runs on six hits in five innings to earn the victory. He didn't walk a batter and struck out one. The Mariners took a 4-0 lead in the top of the first against left-hander Brett Martin (1-3), who lasted just two-thirds of an inning.

## PIRATES 6, ROCKIES 2

Adam Frazier hit a home run on the first pitch of the game, Steven Brault pitched 6 1/3 effective innings and clubbed his first career homer, and Pittsburgh beat Colorado in Denver. Bryan Reynolds had three hits and Frazier, Josh Bell, Colin Moran and Elias Diaz added two each for the Pirates, who swept the four-game series. Brault (4-3) allowed two runs, one earned, on four hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Nolan Arenado went deep for the Rockies, who have lost six consecutive games and 10 of their last 11.

## ROYALS 6, ORIOLES 4

Meibrys Vioria drove home Alex Gordon with the go-ahead run in the seventh inning to give host Kansas City a

victory over Baltimore. Vioria's key hit came after Gordon drove in Adalberto Mondesi with the tying run. Whit Merrifield's home run in the eighth gave the Royals an insurance run. Mondesi matched a career high with four hits after being activated from the 10-day injured list earlier Sunday. He also stole three bases after missing the previous 41 games with a left shoulder subluxation.

## NATIONALS 9, MARLINS 3

Anthony Rendon hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the fifth, Juan Soto drove in three runs, and Washington completed a three-game sweep of visiting Miami. Rendon went 2-for-3, including his 32nd homer of the season, and now has 11 RBIs, setting a single-season Nationals record. Rendon, who is hitting .337, went 7-for-10 with three homers and seven RBIs in the series. Soto went 3-for-4 with his 31st homer of the season and two doubles. He went 7-for-12 with five doubles, two homers and seven RBIs in the series.

## PADRES 8, GIANTS 4

Rookie Ty France hit two home runs, matching the total from his previous 48 major league games, and San Diego spoiled Giants manager Bruce Bochy's final meeting against his former team with a victory at San Francisco. Eric Hosmer collected a single, a double and a triple, and Eric Lauer (8-8) tossed six innings of four-run ball, helping the Padres win for the third time in the four-game series. The 64-year-old Bochy, who has announced he will retire at year's end after 25 seasons as manager, saw his career record fall to 1,992-2,014. The first 951 of those wins came as 12-year skipper of the Padres, a stretch that included an appearance in the 1998 World Series. — Reuters

## All Blacks coach Hansen unruffled by breakdown 'cheats' call

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand coach Steve Hansen has shrugged off criticism from former England flyhalf turned media pundit Stuart Barnes, who described the world champions as "cynical cheats" at the breakdown in a British newspaper.

Barnes, writing for The Sunday Times, said Hansen was seeking to replicate the "ball-killing" tactics of former All Blacks captain Richie McCaw in selecting offensive flankers Sam Cane, Ardie Savea and Matt Todd in his Rugby World Cup squad.

"New Zealand, the most positive attacking team in the world, have their flip side. They are also the most cynical cheats at a breakdown," Barnes wrote.

Hansen gave short shrift to Barnes's analysis and said the All Blacks were no different to any team at the tackle area. "I hadn't even given it any thought, waste of time," Hansen told local media in Hamilton on Monday in the leadup to the final warmup match against Tonga on Saturday. "We're no different to any other team at the breakdown, but he's got to say something because he's got to sell his papers. So let's not get caught up and buy into that."

"If he thinks that's why we're carrying three open-sides, that's good, carry on thinking that. It couldn't be further from the truth." Bookmakers have installed New Zealand as favourites to win an unprecedented third successive World Cup in Japan despite results suggesting the gap between the All Blacks and the chasing pack has been closing in recent years.

Hansen declined to be drawn on which teams he thought were genuine contenders but said he was comfortable with the All Blacks being favourites.

"It doesn't worry me, you're better to be the favourite than not the favourite," he said. "If we weren't the favourite, it means we're going poor. Even when we're going poor we're the favourite."

"I'm happy where we're at, and that's all I'm worried about, because that's all I can control."

Hansen said one of his priorities was to get minutes into the legs of several players in the match against 15th-ranked Tonga. Centre Jack Goodhue, who sustained a hamstring injury in the recent defeat to Australia in Perth, and flyhalf Richie Mo'unga, battling a shoulder injury, have yet to be passed fit to return to the side. — Reuters



**KUWAIT:** Mohammad Sadeq Al-Sultan began his journey with the sport of Karate in 1974, as a player, then coach, referee and administrator. He got involved in the game before its federation was formed and continued until today. Kuwait Karate Federation and its Chairman Mohammad Al-Jassim decided to honor Al-Sultan for his efforts.

## Kleyn gets World Cup nod ahead of Irish veteran Toner

**DUBLIN:** South Africa-born Jean Kleyn who only became eligible to play for Ireland in August edged out veteran second row forward Devin Toner when head coach Joe Schmidt announced his Rugby World Cup squad yesterday. Kleyn, 26, won his first cap against Italy on August 10 two days after he became eligible through the three year residency rule.

Toner can feel hard done by, the 33-year-old Leinster stalwart — a key figure in the 2018 Six Nations Grand Slam campaign — starting 50 of Schmidt's 67 Test matches as Ireland boss. Also missing out is scrum-half Kieran Marmion, who last November was praised for his marshalling of the Ireland team that recorded a historic home win over world champions New Zealand.

Leinster's Luke McGrath goes as back-up to first choice Conor Murray instead — much is expected of the latter's half-back partnership with world player of the year Johnny Sexton. Sexton is due to play for the first time in the fourth and final World Cup warm-up match on Saturday in Dublin against Wales.

Grizzled hooker Rory Best — who showed a return to some form in Saturday's 22-17 win over Wales after a much criticised performance in the 57-15 thrashing by

England — will captain the side in what will be his fourth World Cup.

Sexton and Murray will be going to their third as will fullback Rob Kearney, utility back Keith Earls, prop Cian Healy and second choice hooker Sean Cronin.

## 'Difficult conundrum'

Schmidt, who caught people on the hop having said he would make the squad public only after the match with Wales, said it had been a tough call in several positions but he is wary of striking the right balance which he admits he did not in 2015. "There were some guys who obviously had more experience and probably had more credit in the bank and were more established," Schmidt told IrishRugby TV. "There were other guys who were trying to force their way into the group and trying to get a balance of current form versus previous performance, it's always a very very difficult conundrum to try to solve."

"It was one of those typical selection meetings where maybe 20-25 of the players are listed straight away. "It's those ones where you are trying to get balance where it's very difficult to choose between two players and two players offer slightly different things."

Schmidt is desperate to bow out as head coach with an improved showing from 2015 when an injury-hit side were blitzed by Argentina in the quarter-finals — the Irish have never got further than the last eight.

They begin their Pool A campaign on September 22 against Scotland, generally regarded as their main rivals for top spot although hosts Japan could have a say in that too and the Irish face them on September 28. Russia and Samoa make up the group. — AFP

## Kepu to bow out of Wallabies after World Cup

**MELBOURNE:** Australia prop Sekope Kepu said on Monday he will retire from international rugby after the World Cup in Japan, bringing the curtain down on a Wallabies career that has brought him more than 100 test caps.

Kepu became just the ninth Australian test centurion when he played world champions New Zealand in Yokohama last year, and the nation's first prop to reach the milestone. He will be honoured with a farewell ceremony in front of home fans after the Wallabies' final World Cup warmup against Samoa in Sydney on Saturday.

"It's going to be very special," 105-cap Kepu said. "It's another massive challenge and something I'm definitely looking forward to, running out in front of family and friends as well as our home fans for the last time this year."

"I never thought I would have achieved that milestone and to have done so, it's something that makes me feel very privileged and fortunate." Japan will be the 33-year-old's third World Cup before he heads to England to play with Premiership side London Irish next season.

Kepu made his test debut in 2008 against Italy in Padova and got his first start against Samoa in Sydney in 2011. Kepu said he was leaving at a time when the Wallabies have ample depth in their front row. "There's guys pushing for spots everywhere now. We have quality depth in Australian Rugby and I'll be looking from afar and just excited about what we have," he said.

"Guys like Allan (Alaalatoa) and Taniela (Tupu), they have now established themselves at test level. "And then Scotty (Sio), Slips (James Slipper), Tolu (Latu) and Folau (Fainga'a) and all those guys - now we can play anyone in that front row and you can guarantee they are going to do the job, no matter who we are playing."

Kepu, who started at tighthead prop in the 2015 World Cup final against the All Blacks in England, has been preparing with the Wallabies in New Caledonia ahead of the Samoa test. He said officials needed to make more of an effort to schedule tests against Pacific Island nations to grow the game.

"Yeah I think so: one test a year and it's on a rotation," said Kepu, who has Tongan heritage. "I know a lot of guys playing for the Tongan team are thoroughly excited that they're playing New Zealand and testing themselves against one of the best teams in the world," he said of the All Blacks' warmup against Tonga in Hamilton on Saturday.

"I think that'll only help." The Wallabies said on Monday they had flown outside back Jack Maddocks and uncapped loose forward Rob Valetini to New Caledonia to prepare for the Samoa test, with coach Michael Cheika expected to rest a number of key players. — Reuters

## Sports

# India close in on Test series and Tour sweep of West Indies

## Roach spearheads effort to limit India's search for quick runs

**KINGSTON:** India moved closer to a Test series and tour sweep of the West Indies, reducing the home side to 45 for two at stumps after setting them the improbable target of 468 on the third day of the second and final Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday.

Having declined to enforce the follow-on after the Caribbean team were dismissed at the start of the day for 117 to trail by 299 runs on first innings, Indian captain Virat Kohli declared his side's second innings at 168 for four in the day's final session.

Left to negotiate 13 testing overs from the tourists' pace attack before the close of play, West Indies lost openers Kraigg Brathwaite and John Campbell to Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami respectively, leaving Darren Bravo - who survived a blow on the helmet in the final over of the evening from Jasprit Bumrah - and Shamarh Brooks to carry the fight into the fourth day.

Yet as much as India's overall quality in all departments of the game once again threatened to overwhelm the West Indies, it was the performance of senior home fast bowler Kemar Roach which highlighted another eventful day.

Roach spearheaded the effort to limit India's search for quick runs and a timely declaration in the afternoon session, taking three for 28 including a burst of two wickets off successive deliveries in which he claimed the prized wicket of Kohli first ball.

Having removed Mayank Agarwal before lunch, the 30-year-old's sustained pace and accuracy accounted for the other opener, K.L. Rahul, before despatching the Indian leader with his next delivery.

Both were caught behind in identical fashion and it

could have gotten even better for Roach and the West Indies as he came within millimetres of matching Bumrah's hat-trick of the previous day. His first delivery to new batsman Ajinkya Rahane took an inside-edge and flew past the stumps on the way to the fine-leg boundary.

Roach's three wickets elevated him to ninth on the list of all-time leading wicket-takers in Tests for the West Indies with 193 victims, one ahead of the legendary Wes Hall, who was the consistent spearhead of the dominant Caribbean teams of the 1960's.

Jason Holder then prised out Chesteshwar Pujara to reduce India to 57 for four before first innings century-maker Hanuma Vihari joined Rahane in an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 111, the pair completing half-centuries to prompt Kohli's decision to close off the innings and give his bowlers an hour to make inroads into the West Indies batting line-up.

Earlier, Roach was last out in the West Indies first innings as the lower order offered a bit more resistance on the third morning than the frontline batsmen had shown late on day two when Bumrah's hat-trick highlighted the demolition job by India's fast bowlers, reducing their opponents to 87 for seven at the close of play.

Bumrah failed to add to his six-wicket tally from the day before and it was left to the other frontline bowlers - Shami, Sharma and spinner Ravindra Jadeja - to eventually claim the last three wickets after 75 minutes' play.

Mindful no doubt of managing the workload on his bowlers in extremely hot conditions, Kohli opted to bat a second time, presenting Roach with the opportunity to further enhance his already burgeoning credentials as the best West Indies fast bowler of the modern era. — AFP



**KINGSTON:** Mohammed Shami (L) of India appeals for lbw against Jermaine Blackwood (R) of the West Indies during day 4 of the 2nd Test between West Indies and India at Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica, yesterday. — AFP

## Denly to open with Burns, Roy to bat at number four

**LONDON:** Joe Denly will swap places with struggling opener Jason Roy in the England batting order for the fourth Ashes Test against Australia at Old Trafford, he said yesterday. Roy, who was handed his Test debut after an impressive World Cup-winning campaign, has failed to deliver at the top of the order in the first three Tests, scoring 57 runs in six innings with a highest score of 28.

Denly's patient half-century in the second innings of the third Test, where he shared a 126-run stand with Root, set up the win for the hosts who were chasing a daunting target of 359 to level the series.

"I got a call from Joe Root after a bit of time off and he said he'd like for me to go at the top of the order and try and get us off to a good start," Denly told BBC. "Obviously, Jason's going to bat at four. With Jason in the



Joe Denly

team, I think we're a better team for sure. "With him coming in at four with hopefully the new ball worn off, and hopefully myself and (opener) Rory (Burns) doing our jobs at the top, it enables him to come in and play his way. He's a dangerous player so he's great to have there."

Australia's Steve Smith, who scored 378 runs in three innings, is set to return to the side after missing the third

test due to concussion. Smith was hit on the neck by a rising Jofra Archer delivery during the second test at Lord's and England fast bowler Stuart Broad expects the former skipper to be well-prepared.

"Whenever a batsman seems in great rhythm, a period of time out of being in the middle could affect them but he's a world-class batsman," Broad said. "He'll be very ready for the conditions he will face here at Old Trafford."

"There's been a little bit of to and fro between him and Jofra. And Jofra will be excited to continue that battle. Smith will be very hungry to come back into a crucial test match." England's one-wicket win at Headingley prevented Australia from retaining the Ashes, and Broad said this was the most closely-contested series he had been a part of.

"The momentum of that test match shifted to England and with that the series," Broad said. "I don't think I've ever played in an Ashes that has been as closely matched man-to-man." "The teams are so close and you can see that by the punches being thrown by each side and how they're soaking it up. It's a fascinating series to be involved in."

The fourth test in Manchester starts on Wednesday with the series level at 1-1. The final match at The Oval in London begins on Sept 12. — Reuters

## Bumrah thanks Kohli for review call after hat-trick

**KINGSTON:** India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah said he owes his maiden test hat-trick to captain Virat Kohli, who successfully reviewed a leg-before decision which was initially turned down in the ongoing second match against West Indies.

After dismissing Darren Bravo and Shamarh Brooks in consecutive deliveries at Kingston's Sabina Park, Bumrah's timid lbw shout against Roston Chase was initially turned down by on-field umpire Paul Reiffel.

A confident Kohli, however, decided to review and replays showed the ball would have struck the leg stump. The decision was overturned, with Bumrah becoming the third Indian bowler to claim a test hat-trick. "I was not very sure of the appeal," Bumrah told Kohli in an interview to bcci.tv. "I thought it was bat (first), so I didn't appeal so much. But it was a good review in the end, and I think I owe the hat-trick to the captain." Bumrah finished with 6-27 as West Indies were bowled out for 117 in reply India's 416 in the first innings. It followed the 25-year-old's blistering second innings spell in the opening test where he finished with 5-7. Ishant Sharma took eight wickets in that match and Mohammed Shami chipped in with four as India recorded a convincing 318 runs victory.

Bumrah put down his recent success on pace-friendly tracks to his camaraderie with senior bowlers in the squad. "There's a lot of communication that goes on the field as well," Bumrah told reporters.

"When I'm getting wickets, it's somebody else's job to create pressure, and when somebody else is getting wickets, (it's) my job is to create pressure. "We got a good relationship all of us, we want to get better every year." India are closing in on a 2-0 sweep of series after West Indies ended day three at 45-2 while chasing an unlikely target of 468 for victory. — Reuters

## Langer keeps players waiting over fourth Test

**LONDON:** Australia coach Justin Langer is keeping his players waiting to learn the team for the fourth Ashes Test against England. Langer's side face England at Old Trafford this week with the Ashes tied at 1-1 in the five-match series.

England's remarkable win at Headingley in the third Test has breathed new life into the contest and could force Australia to make changes. They seem certain to make at least one switch, with star batsman Steve Smith available again after suffering concussion following a bouncer from England's Jofra Archer in the second game at Lord's.

Pacemen Mitchell Starc and Peter Siddle will also hope to be involved. Langer was giving few clues away as to Australia's likely selection at yesterday's press conference and said his players are still in the dark as well.

"The players don't know yet. We're going to tell them before dinner tonight and then it will probably be public after that," Langer said. "We're very clear on the 12, not so sure on the 11. Sorry I can't give you more but it's probably better to tell the players before we tell you."

"The 12th man will be one of the bowlers. We're very clear what the batting is." Former Australia captain Smith has scored a combined total of 378 runs in three innings in the series so far, at a remarkable average of 126.

Smith was back on the field in last week's tour match against Derbyshire, scoring 23 in his only visit to the crease, and Langer hopes he can now pick up where he left off in the Test series. "I've just thrown to him for about half an hour and he's moving really well, so we're all hopeful that he gets back into the zone, or hits the ball in the middle of the bat," Langer said.

"He's shown that throughout the summer. He's been batting well, so let's hope he can continue that. It's important for our team and it's just nice knowing that he's back in the team." — AFP

## Waugh returns to give Australia an Ashes lift

**LONDON:** Australia have brought back former captain Steve Waugh to help the squad prepare for the final stretch of the Ashes series against England as the tourists look to rebound from the painful third test defeat at Headingley.

Waugh had left the squad after the first two Tests as scheduled but has rejoined the group ahead of the fourth test at Old Trafford starting tomorrow. With the series locked at 1-1, one victory in the next two tests will ensure Australia retain the urn in England for the first time since Waugh's side triumphed 4-1 in 2001.

"We asked him to stay for the third Test, but he had to go back for a function," Australia coach Justin Langer told reporters in Manchester. "But he was actually going to fly there, do the function and fly back the next day. That's how much he's enjoying it."

"He's been like a kid at Christmas." Having Waugh in the backroom staff, much like Ricky Ponting talking on an assistant coaching role during the World Cup, was a priority for Langer after he faced many testing moments during his first year as coach.

"Guys like Punter (Ponting) and Steve Waugh, not only do they have a great presence in the group, but they are great psychologists," Langer added. "They've been in the cauldron before, they've seen it all, so to have that those type of guys, we are talking about developing leadership in Australian cricket, to have our guys to learn from people of that calibre is very important short term."

Australia's one-wicket defeat in the third test was a bitter pill to swallow but they would put it behind them, he said. "I actually felt physically sick after it and then I went back to my room. I wasn't sure whether to cry my eyes out or smash my hotel room," he said. "Everyone in that change room, probably a lot of Australians felt it, felt completely sick. "You never like to let opportunities slip... that's OK, we'll make sure we learn from it." — Reuters



Steve Waugh



**SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS:** Winner Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc (C-L) and Ferrari's team principal Mattia Binotto (C-R) celebrate with team members after the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Spa. — AFP

## Leclerc destined for greatness: Hamilton

**SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS:** Lewis Hamilton yesterday predicted more success for his triumphant Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc and tipped the Monegasque driver as the favourite for this week's Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

After finishing second behind Leclerc at the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday, a race weekend overshadowed by the death of French Formula Two driver Anthoine Hubert a day earlier, Hamilton forecast that having finally secured his maiden win, Leclerc would now go on to claim more victories.

"Ferrari are going to have a happy weekend at Monza," said the defending five-time champion and current series leader. "They are so much faster than us and Monza is all straights... We will do our best, but it is going to be a tough job to match them."

Hamilton increased his lead in this year's title race to 69 points ahead of re-signed Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas, who came home third, and was quick to praise 21-year-old Leclerc for his performance under pressure.

Leclerc, who started from pole and resisted intense Hamilton pressure as he chased him in the closing laps, dedicated his win to his late friend Hubert.

"He did a great job," said Hamilton. "Even if we had different strategies, it would have been hard to have beaten him. He deserved to win."

Leclerc, widely tipped as a future champion, performed with grace and humanity on and off the circuit during a stressful race weekend that saw him move within

12 points of his Ferrari team-mate and four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel in the drivers' standings. He has now out-qualified Vettel at six races in succession, leaving the German battling to retain his status as Ferrari's lead driver.

On Sunday, Vettel was asked to pull over and allow Leclerc to pass mid-race on his way to finishing fourth. It is now more than a year since his last win, ironically at Belgium in 2018.

"I think his results speak for themselves really," added Hamilton, referring to Leclerc, who has delivered five podium finishes in his last seven outings.

"It's not easy for any driver to jump into a top team, let alone Ferrari... and then to be continuous from race one, out-perform, out-qualify and out-drive a four-time world champion is not easy to do. "So I think that speaks for itself. He's been really unlucky in quite a few races this year. Could easily have been the third win today."

"So, there's a lot more greatness to come from him and I'm looking forward to seeing his growth and racing alongside him... Today, it was fun, trying to chase him. He was just a little bit too quick."

While Leclerc finally seized a victory, another young driver impressed by finishing fifth — Red Bull rookie Alex Albon climbing from 17th to secure a strong result in his first race with the team following promotion from Toro Rosso. "I've been very impressed with Alex's performance and he put in a great recovery drive in his first race," said Red Bull team chief Christian Horner of the London-born Thai racer. His Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen made a poor start and retired after crashing on the opening lap. "I had some good fun out there and I enjoyed this race a lot," said Albon. "I started off the weekend very nervous and if you had told me I'd finish the race fifth I'd be very happy, but I'm a bit more relaxed now." — AFP

Sports

# Lukaku sends Inter Milan top after racist abuse at Cagliari

## Inter win their second from two league matches to sit ahead of champions Juventus

MILAN: Italian football was involved in another racism storm on Sunday as Romelu Lukaku was targeted by monkey chants before putting Inter Milan top of Serie A with the winning penalty in their 2-1 triumph at Cagliari.

Lukaku — a 65 million euros (\$73 million) summer signing from Manchester United — was preparing to take the spot-kick in the 71st minute in Sardinia when the racist chants came from the crowd that continued for several seconds.

The 26-year-old Belgian international angrily looked towards the stands before confidently converting his second goal in as many games, which came after Lautaro Martinez's 28th minute opener for the Antonio Conte's side and Joao Pedro's leveller for the hosts four minutes after the break.

Lukaku was quickly surrounded by his teammates as Inter won their second from two league matches to sit ahead of champions Juventus, who also are on maximum points following their thrilling 4-3 win over Napoli on Saturday.

Racist chanting has dogged Italian stadia in recent years, with Italy striker Moise Kean also the victim of similar abuse — alongside teammate Blaise Matuidi — at Cagliari after he scored a goal there for his former team Juventus last April.

Kalidou Koulibaly was showered with monkey chants last season by Lukaku's new fans at the San Siro, while several other black players have been targeted.

"I didn't hear (the chants)," said Conte. "I can speak however in general: I think we need to improve in Italy, respect everyone. "When I was working abroad, the fans would cheer on their own team, not spend their entire time insulting the opponent. I was fine here, no one insulted me."

Torino are right alongside Inter and local rivals Juve after shocking Atalanta 3-2, while Lazio missed the chance to keep the pace with that trio after drawing an eventful Rome derby 1-1.

Aleksandar Kolarov put Roma ahead in the 17th minute against the run of play with a well-taken penalty, but Luis Alberto grabbed the equaliser just before the hour mark to leave Paulo Fonseca without a win as new Roma boss.

Lazio missed several chances to seal a second win from their two opening games, hitting the woodwork four times with Roma rattling the frame of the goal twice. The hosts' biggest regret was Manuel Lazzari's 92nd-minute strike being ruled out for offside.

"There's a bit of bitterness. We had 21 shots on goal, hit the woodwork four times and a goal ruled out," said Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi. "We had so many chances and you have to win games like that."

"We offered an extraordinary show for the public, and a great thrill for me as a coach, at my first Rome derby," said Fonseca. The derby took place amid heightened security after the murder of former Lazio ultras chiefs Fabrizio Piscitelli, nicknamed "Diabolik", who was shot dead in the capital last month.

Piscitelli was for almost 30 years the boss of Lazio's hardcore Irriducibili ("Die Hards") fan group, which is notorious for its far-right politics. Lazio fans unfurled a banner in his honour before the match with "Rest in peace Fabrizio".

Torino are also on maximum points after their comeback win at Atalanta, who qualified for this season's Champions League by finishing third last season. Kevin Bonifazi had put Torino ahead after 24 minutes before Duvan Zapata's double either side of the break for Atalanta.



SAN SIRO: File photo shows Inter Milan's Belgian forward Romelu Lukaku (R) challenges Lecce's Italian defender Marco Calderoni during the Italian Serie A football match Inter Milan vs US Lecce on August 26, 2019 at the San Siro stadium in Milan. —AFP

But Alex Berenguer got Torino back level on 57 minutes with Armando Izzo nodding in the winner on 66 minutes. Fiorentina fell to their second straight defeat

2-1 at Genoa, as did Sampdoria who were hammered 4-1 at Sassuolo thanks to a Domenico Berardi hat-trick scored in 14 first-half minutes. —AFP

## Lazio, Roma settle for derby stalemate

MILAN: Roma and Lazio settled for a 1-1 draw in Sunday's Rome derby in a dramatic Serie A encounter that saw both teams denied a total of six times by the woodwork and Lazio denied a stoppage time winner.

Aleksandar Kolarov put Roma ahead in the 17th minute against the run of play with a well-taken penalty at a colourful Stadio Olimpico, but Luis Alberto grabbed the equaliser just before the hour mark to leave Paulo Fonseca without a win as new Roma boss.

Lazio missed several chances to seal a second win from their two opening games, hitting the woodwork four times with Roma rattling the frame of the goal twice. The hosts' biggest regret was Manuel Lazzari's 92nd-minute strike being ruled out for offside.

"There's a bit of bitterness. We had 21

shots on goal, hit the woodwork four times and a goal ruled out," said Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi. "We had so many chances and you have to win games like that."

Lazio are second in the Serie A table behind champions Juventus, who are on maximum points following their thrilling 4-3 win over Napoli on Saturday, while Roma languish in mid-table after two straight draws.

"We offered an extraordinary show for the public, and a great thrill for me as a coach, at my first Rome derby," said Fonseca. "They created so many scoring opportunities, but it's difficult to play against a team like Lazio that presses in every area."

The derby took place amid heightened security after the murder of former Lazio ultras chiefs Fabrizio Piscitelli, nicknamed "Diabolik", who was shot dead in the capital last month.

Piscitelli was for almost 30 years the boss of Lazio's hardcore Irriducibili ("Die Hards") fan group, which is notorious for its far-right politics. Lazio fans unfurled a banner in his honour before the match with "Rest in peace Fabrizio".

Roma took the early lead after Edin



ROME: Lazio's Spanish midfielder Luis Alberto (R) scores a goal to AS Roma's Spanish goalkeeper Pau Lopez (L) during the Italian Serie A football match between Lazio Roma and AS Roma at the Olympic stadium in Rome. —AFP

Dzeko pressured Sergej Milinkovic-Savic into a handball, with the referee pointing to the spot. Lazio's Lucas Leiva, Ciro Immobile, Tucu Correa and Marco Parolo all hit the woodwork, while Roma's Nicolò Zaniolo was denied by the post twice in the first half hour.

New Roma goalkeeper Pau Lopez

also proved decisive, diving to deny an Immobile header before the break and Joaquin Correa from close range in the second half. However Alberto found a way through after 58 minutes following good work from both Milinkovic-Savic and Immobile to salvage a deserved point. —AFP

## Van Dijk, Ronaldo, Messi shortlisted for FIFA award

ROME: Liverpool centre-back Virgil van Dijk is on the shortlist to add FIFA's best player award to his UEFA Men's Player of the Year honour.

The Dutch international denied Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi for the European title last week and the same trio are in the running for the FIFA accolade to be announced in Milan on September 23.

Van Dijk starred in Liverpool's triumphant Champions League campaign.

England full-back Lucy Bronze won UEFA's women's award and is on FIFA's shortlist with the United States' World Cup-winning duo Megan Rapinoe and Alex Morgan.

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola is up against Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp and Mauricio Pochettino of Tottenham for best men's coach.

Phil Neville, who led England's women to a World Cup semi-final, is up for the women's coach award with the USA's Jill Ellis and Sarina Wiegman who guided European champions the Netherlands to the World Cup final.



This combination of file pictures created yesterday, shows Juventus Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L), Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C) and Liverpool's Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk. The three are final candidates for the best Men's players at the Best FIFA Football Award 2019 ceremony. —AFP

### Men's coach:

Pep Guardiola (Manchester City), Jurgen Klopp (Liverpool), Mauricio Pochettino (Tottenham)

(Atletico Madrid/Netherlands)

### Men's goalkeeper:

Alisson (Liverpool/Brazil), Ederson (Manchester City/Brazil), Marc-Andre ter Stegen (Barcelona/Germany)

### Women's coach:

Jill Ellis (USA), Phil Neville (England), Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands)

### Women's goalkeeper:

Christiane Endler (Paris St-Germain/Chile), Hedvig Lindahl (Wolfsburg/Sweden), Sari van Veenendaal

### Puskas award (for best goal):

Lionel Messi (Barcelona v Real Betis), Juan Quintero (River Plate v Racing Club), Daniel Zsori (Debrecen v Ferencvaros). —AFP

### FIFA Best shortlists

#### Men's player:

Cristiano Ronaldo (Juventus/Portugal), Lionel Messi (Barcelona/Argentina), Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool/Netherlands)

#### Women's player:

Lucy Bronze (Lyon/England), Alex Morgan (Orlando Pride/USA), Megan Rapinoe (Reign FC/USA)

## Bale scores twice and sent off as Real Madrid held

MADRID: Gareth Bale scored twice to save Real Madrid from a damaging defeat away at Villarreal on Sunday before capping a dramatic 2-2 draw by being sent off in injury-time.

Zinedine Zidane said in July it would

be "best for everyone" if Bale left this summer but it was the Welshman's double that earned Madrid a point from a thrilling contest at la Ceramica.

Villarreal took the lead through Gerard Moreno in the 12th minute and then Moi Gomez 16 minutes from the end but each time Bale pegged them back, first on the stroke of half-time and then four minutes from the end.

Two yellow cards in as many minutes then saw Bale dramatically sent off in the

94th minute but by then his match-saving contribution was complete.

"I am pleased with his goals, of course, and now we have to think about a rest," Zidane said. "Although he won't rest as he's going away with his national team."

It was six years to the day that Real Madrid paid 100 million euros (now \$110m) to sign Bale, who now has 104 goals for the club, as many as the Brazilian Ronaldo.

But his heroics could not save Madrid from another slip, which means they head into the international break five points behind early front-runners Atletico Madrid, who had earlier beaten Eibar 3-2.

"We have to improve defensively," Zidane said. "We know we can create chances. The positive is the reaction we showed because it is important not to lose." Asked what was lacking, Casemiro said: "We lacked everything." —AFP

## Five talking-points from Serie A weekend

MILAN: Serie A suffered more racism at the weekend when Inter Milan forward Romelu Lukaku was subjected to monkey chants as he took a penalty at Cagliari — yet the incident was largely overlooked in Italy itself.

### CAGLIARI INVOLVED IN A STRING OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS

The incident, which happened as Lukaku went to take a penalty in the second half of Inter's 2-1 win, was the latest in a string of racist incidents which have happened at Cagliari home games. In April, Juventus forward Moise Kean was subjected to similar treatment after scoring for the Turin side in a 2-0 win.

Serie A's disciplinary panel took no action against Cagliari on that occasion, saying the insults were "certainly reprehensible" but that they had limited relevance and perception. However, it fined Kean for diving in the penalty area earlier in the game. Meanwhile, Cagliari president Tommaso Giulinì said Kean should shoulder the responsibility for celebrating in front of Cagliari supporters.

"What happened at the end was because of a celebration which was wrong and it would have happened with any other player," he said. In January last year, Cagliari apologised to Juventus midfielder Blaise Matuidi after he was subjected to racist abuse.

In May 2017, Pescara's Ghanaian midfielder Sulley Muntari walked off the pitch, also complaining of racist abuse at the ground. Serie A took no action against Cagliari, saying only around ten fans were involved. In 2010, Cagliari were fined 25,000 euros because of racist chanting aimed at Inter Milan forward Samuel Eto'o.

### CAGLIARI, INTER SILENT

Neither Cagliari nor Inter Milan made any mention of the incident on their official websites after the match. It was mentioned by Italian media but did not make the front pages of any of the three main sporting newspapers.

### LUKAKU HAPPY, ACCORDING TO INTER WEBSITE

Inter Milan's website had some quotes from Lukaku but they, also, did not mention the incident. "I'm very happy about these first two league victories and about tonight's success," Lukaku was quoted as saying after helping Inter take six points from their opening two games. "It was a tough match, we had to fight but that's what we'll have to do in every game, I'm happy for the team and for our fans. "To score wearing this shirt is a great feeling, I want to help the team even more, through assists too: the goal is to continue like this."

### CONTE DID NOT HEAR ANYTHING

Inter Milan coach Antonio Conte said that he did not hear the chanting from the bench. He then called for more education, although he did not specifically refer to racism. "I think that in Italy we must improve a lot and be more educated and respectful towards those doing their job," he said. There was a brief comment from Inter defender Milan Skriniar. "These are things that should not be in football but almost always are."

### FIVE TEAMS WITHOUT POINTS

Cagliari are one of five teams who have lost their opening two games. Sampdoria, under new coach Eusebio Di Francesco, are in the worst situation after losing both matches by three-goal margins. Di Francesco, who narrowly escaped relegation last season and have since been bought by Italian-born US billionaire Rocco Commisso, lost 2-1 defeat at Genoa. "We didn't make the most of our chances and then the team lost confidence. You can expect that when you have so many players in Serie A for the first time," Fiorentina coach Vincenzo Montella said. —Reuters

**25** Astros' Verlander records third career no-hitter in win over Jays



**26** Denly to open with Burns, Roy to bat at number four



**27** Lazio, Roma settle for derby stalemate



NEW YORK: Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland reaches for the ball from Novak Djokovic of Serbia in their Round Four Men's Singles tennis match during the 2019 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York. —AFP

## Wawrinka advances, Djokovic quits

Serena rolls ankle and US Open rival as Barty, Pliskova fall

**NEW YORK:** Top-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic retired from his US Open match Sunday after dropping the first two sets to Stan Wawrinka, sending the Swiss three-time Grand Slam champion into the quarter-finals.

Djokovic, who won four of the past five Slam crowns and 16 overall, was in pain from a nagging left shoulder injury while 34-year-old Wawrinka, who also beat Djokovic in the 2016 US Open final, showed himself a true title contender.

"It helped me big time knowing I have the game to beat him on that court," Wawrinka said. "It's never the way you want to finish a match. I'm sorry for Novak. He's an amazing champion." On a day when Roger Federer cruised into a quarter-final against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov and Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev reached his first Slam quarter-final, Djokovic's shocker stole the show.

"It's frustrating. Very frustrating," Djokovic said. "Obviously not the first, not the last player to get injured and withdraw from one of the biggest events in sport." Djokovic admitted he has been hurting for weeks without detailing how or when the injury took place.

"The pain was constant for weeks now, some days higher, some days with less intensity," Djokovic said. "Taking different stuff to kill the pain instantly. Sometimes it works. sometimes it doesn't. You just know (to quit) when you know, I guess,

when you feel like you're not able to hit the shot anymore."

Wawrinka has battled nearly two years to recover Slam-winning form after knee surgery and his performance, after a French Open quarter-final run, shows his journey is nearly complete. "Tonight was something special. I'm really happy with the level," said Wawrinka. "I think I was playing super good tennis. I'm happy to be back.

"It has been really tough since my surgery. It has took me two years to be back at that level. It feels really incredible." A strong warm-up told 23rd seed Wawrinka his game was solid and he took advantage of netted Djokovic backhands on both set points he won, some of the 35 unforced errors the Serbian star made.

"I was feeling great," Wawrinka said. "When I came to practice I was moving well, playing well. I was quite confident with the level I had but you never know when you are playing the number one player in the world."

Medvedev, a winner at Cincinnati and runner-up at Montreal and Washington in hardcourt tuneup events, advanced to face Wawrinka by beating 118th-ranked German qualifier Dominik Koepfer 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7/2).

"He's a great athlete playing super good tennis," Wawrinka said. "I'm sure it will be a great match." Medvedev won his only match against Wawrinka in

the 2017 first round at Wimbledon.

Federer, a five-time US Open champion with 20 Slam titles, advanced to the US Open quarter-finals for the 13th time by routing Belgian 15th seed David Goffin 6-2, 6-2, 6-0 in only 79 minutes. "Sometimes these scores just happen," Federer said. "You catch a good day, the opponent doesn't, then things happen very quickly... I found my groove after a while and was able to roll really. Never looked back."

The 38-year-old Swiss third seed is 7-0 lifetime against 78th-ranked Dimitrov, who dispatched Australia's 38th-ranked Alex de Minaur 7-5, 6-3, 6-4. "Feeling excited first to be in US Open quarter-finals for the first time. This is what I practiced for, to play those matches," Dimitrov said.

"It's a great opportunity for both of us. Hopefully we have a great battle and we can produce some great tennis." Federer unleashed a dominant performance, improving to 9-1 all-time against Goffin.

"As soon as you get there, first match on Ashe against him, you can feel all the 20,000 people are behind him as soon as he hit the ball," Goffin said.

Serena Williams overcame an injury scare to maintain her pursuit of a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title at the US Open on Sunday while Roland Garros champion Ashleigh Barty and Karolina Pliskova crashed out in the last 16.

Williams, a six-time US Open winner, romped to a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Croatian 22nd seed Petra

Martic to set up a quarter-final with China's Wang Qiang, the conqueror of world number two Barty.

The 37-year-old American star required a medical timeout in the second set after rolling her right ankle as she approached the net but promptly recovered to reach the last eight in New York for the 16th time. "I feel fine right now physically," said Williams, who received further strapping to an already heavily taped ankle.

"But I'll see tomorrow. So far I'm good. I have been managing it. We'll see tomorrow. She will play 18th seed Wang for the first time as the Chinese 27-year-old extended her best Slam run with a 6-2, 6-4 defeat of an erratic Barty.

The Australian, who beat Wang twice last year in their only prior meetings, was undone by 39 unforced errors at Louis Armstrong Stadium. It's a tough day at the office today. But it has been a year where we've hit our goals," Barty said. "We've had a great season in Grand Slams for singles. We've made the second week every single one, which has been really special.

Wang became the first Chinese player to reach the women's quarter-finals since Peng Shuai made it to the last four in 2014. "I think I'm really focused on the court, really enjoyed the way I played. I'm so happy I won," said Wang, whose breakthrough run has been fuelled by the memory of her late coach, Peter McNamara. —AFP

## All-Star Jokic shines as Serbia crank up World Cup assault

**FOSHAN:** Serbia and their NBA All-Star Nikola Jokic turned on the style to reach the second round of the Basketball World Cup with a masterful 126-67 demolition of the Philippines yesterday.

The Serbs have a team packed with

NBA talent and are the prime threat to reigning two-time champions the United States, who are without their biggest names in China.

Serbia began their title tilt with a 105-59 thrashing of Angola on Saturday and were similarly ruthless in dismissing the Philippines in Foshan.

Lumbering Denver Nuggets ace Jokic, who has what it takes to be the player of the tournament and has been likened to an NFL quarterback in the way he dictates games, had 11 points and a game-best seven assists and seven rebounds.

Nemanja Bjelica of the Sacramento Kings led the scoring with 20 points.

Serbia brought up a century of points at the start of the fourth quarter with a dunk by Marko Guduric, who signed for the Memphis Grizzlies in July.

It is the first time that Serbia, losing finalists to Team USA in 2014, have won their first two games at the World Cup, underlining their scintillating form.

Serbia's big win also propelled Italy into the second round — the two teams will face up on Wednesday in what promises to be a blockbuster for Group D supremacy. The pair are the first teams into round two.

An Angola player aimed a vicious headbutt at an opponent as Italy thrashed

the Africans 92-61.

Italy look in ominous form, hammering the Philippines 108-62 in their opener before handing out more punishment to the Angolans in Foshan.

But there was a flashpoint involving all the players from both teams with seconds left of the match after Angola's Leonel Paulo and Alessandro Gentile clashed.

The 26-year-old Gentile shoved Paulo and the latter responded in kind, before appearing to make contact with the Italian's nose with his forehead.

Marco Belinelli of the San Antonio Spurs racked up 17 points and Kentucky-born Jeff Brooks also starred for Italy

with 11 points, 11 rebounds and two steals. "Serbia are the best team in the tournament but we are not scared about that," said the 33-year-old guard.

Argentina also made it two wins out of two as they defeated Nigeria — touted by some as possible surprise packages before the World Cup — 94-81 in Group B.

Luis Scola scored 23 points to reach 611 points in his Basketball World Cup career and move to second on the all-time tournament scoring list.

The 39-year-old, taking part in his fifth World Cup, is however well behind Oscar Schmidt. The legendary Brazilian finished his career with 906 points. —AFP