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# Kuwait University receives 22,000 students at new Shadadiya campus

## Traffic chaos on roads leading to Sabah Al-Salem University



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

## Amir admitted to hospital, postpones Trump meeting

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has been admitted to a hospital in the US for medical tests, and thus has rescheduled a meeting with US President Donald Trump, the minister of Amiri Diwan said yesterday.

Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said the hospital admission of HH the Amir forced the postponement of the summit meeting with Trump, and a date would be set later. Sheikh Ali prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow HH the Amir with good health. The Amir was scheduled to meet Trump on Sept 12. — KUNA

## Pension agency's actuarial deficit hits KD 17.4bn

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Rapporteur of the National Assembly's budgets committee MP Riyadh Al-Adasani said yesterday that the actuarial deficit of the Public Institute for Social Security, or the pension agency, has almost doubled in the past three years, mainly due to lower returns on investments. Adasani said that the actuarial deficit - the difference between future obligations and current income rates - rose between KD 9 billion and KD 17.4 billion in the past three fiscal years through March 2019.

He said the actuarial examination is important as it estimates the agency's capability to meet its future obligation payouts, adding that the independent report on the agency indicated that the increase in the deficit resulted mainly from a sharp drop in the returns on investments to just under 4 percent in the last fiscal year, from 5.7 percent in the previous year. Adasani called for diversifying the agency's guaranteed and safe investments to achieve optimal returns and consequently reduce the financing of the deficit by the state.

In a related development, the Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee yesterday held a meeting to study proposals to amend the controversial early retirement law which was passed by the Assembly just before it went into summer recess. The law was criticized by lawmakers because they claimed that it allowed ministries to force Kuwaiti employees to go into early retirement against their will.

Head of the committee MP Salah Khorshed said a crucial meeting will be held on Sept 22 attended by Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf, who did not attend yesterday's meeting because he is outside the country. MP Khalaf Dumaithier said the meeting did not agree on any of the amendments proposed, adding that representatives of the pension agency presented the cost of various amendments. The lawmakers want to allow certain Kuwaiti employees to go into early retirement voluntarily without losing much of their pension benefits. The government does not want to make the bill too expensive.

Meanwhile, MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari, head of the Assembly's foreign relations panel, yesterday sent questions to the foreign minister about the diplomatic dispute with Iraq, inquiring about the Kuwaiti response to the issue.



KUWAIT: (Left) Students are seen at Kuwait University's new campus in Shadadiya yesterday. (Right) Cars are stuck in a traffic jam on a road leading to the new campus. — Photos by KUNA and Fouad Al-Shaikh

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Kuwait University's new campus in Shadadiya received yesterday morning the first batch of students for the first semester of the new 2019-2020 academic year. But the roads leading to Sabah Al-Salem University witnessed chaos and traffic jams, as classes began for 22,000 students of six university colleges. Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi visited the campus, where he was received by Kuwait University President Hussein Al-Ansari

## US, Taliban keep door open after summit scrapped

WASHINGTON: The United States and Afghanistan's Taliban yesterday both left the door open to fresh talks after US President Donald Trump abruptly canceled a secret summit, but the insurgents warned of inflicting greater costs. The United States also said it would not relent in fighting the militants as Trump cited a Taliban attack that killed a US soldier for scuttling the unprecedented meeting.

Trump said he had invited Taliban leaders, as well as Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, for talks yesterday at

## Tunisia Islamist party rebrands for election race

TUNIS: Chastened by its early experiences of holding power in post-revolution Tunisia, Islamist-inspired party Ennahdha has moderated its image and selected lawyer Abdelfattah Mourou as its candidate for next Sunday's presidential election. Hesitant at first, Ennahdha only entered its first ever presidential contest after polling was brought forward following the July death of incumbent president Beji Caid Essebsi.

In the absence of any ally to support and faced with a

## US, Turkey begin joint patrols in northeast Syria

AKCAKALE, Turkey: The United States and Turkey yesterday began joint patrols in northeastern Syria aimed at easing tensions between Ankara and US-backed Kurdish forces who battled the Islamic State group. Six Turkish armored vehicles crossed the border to join US forces in Syria for their first joint patrol under a deal reached between Washington and Ankara, an AFP journalist reported. Two helicopters flew over the area as the Turkish vehicles drove

through an opening in the concrete wall separating the two countries.

They then headed west with the same number of American vehicles, along with an ambulance and a pick-up, for the joint operation, before crossing back into Turkey. The Turkish defense ministry said drones were also deployed. The agreement reached on Aug 7 aims to establish a "safe zone" between the Turkish border and the Syrian areas east of the Euphrates river controlled by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG). Syrian Kurdish forces began withdrawing from along the Turkish border in late August.

The patrol allowed Turkish forces to observe "first-hand progress on destroyed YPG fortifications and areas where YPG elements voluntarily departed the area".

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and university officials.

Azmi affirmed that opening six faculties in Shadadiya is in line with guidelines set by the political leadership that has much concern for the youth. Azmi in a statement to KUNA after his tour of the new KU campus that the "university city constitutes the basis for promoting academic teaching to the required international levels, improve the university's rating and habituate a new academic generation".

Establishment of the new KU campus is a turning point in the march of university education, Azmi added.

the presidential retreat of Camp David on a draft deal that would see the United States pull out thousands of troops and wind down its longest-ever war. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in a series of television interviews yesterday, did not rule out a return to talks but said the United States needed a "significant commitment" from the Taliban.

"I'm not pessimistic," Pompeo told NBC. "I've watched the Taliban do things and say things they've not been permitted to do before." "I hope it's the case the Taliban will change their behavior," he said on ABC. "In the end, this will be resolved through a series of conversations," he added, urging the Taliban to drop its long-running refusal to negotiate with Ghani's internationally recognized government. He said that Trump had not decided whether to go ahead with a withdrawal, which under the draft deal would pull 5,000 of the roughly 13,000 US troops from Afghanistan next year.

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He congratulated HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, academicians and students on this huge leap for modernizing the Kuwaiti educational sector. Building the new KU facility has practically attained the prime goal of expanding higher education, he said, noting that the buildings and halls have been equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

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## OPEC kingpin Saudi replaces energy minister

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman yesterday replaced the energy minister with one of his sons, state media said, in a major shakeup as the OPEC kingpin reels from low oil prices. The appointment of Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, half-brother of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, marks the first time a royal family member has been put in charge of the all-important energy ministry.

He replaces veteran official Khalid Al-Falih as the world's top crude exporter accelerates preparations for a much-anticipated stock listing of state-owned oil giant Aramco, expected to be the world's biggest. "Khalid Al-Falih has been removed from his position," the official Saudi Press Agency said, citing a royal decree. "His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman is appointed minister of energy."

Since his appointment as oil minister in 2016, Falih has been the face of Saudi energy policy but the veteran technocrat had seen his portfolio shrink in recent weeks. His ouster comes just days after he was removed as chairman of Aramco and replaced by Yasir Al-Rumayyan, governor of the kingdom's vast Public Investment Fund.

Continued on Page 24



Prince Abdulaziz



Abdelfattah Mourou



TAL ABYAD, Syria: Turkish and US military vehicles drive on a joint patrol in the Syrian village of Al-Hashisha on the border with Turkey yesterday. —AFP

## Local

# Kuwait marks 5th anniversary of Amir's UN humanitarian title

## Kuwait is still extending its growing charitable activities

**NEW YORK:** With a lot of pride and boastfulness, the people of Kuwait will today celebrate the fifth anniversary of the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a "Humanitarian Leader" and of Kuwait as a "Humanitarian Center." The UN gesture came in recognition of Kuwait's outstanding and unique contributions under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir. The well-deserved international honoring was a crowning of Kuwait's long history of humanitarian, benevolent and altruistic activities in different world countries.

On September 9, 2014, then-secretary general of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon held a special function at the UN headquarters in New York to express the UN and the international community's appreciation for HH the Amir and Kuwait's generosity and kindness. The UN move came as Kuwait had shown exemplary humanitarian leadership in supporting global humanitarian and relief operations under the compassionate and passionate leadership of HH the Amir.

Based on its highly appreciated values and principles, the State of Kuwait has adopted numerous humanitarian initiatives

to offer aid to people in need across the globe. As a key player in this regard, the Kuwaiti people largely contribute to international humanitarian and relief efforts through charities and non-governmental organizations.

They provide continuous altruistic aid and help to many humanitarian projects and activities in various world countries, mainly in Asia and Africa, particularly during natural disasters. The conferences and gatherings hosted by Kuwait at the behest of HH the Amir over the past years have contributed to making Kuwait a "Humanitarian Center." Kuwait is still extending its growing charitable activities aiming at the alleviation of humanitarian sufferings and woes and participation in development projects worldwide.

### Spared no effort

The oil-rich Gulf country is also playing a crucial part in humanitarian efforts spearheaded by the United Nations through its specialized agencies in a much-appreciated fashion that unequivocally and obviously reflects deep-rooted partnership between Kuwait and the UN. Capitalizing on its current rotating non-permanent

membership of the UN Security Council (UNSC), Kuwait has underlined on several occasions that unimpeded humanitarian aid and help should be given to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Kuwait has spared no effort to provide a decent life to them, given that the UN refugee agency's statistics estimate that there are now 40 million IDPs, 25.4 million refugees and 3.1 million asylum-seekers across the globe. Kuwait's benevolent aid and funding have saved tens of thousands of lives worldwide, and have even galvanized others to participate in coordinated international action.

On many occasions, Kuwait has restated that it would never give up its regional and international responsibilities towards economic, social and environmental development. As an effective UN member and through different agencies, Kuwait extends unremitting development assistance to developing and least-developed countries, which are 106 in number. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) is playing a great part in this regard by means of offering donations and concessional loans to infrastructure projects in development countries. — KUNA



**NEW YORK:** His Highness the Amir with the former secretary general of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon. — KUNA

## Sheikh Sabah: Architect of multiple-faceted diplomacy

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's interest in foreign politics began in 1963 and he had served in the foreign affairs' post for many years, thus earning him the name "father of diplomacy". Uniquely, the Kuwaiti foreign policy, as engineered by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, has been based on diplomatic, political, economic, humanitarian factors as well as mediation for resolving nations' disputes. Popular as a calm, balanced and flexible politician, quarreling states have often sought His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's mediation to iron out their differences and he has indeed succeeded in reaching just settlements to a large number of Arab, regional and international crises.

Kuwait has a long experience in settling inter-Arab disputes, such as mediation among the Yemenis in the 60s and between northern and southern Yemen in 1972. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited the two parts of Yemen, succeeded in halting armed skirmishes and worked out a political settlement. Two years earlier, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad scrambled to resolve a violent Palestinian-Jordanian dispute.

Also in the 60s, Kuwait organized many meetings for representatives of the Iranian and Bahraini governments at the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission in Geneva, succeeding in drawing up a settlement that was referred to the United Nations.

In the 80s, Kuwait mediated between Oman and Yemen, hosting meetings of the two countries' foreign ministers that ended with an agreement on halting "a media war" between them, respecting good neighborliness' principles and each other's sovereignty, in addition to the Kuwaiti role for settling Saudi-Libyan differences during era of the late

leader Col Moammar Al-Gadhafi and tackling strains in the UAE-Oman ties in 2009.

### Mastermind

Moreover, HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad masterminded conciliation among Arab leaders on sidelines of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit, held in Kuwait in January 2009. At the 2009 Arab summit in Qatar, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad urged summiters to seriously tackle drawbacks of the much-aspired joint Arab action.

Favoring conciliation for lingering differences, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad attended an Arab summit, hosted by Baghdad in March 2012. His long history of good-will diplomacy was also seen in his efforts for ending the Lebanese civil war that had dragged on from 1975 to 1989. Amid mounting unrest in Yemen since 2011, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad scrambled to try spare the Yemenis' blood. His efforts at the time capped with the GCC conciliation initiative declared on April 21, 2016. Kuwait had also hosted marathon reconciliation talks among the Yemeni parties.

Deeply advocating harmony among the GCC states, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad had stated, "Tackling the differences among the GCC brothers is a duty that I cannot neglect." Lamenting the dangers surrounding the GCC, founded in early 80s, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad had warned of potential dire consequences as a result of the inter-GCC rifts. "Our Gulf unity is our inescapable destiny," Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad has stressed.

In October 1982, Kuwait hosted the signing of a conciliation accord between southern Yemen and Oman and played a crucial role for restoring ties between Libya and Saudi Arabia in 1982. Kuwait stood on Bahrain's side when it witnessed unrest in 2011 and upon guidelines by Sheikh Sabah, a Kuwaiti delegation visited the country to try bridge the gulf and find a political settlement. Kuwait had responded positively to Manama's call for deploying units of "the peninsula shield force" to secure strategic installations.

### Thawing the ice

On March 3, 2011, Sheikh Sabah visited the UAE and Oman, successfully working out a brotherly

conciliation between the two GCC member states. The year 2014 witnessed a major GCC crisis, prompting His Highness again to visit the countries involved in the dispute to try defuse inter-GCC tensions. Qatar had accepted formation of a joint panel to be tasked with implementing the Riyadh accord that had been hammered out on November 23, 2013, among the Saudi King, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah and the Qatari Amir, as well as representatives of other GCC countries.

GCC leaders were expected to meet at the scheduled summit in Qatar in the end of 2014 however, differences re-emerged and the stakeholders reached a new deal to organize a summit in Riyadh, which was held in the middle of November. It ended with a declaration that the GCC crisis ended. However, in 2017, the crisis recurred and again Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad responded to the situation by trying to tackle the re-appearing rifts. In July 2017, Kuwait witnessed intensive diplomatic activities in light of His Highness' mediation.

On December 5, 2017, Kuwait hosted the 38th session of the GCC supreme council — during which His Highness called again for healing the cracks. In January 2018, Kuwait hosted the 11th session of the GCC legislative assemblies and "shura" councils, in a move that was widely seen as contributing to the efforts for thawing the ice in the ties among the GCC countries.

Dr Ibrahim Al-Hadban, professor of political sciences at Kuwait University, affirms that Kuwait has played an effective political-diplomatic role since its independence. Mediation among squabbling nations is a tool of the Kuwaiti diplomacy, latter of which constitutes the country's "soft power," he says alluding to its humanitarian initiatives, neutrality and supporting justice. The Kuwaiti foreign diplomacy has been inspired by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad long and rich experience in the foreign portfolio, he says, noting Sheikh Sabah's sagacious and rational approach in addressing diverse thorny issues. For his part, Dr Mohammad Al-Faili, a renowned Kuwaiti law professor, says Kuwait's foreign policy has always been marked with averting strife, promoting cordial ties and backing other nations' development. — KUNA

## Top officials congratulate Amir

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a congratulatory letter from His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir as "Humanitarian Leader" and the State of Kuwait as an "International Humanitarian Center".

In his cable, HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince expressed pride by UN recognition to HH the Amir, praying to Almighty Allah to bestow upon him an everlasting health and wellness. HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince also prayed Almighty Allah to provide HH the Amir with his support to achieve all his ambitions and comprehensive modern renaissance in all spheres of life in Kuwait, coupled with greater security and prosperity. HH the Amir also received congratulatory cables from His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

On his part, Kuwait's top lawmaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday wished HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah well five years after the United Nations christened him a "Humanitarian Leader." In a letter addressed to HH the Amir, Al-Ghanem said he is confident that Kuwait's altruistic and humanitarian endeavors will continue unabated, attributing the international recognition the Gulf state has attained to His Highness the Amir's dedication. Kuwait's chief lawmaker wrote that HH the Amir's political career is dotted with milestone achievements, while his infinite wisdom and shrewd diplomacy have allowed the country to remain firmly on the path towards prosperity.

In a reply cable, HH the Amir thanked them all for their sincere feelings and noble sentiments. HH the Amir affirmed that this exceptional UN honoring reflected Kuwait's international status and pioneering role in the adoption of humanitarian initiatives to help people affected by conflicts, wars and natural disasters. — KUNA

## UN lauds Kuwait's role for peace on anniversary of Humanitarian award

**KUWAIT:** UN Secretary General Representative and Resident Coordinator to Kuwait Dr Tareq Al-Sheikh yesterday hailed Kuwait's continuous efforts to realize international peace and security as well as its role in promoting development and human rights.

Kuwait has gained prominence on arenas of humanitarian action in an unprecedented manner, said Dr El-Sheikh, speaking at a news conference marking the fifth anniversary of the UN designation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah "Leader of Humanitarian Action," and the State of Kuwait, "Center of Humanitarian Action." Kuwait's contributions in the field have manifested been some of the eminent characteristics of the Kuwaiti foreign policy since becoming the 111th member of the UN on May 14, 1963, he said.

Kuwait's humanitarian and development march did not begin recently and the international honoring of His Highness the Amir came as a fruit of the humanitarian-development diplomacy spanning throughout a decade, he said. This Gulf state has affirmed its effectiveness through its presence at international quarters as member

of many international organizations, such as the Universal Postal Union, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Devoting special attention to the UN, Kuwait inaugurated in 2009 the UN House, with participation of the former secretary general, Ban Ki-moon. It houses offices of all UN agencies operating in Kuwait, he said, noting its presence depicted the deep-rooted UN-Kuwait relations. Kuwait has increased contributions to international humanitarian and development activity by more than 3.1 percent of its gross domestic product, exceeding the internationally set level of 7.0 percent. It also allocated 10 percent of its voluntary contributions to back up the UN and its agencies.

### Diverse challenges

Moreover, Kuwait has established the fund of dignified life at USD 100 million to overhaul agriculture in developing countries and donated



**KUWAIT:** UN Secretary General Representative and Resident Coordinator to Kuwait Dr Tareq Al-Sheikh speaking to reporters. — KUNA

USD 150 million for a fund that was established during the 2007 OPEC summit for research in energy, environment and climatic change. Lauding Kuwait's prompt reaction to help nations cope with disasters and diverse challenges, Dr. El-Sheikh eyed with high value efforts of the Kuwaiti mission at the UN Security Council, namely when Kuwait as a non-permanent member of the council took part in drafting resolution 2474 for resolving plights of missing persons in armed struggles.

Furthermore, Kuwait along with 79 others states adopted the resolution 2427, stipulating explicit condemnation of attacks on schools and hospitals and urging parties of armed struggles to abstain from hindering children's access to education and

health services. He announced launch of the "cavaliers of humanitarian development" competition, involving Kuwait youth, civil and private as well as public associations and establishments, also on the fifth anniversary of designating His Highness the Amir as "Leader of Humanitarian Action" and the 10th anniversary for establishing the new UN headquarters in Kuwait.

The contest aims to give impetus to creative and improvising initiatives from the three sectors, in and outside Kuwait. Registration will be during the UN Day in October. Also on the occasion, a UN website has been launched promoting its celebration of naming Kuwait as the "Center of Humanitarian Action" and His Highness the Amir as the "Leader of Humanitarian Action." — KUNA

## Chinese official praises Kuwait's meteoric development

**BEIJING:** A Chinese official yesterday heaped praise on Kuwait for the tremendous development the Gulf state has made across numerous sectors, garnering admiration from the international community. The mayor of the Chinese city of Tai'an Zhang Tao was just as impressed by Kuwait's profound penchant for humanitarian endeavors, which earned His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the UN-bestowed moniker of "Humanitarian Leader."

Amid an encounter with the Gulf state's ambassador to Beijing Samih Hayat, the Chinese official said the world's most populous nation's ties with Kuwait have made tangible progress over the years. On the sidelines of an international investment forum taking place in this prefectural-level city, Tao said there remains potential for more bilateral cooperation, which can only bode well for both countries.

The Kuwaiti diplomat said his country shares an equal desire to improve relations with China, citing "concrete measures" Kuwait has taken to bring that goal to fruition. As a step towards achieving the aforementioned goal, he revealed that a sister city deal between the Chinese province of Shandong and Kuwait is pending confirmation.

In other news, Kuwait is scheduled to partake in the Global Energy Congress that would kick off in the UAE capital today, amid participation of 71 ministers and 500 executives managers representing diverse countries of the world. The Kuwaiti Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water, Dr Khaled Al-Fadel, would head his country's delegation at the conference, one of the world's broadest gatherings for discussing future of the industry. More than 150 states will take part in a sideline exhibition during the 80-session convention. UAE was chosen as host of the 2019 congress, becoming the first OPEC state to organize this crucial event that began 95 years ago. — KUNA

Local

# Zain joins elementary students in welcoming new school year

## Company organizes social visits to elementary schools

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, organized social visits to a number of elementary schools to join students, parents, and teachers in welcoming the new school year of 2019/2020.

Zain organizes such social visits during various occasions throughout the year as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards many vital sectors, especially education. The company is always keen on shouldering initiatives that work towards developing the community in partnership with the various ministries and public authorities, including the Ministry of Education, to serve the nation and contribute to its further progress.

The social visits included Bader Al Refaie Elementary School for Boys and Bahra Elementary School for Girls. Zain's team joined the children, their parents, and their teachers in welcoming the first day of school by distributing gifts and offering instant photography to take beautiful memories and encourage the students to welcome the new school year with eagerness and enthusiasm.

As part of its efforts to welcome the new school year, Zain recently 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 General Department of Public Relations and Media Security, targets all school levels, and includes many programs and awareness activities that will extend throughout the new school year.



KUWAIT: Zain's team with students and the school's management.

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.

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. 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's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the well-being of the entire nation.

Certificates of origin for Kuwaiti exports to Arab countries, excluding the GCC states, reached 211 certificates worth KD 3.4 million, compared to 65 certificates with KD 2.3 million for foreign countries. Certificates of origin for Kuwaiti exports to the Gulf countries were 561 certificates worth KD 6.2 million, it added. Jordan was the top Arab country in importing Kuwaiti exports, followed by Egypt, Iraq, Algeria, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, Yemen and Palestine. Qatar came first in GCC states, followed by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman. As for foreign countries, Belgium was on top of the list, France, Italy, Turkey, Spain and Greece.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Capital Market Authority (CMA) yesterday called on citizens registered in the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) to pay the due

value of subscriptions in the 50 percent stake of the issued and paid-up capital of Boursa Kuwait Securities Company. CMA said in a statement that duration for payment and subscription in the excessive shares begins at 9 am (06:00 GMT) on Tuesday (Oct 1) and ends at 1 pm (10:00 GMT) (Dec 1).

The payment and subscription will be conducted via the website (ipo.com.kw). Overall number of the floated shares in the bourse amounts to 100,387,875, constituting 50 percent of the company current capital. The stock price stands at 100 fils. The CMA had urged the nationals to complete data of all their family members and newly born ones at PACI ahead of September 8. Privatization of the bourse is a crucial step toward attaining national development objectives, as envisaged in the new Kuwait vision 2035. — KUNA

## Kuwait's non-oil exports down 3.6% in August

KUWAIT: Kuwait's non-oil exports went down 3.6 percent last August, compared to the same period in 2018, said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry yesterday. The total number for certificates of origin for Arab and foreign countries' exports was about 837 certificates worth KD 5.7 million (about USD 18.8 million) in August, compared to 532 worth KD 5.9 million in 2018, the ministry said in a press statement.

## National Guard concludes summer training program

KUWAIT: The National Guard Society recently held a closing ceremony for their first summer training program organized by the Economic Services Branch from 7 July to 29 August, 2019. Brigadier Riyadh Mohammed Tawari, the Assistant for Financial Affairs and Resource Management, honored the students participating in the

program, stating that the program came under the guidance of the Supreme Command of the National Guard in order to develop Kuwaiti youth and improve their abilities, and in implementation of the strategic goals which focused on the community role of the National Guard.

The program included activities that helped refine students' skills, teach them discipline and develop a sense of responsibility, as well as learn the nature of the National Guard Society's work. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the National Guard Society, Colonel Rashid Buish Farhan, and the head of the Economic Services Branch, Colonel Nasser Bader Abdul Wahab.



## Kuwait's military top brass refute claims of crisis with Iraq

KUWAIT: The Presidency of General Staff of Kuwait Army on Saturday refuted the allegations, circulated on social media and attributing to First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, that there was a crisis with Iraq "Sheikh Nasser affirms the deep-rooted friendly relations between both countries and the continuation of cooperation in all fields, including the military one," according to a statement by the Presidency of the General Staff.



"Both countries share the desire to enhance these relations and cooperation," the statement cited him as saying. The Presidency of the General Staff reserves its right to take legal action against promulgators of such inaccurate allegations who seek to sow the seeds of sedition and discord between the two countries, the statement warned.

The Presidency of the General Staff urged social media users to ignore any news of anonymous sources and draw information from official sources such as the directorate of moral guidance and public relations of the Ministry of Defense. Some Twitter accounts have recently attributed to Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister that the relations with Iraq undergo a crisis against the backdrop of Kuwait's building of a maritime platform in Fisht Al-Eij area located within its territorial waters. — KUNA

Renewal of the corporation agreement between Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation and Kuwait Food Bank to implement

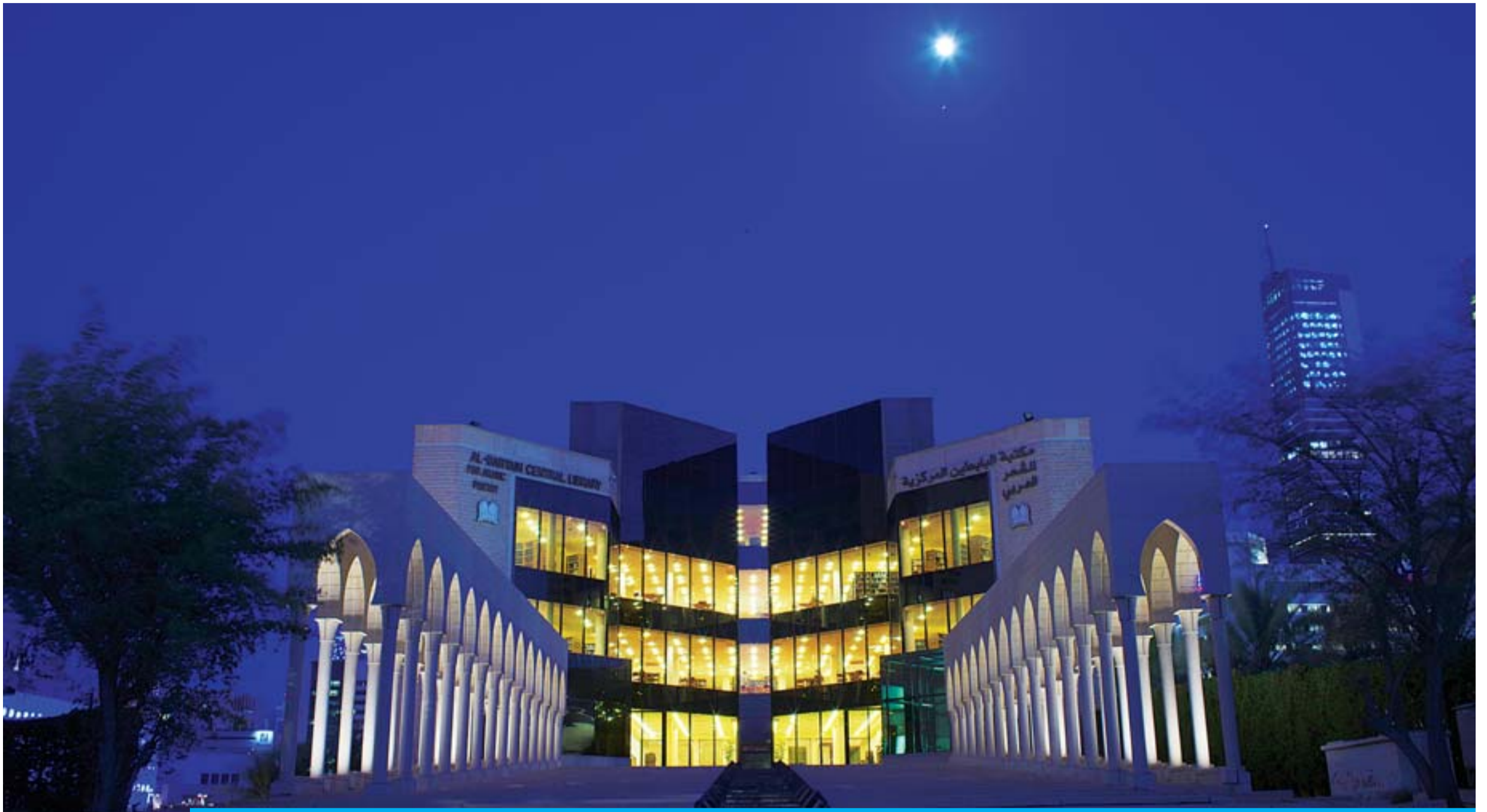
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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Al-Babtain Library at night. —KUNA

### Kuwait to host Arab training conference on October 30

**KUWAIT:** The Arab Trainers Union announced that Kuwait will host the fifth Arab training conference on October 30. The two-day conference will be under the theme "the role of training in building small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) between theories and application," the union's vice chairman Tariq Al-Kandari said in a press statement yesterday.

The event will be held under the patronage of Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri, and in partnership with the Arab Open University. The conference will discuss the role of training in developing SMEs, the experience of small businesses in the Arab World and the region, using artificial intelligence programs and protecting patent and innovation, he noted.

Meanwhile, Al-Kandari spoke of the government's role in providing facilitations to SMEs, which will help reduce



Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri

unemployment and poverty, as well as boost economy and contribute to the sustainable development. The conference aims to boost the skills and abilities of individuals in executing different projects and businesses. It also targets setting developmental programs and projects and raising the qualifications of governmental bodies that provide different services to society, Al-Kandari added. On his part, the university's acting chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Ajmi said that the event is vital for youth and university graduates interested in SMEs.

### Kuwait bourse benchmark sheds 20 points

**KUWAIT:** Bursa Kuwait's All Share Market Index shed 20.2 points settling at 5,935.2 points, 0.33 percent decline, in yesterday's session. Volume of traded shares amounted to 128.9 million, done in 4,462 spot transactions, valued at KD 19.7 million (approximately USD 66.9 million). Main Market Index gained 9.9 points reaching 4,803.5 points, climbing

by 0.21 percent, through share volume of 93.16 million stocks, done through 2,758 cash dealings, valued at KD 4.8 million (USD 16.3 million). Premier Market Index lost 34.6 points settling at 6,512.4 points, dropping by 0.53 percent, through share volume of 35.7 million, in 1,704 deals, valued at KD 14.9 (USD 50.6 million). The Central Bank of Kuwait said the exchange rates of the US dollar was stable, exchanging at KD 0.303. This was also the case with the Euro at KD 0.334. According the CBK Bulletin, the British Pound went up to 0.372 but has declined with the Swiss Franc to 0.307. The Japanese Yen remained unchanged at KD 0.002. —KUNA



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Local

# Positive start for schools in the new school year



By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** During her inspection tour of a few new schools on the launch of the new school year, manager of the educational affairs department at the capital educational zone, Shokriya Al-Saeed stressed that having school directors and assistant directors start work on August 18 has had a positive impact on getting their respective schools ready for the new year. The exceptions were the limited shortage in furniture and cleanings staffs in some schools.

Marking the beginning of the new school year, Minister of education and higher education, Dr Hamed I-Azmi and assistant undersecretary for educational development and activities, Faisal Maqseed yesterday visited Al-Fadhli Ibn Al-Abbas primary school in the Hawalli educational zone. On his part, MOE's assistant undersecretary for public education, Osama Al-Sultan toured a number of kindergarten and primary schools to make sure they had been adequately prepared for the new school year.

**Sewage treatment**

The PPP authority recently began the procedures needed to establish a company to execute and expand the sewage plant at Um Al-Haiman. The authority added that the project is one of the most important infrastructure projects and that it aims at treating sewage water to avoid its negative impacts on the surrounding environment.



**Luggage clarification**

The Civil Aviation Directorate General yesterday refuted allegations made on a video that the luggage of passengers arriving on flight number TK768 from Istanbul at 3:37 am had been delayed until 5:00 am explaining that the first bag was received at 3:47 and the last at 4:42 am.

**Fishing boats**

Chairman of Kuwait Fishermen Union, Thher Al-Sowayyan yesterday expressed his dissatisfaction with the fact that Kuwaiti fishing boats had to wait in long queues at Al-Shamlan harbor to fuel up and demanded an immediate solution for the problem, especially since some boats had to wait for upto three days to get fueled.



**Crimes**

**Pregnant Filipina found dead in flat**

**KUWAIT:** The body of a Filipina was recovered by the coroner after it was found in her sister's flat in Nugra. The Filipina was pregnant and the baby was dead. Investigations are ongoing to find out the cause of her death.

**Abuse of power**

A policeman and a customs officer were charged with abuse of power after a bedoon youth filed a complaint against them, claiming he was detained and verbally insulted. The bedoon went to Jleeb police station and gave the names of those who insulted him. The accused are being summoned for questioning.

**Indecent gesture**

A soldier accused a driver of making an indecent gesture in Shuwaikh Industrial Area. The soldier told police that while he was on Zeina Street, a traffic dispute took place between him and a driver, who made the indecent gesture. Detectives inquired about the man through his car's registration in order to question him.

**Stolen goods**

Criminal detectives discovered a farm used by its owner to store stolen goods. Detectives found cars, motors and other things. Detectives received a tip about the location in the Mutlaa desert, so they searched and found the place. When they stormed the farm, a person was able to escape. Investigations are underway. —Al-Rai



**Modern robotics to be used to fight fires**

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) has introduced the most modern robot to fight fires in hazardous places as part of its efforts to modernize its firefighting and rescue equipment. KFSD Director General Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrad and Deputy Director General for the Firefighting Sector Major Gen Jamal Al-Bulaihees witnessed a live exercise of the robot in order to introduce it to service to fight fires in high-risk areas. The robot operates by remote control and has four cameras including a thermal one, a high-pressure water jet and a discovery system that can detect poisonous gases from afar. The robot can be used outdoors and indoors.

**Bachelor evictions**

The Kuwait Municipality PR department stressed on the continuation of filed inspections to monitor the presence of bachelors in private residential areas under the supervision of deputy director for Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer affairs, Ammar Al-Ammar. The department also noted that bachelors had been evicted from 175 houses and that power was disconnected from 144 houses in the month of August.



**KUWAIT:** The acting National Guards Undersecretary, Major General Jamal Mohammed Al-Theyab yesterday received at his office the Ambassador of China in Kuwait, Li Minggang and his accompanying military delegation headed by Deputy Chief of Staff of the Chinese Armed Police Force Brigadier General Zou Jiliang. Both sides discussed bilateral military and security cooperation.

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India govt tightens Kashmir lockdown

## British PM vows to fight on despite Brexit blows

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ANTANANARIVO: Pope Francis' waves faithful as he arrives to lead a Holy Mass at the Androhibe Soamandrakizay diocesan grounds in Antananarivo yesterday. — AFP photos

# Million turn out for Madagascar mass

## Pope condemns clan culture of privilege, graft

ANTANANARIVO: An estimated one million people gathered at Madagascar's Soamandrakizay stadium in the capital yesterday to hear Pope Francis say mass on the second leg of his three-nation African tour. The massive crowd had waited patiently, stretching into the distance from the early hours, to see the first pontiff to visit the Indian Ocean island nation in 30 years. "Organizers estimate there are around one million people," a Vatican spokesman said.

Some described it as the biggest public gathering in Madagascar's history. Many people wore pope-embellished white and yellow caps—the colors of the Vatican, and they cheered as the pope-mobile made its way through wind-swept clouds of red dust picked up from the stadium floor. During the homily, the Argentine pontiff urged them "to build history in fraternity and solidarity" and "in complete respect for the earth and its gifts, as opposed to any form of exploitation".

He spoke out against "practices that lead to the culture of privilege and exclusion" and criticized those who consider family "the decisive criterion for what we consider right and good". "How hard it is to follow him (Jesus) if we seek to identify the kingdom of heaven with our personal agenda or... abuse the name of God or of religion to justify acts of violence, segregation and even murder". In Madagascar—home to 25 million people—the vast majority live in poverty on an income of less than two dollars a day.

More than half its young people are jobless. The country ranks 152 out of 180 nations on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index in 2018. President Andry Rajoelina, who attended the mass with his wife, welcomed the pope's remarks. "As a Christian and a man of the state, I am fighting relentlessly against

corruption, poverty and the ills that plague Madagascar," Rajoelina tweeted. "We act first for the weak."

After mass the pontiff will visit Akamasoa, a city founded by Argentinean priest Father Pedro, who has lifted thousands of Malagasy waste-pickers out of poverty. "The mass was well done, despite the dust," said Randria Nomena, one of those attending. "I feel my faith has been revived."

### Two-hour journey

Yesterday morning, in Antananarivo's Andravoahangy church, pastor Jean-Yves Ravoajanahary had briefed 5,000 people on the two-hour trek they would have to make to get to Soamandrakizay. "We are going to divide worshippers into groups of 1,000 because the road is very dangerous. At this time pickpockets and bandits are out to mug people," he said. One by one the groups started the journey, huddled together in the cold and singing praise to the Virgin Mary. Traffic was gridlocked.

Rado Niaina, 29, told AFP he left early, at 2:00 am, for fear "of not finding space". Many had already set up tents on the outskirts of the city on Friday, festooned with posters of the pontiff. Prosper Ralitason, a 70-year-old farm worker, arrived with 5,000 fellow pilgrims from the central eastern town of Ambatondrazaka, 200 kilometers away. "We are tired, but it's worth making all these sacrifices to see the pope with our own eyes and receive his blessing," he said.

### 'Hope for change'

Thousands of young people—mainly scouts—gathered for a vigil at Soamandrakizay on Saturday, waiting hours in the heat for Francis to arrive. "All this gives me



ANTANANARIVO: Priests wait at the Androhibe Soamandrakizay diocesan grounds as Pope Francis' holds a Holy Mass in Antananarivo.

hope for change in my country," said student, Antony Christian Tovonalinisoa, who lives on the outskirts of the capital. During the vigil, Pope Francis lauded the "joy and enthusiasm" of the singing crowd. He encouraged the youth not to fall into "bitterness" or to lose hope, even when they lacked the "necessary minimum" to get by and when "educational opportunities were insufficient".

On Saturday, Francis made an impassioned plea to

Madagascans to protect the Indian Ocean's unique environment from "excessive deforestation". Weeks after a spike in fires in the Amazon, the Argentine pontiff told his hosts they should "create jobs and money-making activities which respect the environment and help people escape poverty". The last pope to visit Madagascar was John Paul II 30 years ago. Francis visited Mozambique earlier in the week and is due to travel to the island of Mauritius today.—AFP

## Bahamians flee as Dorian death toll mounts

MARSH HARBOR: Bahamians scrambled to escape the islands hardest-hit by Dorian, which has killed at least 43 people, while the storm wreaked "havoc" farther north in Canada after making landfall near Halifax Saturday. Even as some Bahamians began to reunite with their loved ones, the death toll - 35 so far in the Abaco Islands and eight in Grand Bahama - was likely to climb "significantly," according to Prime Minister Hubert Minnis.

A loosely coordinated armada of passenger planes, helicopters and both private and government boats and ships - including redirected cruise liners - converged in the Bahamas on the horribly battered Abacos to help with evacuations, both to Nassau and to the US mainland. Evacuees began flowing out of the region as a cruise ship carrying 1,400 people docked Saturday in Riviera Beach, Florida, CNN reported. All had documents to enter the United States.

The Coast Guard said all Bahamian ports had now reopened and it had deployed nine cutters to the islands. Six of its MH-60 Jayhawk helicopters had so far rescued 290 people. And more than 260 Abacos resi-

dents arrived Friday in Nassau on a government-chartered ferry, part of the first wave of people to be evacuated off the archipelago's most decimated islands.

Thousands of miles north, Dorian, now classified as a post-tropical cyclone, was "wreaking havoc over the Canadian Maritimes," the US-based National Hurricane Center said. More than 500,000 power outages were reported according to the Canadian Hurricane Centre, which said the problem extended across the Maritimes, a three-province region in east Canada comprising Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Dorian made landfall south of the port city of Halifax but was now back out at sea early Sunday after tracking across Nova Scotia.

Television images showed a downpour and howling winds in the empty streets of downtown Halifax where a crane collapsed onto a semi-constructed building and a roof was torn off another apartment. There were "countless reports of downed or uprooted trees" and storm surge flooding in several Atlantic coastal areas including Halifax Harbor, the Canadian Hurricane Centre said. No serious injuries or fatalities have been reported, CTV said.

### 'Catastrophic and devastating'

Bahamas residents said conditions on the devastated islands were brutal and that the smell of unrecovered bodies, along with mounting piles of garbage, was oppressive and unsanitary. Hundreds or even thou-

sands of people were still missing, officials said, as search-and-rescue teams continued their grim retrievals. Meanwhile, Minnis said Nassau "cannot possibly accommodate" all the Abaco victims.

For now, he said, supplies of food and water were adequate, although several witnesses from Abaco contested that. While the prime minister called the loss of life "catastrophic and devastating," Health Minister Duane Sands said the final death toll "will be staggering." UN relief officials said more than 70,000 people on Grand Bahama and Abaco were in need of assistance. The WFP was sending food and supplies. A UN World Food Program team estimated that 90 percent of buildings in Marsh Harbour were damaged.

The US Coast Guard, Britain's Royal Navy and private organizations have been helping evacuate island residents to Nassau, hampered by damaged piers and airport runways.

Chamika Durosier was waiting Saturday at the Abaco airport. The island, she said, was unsafe. "The home that we were in fell on us," she said. "We had to crawl - got out crawling. By the grace of God we are alive." She described the increasingly desperate plight of those left behind. "People have no food. People have no water, and it's not right. They should have been gone. "Dead bodies are still around and it's not sanitary."

### 'Stay safe and listen'

Dorian, a monstrous Category 5 hurri-



MARSH HARBOR: Debris is seen scattered in the 'Mudd' neighborhood in Marsh Harbor, Great Abaco in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. —AFP

cane when it raked through the Bahamas, was buffeting eastern Canada with winds equivalent to those of a Category 1 hurricane. Although it was packing hurricane-force maximum sustained winds of 80 miles per hour, Dorian was at sea heading across the Gulf of St Lawrence, the Canadian Hurricane Centre said its advisory at 0900 GMT Sunday. Storm surges were causing

widespread flooding and three to five inches of rain were reported over Nova Scotia, southeastern New Brunswick and western Prince Edward Island. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was briefed on the storm. "The safety of Canadians is our number one priority and we're ready to help Atlantic Canada through this storm," he said on Twitter. —AFP

## International

# Israel's government approves voting cameras, critics cry foul

## Draft law would let cameras into polling stations

**JERUSALEM:** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet approved draft legislation yesterday to have cameras monitor polling stations in Israel's election next week, a move opponents said was effectively meant to intimidate Arab voters. Fighting for political survival after an inconclusive ballot in April, the right-wing Netanyahu has made voter fraud a key issue in his campaign for a fifth term, cautioning that victory could be stolen from him in what polls show to be a close race.

In the previous election, Netanyahu's Likud party sent monitors equipped with body cameras to a several polling stations with Arab constituents in what Arab politicians described as voter intimidation. On election days in Israel, representatives of most parties sit at venues to check the pre-vote identification process. Voters are then handed an envelope and go behind a screen to cast their ballot in private.

Addressing his cabinet yesterday, Netanyahu said that under the legislation, which will go to parliament for approval before the Sept. 17 election, monitors will be able to use their cellular telephone cameras to record outside of the actual voting booth. "Everyone films," Netanyahu said in public remarks at the meeting. "Any shop is filmed by cameras, so the polling stations are the only places where you can't film?"

In his comments to the cabinet, which government officials said approved the legislation unanimously, Netanyahu pledged: "The secrecy of the vote will be

strictly preserved." Ayman Odeh, head of the Arab Joint List party, said on Twitter that Netanyahu's focus on the issue of voter fraud was aimed at "triggering a panic vote" by his supporters on the right and "suppressing the Arab vote". "(Netanyahu) is preparing the ground for the day he declares, 'Arabs have stolen the elections', and contests the results if he loses," Odeh said.

Yair Lapid, co-leader of the centrist Blue and White Party, which is running neck-and-neck with Likud in polls, alluded to the impact the deployment of cameras might have on Arab voter turnout, describing the bill as "racist" in comments on Twitter. Arabs make up 21 percent of Israel's population and generally vote not for Likud but for their own Arab parties or centrist or left-wing Jewish parties. The proposed bill was opposed by the head of the Central Election Commission that oversees the vote, who said the last-minute introduction of cameras might "lead to chaos".

Attorney-General Avichai Mandelblit, who advises the cabinet on legal issues, also came out against the legislation, saying it could violate laws ensuring voters' privacy. For that reason, most Western democracies have restrictions on the use of cameras at ballot stations. Two weeks after the election, Mandelblit will hold a pre-trial hearing in which Netanyahu can argue against his announced intent to indict him in three corruption cases. Netanyahu, in office for the past 10 years, has denied any wrongdoing. —Reuters



**JERUSALEM:** (Left to right) Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the government secretary Tzachi Braverman attend the weekly cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem yesterday. —AFP

## Televised debates a new step in Tunisia's young democracy

**TUNIS:** Eight presidential candidates stood behind their podiums aiming to impress Tunisian voters on Saturday evening in the young democracy's first ever televised election debate. Although Tunisia has held elections twice since throwing off autocratic rule in the 2011 revolution which triggered the "Arab Spring" uprisings, democracy is still taking root and such direct questioning of all the candidates is a novelty.

Only a few patrons of the Essafsaf Cafe in Tunis were watching the large screen in the corner, however, hoping to whittle down their voting preferences ahead of the Sept. 15 election. "I

have a list of favorites and I have a few who are not favorites. I hope to learn how they react to questions, how they face questions they do not know in advance," said Mohamed Mazhoud, 31, a software developer.

He had come to the cafe with his brother Ali, 25, and three friends, planning to listen to each of the candidates scheduled for the first night of debate, with most of the other 18 appearing on Sunday or Monday. Saturday's batch included Abdelfattah Mourou, who is the first presidential candidate put forward by the moderate Islamist Ennahda party, former prime minister Mehdi Jomaa and former president Moncef Marzouki.

Mourou was placed next to Abir Moussi, one of two women in the race and a supporter of the ousted autocrat Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, whose government banned Ennahda and jailed many of its members. Another very prominent candidate, media magnate Nabil Karoui, is in detention on suspicion of tax fraud and money laundering, charges he denies and attributes to political chicanery. Debate organizers have said they

will keep an empty podium place on the night he was scheduled to appear.

The furor surrounding his detention is not the only challenge facing Tunisian democracy during this election - years of economic troubles have also undermined trust in politics and turnout for municipal voting last year barely reached 30%. The government has spent the past three years trying to push through tough spending cuts to curb the large level of public debt and to bolster security after Islamist militant attacks in 2015 that devastated the crucial tourism sector. Unemployment, at 12% before the revolution, now stands at 15% nationally and more than 30% in some cities.

### 'Democracy is for the rich'

Around Tunis on Saturday evening, most cafe televisions seemed set to a football match between France and Albania, though politically engaged people may have chosen to watch at home where they could better hear the candidates. Outside the

Cafe Les Palmiers, groups of men sat playing cards or smoking. At one table of four, Rida Ben Salem, 53, said he had lost any belief that the elections would change his difficult lot in life.

"I don't care about the debate and I don't want to watch it," he said. He makes 400 Tunisian dinars (\$140) a month selling prickly cactus fruit from a wooden barrow he pushes round the streets by hand. "I don't need this democracy. Democracy is for the rich, not for the poor like us," he added. Still, he said that with elections coming the police would lay off street vendors like him, only cracking down on them again after the polls.

It was the self-immolation of a street vendor whose barrow was confiscated by police that sparked the revolution. In a downtown cafe where dozens of people were watching the debate on a large screen on the pavement, engineer Saidan Abdelsettar said he was definitely planning to vote, but had not yet chosen a candidate. "Until now I can't say one candidate stands out. But the debates help because it gives me an idea of how they present themselves," he said. —Reuters

بيت التمويل الكويتي  
Kuwait Finance House



## Kuwait Finance House Group

extends to His Highness the Amir

**Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**

May Allah The Almighty Protect Him

and the kind people of Kuwait the heartiest congratulations

On the Fifth remembrance occasion for His Highness

being selected and honored by the United Nations

as the **Leader of Humanitarian Work**

and Kuwait as **Humanitarian Center**



## International

# Work and Pensions Secretary Rudd resigns in Brexit protest

## PM treatment of rebel lawmakers 'an assault on decency'

**LONDON:** Britain's Work and Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd resigned from the government and the ruling Conservative Party on Saturday in a protest over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's handling of the country's departure from the European Union. Johnson says he wants to take Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal with the bloc. But he lost his parliamentary majority this week and expelled 21 lawmakers from his Conservative Party's group in parliament after they supported an opposition plan to try to block a no-deal exit.

Rudd, also a former interior minister who voted remain in the 2016 Brexit referendum, said the ousting of the rebel lawmakers, who included the grandson of Britain's wartime leader Winston Churchill and two former finance ministers, was an "assault on decency and democracy." "I have resigned from Cabinet and surrendered the Conservative whip," Rudd said on her Twitter account. "I cannot stand by as good, loyal moderate Conservatives are expelled. I have spoken to the PM and my association chairman to explain," she said.

Brexit remains up in the air more than three years after Britons voted to leave the EU. Options range from a turbulent no-deal exit to abandoning the whole endeavor. In her resignation letter to Johnson, who succeeded Theresa May as prime minister in July, Rudd said: "I joined your cabinet in good faith: Accepting that 'no deal' had to be on the table, because it was the means by which we would have the best chance of achieving a new deal to leave on 31 October. However I no longer believe leaving with a deal is the government's main objective."

The Sunday Times reported that at least six cabinet members share Rudd's views, with at least one also considering resigning. Rudd's resignation caps a tumultuous week for Johnson that has also seen his own brother Jo quit the government, saying he was "torn between family loyalty and the national interest." "The prime minister has

run out of authority in record time and his Brexit plan has been exposed as a sham," said Ian Lavery, chair of the main opposition Labor Party. "No one trusts Boris Johnson. Not his Cabinet, not his MPs, not even his own brother."



### Amber Rudd also quits ruling party

Johnson says the only solution to the Brexit impasse is a new election, which he wants to take place on Oct 15, allowing him to win a new mandate with two weeks left to leave the bloc on time. He needs two-thirds of parliament's lawmakers to back an early election. But opposition parties, including Labor, said they would either vote against or abstain on calls for an election until a law to force Johnson to seek a Brexit delay is implemented. On Saturday it emerged lawmakers are preparing legal action as they believe Johnson could try to defy the legislation compelling him to seek a further delay to Brexit.

The Sunday Telegraph reported that Dominic Cummings, Johnson's top aide, is creating a shadow team of advisors to work on plans to fight an expected emergency judicial review in Britain's highest court, the supreme court, next month if Johnson is unable to secure an election next week. An opinion poll on elec-



**LONDON:** Britain's former Work and Pensions Secretary and Women's minister Amber Rudd speaks to British Journalist Andrew Marr (not pictured) during an appearance on the BBC political program The Andrew Marr Show in London yesterday. — AFP

tion voting intentions carried out by YouGov for the Sunday Times put the Conservatives on 35%, Labor on

21%, the pro-remain Liberal Democrats on 19% and the Brexit Party on 12%. — Reuters

### News in brief

#### 2 die after 'faith healing'

**COLOMBO:** Two people died from heat exhaustion after attending a mass open air faith healing session in northeast Sri Lanka which left 13 others fighting for their lives, police said yesterday. Around 10,000 people, some of whom were seriously ill, had gathered at a school to listen to a man who claimed he could use "powers of the gods and the Buddha" to cure the sick. Police in the town of Horowupotana, 260 kilometers north-east of Colombo said 18 people were taken to hospital, with 13 in a critical condition. Officials at the local hospital said the two who died suffered heat exhaustion while others were treated for dehydration. Temperatures have soared to about 37 degrees Celsius in the area this weekend. The faith healer, Deegoda Kumara, used his YouTube channel to deny he had caused the deaths and accused local media of causing unrest by spreading mistrust about his work. — AFP

#### Heatwaves cause 1,500 deaths

**PARIS:** Heatwaves in June and July caused about 1,500 more deaths than usual in France over that period, though the figure was far lower than in the summer of 2003, the country's health minister said yesterday. A total of 1,465 more people than usual died during the hot spells in June and July, up 9.1% on the average for the period, health ministry data shows. "The 2003 heatwave lasted 20 days. We had 18 days in two waves and we managed to cut mortality by a factor of 10 thanks to preventative measures," Agnes Buzyn told France Info and France Inter radio stations. The highest temperature in France this summer was 46 degrees Celsius on June 28 at Verargues in the south of France. — Reuters

#### Over 100 Australian bushfires

**MELBOURNE:** Australian firefighters battled more than 100 bushfires across two eastern states yesterday as authorities warned that parts of the country could expect a severe bushfire season this summer. "We've never seen this before in recorded history, fire weather has never been as severe this early in spring," said Andrew Sturgess, an inspector with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES). The fires in the states of Queensland and New South Wales, many out of control, have destroyed at least 20 properties, with authorities saying that number is likely to increase once damaged areas can be inspected. No deaths have been reported, but a 66-year-old volunteer firefighter remains in a critical condition in hospital after sustaining serious burns on Friday. In Queensland 71 fires were burning on Sunday, although none posed an immediate threat to major population centers. — Reuters

#### IS claims Philippine blast

**MANILA:** The Islamic State militant group has claimed responsibility for an explosion at a public market in the southern Philippines that wounded at least seven people early on Saturday. The group issued a statement saying the motorcycle bombing had wounded seven Filipino Christians at a public market. It was the fourth blast in the area in 13 months, according to the Philippine military, which said a militant group operating in the mostly Christian city of Isulan in the province of Sultan Kudarat was among the suspects. The latest blast comes at a time of heightened tensions in the volatile southern Philippines after three incidents in the past year authorities said were suicide bombings by militants linked to the Islamic State. Video footage showed Saturday's blast occurred in a parking space for motorcycles. A suspected improvised explosive device was placed beside a parked motorcycle. Major Arvin Encinas, a regional military spokesman, told reporters. — Reuters

## UK PM vows to fight on despite Brexit blows

**LONDON:** The British government insisted yesterday that Boris Johnson would fight on as prime minister despite seeing a top cabinet ally quit and his do-or-die Brexit strategy blocked by parliament. Johnson rose to power six weeks ago by injecting his trademark optimism into a ruling Conservative party that was cracking under the pressure of Britain's worst crisis in generations. He now finds himself outflanked by pro-EU opponents and the country barreling toward a chaotic October 31 breakup with its closest neighbors after 46 years.

Fears of Britain and the 27 EU nations splitting without a plan for what comes next were compounded when France threw up its hands at the possibility of another Brexit extension. "In the current circumstances, it's no!" French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told a Sunday political talk show in Paris. "We



**LONDON:** Police officers remonstrate with demonstrators on Parliament Square, during an anti-government protest calling for the Prime Minister's resignation, near Whitehall and Downing Street. — AFP

are not going through this every three months," he said. All 28 current EU leaders must approve what would be the third Brexit delay this year.

#### 'One-page' Brexit plan

Johnson's awful run at home got worse with the resignation on Saturday of Conservative heavyweight Amber Rudd from her work and pensions post. Rudd

was a moderate member of former prime minister Theresa May's government whose endorsement Johnson coveted during his successful UK leadership challenge. But Rudd said yesterday that she could no longer be part of the team that oversees what both businesses and the markets fear would be a very messy "no-deal" divorce. "When I asked Number 10 for a summary of what the plan was for actually getting a

deal, I was sent a one-page summary," she told BBC television.

"I believe (Johnson) is trying to get a deal with the EU. I am just saying what I have seen in government is that there is this huge machine preparing for no-deal." Johnson is adamant that he needs the no-deal threat to wrest a better agreement from Brussels at a leadership summit on October 17-18. He is instead seeking to hold an early general election on October 15 that could give him a mandate to take Britain out on time and at any cost. But parliament has mandated Johnson to seek an extension should his approach fail by October 19.

Lawmakers are also expected today to block his call for a snap vote for a second time. This appears to leave Johnson with few other options but to resign—something two top ministers said yesterday he would not do. "The prime minister will not be resigning," interior minister Sajid Javid told the BBC. "He will be keeping this government's promise to leave on the 31st." Yet Javid gave few specifics about what Johnson will do should parliament tell him to ask for an extension after turning down his election challenge. "We have a plan, which is to stick to what we have been doing," Javid said. — AFP



**THESSALONIKI:** Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visits the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF). — AFP

## Greek PM rejects Turkish refugee threats

**THESSALONIKI:** Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis rejected yesterday Turkish "threats" to let Syrian refugees come en masse to Europe unless more international aid was provided and called for neighborly dialogue instead. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "cannot threaten Europe and Greece on the question of refugees to try and obtain more money... Europe has already given six billion euros" to help deal with the issue, Mitsotakis told a press conference in Thessaloniki, northern Greece.

He said talks with Turkey "should not take place with threats" but rather in good faith with "language used by

good neighbors." On Thursday, Erdogan pressed for more funds to take care of more than four million refugees in Turkey, of which more than 3.5 million have come from Syria.

Turkey fears a fresh influx of refugees as the Syrian government advances into the last rebel stronghold of Idlib. Ankara wants to create a "security zone" in Syria to which refugees could return. Failing an increase in aid, "we may be forced" to allow refugees greater access to Greece and other European Union countries, Erdogan warned. "Either you help us or you don't, but I'm sorry, there are limits to what we can put up with," he said.

In 2016, the EU and Turkey agreed to stem a massive inflow of migrants and refugees towards Europe via Greek islands that lie close to Turkey. The numbers climbed again this year however, prompting the new conservative Greek government led by Mitsotakis to say it would accelerate a procedure used to examine asylum requests, which would likely result in more refusals and more people being sent back to Turkey. — AFP

## Outrage as neo-Nazi elected town council leader in Germany

**BERLIN:** The unanimous election of a neo-Nazi politician in Germany as the head of a town council, thanks to votes from rival party members, has sparked outrage among senior political figures. Stefan Jagsch of the far right-wing extremist National Democratic Party (NDP) became the council leader for Waldsiedlung, in the district of Altstadt, 30 kilometers north-east of Frankfurt, on Thursday. Jagsch was appointed with help from local members of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), plus opposition groups Social Democratic Party (SPD) and Free Democratic Party (FDP), prompting calls for the decision to be reversed.

"The SPD has a very clear position: we do not cooperate with Nazis! Never!" the party's general secretary Lars Klingbeil tweeted Saturday. "That applies to federal government, the state and municipalities. The decision in Altstadt is incomprehensible and cannot be justified. It must be reversed immediately. #noNPD." Peter Tauber, a CDU member of Germany's lower parliament for Hesse, the state in which Waldsiedlung is located, was equally vocal and threatened action against those who helped Jagsch.

"Whoever lacks the political and moral compass and, as a democrat, makes such an irresponsible election decision can not be accepted in the CDU," Tauber tweeted on Saturday. "The election of an NPD politician as local leader in Altstadt with assistance from CDU members 'horrifies me', he added. The FDP's parliamentary chief Marco Buschmann described Jagsch's election as "doubly bad: firstly that democrats voted for someone like him and secondly, that no democratic candidate was ready to take on the task" of leader.

Regional CDU and SPD leaders in Altstadt also condemned the decision. "The election of a member of a party that, according to the Federal Constitutional Court, pursues anti-constitutional goals is incomprehensible and intolerable for the CDU," wrote Sven Mueller-Winter, party chairman for Altstadt, and regional chair Lucia Pulttrich in a joint statement. They called for the representatives who elected Jagsch to "reconsider, understand and correct their wrong decision." — AFP



## International

# As India builds first camp for illegals, some workers fear detention there

## Indian state Assam 'on the brink of a crisis'

**GOALPARA:** Across a river in a remote part of India's northeast, laborers have cleared dense forest in an area equivalent to about seven soccer fields and are building the first mass detention centre for illegal immigrants. The camp in the lush, tea-growing state of Assam is intended for at least 3,000 detainees. It will also have a school, a hospital, a recreation area and quarters for security forces - as well as a high boundary wall and watchtowers, according to Reuters interviews with workers and contractors at the site and a review of copies of its layout plans.

Some of the workers building the camp said they were not on a citizenship list Assam released last week as part of a drive to detect illegal immigrants. That means the workers could themselves end up in detention. Shefali Hajong, a gaunt tribal woman from a nearby village, said she was not on the list and will join nearly two million people who need to prove they are Indian citizens by producing documents such as birth and land ownership certificates dating back decades.

If they fail to do so, they risk being taken to detention camps like the one being built. The government says there are hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants in Assam from neighboring Muslim-majority Bangladesh, but Dhaka has refused to accept anyone declared an illegal immigrant in India. Shefali, who belongs to the indigenous Hajong tribe, said she was tense because of the situation. "But I need to fill my stomach," she said in the local Assamese dialect as she used a hoe to feed stones into a concrete mixer. She and other workers make about \$4 a day, which is considered a decent wage in the impoverished area.

She said she didn't know her exact age and believed it was about 26, adding that she did not know why she wasn't on the citizenship list. "We don't have birth certificates," said her mother, Malati Hajong, also working at the site. The camp, near the town of Goalpara, is the first of at

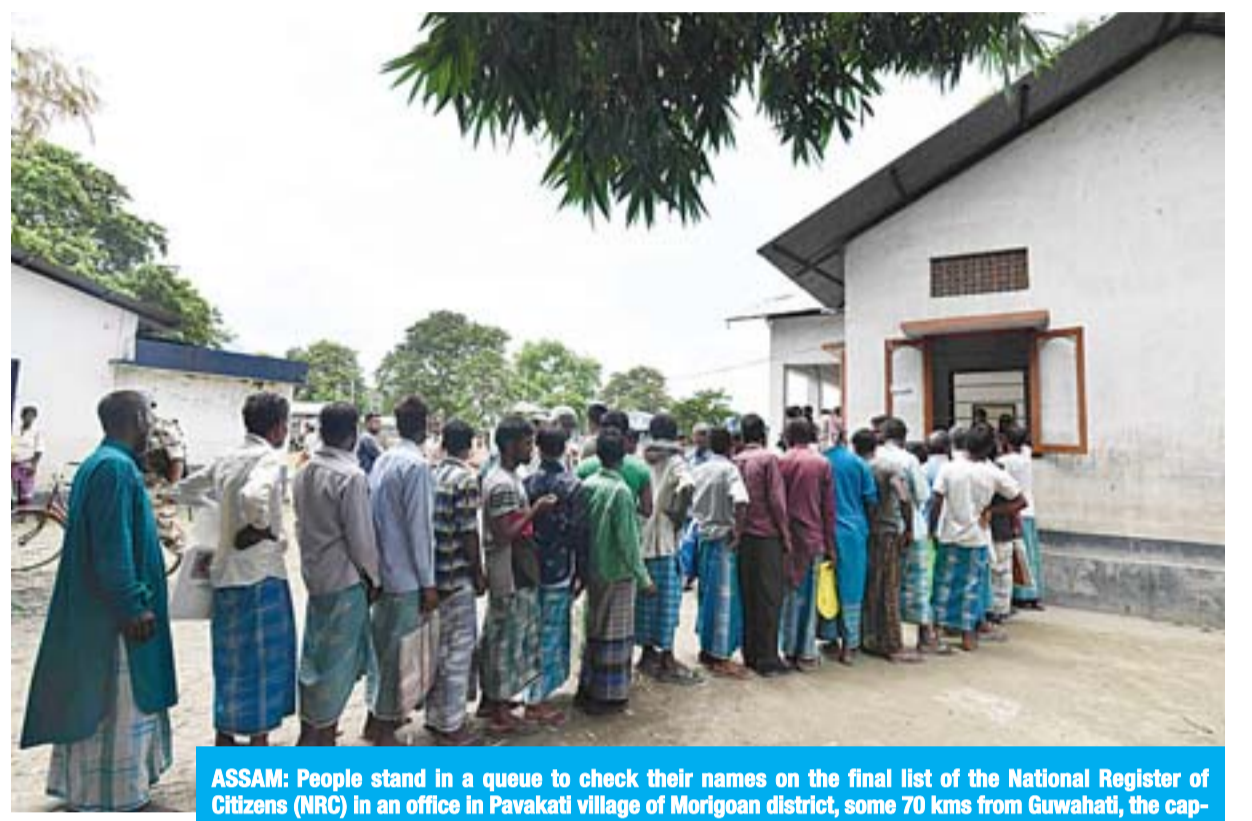
least ten detention centers Assam has planned, according to local media reports. "People have been coming here every other day from nearby villages asking for work," said Shafikul Haq, a contractor in charge of building a large cooking area in the camp. The mammoth Supreme Court-ordered exercise to document Assam's citizens has been strongly backed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government that came to power in New Delhi five years ago. Critics say the campaign is aimed at Muslims, even those who have lived legally in India for decades. Many Hindus, mostly poor and ill-educated, are also not on the citizenship list released last week.

### Brink of crisis

"Assam is on the brink of a crisis which would not only lead to a loss of nationality and liberty of a large group of people but also erosion of their basic rights - severely affecting the lives of generations to come," Amnesty said in a statement. India's foreign minister has called the citizenship verification exercise an "internal matter". An Indian foreign ministry spokesman said those not in Assam's citizenship roster "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." The federal government and the local Assam government did not respond to questions about the camps. From Goalpara town, the camp being built is reached by a leafy, narrow road dotted with coconut trees. A shaky wooden bridge takes vehicles across a small river to the site, overlooked by a cluster of rubber trees. Government guidelines for detention camps released earlier this year include building a boundary wall at least 10 feet high and ringed with barbed wire, local media reports said.

A red-painted boundary wall encircles the new camp at Goalpara, and green fields and mountains are visible beyond two watchtowers and quarters for security



**ASSAM:** People stand in a queue to check their names on the final list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in an office in Pavakati village of Morigaon district, some 70 kms from Guwahati, the capital city of India's northeastern state of Assam. —AFP

forces built behind it. The camp will have separate living facilities for men and women, according to workers and contractors. AK Rashid, another contractor, said he is building six of what would be around 17 buildings with detention rooms of around 350 square feet each. Each of the buildings he is making will have 24 rooms, he said, adding drains for sewage were being built along the boundary walls of the centre.

G Kishan Reddy, a federal government official, told

parliament in July that the government had published guidelines for detention centers which stipulate the construction of basic amenities like electricity, drinking water, hygiene, accommodation with beds, sufficient toilets with running water, communication facilities and kitchens. "Special attention is to be given to women/nursing mothers, children," he said. "Children lodged in detention centers are to be provided educational facilities in nearby local schools." —Reuters



### Workers could themselves end up in detention

## Typhoon kills 5 in North Korea

**SEOUL:** North Korean state media said yesterday five people had been killed in a powerful typhoon that destroyed farmland and damaged hundreds of buildings. Typhoon Lingling, called Typhoon-13 in North Korea, hit the reclusive nuclear-armed state on Saturday afternoon, reported the official KCNA news service. The impoverished and isolated country is vulnerable to natural disasters, especially floods, due in part to deforestation and poor infrastructure.

"According to data available from the State Emergency Disaster Committee, five persons were dead and three persons injured. The injured persons are now under treatment at hospitals," KCNA said. More than 460 houses

and at least a dozen public buildings were "completely or partly destroyed or inundated" by the typhoon, it said. Crops were wiped out or damaged in 46,000 hectares (110,000 acres) of farmland - roughly the area of the small European country of Andorra - the report said, adding that recovery efforts were underway.

It came after South Korea's disaster agency reported three deaths caused by the same typhoon, according to Yonhap news agency. On Saturday, KCNA reported that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had berated officials for their "easygoing" attitude to the approaching storm. According to that dispatch, Kim had convened an emergency meeting on Friday and said "dangerous circumstances" caused by the typhoon were "imminent", but that many in positions of authority were ill-prepared. —AFP



**SEOUL:** Visitors wearing traditional Korean hanbok dress struggle with strong winds at Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul as Typhoon Lingling hits the Korean peninsula. —AFP

## On again, off again: Erratic history of talks with Taliban

**KABUL:** A secret US summit with the Taliban and Afghanistan's leader, abruptly cancelled by President Donald Trump on Saturday, was not the first time Washington has sought a deal with the Islamists. Since well before the US invasion Washington has tried to obtain promises from the Taliban, resulting in a tragic series of missed opportunities and all but guaranteeing suspicion around any new deal.

### Before 9/11: empty promises

According to declassified documents, the

Clinton administration secretly made contact many times with the Taliban in the years before the September 11, 2001 attacks by Al-Qaeda. Washington feared the Taliban were allowing Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven for jihadists, particularly Al-Qaeda supreme Osama bin Laden. They secured nothing but empty promises from the Islamists right up until 9/11.

### 9/11: Missed opportunities

After the US invasion the Taliban agreed to lay down their arms in exchange for an amnesty. The US declined the offer, vowing to destroy the regime, and Taliban fighters streamed across the porous border to neighboring Pakistan. They launched a bloody insurgency, inflicting colossal losses on Afghan security forces and bogging the US down in a grinding fight.

Further attempts at dialogue were made in

2004 and again in 2011, but to no avail. In 2013, the Taliban opened an office in Qatar. But an attempt at dialogue with the US from Doha was scuttled when they declared it an unofficial embassy for a government in waiting - an unacceptable position for the US-backed government in Kabul. Perhaps the best opportunity came when the Afghan government held its first face-to-face talks with the Taliban in 2015 in Pakistan. It collapsed after news broke that Taliban founder Mullah Omar had died two years earlier, a fact the insurgents had kept secret.

### Evasive ceasefires

In 2015, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani offered to recognize the Taliban as a political party in a bid to jump start peace talks. They ignored him. In 2018, he renewed his offer and proposed a ceasefire marking Eid-al-Fitr, the

festival celebrating the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The Taliban did not reply, but announced their own unilateral ceasefire for the first three days of Eid. It was the first three days of peace since 2001, and invoked moving scenes such as Afghans sharing ice cream with Taliban fighters. But afterwards, the violence resumed. In May 2019, a loya jirga - a large assembly of senior Afghan dignitaries - called for an "immediate and permanent" ceasefire that the Taliban implicitly rejected.

### Path to a deal

In September 2018, the US appointed Zalmay Khalilzad as special peace envoy, launching a new push to talk to the Taliban as President Donald Trump sought a way out of Afghanistan. Over several rounds of talks in Doha, expectations rose. —AFP

## India tightens Kashmir lockdown

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities yesterday tightened a month-long security lockdown in Indian Kashmir's main city of Srinagar after breaking up religious processions by Shiite Muslims who defied a ban. A military clampdown was imposed in Muslim-majority Kashmir from August 5 to prevent unrest as New Delhi revoked the disputed region's autonomy, with mobile phone networks and the internet still cut off in all but a few pockets. Police drove around the city from yesterday, announcing through loudhailers that "residents are informed not to venture out of their homes". "Strict action under law would be taken against violators," they added.

Shiite Muslims worldwide stage processions and hold rallies during Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar - which started on September 1 this year - to mark the anniversary of the death of a grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Most such processions have been banned in Indian-administered Kashmir since the outbreak

of insurgency against New Delhi's rule in 1989, on grounds that the rituals could be used to stoke anti-India sentiment.

AFP saw at least two small protests yesterday morning by between eight to 10 Shiite mourners, who were quickly detained and taken away in police vehicles. Police were also seen hitting the mourners with bamboo sticks. Witnesses told AFP they saw at least six more similar protests, with police also detaining the participants. Locals said the processions have taken on a political aspect this year after India's controversial autonomy decision.

### Bamboo sticks

Kashmir, split between India and Pakistan since 1947, has been the spark for two major wars and countless clashes between the two nuclear-armed arch-rivals. Indian-administered Kashmir has seen a decades-old armed rebellion against Indian rule with tens of thousands, mostly civilians, killed. On Saturday, four local journalists were injured while covering a protest involving up to 5,000 demonstrators, one of the biggest gatherings since the lockdown was imposed.

One journalist said his camera lens was broken and another had visible marks on his body after he was allegedly hit with bamboo sticks by security per-



**KASHMIR:** An Indian policeman clashes with Indian Kashmiri Shiite during a strict curfew in Lal Chowk area of Srinagar on the 8th day of Muharram yesterday. —AFP

sonnel. Security forces also fired tear gas and live ammunition in the air. Authorities had loosened the curfew in parts of Srinagar gradually in recent weeks but began to enforce it again from Friday. An AFP reporter said yesterday's clampdown was one of the tightest since August 5. While barricades had been manned by up to three paramilitary

troopers, there were now up to 10.

Tensions could further heighten on Tuesday, which is Ashura, the climactic 10th day of Muharram. While the rituals are traditionally marked by Shiite Muslims in the Sunni-majority valley, Sunnis told AFP they would take part in processions on Tuesday to show solidarity with their fellow Muslims. —AFP

## France pushes risky bet on detente with Moscow

**PARIS:** French President Emmanuel Macron senses an opportunity to bring Russia's Vladimir Putin back in from the cold and potentially help usher in peace in Ukraine, an ambitious - and risky - undertaking that Western allies might not welcome. In the latest sign of Macron's diplomatic drive, France's foreign and defense ministers, Jean-Yves Le Drian and Florence Parly, will meet their Russian counterparts in Moscow on Monday, in the first so-called "2+2" format since Russia seized Crimea in 2014.

The annexation conjured up the spectre of the Cold War, and Europe's mistrust of Moscow has only hardened since as Putin has opposed the West on crises including Syria and Venezuela. Macron however has tried to keep lines open with Putin, and invited him for talks at his summer residence just ahead of last month's G7 summit.

After the meeting, he told France's diplomatic corps the time had come to move beyond "misunderstandings" and "rethink our ties with Russia". In Moscow, the French officials will explore "paths for cooperation" on a series of high-stakes strategic issues, in particular Ukraine but also the wobbling Iran nuclear deal and the renewed arms race between the US and Russia, an official in Parly's cabinet said.

It will be Macron's latest attempt to play mediator for the world's hottest conflicts. "The stars are aligning a bit for Emmanuel Macron. He has the presidency of the G7 and the Council of Europe; Germany is no longer playing an active role in these matters; and London is paralyzed by Brexit," said Tatiana Kastoueva-Jean of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI). "He's the de facto leader of Europe, and can legitimately speak for the West," she said.

### 'Won't be easy'

But despite his eagerness, Macron's track record is mixed at best. Repeated efforts to bring Libya's warring factions to the table have come to nothing, and his attempts to find a political solution to the Syrian civil war have hardly rattled President Bashar al-Assad, who enjoys Moscow's backing. And on Iran, despite his G7 coup of inviting Tehran's top diplomat for talks and signs of softening from US President Donald Trump, a resuscitation of the hard-won 2015 accord limiting Iran's nuclear ambitions seems unlikely.

Yet on Ukraine, where the new President Volodymyr Zelensky also appears determined to ease tensions with Putin - not least with a breakthrough prisoner exchange on Saturday - Macron might have better odds. "Like any good politician, Emmanuel Macron is telling himself that if there's a chance of doing something on Ukraine, it's now," said Florent Parmentier, a researcher at Sciences Po university in Paris.

"It won't be easy but it's not a rash move," he added, pointing to France's "real diplomatic advance" by promoting Russia's return to the Council of Europe, the continent's foremost human rights body, last June. Putin may be hoping to secure an easing of EU sanctions in return, and possibly a return to the G7 club of advanced democracies, but "he will never give back Crimea", Parmentier said. France's European allies may consider that an acceptable price to end the Ukraine conflict, which has killed some 13,000 people over the past five years. —AFP

## Analysis

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CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
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Email: info@kuwaittimes.com  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## Italian doc fights to shed light on Med migrant dead

For Cristina Cattaneo, the thousands of migrants who have died trying to reach Europe's shores in recent years deserve the same as any other disaster victims: a concerted effort to find out who they were and let their families know the painful truth about their fate. "The dead need to be identified - not for the dead, they are lost, but for the living. People need to bury and identify and grieve their dead," Cattaneo, an Italian forensic pathologist, told AFP in an interview.

Since 2013, the laboratory she heads at the University of Milan has been waging a lonely fight to piece together a life from the photos or love letters, school reports and bits of clothing carried by migrants, who have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe. Many younger victims from Eritrea and Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, she said, also tuck away small pouches of soil from their homelands - just like the leaves and flowers that Cattaneo herself stashed away on summer trips back to Italy after moving to Canada as a child. "I was putting them in my pocket to remind me of the place I loved," she said. "If people could see what these adolescents had in their pockets, they would understand that they are actually us."

## Europe's 'duty'

The catalyst for Cattaneo's mission was a series of deadly shipwrecks starting in 2013, including the capsizing of a boat off the island of Lampedusa in October of that year that killed more than 360 people, mostly Eritreans. Eighteen months later, the "Barcone" vessel, carrying at least 800 people, foundered after it collided with a Portuguese cargo ship that had raced to its rescue. Cattaneo was called in to help on that disaster as part of an effort to create a European database where DNA and other distinguishing features could be catalogued, allowing relatives in other EU countries or back home to find their dead.

Italy's government later paid €9.5 million (\$10.5 million) to recover the sunken ship and transport it to the NATO base at Melilli in Sicily in June 2016. But so far her team's painstaking work has secured funding only from a handful of universities and religious foundations as well as a banking foundation which has slowed progress. They have obtained DNA samples from 528 victims of the "Barcone" who have since been buried, and a collection of 20,000 bones, but names have been established for only 40. "A lot of work still has to be done, but it proves that they can be identified," Cattaneo told AFP. Since 2014, the International Organization for Migration says on its website that more than 14,000 migrants have died in the Mediterranean, while the UN refugee agency puts the number of dead and missing at more than 18,500. Cattaneo is urging other European nations and institutions to step up with the money and expertise to bolster the identification effort. "Europe is the only one who has the tools and the capacity to solve this issue, and also the duty - it's a question of human rights," she said. The chances of securing EU funding appear slim, however, with member states at loggerheads over how to share the burden of processing the new arrivals and helping those who are allowed to stay build new lives.



Cristina Cattaneo

## 'Just the beginning'

For the families of loved ones lost in the Mediterranean crossings, a death certificate can provide a sense of closure. But Cattaneo says the certificates can also be critical for proving a death and obtaining financial assistance, especially for widows. They can also help reunite the orphans of victims with still living next of kin. Over 300 families have come forward hoping to learn if their relatives were on the "Barcone", often with the assistance of international Red Cross offices across Africa. "They are still coming, this is just the beginning," she said. "When we identified the first two people of the 'Barcone' at the beginning of the year... it was a bit like giving back something that has been taken away from those families."

Cattaneo recently published in Italy an account of her work and also a call to action, titled "Naufraghi senza volto" (The Faceless Drowned), and a French translation came out this month. "We really would need governments to acknowledge the problem and then have centres and hotspots (in Europe and Africa) where relatives who are looking for their dead can come and give the information," she said. "Even if this work is on someone who is dead, we see that our work has done some good and has a purpose." —AFP

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



This picture taken on March 30, 2019 shows a worker manning a furnace during the nickel smelting process at Indonesian mining company PT Vale's smelting plant in Soroako, South Sulawesi. —AFP

## Indonesia U-turn throws up investor red flag

Indonesia's surprise plan to roll out a nickel-ore export ban two years early could scare foreign investors away from Southeast Asia's biggest economy, analysts say, as it cements a reputation for policy flip-flops. Nickel prices soared this week on supply concerns after Indonesia, the world's top producer, announced the ban would start next year instead of 2022 in a bid to process more minerals at home. Ending exports of bauxite, used to make aluminium, and copper concentrates is still slated for 2022.

The sprawling archipelago has some of the world's most abundant natural resources. But critics say it repeatedly comes up with poorly thought-out and nationalistic economic policies that make it an uncertain place to invest. "This decision casts huge doubt in people's minds about the reliability and consistency of Indonesian government policy," said Bill Sullivan, a Jakarta-based lawyer and mining expert. "It's just a wonderful example of something that plays to the very worst fears of foreign investors... Changing at the drop of a hat and without warning," he added.

The sped-up timeline has also alarmed some Indonesian miners who thought they had more time before the ban came into effect. Indonesia implemented an ore export ban in 2014 only to reverse course and relax it in 2017, when the government said companies would have five years to prepare and start building homegrown smelters - which extract base metals from ore. "There have been so many U-turns it would make your head spin," Sullivan said.

Indonesian officials said they want to speed up construction of smelters to churn out higher-value products, rather than just shipping raw ore abroad - including to top importer China which uses nickel to make stainless steel. The move is also key for plans to turn the country into an electric-vehicle hub. Nickel is used in lithium batteries that power gas-free cars. "The government wants to become a global player and enter the lithium battery supply chain given the raw materials Indonesia has," Luhut Pandjaitan, coordinating minister overseeing mining, said this week.

## 'Think twice'

Some foreign firms are investing in nickel-battery processing plants in Indonesia, including China's Tsingshan Holding Group, while construction is underway on some two dozen domestic smelters, according to the government. "Accelerating the export ban is a good thing," said Marwan Batubara, executive director of think tank Indonesian Resources Studies. "We need to maintain our stocks for domestic needs. Many factories and smelters won't have enough raw materials otherwise."

But some foreign miners, including US-based Newmont, have been turning away from Indonesia in recent years, as it pushed overseas firms to comply with new ownership rules designed to give the country more control of its plentiful resources. Last year, Indonesia finalized a deal with US mining giant Freeport-McMoRan to take a 51 percent stake in Grasberg, site of the world's biggest gold mine, after years of bitter negotiations. Freeport continues to operate the giant gold-and-copper facility in easternmost Papua.

"This is not favorable for foreign

investment," Sabrin Chowdhury, a senior commodities analyst at Fitch Solutions in Singapore, said of the latest move, adding that previous government policies had forced "a lot of foreign miners leave". Switching to higher-value mining exports could help plug a gap in Indonesia's trade balance, as it courts automakers to invest in electric-vehicle facilities, including Toyota and Korea's Hyundai. The very immediate implication is that nickel prices are soaring and this benefits local miners," Chowdhury said.

"Indonesia is the world's largest producer of nickel ore which is used extensively in EV batteries so it makes sense to invest in the country if you are an electric-vehicle maker. But considering how uncertain Indonesian politics is, if I were an investor I'd think twice." While the ban may help boost the economy as president Joko Widodo kicks off a second term, it also threatens to scare away firms in capital-intensive industries that may be eyeing investments in Indonesia, Sullivan said. "The irony is that is precisely the kind of industry that Indonesia is trying to attract." —AFP

## Tajikistan Independence Day

In the history of each nation, great and important events take place that determine the future and the path of development for many years. State independence is one of the greatest historical events in the history of the Tajik people.

In honor of the 28th anniversary of this historic event, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan congratulated the people of Tajikistan and compatriots living abroad and wished every citizen of Tajikistan good health, prosperity, happiness and success. Independence has allowed the Tajik people, who have experienced much in their history, to take the reins of state rule into their own hands and open a broad pillar road to a peaceful, happy life and the creation of a democratic, legal, secular state.

Sovereignty gave a new spirit to the noble and hard-working people of Tajikistan and increased the level of

self-awareness, patriotism and national pride of the country. During independence, the Republic of Tajikistan overcame a crucial stage in achieving national peace and unity and took firm steps towards the implementation of great creative plans that have a direct connection with the fate of present and future generations.

The fateful document - the Constitution, adopted through a popular referendum and laying the foundations for building a modern democratic, legal, secular and social state of Tajikistan, is also the fruit of state independence.

For 28 years, the Republic of Tajikistan has been giving priority to the formation of a national worldview, to educating the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism, self-knowledge, and today we are confident that love for Tajikistan played a positive role in their hearts.

Now the people of Tajikistan can proudly declare that the achievements of state independence are unique. National independence as a unifying factor of the people of Tajikistan has historically made it possible to lay the foundations for the formation of civil society in the country on the basis of universally recognized values.

Choosing the right path for further progress allowed

Tajikistan to consistently develop its relations with the international community and take its rightful place among the civilized countries of the world. Today, Tajikistan maintains diplomatic relations with more than 170 countries, strengthens and consistently develops friendly and mutually beneficial relations with them.

Tajikistan, as a full member of the international community and dozens of international and regional organizations, makes a significant contribution to solving pressing problems and issues. In a short time, four global water initiatives in Tajikistan were adopted at the United Nations level, which testifies to the country's high international authority and recognition of its role in promoting global water issues. In addition to the three strategic goals of ensuring sustainable economic growth in the country, the Government announced the fourth national goal of rapid industrialization of the country. Tajikistan will make every possible effort to strengthen the foundations of its new statehood, peace, stability and national unity and will take even greater steps to achieve success and strengthen the country's image in the international arena. —Embassy of Tajikistan

## Can DRC leaders keep their pledge of free school?

While youngsters began a new primary school year in DR Congo this week, many parents were left to wonder whether authorities will keep a costly vow to make tuition free. President Felix Tshisekedi, who took office in the Democratic Republic of Congo in January, pledged to allocate \$2.6 billion to primary education, or 40 percent of the vast country's annual budget. His promise concerns more than 50,000 state primary schools and will affect millions of children so far deprived of education because their families cannot afford the fees. The sums paid by parents include not only the costs of admission and facilities, but also teachers' wages.

Can the government cover these costs? "I don't know." Though he cut the symbolic ribbon to inaugurate a new primary school in central Kinshasa on Monday, Tshisekedi acknowledged that he could not say that his pledge had been carried out across sub-Saharan Africa's biggest nation. "This will be a measure that will be truly definitive and universal in a few months," the president later told AFP on the sidelines of talks with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

## 'We will do it'

"We took things as they came. We had no government, no budget. This will be done. It's my primordial goal," added Tshisekedi, who in August named a coalition government including allies of his predecessor Joseph Kabila. "The Congo is capable of raising such a sum. And we will do it." The stakes are high when half of the 80 million Congolese are aged under 20, but the World Bank has justified some optimism on growth and finance.

"With 80 million hectares (200 million acres) of arable land and over 1,100 listed minerals and precious metals, the DRC has the potential to become one of the richest economies on the continent and a driver of African growth - if it can overcome its political instability and improve governance," the bank wrote in an overview updated in April 2019.

But the former Belgian colony has been plagued by the most deadly conflicts in Africa since the 1990s, while ongoing violence divides communities and contributes to an unstable climate where corruption can flourish, notably in the mining business. In 2018, government debt accounted for 14.47 percent of a gross domestic product of \$72.2 billion, according to an estimate by the International Monetary Fund, while annual GDP per capita was put at \$814. Some 73 percent of the population live in extreme poverty, the World Bank said, the second worst rate south of the Sahara. In Kinshasa, the capital city of approximately 10 million people, two state schools visited by AFP appeared to have turned free education into a reality.

## A boost for meritocracy

"Dear parents, learning is free," a poster announced at the entrance to the I Ngaba primary school in a working-class district. "Last year, the parents paid 104,000 Congolese francs (\$63) three times," the headmaster said, adding that with free schooling attendance has doubled. "A down payment of 20,000 Congolese francs I had to pay has been returned to me," said Isabel Kyese, a seamstress who came with three children, delighted at the refund. "This was an enormous burden because of our feeble income," she added.

"The pupils aren't going to pay anything," said Jean-Claude Katemboue, head of the EPA 2 school in Gombe, a wealthier residential district. "I paid nothing and we weren't asked," mother Mami Minga said, her children, aged six and 10, in tow. A father in Banalia near the northeastern city of Kisangani was cautious. "I'm going to find out if free education is for real before sending my kids to school," he said.

The primary education ministry has announced that classes will be free in the schools where budgets have been drawn up, totalling 30,773 out of 51,574, according to official figures. Headmaster Kitemboue was gratified at the prospect of being paid by the state rather than parents. "It will raise standard of education and give worth to the teacher." "When parents support teachers, it can happen that we favour the children of those who pay well," said a technology teacher, Ados Nsimba. "Meritocracy is going to take charge." —AFP

## Business

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

**12** Boursa Kuwait All-Share Index drops 2.8% in Aug: NBK Capital**13** iPhone to share spotlight with services at Apple's big event**14** GCC banking sector's total assets grow on higher interest income

# CMA to launch public offering of its 50% stake in Boursa Kuwait

## Subscription period starts Oct 1, ends Dec 1, 2019

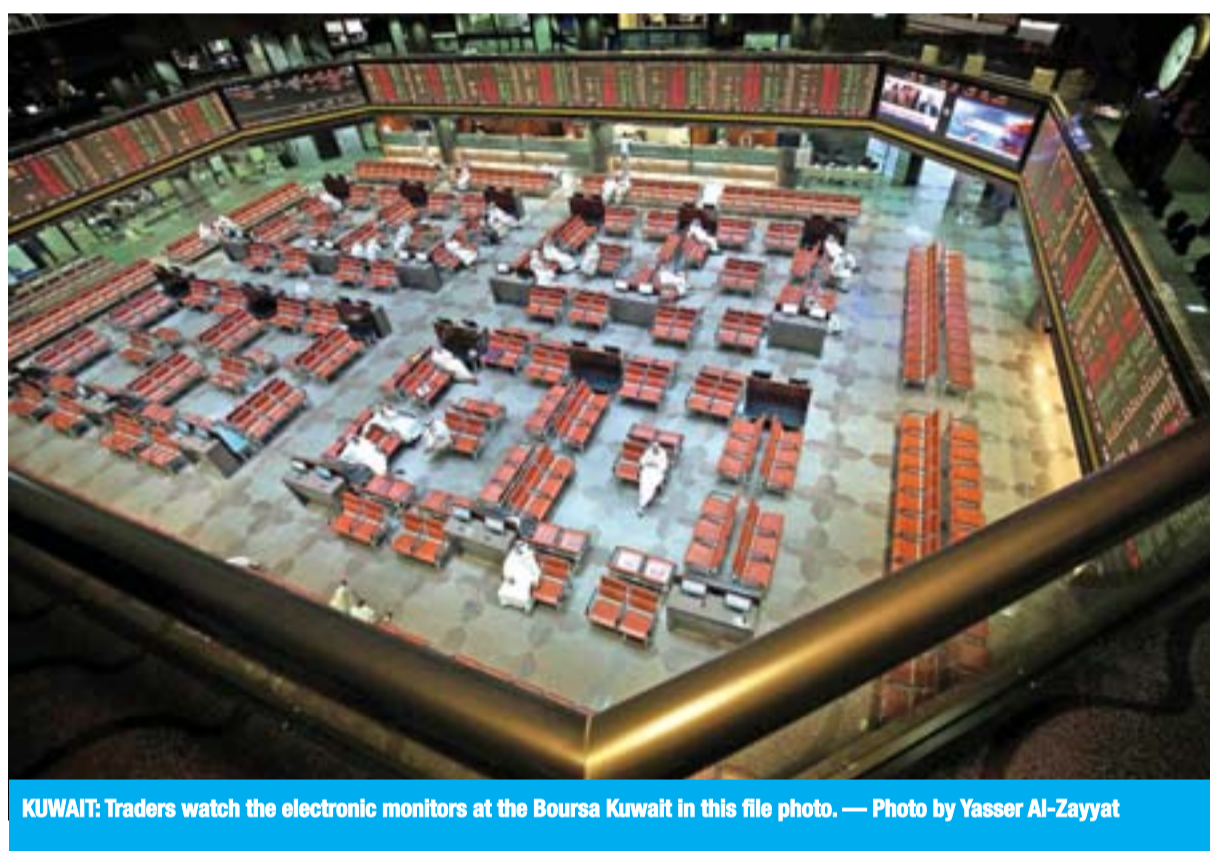
**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority (CMA), the regulatory body for securities and current owner of 50 percent of Kuwait's only stock exchange, Boursa Kuwait Securities Company (BKSC), announced yesterday that the subscription period for the public offering of its stake in the exchange is from October 1, 2019 to December 1, 2019.

- CMA's 50% stake in Boursa Kuwait shares will be offered to the public, to complete the privatization process of the company
- Only Kuwaiti citizens are eligible to subscribe
- The privatization of Boursa Kuwait is an important step towards achieving the ambitious national development goals set out in Kuwait Vision 2035

The transaction is the second and final phase of the privatization process of Boursa Kuwait following the sale of 44 percent of the company to strategic investors in February 2019. Upon conclusion of the public offering, 94 percent of Boursa Kuwait will be owned by private investors (corporate and individual investors).

### Transaction highlights:

- **Subscription period:** October 1, 2019 to December 1, 2019.



**KUWAIT:** Traders watch the electronic monitors at the Boursa Kuwait in this file photo. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

- **Eligibility:** By law, CMA's 50 percent stake in BKSC is offered only to Kuwaiti citizens registered in PACI on 8th of September 2019 through a fair, equal, and transparent process.

- **Offering price:** 100 fils per share  
Boursa Kuwait was founded in 2014 by the CMA Board of Commissioners Resolution No. 37/2013 to replace the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE). The privatization of

Kuwait's stock exchange is an important step towards achieving the ambitious national development goals set out in Kuwait Vision 2035 with an aim to strengthen the country's position as a regional financial center and give the private sector a stronger role and a greater opportunity to develop the national economy.

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

As a result of the successful implementation of these reforms since 2014, Boursa Kuwait was upgraded to Emerging Market status by the leading global indices. The exchange was included FTSE Russell Emerging Markets Index (FTSE) in September 2017 and S&P Dow Jones Global Benchmark Indices with an emerging market classification in December 2018.

The privatization process is being implemented in two phases. The first phase took place in February 2019 wherein by law and through an open and transparent process, a strategic consortium consisting of domestic and international Securities Exchange operator acquired a 44 percent stake in the company. The consortium comprised Athens Stock Exchange, National Investments Company, First Investment Company, and Arzan Financial Group. The second phase, the nation-wide IPO, is expected to be implemented in the last quarter of 2019 with the distribution of the CMA's 50 percent stake in the company to citizens. Upon the allocation of the remaining 50 percent of Boursa Kuwait's shares, Boursa Kuwait will be owned by citizens and the private sector (94 percent), while the Kuwaiti government through the Public Institution for Social Security will retain the remaining 6 percent.

## Fuel supplies restored to debt-ridden Air India

**NEW DELHI:** Fuel supplies have been restored to debt-ridden Air India at six airports following government-mediated talks, after a two-and-half-week suspension by oil companies over the late payment of dues, local media reported. Fuel supplies were suspended on August 22 amid reports that the national flag carrier owed three state-run oil firms more than 45 billion rupees (\$630 million).

Following the talks, Air India agreed to pay them one billion rupees a month to clear the debt, an airline spokesman told the Press Trust of India late Saturday. A spokesman for the oil firms said "supplies to Air India resumed from Saturday evening." The airline had continued to fly from the six locations — Pune, Ranchi, Patna, Mohali, Kochi and Vishakhapatnam — by looking at alternative routes and filling up on fuel elsewhere.

The Indian government in 2018 shelved plans to sell a 76-percent stake in Air India after failing to attract any bidders. The airline, founded in 1932, was once the country's monopoly airline, known affectionately as the "Maharaja of the skies".

But it has been hemorrhaging money for years and it has lost market share to low-cost rivals in one of the world's fastest-growing airline markets. Successive governments had spent billions of dollars to keep it flying before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet last year gave the go-ahead for a sell-off. — AFP



## Oil majors to mull fresh cuts as trade war hits prices

**DUBAI:** Top oil producers will consider fresh output cuts at a meeting this week, but analysts are doubtful they will succeed in bolstering crude prices dented by the US-China trade war. The OPEC petroleum exporters' cartel and key non-OPEC members want to halt a slide in prices that has continued despite previous production cuts and US sanctions that have squeezed supply from Iran and Venezuela.

Analysts say the OPEC+ group's Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, which monitors a supply cut deal reached last year, has limited options when it meets in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

UAE Energy Minister Suheil Al-Mazrouei said yesterday the group would do "whatever necessary" to rebalance the crude market, but admitted that the issue was not entirely in the hands of the world's top producers. Speaking at a press conference in Abu Dhabi ahead of the World Energy Congress, to start Monday, he said the oil market is no longer governed by supply and demand but is being influenced more by US-China trade tensions and geopolitical factors.

The minister said that although further cuts will be considered at Thursday's meeting, they may not be the best way to boost declining prices.

"Anything that the group sees that will balance the market, we are committed to discuss it and hopefully go and do whatever necessary," he said. "But I wouldn't suggest to jump to cuts every time that we have an issue on trade tensions."

While cuts could help prices, they could also mean producers lose further market share, analysts say. "OPEC has traditionally resorted to production cuts in order to shore up the prices," said M. R. Raghu, head of research at Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz). "However, this has come at the cost of reduction in OPEC's global crude market share from a peak of 35 percent in 2012 to 30 percent as of July 2019," he said.

The 24-nation OPEC+ group, dominated by the cartel's kingpin Saudi Arabia and non-OPEC production giant Russia, agreed to reduce output in December 2018. That came as a faltering global economy and a boom in US shale oil threatened to create a global glut in supply.

Previous supply cuts have mostly succeeded in bolstering prices. But this time, the market has continued to slide—even after OPEC+ agreed in June to extend by nine months an earlier deal slashing output by 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd).



**ABU DHABI:** UAE's Minister of Energy and Industry Suheil Al-Mazrouei (left) speaks with Younghoon David Kim, chairman of the World Energy Council (WEC), prior to a joint press conference in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

### Trade war

The new factor is the trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies, whose tit-for-tat tariffs have created fears of a global recession that will undermine demand for oil.

Saudi economist Fadh Al-Bouenain said the oil market has become "highly sensitive to the US-China trade war". "What is happening to oil prices is outside the control of OPEC and certainly stronger than its capability," Bouenain said.

"Accordingly, I think OPEC+ will not resort to new production cuts" because that would further blunt the group's already shrunken market share, he said. European benchmark Brent was selling at \$61.54 per barrel Friday, in contrast with more than \$75 this time last year but up from around \$50 at the end of December 2018. The deliberations also coincide with stymied production from Iran and Venezuela and slower growth in US output, meaning that supplies are not excessively high.

"US shale output growth does not have the same momentum as in previous cycles, and OPEC production is at a 15-year low, having fallen by 2.7 million barrels per day over the past nine months," Standard Chartered said in a commentary last month.

"We think that the oil policy options for key producers are limited, for the moment," the investment bank said. No decisions will be taken at Thursday's meeting, but it should produce recommendations ahead of an OPEC+ ministerial meeting in Vienna in December.

Rapidan Energy Group said the alliance might need to cut output by an additional one million bpd to stabilize the market. But the problem will be deciding which member countries will shoulder the burden of any new cuts. Saudi Arabia, which is the de facto leader of OPEC and pumps about a third of the cartel's oil, took on more than its fair share last time around.

It has also undergone a major shake-up in its oil sector, announcing the replacement of energy minister Khalid Al-Falih with Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman in the early hours of yesterday morning ahead of a much-anticipated stock listing of state oil giant Aramco. Bouenain said he believes that Riyadh is likely to resist taking on further cuts, given the impact on the kingdom's revenues.

Raghu said that "without a favorable resolution to the dispute, OPEC's production cuts will not result in a sizeable uptick of oil prices." — AFP

Global Markets Commentary

Boursa Kuwait All-Share Index drops 2.8% in Aug: NBK Capital

GCC markets under pressure over trade tensions, recession fears

KUWAIT: GCC markets ended the month of August in the red as the S&P GCC Composite shed 6.23 percent dragged down mostly by the Saudi and UAE markets.



economy. Inflation, on the other hand, remained tame as the Federal Reserve preferred measure, the core Personal Consumption Expenditures (core PCE) recorded 1.6 percent in July and 1.7 percent for the second quarter, both below the Fed's target of 2.0 percent.

The S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Index (DJI) declined by 1.81 percent and 1.72 during August, while the losses for the tech-heavy NASDAQ were relatively more severe with a decline of 2.60 percent.



August witnessed the second and final phase of the Saudi MSCI inclusion which has been already priced-in and wasn't enough to support the market.

Boursa Kuwait All-Share Index was also down 2.87 percent for the month, while the Premier Market Index significantly underperformed the general market declining by 3.21 percent.

Markets remained under pressure during the month of August amid continued trade tensions and fears that they would trigger a global slowdown.

The effects of trade tensions are starting to reflect into the US economy as the 2Q 2019 GDP was revised down marginally to 2.0 percent from 2.1 percent previously.

preliminary figures showing the Markit Manufacturing PMI edging higher to 47.0 in August from 46.5 the previous month.

In the UK, political tensions intensified on the back of the Prime Minister's decision to suspend parliament for a period of 5 weeks starting mid-September.

21 percent year-on-year compared to consensus expectations of 1.9 percent and a previous month's reading of 2.0 percent.

Emerging markets underperformed their global peers significantly with the MSCI EM and MSCI Asia ex-Japan dropping 5.08 percent and 4.61 percent respectively.

NBK Money Markets Report

US dollar trends lower on risk appetite

KUWAIT: Risk aversion was the dominant theme in financial markets for the past months, which spurred demand for safe haven assets.

The risk on mode pressured safe haven assets into the red and paved the way for risky assets to trade in the green zone.

In regards to the US dollar index, the DXY was descending during the course of the week as demand for safe haven assets lessened.

payrolls rose by 130,000 from a revised 159,000 in July and below economists' expectations of 163,000.

Manufacturing and service sectors

The US manufacturing sector contracted for the first time since January 2016 as the ISM Manufacturing PMI fell into negative terrain from 51.2 to 49.1.

On a more positive front, the American services sector rebounded from nearly a three-year low after two consecutive months of downward trajectory.

Businesses in the service sector voiced their worries over tariffs and geopolitical insecurity.

Canada

The Canadian central bank resisted the global theme of lowering interest rates last week and maintained its benchmark interest rate at 1.75 percent for the seventh consecutive meeting.

Europe & UK

Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered a triple defeat last week in the House of Commons and the Conservative party lost 21 members as they voted against a no-deal Brexit.

and senior figures who worked under Margaret Thatcher, John Major, David Cameron and Theresa May.

Eyeing ahead, the bill to halt a no-deal Brexit is expected to return to the Commons on Monday and also to obtain a royal assent later that day.

Recession around the corner?

Extremely frail is the best way to label the UK's manufacturing sector in the month of August.

As for the Sterling pound, the GBP was the leading major currency last week, appreciating to more than a one-month high of 1.2353.



which paved the way for the Sterling to rally 1 percent against the USD.

The euro also rallied versus the USD due to dollar weakness. Gains in the euro were limited as the European manufacturing sector contracted for seven straight months.

Asia

A new round of levies were implemented on Chinese goods last week, despite the compounding tariffs, the country's economy is showing signs of slight resiliency.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar USD/KWD opened at 0.30370 yesterday morning.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table of exchange rates including sections for Al-Muzaini Exchange Co., EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ASIAN COUNTRIES, GCC COUNTRIES, ARAB COUNTRIES, DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD., BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL, and various CURRENCY rates for BUY and SELL.

## Business

# iPhone to share spotlight with services at Apple's big event

## Tech giant steps up efforts in content and services for its devices

**SAN FRANCISCO:** The iPhone will be front and center at Apple's upcoming media presentation event as the California tech giant steps up its efforts in content and services for its devices. In its trademark, tight-lipped style, Apple disclosed little about its plans for tomorrow's event at its headquarters in the Silicon Valley city of Cupertino. For years now, Apple has hosted events in the fall to launch new iPhone models ahead of the holiday shopping season.

Speculation is that Apple will introduce three upgraded iPhones, including "Pro" models, and a successor to its more affordable iPhone XR, as premium handset prices hover around \$1,000.

Some analysts say services, subscriptions and online content will share the stage with the company's glitzy hardware as Apple seeks to shift its focus. "I think it is going to be the first year the event is going to also be about services," Creative Strategies analyst Carolina Milanesi said. "We might get to see what Apple looks like as a company when they are talking about services and hardware as one product." Milanesi was curious to see whether Tuesday's presentation includes offers iPhone deals that "bundle" music, television or game services with new handsets.

"You have an opportunity to really bring value to the hardware with services," Milanesi said.

### TV+ turned on?

Apple recently released a smartphone-generation credit card in the US and is keen to launch its TV+ streaming service before Disney goes live with a rival service in November. Many wonder whether the launch of Apple TV+ will be among tomorrow's announcements. With Hollywood stars galore, Apple unveiled streaming video plans along with news and game subscription offerings as part of an effort to shift its focus to digital content

and services to break free of its reliance on iPhone sales.

The company also plans to launch a new game subscription service called Apple Arcade internationally by the end of this year. Apple managed to grow its overall revenues, albeit by a modest one percent, to \$53.8 billion, even as iPhone revenues plunged nearly 12 percent in the April-June period.

The company delivered strong growth from digital content and services that include its Apple Pay and Apple Music, along with wearables and accessories like the Apple Watch and Air Pods.

Some of those accessories could also get upgrades tomorrow.

### China wild card

Analysts warn that Apple still faces challenges as rivals chip away at the smartphone market, in which the iPhone's share is less than 12 percent. As the iPhone maker refines its handsets, other makers are pushing into new areas such as 5G devices and folding smartphones.

Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said in a note to investors that he expected a "trifecta of iPhone 11s" that will help the company "put a fence around" its user base. About a third of the 900 million iPhone users around the world are in an upgrade "window," meaning a strong potential for handset sales, according to Ives. "While China remains a wild card, we are bullish into Apple's future" in the coming year, Ives said.

China accounts for about 17 percent of Apple sales overall, and has tremendous room for growth, according to Techspontanal analyst Avi Greengart. The trade war between the US and China has complicated Apple's effort to gain ground in that market, where gains by local titan Huawei have come partly at the California-based company's expense. "Apple needs Chinese consumers to treat the



**CAPURTINO:** Speculation is that Apple will introduce three upgraded iPhones, including "Pro" models, and a successor to its more affordable iPhone XR, as premium handset prices hover around \$1,000.

iPhone as a preferred premium brand at a tricky geopolitical moment," Greengart said.

"Huawei's premium smartphone, laptop, and tablet sales

have been surging inside China partly based on nationalism as a response to the trade war with the US and specific US government actions against Huawei." — AFP

## Stripped-back auto show mirrors German car industry gloom

**FRANKFURT:** Frankfurt's biennial International Auto Show (IAA) opens its doors to the public Thursday, but major foreign carmakers are staying away while climate demonstrators march outside-forming a microcosm of the industry's woes.

"There have never been so many cancellations by carmakers," said Ferdinand Dudenhofer of the Centre for Automotive Research (CAR).

"The IAA is turning into a trade fair packed with problems," he added, in the image of the German manufacturers who host it. Giants like Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler, BMW and Volkswagen are seeing their engineering advantage and profit margins eroded-even as the global economic outlook darkens.

The potential blow of US tariffs on European auto imports hangs over many carmakers, who have already suffered from an escalating Washington-Beijing trade confrontation due to their American factories.

Meanwhile three of the world's four largest carmakers will stay away from the IAA this year: the French-Japanese Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance, Japan's Toyota and US-based General Motors (GM).

Other heavyweights like Italian-American Fiat-Chrysler and France's PSA have also absented themselves, as well as some of the best-known luxury brands. The remaining manufacturers huddled in Frankfurt's massive trade fair complex have one major priority: stoking enthusiasm for new electric models set for release this year, as new EU carbon emissions limits enter into force from 2020.

### ● Pricey targets

If manufacturers cannot squeeze the average carbon dioxide (CO2) output of their fleets below 95 grammes per kilometre, they will be fined a hefty 95 euros (\$105) per excess gramme on each car registered.

After years of delay, German manufacturers still lag foreign competitors like California's Tesla on the costly research and development for electric alternatives that can score in the mass market.

Even at the high end, Volkswagen subsidiary Audi failed to dent Tesla with its e-Tron electric SUV.

And stablemate Porsche is betting buyers will be pre-



**FRANKFURT:** Frankfurt's biennial International Auto Show (IAA) opens its doors to the public Thursday, but major foreign carmakers are staying away while climate demonstrators march outside-forming a microcosm of the industry's woes.

pared to fork out a massive premium over the California brand's top models for its new battery-powered Taycan.

That makes VW's Frankfurt launch of its ID.3 — a compact all-electric car that it compares to the legendary Beetle and Golf-of vital importance, as the tip of the spear in the sprawling conglomerate's 30-billion-euro electric offensive. The first model based on VW's modular MEB electric platform, ID.3 "is almost critical to survival" for the company, Stefan Bratzel of the Center of Automotive Management told AFP. "It has to be a success, the shot has to hit home, because a lot is riding on it."

### ● Marchers expected

Where big international competitors will be lacking, climate demonstrators are planning to make up the numbers at this year's IAA.

Thousands are expected to hit the streets Saturday, reaching the trade fair on bicycles or on foot, while a blockade is scheduled Sunday amid calls for a "transport

revolution". After taking on coal mining over the summer, the environmentalists are turning their fire on a sector that long seemed untouchable. As Germany's biggest manufacturing industry employing around 800,000 people, the car sector was also protected through deep connections to traditional political parties.

But the winds are changing in German politics. Climate change has shot up voters' agenda after a fierce 2018 drought and months of "Fridays for Future" demonstrations by schoolchildren, while the Greens are polling at unprecedented levels and made big gains in this year's European elections.

Meanwhile a years-long diesel emissions cheating scandal rumbles on, as a case by 400,000 car owners against VW over "dieselgate" opens in three weeks' time.

And on September 20, all eyes will be on Chancellor Angela Merkel's beleaguered coalition government in Berlin, as it unveils a comprehensive new climate strategy ahead of a UN summit. — AFP

going after companies or union officials on Twitter. "There's a ton of uncertainty," said Kristin Dzikczek, vice president of industry, labor and economics at the Center for Automotive Research in Michigan. She sees a higher chance of a strike than in past contract talks. "We don't know the rules of trade in North America yet, we don't know the fuel economy regulations," she added. "These are huge things."

### Anger at GM

Key issues once again include nuts-and-bolts items such as wages and health care benefits. The companies are also hoping to win concessions on greater use of temporary workers, a bone of contention for labor. The talks come at the tail end of a strong period of auto sales that has begun to ebb as more economists predict a recession in the next couple of years.

Both sides are aware of the forecasts, and the union will want guarantees on work levels and pay, while companies will be seeking flexibility. Dzikczek pointed to a "fundamental friction" between the two sides that translates into this sort of conflicting thinking: "If things get worse, let's make sure we're protected," versus "If things get worse, let's make sure we don't get locked in to higher costs."

The union is also likely to press for strengthened contract language after GM announced last November that it was effectively shuttering five plants in North America, including facilities in Ohio and Michigan that were "unallocated" for production. Politicians from both parties criticized GM loudly. They included Trump, whose re-election could hinge on Ohio, Michigan and other industrial Midwestern states. The announcement affected 2,800 hourly workers, all of whom were eligible for a new job if they could relocate. The union cried foul, saying the move violated the existing contract that promised no plant closures during the contract's lifespan. The matter is now being litigated in court. — AFP



**NEW YORK:** In this file photo, General Motors Chairman and CEO Mary Barra and United Auto Workers President Gary Jones opened the 2019 GM-UAW contract talks in July with the traditional ceremonial handshakes. — AFP

expires September 14. Besides a strike or new contract, the two sides could agree to temporarily extend the contract. The automakers' contracts, negotiated in three separate rounds, are usually similar but not identical. GM said Tuesday that it hopes for "an agreement that builds a strong future for our employees and our business." The UAW, for its part, won overwhelming support from all three workforces to authorize a strike if necessary.

"We are ready to stand strong for our future," Jones said in a statement. "We are focused. We are prepared and we are all ready to stand up for our members, our communities and our manufacturing future." The list of unpredictables includes the limbo state of a revamped North American Free Trade Agreement, a burgeoning fight between California and the Trump administration over fuel economy rules, and the volatile, wild-card role of President Donald Trump, who has not been shy about

## Mexico's budget needs to balance weak growth, fiscal discipline

**MEXICO CITY:** The Mexican government's highly-anticipated 2020 budget will have to strike a careful balance, weighing the realities of slowing economic growth and dwindling resource generation with commitments to fiscal discipline. Market watchers, credit ratings agencies and investors will pour over the budget proposal when Finance Ministry officials present it to the Lower House of Congress on Sunday evening for guidance on President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's spending priorities for Latin America's second largest economy.

Finance Minister Arturo Herrera said on Wednesday the budget package will be "extraordinarily responsible," while the central bank has underlined the importance that it must "generate confidence." Lopez Obrador has promised another austere spending plan with no new taxes or tax increases.

But the government has limited room to cut more fat from programs after it reduced funding for several ministries in order to centralize spending, fight public sector corruption and honor a campaign pledge to implement fiscal austerity in its first budget in December.

Mexico's hospitals, the immigration service and shelters for victims of domestic violence were among the services hit by the steep budget cuts. "We have to recognize that we have a serious income problem, we have the decision and commitment of maintaining a surplus, of fulfilling the financial obligations of the Mexican state," said Alfonso Ramirez Cuellar, who chairs the budget committee in the Lower House.

Falling oil production and prices, as well declining resources from income and value-added taxes as Mexico's economy barely escaped entering a recession, have meant lower government resources, said Ramirez Cuellar, who is also a member of Lopez Obrador's leftist National Regeneration Movement.

He said the government's spending priorities next year will include the key energy sector, health, education and beefing up the National Guard, a new security force created by Lopez Obrador to bring down record homicide rates. Security Minister Alfonso Durazo said he expected the budget to set aside 56 billion pesos (\$2.87 billion) for the National Guard.

The National Guard has been tasked with helping to patrol Mexico's borders, a move meant to placate President Donald Trump's demands of stemming the flow of US-bound migrants.

Mexico has reduced the flow of undocumented migrants crossing the country toward the US border by 56% between May and August, Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said on Friday. Other spending priorities will likely include infrastructure projects such as a new refinery, the so-called Mayan Train project and transfers to state-owned oil company Pemex.

"All of the president's priority projects will be included in the budget and some will require more resources than this year," Eurasia Group analysts Carlos Petersen, Daniel Kerner and Ana Abad said in a research note. One of the most salient measures of Lopez Obrador's commitment to fiscal responsibility will be the primary fiscal surplus targeted for next year. In order to keep markets happy the primary fiscal surplus needs to be above 0.5 percent of GDP, since going below that "would signal a weakening commitment to fiscal discipline," according to Alberto Ramos, head of Latin American research at Goldman Sachs in New York. — Reuters



Arturo Herrera

## UAW scandal, weakening car sales mean tough contract talks

**NEW YORK:** Detroit carmakers and the United Auto Workers faced a challenging backdrop to contract talks even before prosecutors escalated a corruption probe of the union in recent days. Uncertainties surrounding US trade policy and fuel economy rules have clouded the industry's outlook for months, while residual anger over plant closures has deepened worker suspicions of management as the US economy shows signs of slowing.

But rank-and-file workers-who must ratify any contract agreement-are also feeling skeptical of union management. On August 28, less than three weeks before the four-year UAW contract with General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) expires, the FBI raided the home of UAW President Gary Jones.

Then on Wednesday, former union official Michael Grimes pleaded guilty to charges of taking bribes from vendors connected to a training fund, the ninth guilty plea in the long-running US criminal investigation. The scandal has boosted the already elevated odds of a strike, labor experts say. "It makes it much more difficult to get it ratified," said Arthur Wheaton, an expert in industrial labor relations at Cornell University, who thinks the odds of a strike are especially high at GM and FCA.

### Strike is authorized

Talks began in July to replace a four-year contract that

## Business

## KAMCO GCC Banking Sector Report

# GCC banking sector's total assets grow on higher interest income

Conventional banks grow at 2.3% rate, Islamic banks increase balance-sheet by 1.3%

KUWAIT: The GCC banking sector recorded one of the biggest growth in total assets during Q2-19 that reached \$2.23 trillion. Sequential growth in assets during Q2-19 stood at 2.0 percent while the y-o-y growth was 6.4 percent, one of the highest over the past few quarters. The growth came primarily on the back of conventional banks that grew assets at 2.3 percent q-o-q while Islamic banks increased their balance sheet by 1.3 percent. The growth in earning assets was slightly lower at 1.3 percent to reach \$1.86 trillion indicating a relatively higher growth in non-earning assets. The q-o-q growth in net loans stood at 0.9 percent in Q2-19 and reached \$1.36 trillion after increasing at the more than double the pace during the previous quarter.

On the other hand, the growth in customer deposits was recorded at 2.3 percent q-o-q, the highest growth over the past eight quarters. As a result, the loan-to-deposit ratio reached 80.4 percent, one of the lowest over the last nine quarters and continued to remain well below international standards. The lower ratio shows underutilization of funds but at the same time indicates the extra capacity of GCC banks to fund future projects in the region and support the growth in private sector, especially the non-oil sector.

In terms of profitability, net interest income saw a marginal growth of 0.6 percent q-o-q to reach \$14.3 billion during Q2-19 after witnessing marginal decline during Q1-19. On the other hand, non-interest income remained flat at \$6.0 billion q-o-q resulting in a total bank revenue of \$20.3 billion during Q2-19, a q-o-q growth of 0.5 percent. The relatively higher growth in earning assets as compared to net interest income resulted in a marginal decline in NIM from 3.16 percent in Q1-19 to 3.13 percent in Q2-19. In terms of operating expenses, cost optimization efforts by regional banks resulted in improved cost-to-income ratio that reached 37.1 percent, one of the lowest levels recorded for GCC banks. Nevertheless, an increase in provisions during the quarter resulted in a 5.1 percent q-o-q decline in net income, while y-o-y growth stood at a marginal 1.2 percent during Q2-19. The increase in provisions was primarily as a result of higher impairment charge reported by Saudi Arabian banks.

Saudi Arabia reported the highest NIM in the GCC at 3.7 percent as the Kingdom has shown consistent improvement in this key banking profitability ratio over the last ten quarters. The Kingdom has tightly aligned its key rate policy in line with US rates in order to maintain currency pegs. As a result of this, the increase in rates the US since last year were passed on by the Saudi central bank resulting in higher NIM.

This report analyzes financials reported by 62 listed banks in the GCC for Q2-19. The individual banking data has been aggregated to the country level as there are minimal differences in the countries' regulatory and supervisory environment. We believe that the charts and tables adequately capture the nature and structure of the individual countries' financial systems, their supervision and their monetary operations. Some of the

key observations from the most recent financial for the GCC Banking Sector includes the following:

#### Total assets: UAE continues to lead

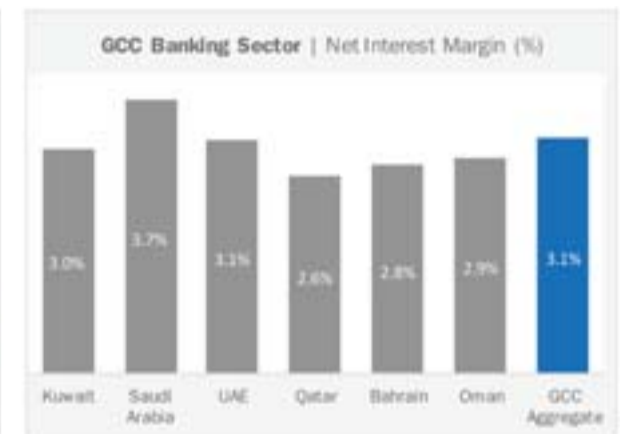
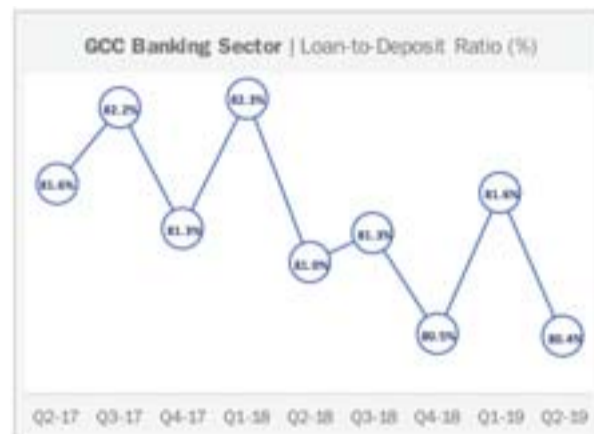
Total assets growth remained positive across the GCC resulting in one of the biggest quarterly growth during Q2-19. On the individual country front, UAE continues to boast the biggest share of total listed bank assets in the GCC recorded at \$710 billion or 31.8 percent of the total GCC banking assets. UAE banks also recorded the biggest q-o-q asset growth of 2.9 percent in the GCC. The asset growth in UAE was also aided by the merger of privately held Al-Hilal Bank with ADCB and UNB bringing in its assets in the listed banks space. Saudi Arabia followed after UAE with total assets of \$622 billion or 27.2 percent of the GCC at the end of Q2-19 after recording a q-o-q growth of 2.5 percent. Among the listed banks in the Kingdom, only Banque Saudi Fransi reported a decline in assets during the quarter by 1.8 percent, whereas the remaining ten banks reported growth.

#### Loan-to-deposit ratio

The pace of growth in net loans declined to 0.9 percent in Q2-19. Banks in Oman, which reported the biggest sequential lending growth in Q1-19, posted the biggest drop in Q2-19 by 10.2 percent q-o-q. Four out of eight listed banks in Oman reported decline in lending with Bank Sohar (Sohar International) and Bank Nizwa reporting the biggest q-o-q drop. Net loans growth was the strongest in Bahrain at 2.5 percent followed by UAE and Kuwait at 2.1 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively. In terms of individual banks, 20 out of the 62 listed banks in the GCC reported a decline in net loans during the quarter. In UAE, National Bank of Fujairah reported the biggest growth in loans at 6.6 percent while bigger banks FAB and ADCB reported growth rates of 4 percent (adjusted) and 2.7 percent, respectively. ENBD's net loans were flat at \$91.2 billion.

Meanwhile, in Kuwait, only KFH reported a decline in net loans by 1 percent, whereas smaller banks outperformed with Warba Bank growing its loan portfolio by 10 percent and KIB adding 6.5 percent during the quarter. NBK's loan growth was marginal at 1.4 percent. GCC listed bank's customer deposits growth remained positive across the board. As a result, the growth was the fastest in the last ten quarters at 2.3 percent, as compared to a growth of 0.6 percent in the previous quarter, to reach \$1.68 trillion. Saudi Arabian banks reported the biggest increase in deposits at 3.3 percent followed by UAE and Kuwait at 2.8 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively, while Qatari banks posted the slowest growth of 0.4 percent. All banks in Saudi Arabia, barring Banque Saudi Fransi, reported sequential growth in customer deposits during the quarter.

Alinma Bank reported the biggest growth in customer deposits at 8.9 percent followed by Bank Aljazira at 5.7 percent. NCB customer deposit growth was at a decent 4.3 percent q-o-q. In UAE, FAB reported the



biggest growth in customer deposits adding 6.4 percent during the quarter to reach \$105.4 billion.

The net effect of a faster growth in customer deposits relative to net loans for the GCC banks resulted in a decline in the loan-to-deposit ratio. Bahrain reported the lowest loan-to-deposit ratio during the quarter that went below the 70 percent mark to reach 69 percent followed by Kuwait at 73.1 percent. On the other hand, Omani banks reported the highest ratio of 97.4 percent followed by Qatari banks at 90.4 percent during Q2-19.

#### Total bank revenue

Revenue for listed GCC banks reached \$20.3 billion in Q2-19 primarily on the back of higher net interest income while non-interest income remained almost flat at \$6.0 billion. Net interest income growth was strongest in Qatar which recorded a q-o-q growth of 2.8 percent whereas most other countries recorded marginal growth. The aggregate for the Omani banks saw a decline of 1.0 percent during the quarter.

In Qatar, four out of the eight banks recorded a decline in net interest income during the quarter, however, QNB's 4.3 percent q-o-q growth further supported by 9.7 percent and 5.9 percent growth reported by CBQ and KHCB, respectively, more than offset the decline in aggregate net interest income during the quarter. Saudi Arabian banks reported flat net interest income as compared to the previous quarter after a decline in net interest income for SAMBA, SABB and Saudi Investment Bank were completely offset by higher net interest income reported by other banks in the Kingdom. The performance of banks in UAE were also mixed as growth in net interest income reported by FAB (+6 percent), Emirates Islamic Bank (+5.3 percent) and Commercial Bank of Dubai (+2.9 percent) was partially offset by declines reported primarily by ADCB (adjusted) and NBO.

#### Net interest margin

After remaining stable for three consecutive quarters at 3.2 percent, NIM for the GCC listed banks

declined marginally during Q2-19 and averaged at 3.1 percent. The decline came primarily on the back of higher earning assets that more than offset higher interest income led by higher average interest rates in the GCC. Saudi Arabia has consistently grown its NIMs over the past several quarters on the back of rising interest rates. The Kingdom reported the highest NIM in the region at 3.7 percent followed by UAE and Kuwait at 3.1 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively.

Qatar reported the smallest NIM during the quarter that stood at 2.6 percent. Out of the six regions, only Saudi Arabian and Omani banks reported q-o-q growth in NIM during Q2-19.

#### Cost-to-income ratio

Continued cost efficiency improvement measures implemented by GCC banks has resulted in a visible improvement in the sector's cost-to-income ratio. The ratio has consistently declined over the past several quarters for the aggregate GCC banking sector and stood at 37.1 percent during Q2-19 for the GCC. Qatar has consistently reported the most cost efficient model with a cost-to-income ratio of 31.4 percent during Q2-19 vs. 31.5 percent in Q1-19 and 34.1 percent in Q2-18. The impact of scale was clearly visible with smaller banks in Bahrain and Oman reporting a significantly higher cost-to-income ratio of 48.2 percent and 47.4 percent, respectively.

#### Loan loss provision

Quarterly loan loss provision (LLP) witnessed a steep surge in the aggregate GCC banking sector reaching \$3.1 billion during Q2-19 as compared to \$2.4 billion during Q1-19. LLP increased across the board for all the GCC markets with Saudi Arabia witnessing the biggest increase in the GCC of 115 percent q-o-q to reach \$1.2 billion during Q2-19. In Saudi Arabia, almost all the banks witnessed double digit growth in LLP barring Bank Aljazira that reported a q-o-q decline. Kuwaiti banks reported the second biggest increase in quarterly LLP during Q2-19 that surged 21.2 percent.

## Wall Street Week Ahead

## Another recent inversion could provide support for stocks

NEW YORK: A decline in interest rates on long-term US government bonds below the average stock dividend yield has received less attention than an inverted Treasury yield curve, but it could be a reason stocks find support after a bruising August.

After the S&P 500 suffered its first monthly drop since May, in part because the Treasury curve inversion is seen by many as a harbinger of recession, equities have gotten off to a solid start in September, historically their worst month of the year. The uncommon Treasury bond/dividend yield inversion is providing a level of support. US Treasury yields have fallen in step with a global bond market rally as the trade war between China and the United States has kept recession fears on the horizon. Negative yields on government debt in countries such as Germany and Japan have also helped to depress those on US Treasuries.

While yields on intermediate-term Treasuries have been below the S&P 500's dividend yield for several months, the long-term 30-year yield inverted at the end of August, the first time since March 2009 when stocks bottomed to mark the start of the current bull run. "Whether it is the Federal Reserve signaling more cuts in the future or just in general this rally in the bond market, overall lower rates - you would think - put some sort of floor on the market as well," said Mark Kepner, equity trader at Themis Trading in Chatham, New Jersey.

"It's pretty clear that the \$17 trillion in negative-yielding bonds have been a black hole that sucks yields lower and lower in the US," said Don Ellenberger, head of multi-sector strategies at Federated Investors in Pittsburgh. With the dividend yield for the S&P 500 now above that of the 30-year, investors may look to stocks with high dividends for income.

After dropping 1.8 percent in August, the S&P has gotten off to a fast start in September to completely erase that decline, in part due to gains in sectors such as energy and consumer discretionary that contain stocks with high dividend yields. "There's a complete disconnect between the stock and bond markets," said Terri Spath, chief investment officer at Sierra Mutual Funds in Los Angeles. "Some people are buying stocks for their dividends and bonds for capital appreciation."

With each of the three major Wall Street indexes coming off monthly declines in August, investors may be tempted to look elsewhere in the short-term as September has been the worst-performing month for each since 1950, according to the Stock Trader's Almanac. The S&P has averaged a monthly decline of 0.5 percent and the Dow Industrials a 0.7 percent fall in the last month of the third quarter over that time. But the higher dividend yields compared with government bonds could provide some



NEW YORK: After dropping 1.8 percent in August, the S&P has gotten off to a fast start in September to completely erase that decline, in part due to gains in sectors such as energy and consumer discretionary that contain stocks with high dividend yields. — AFP

incentive for stocks. Data from Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research in New York, shows that there have been 31 instances since World War II when the S&P dividend yield exceeded that of the 10-year note. The benchmark index was higher a year later by an average of 22 percent, gaining in price 74 percent of the time.

Over the same time period, Stovall found 20 occurrences of the yield on the S&P topping that of the 30-year Treasury. In the following year, the index had risen by an average of 12 percent while climbing 80 percent of the time. "At some point an absolute thing kicks in and you go 'Well, where am I going to get my income from?' and the income-producing stocks, the yielding stocks are an attractive place to go," said Thomas Martin, senior portfolio manager at Global Investments in Atlanta, Georgia.

Of S&P 500 components, 310 held a dividend yield above that of the 10-year note, while 333 stocks' yields were above the 5-year and 253 had yields higher than that of the 30-year bond through Wednesday's close. Recent inversions along the yield curve have triggered worries about an economic slowdown, as they have preceded each recession since 1970.

Should a recession take place, stocks will decline and companies could also begin to cut dividends in an effort to conserve cash, further denting their attractiveness to investors.

"If in fact Treasury yields are forecasting a recession, then you'd prefer to own Treasuries at lower yields because equities are likely to sell off," said Erik Knutzen, CIO of Multi Asset Class at Neuberger Berman in New York. However, a recent note from Bank of America-Merrill Lynch Global Research's Savita Subramanian recommended investors stick with stocks over bonds over both the short and long-term, in part due to their dividend yield and relative cheapness over bonds, while also noting fewer than half of their bear market signals have been triggered.

"For long-term investors, valuations suggest 6 percent annual returns: add 2 percent for dividends and this beats most fixed income offerings," said Subramanian. — Reuters

## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

#### The lucky winners are:

1. Nadia Ramadan Bawee
2. Hussain Mohammad Mirza Dashti
3. Ali Abdulrahman Mohammad Alsalem
4. Zahid Zoebhai Kalolwala

## Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma draws

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank conducted the weekly draws on Al-Najma Account and "Salary and Cash on Top" campaign. The draws were conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

#### The results of the draw were as follows:

- 1- Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 was for the share of Ahmed Jaber Al-Shalti.
- 2- The "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign" prize of KD 1,000 was for the share of Husam Sami Al-Wattar.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the largest prize - linked bank account payout of KD 1,500,000. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will

#### 5. Mohammad Reyath Haji Kali Khan

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning.

If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

As regarding "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees as well as the retirees and which is valid until 31 December 2019 and the mechanism of joining this campaign for availing its benefits, the bank explained that Kuwaiti employees with a salary of KD 500 and above whether newly recruited or in service can transfer their salary to the bank and avail the benefits of this campaign by getting instant cash gift of KD 250 or an interest free loan five times the salary up to KD 10,000, add to this they will automatically enter the weekly draw on KD 1,000. As for the expatriate customers categorized under Premier Banking Account with a salary of KD 1,700 and above, they will get instant cash gift.

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

What's On

# Suad Al-Sabah House announces literary competition winners



جائزة د. سعاد الصباح لأفضل بحث في مستوى الماجستير ٢٠١٩



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BISHNEEN HUDA. K.C  
RUA College, Farook

JASEENA. AM  
Govt. College, Kasaragod

The Suad al-Sabah House for publishing and distribution announced that the awards donated by Dr Suad Al-Sabah would be distributed to winners of the new literary competition held in collaboration with Farook College, Kerala, India in the beginning of this year in India from September 23-25. Notably, the competition had been launched in India at the beginning of 2019 with the aim of global growth following its over thirty years in the Arab world and spreading Arabic literature and language on a wider scale.

The new competitions includes researches done at Farook College in Arabic poetry, oratory and Master's degree with the conditions that participating poets be from Kerala, older than 18 and write Arabic poetry. In this regard, assistant professor at the Arabic Language department, Farook college and the award coordinator, Dr Abbas K P said that participants have shown a great deal of enthusiasm and joy in taking part and stressed that such competitions have a great impact on spreading Arabic language sciences in India.



## The Sunshine Kindergarten open day 2019

The first day of a new academic year is always an exciting and possibly anxious occasion for parents and their children. To help make the transition from home to school life as smooth as possible, Miss Heather (TSK Principal) and her team at The Sunshine Kindergarten (TSK) in Salwa, held a parents information evening followed by an open day on September 3, 2019.

During the open day, parents and children from creche to KG were able to explore the school, meet their class teachers and then spend time sampling the exciting activities that would be on offer during the school day. This was a valuable opportunity for parents and their children and proven to help settle the children into school life at TSK.

Young children learn best in an environment that promotes active learning. Their surroundings should make them feel safe, secure and give them the confidence to experiment with new ideas and resources. All age appropriate activities should be planned carefully and thoughtfully by experienced, motivated and well-trained teachers,

with the focus being on promoting independence, social skills, confidence building, interaction, stimulation and challenge.

They have now completed their first week of school and are looking forward to another successful academic year. The personalized learning each child receives and the special relationship the teachers and assistants have with parents is what makes TSK a popular choice and a very special nursery indeed. Miss Heather would like to say a special 'thank you' to all the TSK parents and family members for their support. The first week went very smoothly and the children are settling in very well.



## NOTICE

TES Center cordially invites you to Tafseer class (Divine Wisdom from the Last Testament) today at 7 pm. In this class we will focus on verse 9 of Surat Al-Hashr (The Gathering). We will discuss the first things Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did upon his arrival in Medina, their impact on the community, and how he was able to unite the two belligerent tribes there, and its effects. We will also examine how the inhabitants of Medina treated the emigrants from Makkah, and learn the factors and characteristics of a healthy society. We will also see how Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to distribute the spoils (of war) and how his fair distribution impacted the people of Medina, and played a big role in improving the economy there. We will deduce a lot of lessons from that verse.



## The Lighthouse Church to hold Annual Ministry Fair

The Lighthouse Church (TLC) welcomes you for its Annual Ministry Fair and celebration of all English worship services. Visit our 30+ exhibits and children's program on September 13, 2019 at the Divvan Hall, Kuwait City. Parking is available on site.

Breakfast 7:30 - 8:45 am  
Ministry Exhibits 8:00 - 8:45 am  
Worship Service 9:00 - 11:00 am  
Ministry Exhibits 11:00 - 12 noon

## Malabar Gold & Diamonds celebrates Teachers Day

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 250 outlets celebrated Indian Teachers Day in association with Indian Community School, Khaitan on September 5, 2019. In India, September 5, is celebrated as Teachers' Day as a mark of tribute to the contribution made by teachers to the society and it is the birth anniversary of a great teacher Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was a staunch believer of education and was a well-known diplomat, scholar, the President of India and above all, a teacher.

Teachers Day is dedicated to teachers and acknowledges their contribution in shaping one's life. The day holds great importance for students and teachers, and is

marked with different programs planned for teachers in schools and colleges. Students perform skits, and even perform for their mentors. The objective is to remember and remind the crucial role teachers' play in molding students' life and careers.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has taken the initiative to celebrate the Indian Teachers Day as a token appreciation to the teachers for their dedicated contribution. Commenting on the celebration, Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds said, "Teachers Day is a special and important day. It is a day for us all to honor the tireless efforts of our Teachers. Teachers are also the guides who play an important role in transforming a student into a responsible citizen. We thank Indian Community School for associating with us to celebrate the Indian Teachers Day." Cake cutting ceremony along with some fun games has been arranged as a part of the event. "We thank Malabar Gold & Diamonds for their gesture towards us & also celebrating 'Indian Teachers Day' with us and it was indeed a new experience for all of us here," said K Gangadhar Shirsath, Indian Community School, Khaitan Principal during the event.



Health & Science

# In Greenland village, shorter winters cast doubts over dog sledding

## Climate change alters sea ice patterns, detrimental to dog sledding

**KULUSUK, Denmark:** Tethered between pastel-colored wooden houses in the Greenlandic village of Kulusuk and on hills nearby, the island's famous sled dogs wait through the summer for the ice to form so their hunting season can begin. Greenlanders prize the dogs for their endurance, using them to pull their sleds to hunt seals, whales and polar bears in the winter months when temperatures can drop to minus 35 degrees Celsius.

But as the ice that covers 85 percent of Greenland melts and its winters grow unpredictable, climate change is casting a shadow over the much loved tradition in Denmark's autonomous territory. "The ice is changing," says Moses Bajare, a 59-year-old musher from the village. Snowmobiles are not used to hunt in east Greenland as hunting from boats has long been seen as an easier way to track seals and whales in these parts of the North Atlantic.

In winter, when the sea ice freezes, Bajare's team of 12 dogs pulls his wooden sled out to the edge of the sea ice. From there, he kayaks out with a rifle to hunt seals. But, he says, in the 35 years he has kept dogs, sea ice patterns have become less predictable. The ice used to be thick enough to sled on from February until June or July. Now, it's freezing

later and thinning earlier, and the areas where it's safe to sled vary frequently. Sledding is a way to get back to nature, says Bajare. "When I have a problem, with the family, or life, I go with the dogs into nature. "And in a day, two days, when I come back, it's gone," he says, his face covered by a mosquito net as he cleans his dogs' enclosure on a rocky outcrop outside the village.

### What nature provides

The dogs loll about Bajare, cleaning their distinctive woolly coats and wagging their curled tails under the mild summer sun. Like most of the village's 250 inhabitants, Bajare is Inuit, an indigenous people who make up some 90 percent of Greenland's population. Known for adapting to their surroundings, the Inuit have always made do with what nature provides in these harsh conditions, hunting animals for food, clothing, fuel and to build tools.

A small museum in Kulusuk village displays tools made from bone, a kayak built from driftwood and clothing made from sealskin, showing how the hunters have continually refined these items to adapt to their changing needs. For centuries, hunters like Bajare have sledded with Greenland dogs, a distinct breed similar to Alaskan huskies.

### Losing part of our culture

With the Arctic region warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet, Bajare's worries are not unique to Kulusuk's dozen or so mushers: 79 percent of the island's population think local sea ice has become more dangerous to travel on in recent years. And according to a Greenlandic Perspectives survey, carried out by the universities of Copenhagen and Greenland, some 67 percent say they think climate change will be detrimental to dog sledding. Kunuk Abelsen is a young hunter from the village, with 22 dogs. He keeps some on a rocky island across the fjord from the village during the summer, and as he steers his boat over to them on this August afternoon, they bay and howl to welcome him. He points out the pack leader, Han Solo, a stocky dog with a light coat, sitting away from the other dogs, and his rival, a younger male named Cristiano. For him, the dogs are an invaluable source of recreation.

"We don't have football fields, we don't have swimming pools. You can go to nature far away," he says, pushing his tinted glasses up his face. "If we stop using them, we're losing a huge part of our culture."

### Adapting to change

Like other mushers, Abelsen also earns



**KULUSUK, Denmark:** Kunuk Abelsen, a 27-years-old Greenlandic musher with his dogs kept on an island near Kulusuk, a settlement in the Sermersooq municipality located on the island of the same name on the southeastern shore of Greenland. — AFP

money taking tourists out for sled rides on the snow on Kulusuk island. At up to 1,000 Danish kroner, the rides help cover the cost of

feeding the dogs in summer. But Abelsen says he's beginning to wonder if it's still worth having the animals. —AFP

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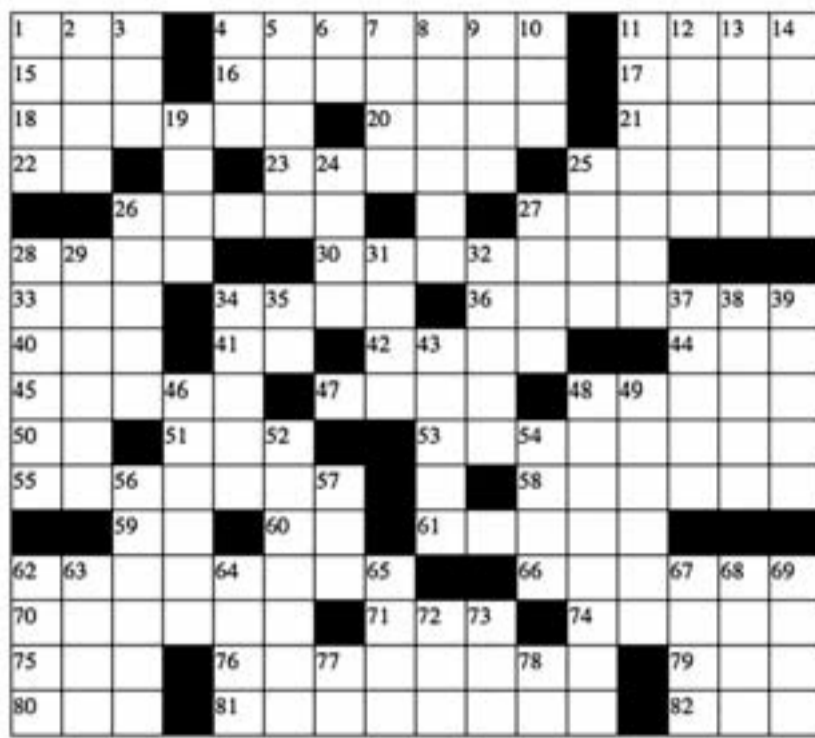
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ACROSS

- 1. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
4. Trade name for a drug containing an anti-histamine and a decongestant.
11. (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
15. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
16. A secret society in Naples notorious for violence and blackmail.
17. Large gregarious predatory feline of Africa and India having a lawn coat with a shaggy mane in the male.
18. The capital of Croatia.
20. A light clear metallic sound as of a small bell.
21. (Greek mythology) The Titaness who was mother of Helios and Selene and Eos in ancient mythology.
22. A public promotion of some product or service.
23. Lower in esteem.
28. A tall perennial woody plant having a main trunk and branches forming a distinct elevated crown.
30. A member of one of the four divisions of the prehistoric Greeks.
33. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
36. Overly concerned with masculinity and male sexuality.
40. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
41. A Russian river.
42. Moving quickly and lightly.
44. Gone by.
45. Found along western Atlantic coast.
47. Being two more than ninety.
50. Before noon.
51. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
53. Type genus of the family Plantaginaceae.
55. Any of various volatile flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixtures.
58. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
59. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
60. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
61. English actress (1847-1928).
62. Not used in all classifications.
66. (used informally) Completely unclothed.
70. The basic unit of money in Macao.
71. A long projecting or anterior elongation of an animal's head.
74. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
75. A statement that deviates from or perverts the truth.
76. Capital and largest city of Yugoslavia.
79. A master's degree in education.
80. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
81. A great raja.
82. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

DOWN

- 1. An ancient Egyptian city on the west bank of the Nile opposite Cairo.
2. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
3. A flexible container with a single opening.
4. (informal) Of the highest quality.
5. A clique that seeks power usually through intrigue.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Ideals or a sense of belonging to something bigger than the merely personal becomes a greater focus in your life at this time. You may attach more importance to taking part in group activities that center on idealistic goals.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Lovers, children and other people dear to your heart are emphasized at this time. You may be surprised when so many people come up to you with expressions of gratefulness.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You will find yourself spending most of this day in cleaning and rearranging your living area. There could be a discussion about some new piece of furniture for your home.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There is an instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of yourself at many levels. Preparation and the wise management of your time are very important now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are able to organize an unorganized group in positive ways. If a person is unruly, you know just how to handle most disruptions.



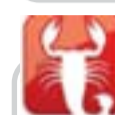
Virgo (August 23-September 22)

In a group project, you are inclined to lead and teach. Be gentle in evaluating the little shortcomings of others. Exercise your good listening skills.



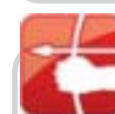
Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are inspired and may find yourself decorating and preparing for the busy days ahead. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to have others help and add a bit of their own personality to the project of decoration.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Meditation is particularly rewarding this morning—perhaps a sunrise has caught your attention. Take a deep breath and allow the natural balance within your mind and heart to be absorbed.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are future-oriented. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most adaptable. Your friends want to plan your afternoon but your family may have other ideas.



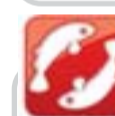
Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Someone you care about—a child or lover, perhaps—may be a cause for concern this day. Self-control and setting limits are important in love and other games of chance.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Phone calls and family discussions about the busy days ahead can be put aside by the end of this morning. Before the noon hour there will be time to dream.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A child or lover may be rebellious or perhaps simply ahead of his or her time. Take the time to talk with this person in order to understand more about his or her goals.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Deserts of the World

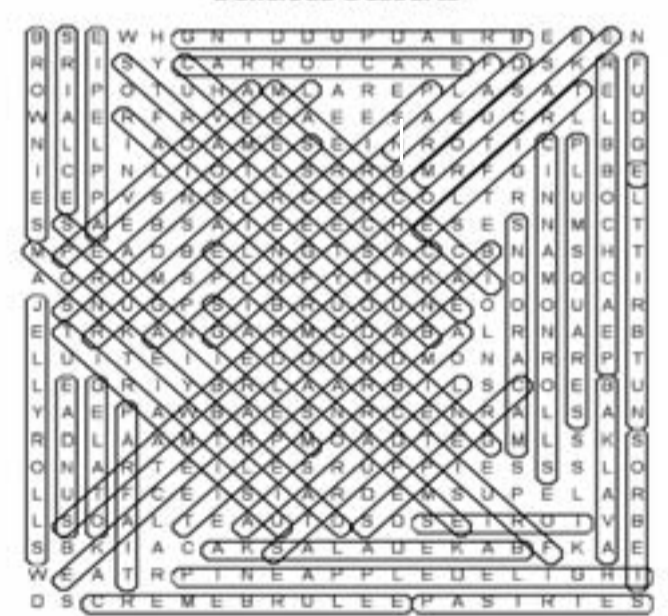
Find and circle all of the deserts that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- ARABIAN, ARCTIC, ATACAMA, ATLANTIC COASTAL, BAYUDA, BLACK ROCK, BLUE, CHARLES, CHIHUAHUA, COLORADO, DANAKIL, DEATH VALLEY, DJURAB, EMPTY QUARTER, ERITREAN COASTAL, GIBSON, GOBI, GRAND BARA, GREAT BASIN, GREATSANDY, GREAT VICTORIA, GULBANI, INGUS VALLEY, JALAPAO, JUDAEAN, KALAHARI, KARAKUM, KHARAKS, KYZYLKUM, LAGUAJIRA, LIBYAN, HARAANJAB, HOJAVE, MONTE, NAMIB, NEFUD, NEEVEY, NORTH AMERICAN, NUBIAN, NYRBE, OGADEEN, OLESHKY, ORODOS, PATAGONIAN, RAJLAT, RANGIBO, RUSSIAN, SAHARA, SECHURA, SIMPSON, SINAI, SONORAN, TABERNAS, TAKLHAKHAN, TANJANI, TENERE, THOMPSON PLATEAU, VANDER SANDS, WHITE.

Yesterday's Solution

Delicious Desserts



- AMBROSIA, APPLE CRISP, BAKED ALASKA, BAKLAVA, BANANA SPLIT, BREAD PUDDING, BROWNIES, BUTTER TARTS, CARROT CAKE, CHEESE CAKE, CHOCOLATE CAKE, CINNAMON ROLLS, CREME BRULEE, CREPES, ECLAIRES, EMPANADAS, FLAN, FRUIT CRUMBLE, FUDGE, GELATO, GINGERBREAD, ICE CREAM, JELLY ROLLS, LEMON BARS, MACAROONS, MERINGUES, MONKEY BREAD, MOUSSE, NUT BRITTLE, PAFAIT, PASTRIES, PAVLOVA, PEACH COBBLER, PINEAPPLE DELIGHT, PLUM SQUARES, RAISIN PUDDING, RUM BALLS, SORBET, STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE, STRUDEL, SURGEM, TRAMISU, TORTES, TRIFLE.

The hidden message is: WHEN YOU ARE FEELING STRESSED, A SOLUTION IS "STRESSED" SPELLED BACKWARDS.

Daily Sudoku

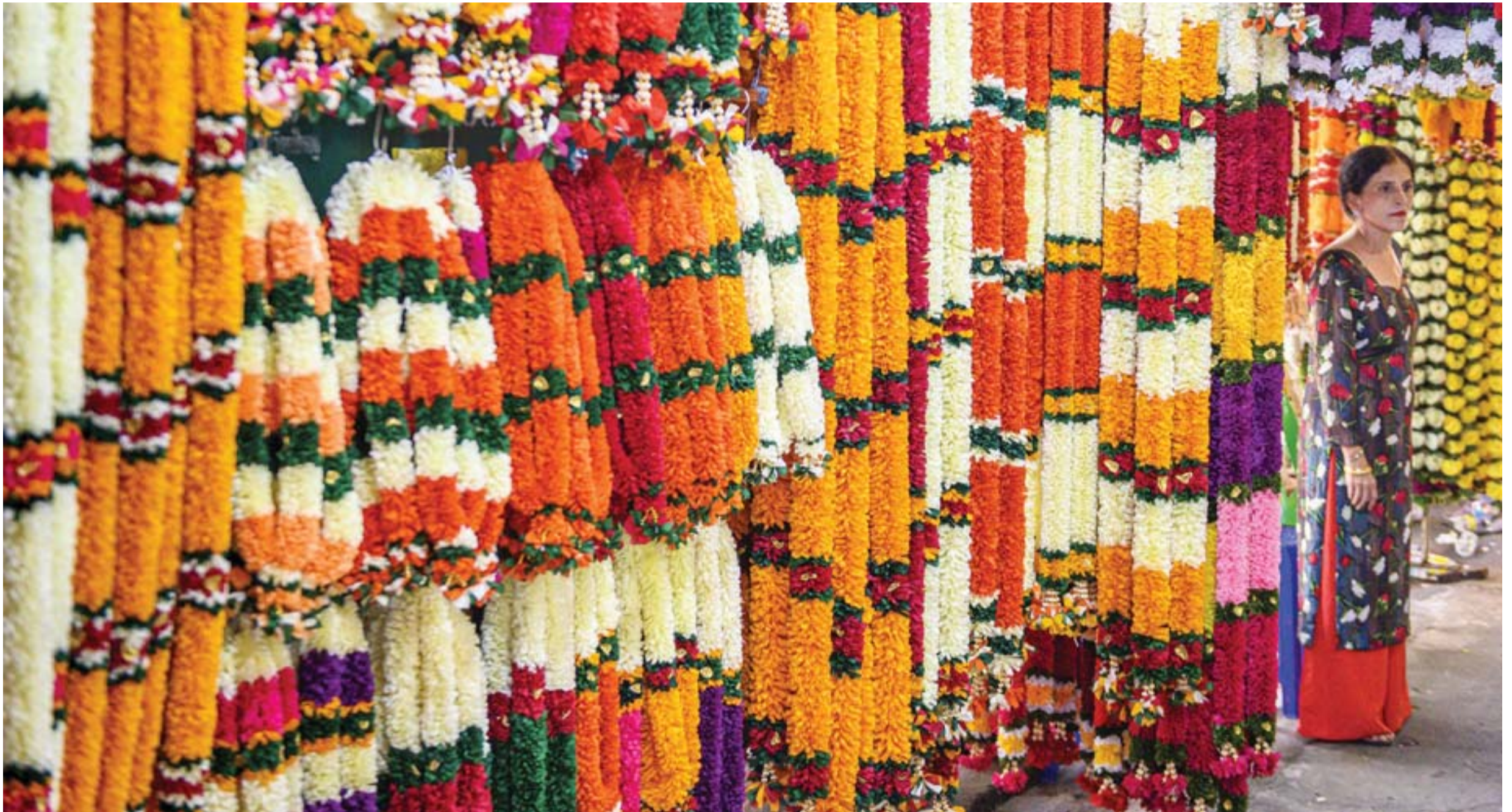


Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019



A vendor sells flower garlands for temple offerings in Bangkok's Phahurat Market, also known as Little India, yesterday. — AFP



This picture shows the Okura Prestige wing of Okura Hotel in Tokyo during a press preview ahead of its re-opening. — AFP photos



Employees walk outside the Okura Prestige wing of the Okura Hotel in Tokyo.

## Tokyo's famed *Okura hotel* gets Olympic makeover

Tokyo's famous Okura Hotel, which has hosted US presidents, British royalty and even fictional superspy James Bond, offered a peek at its rebuilt interior Friday as it prepares for its grand re-opening. The beloved hotel was torn down in 2015 despite a passionate campaign to preserve it and is poised to open again next week after an extensive modernization and renovation just in time for the 2020 Olympics. Located on a hill in central Tokyo just across from the US embassy, the hotel has welcomed American leaders Richard Nixon and Barack Obama, as well as Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana.



Employees stand at the entrance of a Japanese restaurant in the Okura Heritage wing of the Okura Hotel in Tokyo.

It was the obvious choice of lodgings for 007 while in Japan, as proved by Ian Fleming's novel "You Only Live Twice." Reporters were offered a

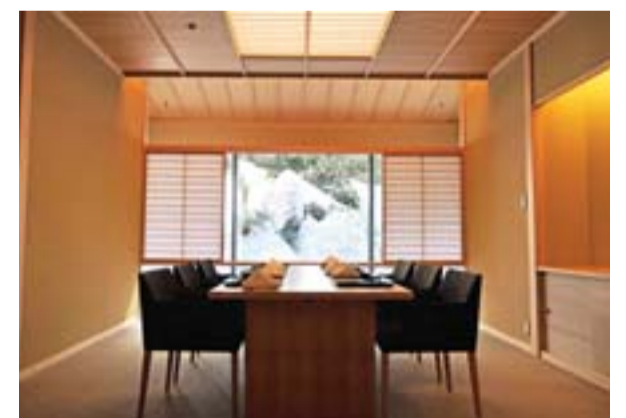
sneak preview ahead of the September 12 re-opening, revealing nods to the past in the lobby that will delight nostalgics in terms of the general style and parts of the furniture such as the famous hotel lanterns. But the rest has been revamped in a sober but modern fashion dominated by wood, aiming at foreigners who lap up the minimalist Japanese style.

The new Okura Hotel is housed in two towers (75 meters and 188 meters tall) and will consist of 508 luxury rooms, banquet halls, conference rooms, shops, restaurants, luxury bars, as well as a spa and fitness club. It will also host the Okura Art Museum, founded in 1917 as Japan's first private art museum. The original Hotel Okura was opened in 1962, two years before the first Tokyo Olympics, and was a symbol of the affluent country's post-war coming-out party. Its demolition sparked a flurry of petitions from at home and abroad from those arguing it represented a priceless part of Japan's culture.

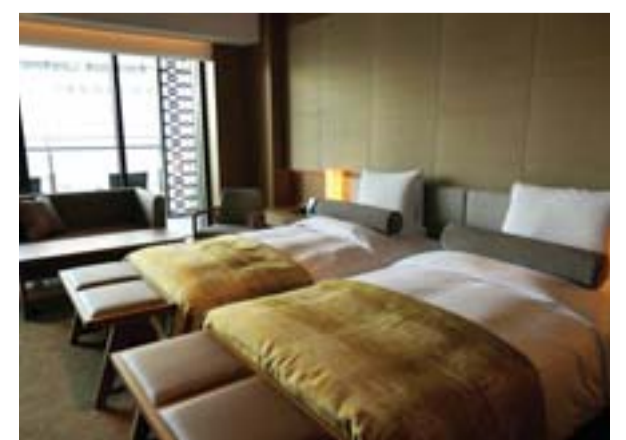
However, its owners believed that the 60s-era modernist masterpiece, which had delighted high-rollers for decades, no longer catered for discerning guests used to modern five-star hospitality. When it closed, the hotel auctioned off memorabilia and furniture, with the proceeds going to a charity promoting music and art in areas of north-eastern Japan hit by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster. — AFP



This picture shows a suite in the Okura Heritage wing of the Okura Hotel in Tokyo.



This picture shows a suite in the Okura Heritage wing of the Okura Hotel in Tokyo.



This picture shows a suite in the Okura Heritage wing of the Okura Hotel in Tokyo.



Chef poses at a Japanese restaurant in the Okura Heritage wing of the Okura Hotel in Tokyo.



US director Todd Phillips (second right), flanked by US actor Joaquin Phoenix (right) and President of the Venice Biennale Paolo Baratta, holds the Golden Lion award for Best Film he received for the movie 'Joker' during the awards ceremony of the 76th Venice Film Festival. — AFP photos



US director Todd Phillips (right), flanked by US actor Joaquin Phoenix, holds the Golden Lion award for Best Film he received for the movie 'Joker' during the awards ceremony winners photocall of the 76th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP photos

## 'JOKER', POLANSKI WIN TOP PRIZES AT VENICE FILM FESTIVAL



French actress Emmanuelle Seigner, flanked by French producer Alain Goldman (left) and Italian producer Luca Barbareschi, holds on behalf of Polish French director Roman Polanski the Silver Lion award - Grand Jury Prize he received for the film 'J'Accuse' during the awards ceremony of the 76th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP



French screenwriter Jessica Palud holds the Orizzonti Award for Best Screenplay she received along with French screenwriter Philippe Lioret for "Diasteme".



Spanish director Theo Court holds the Orizzonti award for Best Director he received for the film "Blanco en Blanco".



Swedish producer Johan Carlsson holds on behalf of Swedish director Roy Andersson the Silver Lion award for Best Director he received for the movie 'About Endlessness'.



Director Celine Tricart holds the Best VR Venice Virtual reality award she received for "The Key".



Ukrainian director Valentyn Vasyanovych holds the Orizzonti award for Best Film he received for the film 'Atlantis'.



French Tunisian actor Sami Bouajila holds the Orizzonti Award for Best Actor he received for the film 'Un Fils' (Bik Eneich, A Son).



English singer, songwriter and actor Mick Jagger goes to see fans as he arrives for the screening of the film "The Burnt Orange Heresy".

**J**oker, a daring take on the comic book villain starring Joaquin Phoenix, won the Golden Lion for best film at the Venice film festival Saturday with Roman Polanski controversially taking second prize. It is the first superhero film ever to get this kind of arthouse kudos, and could now be on its way to Oscar glory. The last two Venice winners—"Roma" and "The Shape of Water"—have gone on to lift the best picture Academy Award.

US director Todd Phillips—best known up to now for the slapstick comedy "Very Bad Trip"—paid tribute to Phoenix's intense performance, saying he was "the fiercest, bravest and most open-minded lion that I know". "Thank you for trusting me with your insane talents," he said. The movie, which The Guardian had described as "one of the boldest Hollywood productions for some time", has already sparked a heated debate. And there were audible gasps when French-Polish director Polanski—a pariah in Hollywood after his rape conviction—was handed the Grand Prix second prize for his Dreyfus Affair drama, "An Officer and a Spy".

### 'Irresponsible propaganda?'

Within hours of the "Joker" premiere, some warned that Phoenix's full-throttle portrait of a needy, embittered clown who lives with his mother could empower incels (or involuntary celibates) — the angry, misogynist young men who have been blamed for so much far-right and white supremacist violence. Vanity Fair's Richard Lawson worried that it was "exhilarating in the most prurient of ways, a snuff film about the death of order, about the rot of a governing ethos".

He feared that it "may be irresponsible propaganda for the very men it pathologises". But most critics disagreed, with Variety's Owen Gleiberman saying Phoenix has remade Batman's arch-enemy as a "Method psycho, a troublemaker so intense in his cuckoo hostility that even as you're gawking at his violence, you still feel his pain".

Other reviews were equally ecstatic, and a sequel with Robert Pattinson playing the Joker's nemesis Batman is said to be in the offing. Phoenix reportedly lost more than 23 kilos (52 pounds) to play the part. Phillips defended his film saying the jury "understood what we were trying to say, and I hope that translates".

### Polanski wins second prize

But almost as many headlines are likely to be made by Polanski's win. Having spent most of his life as a fugitive from American justice, he was accused of drawing "obscene" parallels between himself and the persecuted French Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus, who was the victim of anti-semitism and a miscarriage of justice around the turn of the 20th century. Polanski, 86, has been shunned by the big studios for decades after he was convicted of drugging and raping a 13-year-old girl.

His inclusion in the main Venice competition, which included only two female directors, sparked fury from femi-

nists. The French-Polish auteur and Holocaust survivor did not show up at the festival, leaving his wife, French actress Emmanuelle Seigner—who also appears in the film—to pick up his prize to muted applause and a few isolated boos. She later told reporters that her husband was "very happy" with his win, saying the "film was very important to him". The head of the Venice jury, Argentinian director Lucrecia Martel, had boycotted a gala dinner for Polanski, only to be forced to clarify that she was not prejudiced against his film.



Italian actor Luca Marinelli holds the Coppa Volpi for Best Actor he received for the movie "Martin Eden".

### Jagger blasts Trump, Johnson

In a year fraught with controversy over sexual politics, festival director Alberto Barbera was also accused of being "tone deaf" for his inclusion of a Black Lives Matter drama by the American Nate Parker, who was embroiled in a rape trial while at university, as well as the director's cut of Gaspar Noe's 2002 rape shocker "Irreversible". Politics also dominated the awards ceremony with the best actor and actress winners—Italy's Luca Marinelli ("Martin Eden") and France's Ariane Ascaride ("Gloria Mundi") dedicating their awards to the migrants who "rest forever at the bottom of the Mediterranean sea".

Both films contained references to people fleeing poverty and persecution. Donald Sutherland, the star of the festival's closing film, "The Burnt Orange Heresy", had earlier appealed to reporters to support the migrants' cause. His co-star, Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger, made a rare foray into politics to attack US President Donald Trump for his rudeness, lies and tearing up environmental controls in the US. He also bewailed "the polarization and incivility in public life" in his native Britain, pointing the finger at its rookie prime minister, Boris Johnson. — AFP



Nigerian director Joel Kachi Benson holds the Venice Virtual reality award he received for "Daughters of Chibok".



Producer Rean Mazzone holds the Special Jury Prize award he received on behalf of Italian director Franco Maresco for the film "La mafia non e piu quella di una volta".



Argentinian director and Jury President of the 76th Venice Film Festival Lucrecia Martel (right) speaks as (from left) Mexican cinematographer and Jury member of the 76th Venice Film Festival Rodrigo Prieto, Canadian director and Jury member of the 76th Venice Film Festival Mary Harron, British actress and Jury member of the 76th Venice Film Festival Stacy Martin and Italian director and Jury member of the 76th Venice Film Festival Paolo Virzi look on during the awards ceremony of the 76th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido.



French actress Ariane Ascaride holds the Coppa Volpi for Best Actress she received for the film 'Gloria Mundi'.



Spanish actress Marta Nieto holds the Orizzonti Award for Best Actress she received for the film "Madre".



Filipino director Raymund Ribay Gutierrez holds the Orizzonti Special Jury Prize award he received for the film "Verdict".



Australian actor Toby Wallace holds the Marcello Mastroianni Award for Best Young Actor he received for the movie "Babyteeth".



Chinese director Yonfan holds the Award for Best Screenplay he received for the movie 'No.7 Cherry Lane'.



Brazilian director Ricardo Laganaro holds the Venice Virtual reality award he received for "A Linha".



Brazilian director Barbara Paz holds the Venice Classics Best documentary on cinema award for her film "Tell Me When I Die".



Canadian actor Donald Sutherland arrives for the screening of the film "The Burnt Orange Heresy".

## Winners

**Golden Lion:** Todd Phillips, dir. Joker  
**Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize:** An Officer and a Spy, dir: Roman Polanski  
**Silver Lion Best Director:** Roy Andersson, dir. About Endlessness  
**Volpi Cup for Best Actress:** Ariane Ascaride, Gloria Mundi  
**Volpi Cup for Best Actor:** Luca Marinelli, Martin Eden  
**Best Screenplay Award:** No. 7 Cherry Lane, dir. and written by: Yonfan  
**Special Jury Prize:** The Mafia is No Longer What it Used to Be, dir: Franco Maresco  
**Marcello Mastroianni Award:** Toby Wallace, Babyteeth, dir: Shannon Murphy

### HORIZONS AWARDS

**Best Film:** Atlantis, dir: Valentyn Vasyanovych  
**Best Director:** Blanco en Blanco, dir: Theo Court  
**Special Jury Prize:** Verdict, dir: Raymund Ribay Gutierrez  
**Best Actress:** Marta Nieto, Madre  
**Best Actor:** Sami Bouajila, A Son  
**Best Screenplay:** Revenir, dir: Jessica Palud, written by Jessica Palud, Philippe Lioret, Diasteme

### LION OF THE FUTURE

Lion of the Future Luigi De Laurentiis Award for a Debut Film: You Will Die at 20, dir: Amjad Abu Alala

### VENICE VR

**Best VR Film:** The Key, dir: Celine Tricart  
**Best VR Experience Award:** A Linha, dir: Ricardo Laganaro  
**Best VR Story Award:** Daughters of Chibok, dir: Joel Kachi Benson

### VENICE CLASSICS

**Best Documentary on Cinema:** Babenco: Tell Me When I Die, dir: Barbara Paz.

— www.hollywoodreporter.com

## Spanish singer **Camilo Sesto** dead at 72

Camilo Sesto, a Spanish singer and composer of romantic ballads who scored a string of number one hits in a career that spanned decades, has died aged 72, his family said yesterday. "Dear friends, We are very sorry to inform you that our great and dear artist Camilo Sesto has just left us. Rest in peace," his family wrote on Sesto's official twitter account. Spanish public television TVE said he died from cardiac arrest at a Madrid hospital. Sesto, real name Camilo Blanes Cortes, sang in two pop bands during the 1960s before recording his first album "Algo De Mi", or "Something of Me", in 1971.

He went on to sell over 70 million albums, making him one of the most famous Spanish singers of all time. His notable hits include "oQuieres ser mi amante?", or "Do you want to be my lover?", "El

Amor de mi Vida", or "The Love of my Life", and "Perdoname", or "Forgive me". While most of Sesto's music was in Spanish, he also recorded in English, German, Japanese, Catalan, and Portuguese. As a composer Sesto wrote songs for top singers such as Spanish pop star Miguel Bose and Mexican crooner Jose Jose.

"With his genuine voice, as a singer and composer, he managed to be one of the most loved and universal artists. Spain and all of Latin America lament the loss of Camilo Sesto," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez tweeted. Sesto was gearing up for a US tour with performances scheduled for later this year in Miami, New York and Los Angeles. — AFP



In this file photo Spanish singer Camilo Sesto performs during the 45th edition of the Vina del Mar international festival in Vina del Mar, Chile on February 19, 2004. — AFP



Sudanese director Amjad Abu Alala (left), next to Serbian director and President of the Luigi De Laurentiis Award, Emir Kusturica, holds the Lion of the Future 'Luigi De Laurentiis' Venice Award for a Debut Film, he received for the movie 'You Will Die at 20'.

## Lifestyle | Features



These file photos show Ursula and Robert Werner cycling on their electric bikes as they are on their way up to the Herzogstand mountain in the Alp mountains near the village Walchensee, southern Germany. — AFP photos

## E-bike grumbles echo in the Bavarian Alps

Robert Werner and his wife Ursula usually make time to say a friendly hello to hikers as they ride their gently whirring e-bikes up trails in the Bavarian Alps. But more often than not, their greetings are met with frowns. "The first thing they look at when they see us are our bikes," says hotelier Robert, 46, of his electric-powered bicycle. "If we have an engine, they respect us less." While the Werners are convinced of the virtues of e-bikes which have pedals but also an electric motor that can assist the rider's pedal power, others are less enthusiastic about the new revolution in cycling.

On their e-bikes, the couple powers up the 800-metre (2,600-foot) ascent to the summit of Herzogstand mountain in half an hour—without breaking a sweat. Many purists believe exploits into nature should be powered by muesli bars, not the electricity grid, and regard the assisted cycling boom as another hi-tech intrusion into the great outdoors. The presence of e-bikes on Alpine trails

and mountain paths has become a subject of controversy. Complaints by hikers have appeared in the German media often accusing e-bike enthusiasts of whizzing up and down the paths, posing a risk of collision, while others point to environmental concerns.

"Electric bicycles allow more people to access the paths," including those that previously saw little use, said Friedl Kroenauer, 59, of environmental group BUND Naturschutz. "This causes soil erosion, for example."

### Two-wheeled boom

For Kroenauer, who has a breathtaking view of Germany's highest peaks from his office, those who scale the region's mountains on e-bikes are cheating themselves. "Getting to the top of a mountain is something you have to earn," he insisted. "You have to feel that you have worked your muscles, you have to be exhausted." "Electric mountain bikes make this notion of effort disappear," added the

hobby sportsman, a fan of walking and traditional cycling. Despite similar criticisms from other outdoor purists, more and more people in Germany and elsewhere are using electric mountain bikes to reach summits. In 2018, Germans bought nearly one million e-bikes, a quarter of them mountain bikes, according to a report by Germany's bicycle industry association, ZIV.

German bike manufacturers such as Haibike, Cube or Prophete, as well as motor and battery producer Bosch, have enjoyed the boom. "The bicycle industry, and in particular the electric bicycle industry, is extremely important for Germany," said David Eisenberger, communications manager for the ZIV association. "It creates thousands of jobs—directly and indirectly, in tourism for example."

### 'Sharing the mountain better'

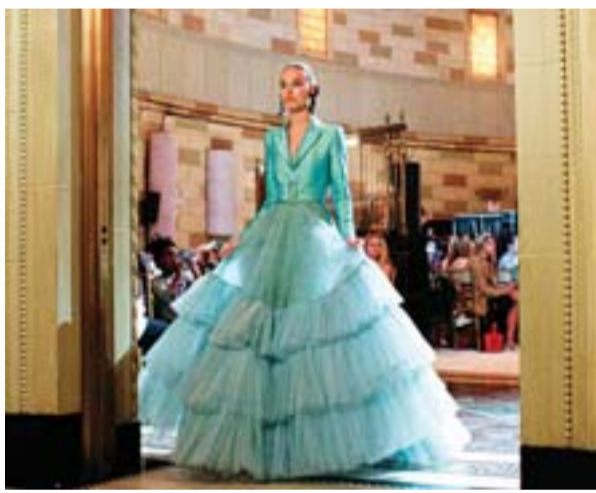
In Lenggries, a town of 9,000 residents, an hour's drive south of the city of Munich, the Werners opened a bicycle

rental shop a few months ago next door to the hotel that they run—offering, of course, e-bikes. "The demand is huge and the customers very diverse," says Robert. "Everyone wants to try." Lenggries now offers three charging stations for e-bike batteries. In a bid to reduce conflict with hikers, some Bavarian municipalities are considering setting up areas reserved for cyclists—both e-bikes and normal mountain bikes.

But Robert voices doubts: "How would that be regulated? It would be impossible." "It's just a matter of sharing the mountain better by following a few rules for living together," he says, suggesting that hikers always be given priority over cyclists. A similar debate emerged decades ago when conventional mountain bikes first appeared in the Alps, he recalls, adding, with a shrug: "Today no one complains anymore." — AFP

## Glamor and pop-art energy at first day of New York Fashion Week

Christian Siriano and Christopher John Rogers took New York by storm Saturday, kicking off the first official day of Fashion Week in shows teeming with life and glamor, a much-needed infusion of energy that recent seasons have lacked. Red-carpet favorite Siriano has been propelled to the forefront of the American ready-to-wear scene and is one of the few designers to use plus-size models in his shows. On Saturday, the evening-gown specialist offered a more creative collection than ever before to his fans—including actresses Lucy Liu and Sarah Michelle Gellar, and singer Meghan Trainor, who were all in attendance.



Siriano explained to AFP that he was inspired by modern pop artists, in particular Ashley Longshore, known for her vibrant, colorful paintings, some of which were on display Saturday. During the show, the New Orleans artist put the finishing touches to large portraits of Lady Gaga, Frida Kahlo and Laverne Cox. Siriano said he wanted to celebrate "powerful women" through "the use of playful color, texture, humor, but also refinement. I wanted that to be throughout the whole collection." "We wanted it to feel pretty luxe,



Models walk the runway for Christian Siriano Spring/Summer 2020 show during New York Fashion Week at the Gotham Hall in New York City. — AFP photos

glamorous, kind of feminine and romantic," he said. "I hope there's more, but I think we're doing a good job."

### Cosmopolitan 'CJR'

Energetic young designer Christopher John Rogers won a standing ovation for his collection, which brought him to tears. From Baton Rouge, Louisiana, "CJR" is part of an emerging generation of African-American designers, whose ranks include Virgil Abloh and Kerby Jean-Raymond, behind the label Pyer Moss. This season the 25-year-old was inspired by the clowns of Italian cinema, Gauguin's paintings and 1920s silhouettes, among other things. The first appears in his ultra-puffy dresses and ruffles, the second in the use of pleated cotton capturing a Caribbean style, and the third in pencil skirts and cocktail dresses.

"It's about addressing all those things at the same time and not feel that we have to be one thing," Rogers said. "We're kind of all of these things." The cosmopolitan designer has also mixed materials—from lycra to canvas used for cloth bags, through wool or linen. "We're self-funded," said Rogers of his choice of materials compared to those used in high-end pret-a-porter. "Whatever we can find, we try and make it the most amazing version of that thing."

### Futuristic Longchamp

Energy was also on display at Longchamp, which presented at the Lincoln Center. For its Spring/Summer 2020 collection, the French fashion house associated with the world of travel instilled a touch of the futurism of the 70s and 80s, shown Friday in a much more pronounced version by Jeremy Scott.

There were short silk dresses, long skirts playing with transparency, and a color palette including turquoise, apricot and plum. On their feet the models wore Spartan-style sandals that tie to below the knee, and a variety of colorful Star Trek-style boots.

### Timeless Khaite

Known for its trendy, timeless style, Khaite House surprised with its bold newness. With many layers and a mix of materials and prints, the collection tended towards romanticism, inspired by the family home of the grandparents of Catherine Holstein, Khaite's creative director.

There are "flashes from my childhood in terms of curtains and wallpapers. There's a sense of playfulness too with the collaboration with Swarovski that I haven't explored before," Holstein told AFP. "I'm innately feminine but I'm also practical and I think I need a balance," she said. "I shift a lot and I really want to bring that to the collection as well. To enhance the femininity and to stay away (from) being sweet and pretty, it really needs the balance and structure." — AFP



Models walk the runway for the Longchamp Spring/Summer 2020 runway show during New York Fashion Week.





# Iran slams Europe powers as nuclear deal unravels

**TEHRAN:** Iran's atomic agency chief hit out yesterday at European powers, saying their broken promises gave the Islamic republic little choice but to scale back its commitments under a nuclear deal. Ali Akbar Salehi was speaking to reporters alongside Cornel Feruta, the acting head of the International Atomic Energy Agency who was on a one-day visit to Tehran. The IAEA official's visit came less than 24 hours after Iran said it was firing up advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium at a faster rate - the latest blow to the landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

JCPOA as long as Iran is," he said, referring to the deal by its formal name, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. "I am wondering. Are they committed to non-adherence? Are they committed to breaking promises? Unfortunately, the Europeans have done this so far."

### 'One-way street'

The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said the JCPOA was now just a "one-way street". "The street was supposed to be two-way. If it's going to be one-way, the Islamic Republic of Iran will definitely make the right decisions at the right time like it has done with these three steps," said Salehi. During his visit, Feruta was informed about Iran's "announced activities related to its centrifuge research and development", according to a statement from the Vienna-based IAEA. The UN nuclear watchdog said "ongoing interactions... require full and timely cooperation by Iran," which diplomats said may hint at worries about information sharing.

It was the third step in a strategy Iran implemented in May, reducing its nuclear commitments in a bid to force the deal's remaining parties to deliver on promises of relief from crippling US sanctions. Britain, France and Germany have been trying to save the nuclear deal, which began unravelling last year when US President Donald Trump withdrew from it and began reimposing the punitive measures against Iran.

"The European Union was supposed to be the replacement of the US but, unfortunately, they failed to act on their promises," Salehi told reporters. "We heard the EU spokesperson say they would be committed to the

cue the nuclear deal, yesterday urged Iran to halt its steps away from the accord. "The channels for dialogue are still open, including today... (but) Iran must give up such actions," said Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. The crumbling accord was meant to give Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

### IAEA scrutiny

Iran has taken a series of retaliatory steps to reduce compliance with the deal since the US withdrawal in May 2018. On July 1, it said it had increased its stockpile of enriched uranium to beyond the 300-kg limit set by the agreement. A week later, the Islamic republic announced it had exceeded the deal's uranium enrichment level of 3.67 percent. On Saturday, Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said it had taken another step by starting up 20 IR-4 and 20 IR-6 advanced centrifuges.

Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran was allowed to enrich uranium using only first generation - or IR-1 - centrifuges. Despite the latest move, the agency said Iran would allow the IAEA to continue monitoring its nuclear facilities in accordance with the 2015 agreement. Feruta also



TEHRAN: Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi (left) shakes hands with Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Cornel Feruta during their meeting yesterday. — AFP

held talks yesterday with Iran's top diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif. The watchdog said he would report the findings from his visit to

Iran to the agency's board of governors when it convenes for a quarterly meeting in Vienna today. — AFP

## US, Taliban keep door open after...

Continued from Page 1

But he warned that the United States was also inflicting a toll on the Taliban, saying that US forces had killed more than 1,000 insurgents in the past 10 days alone. "If the Taliban don't behave, if they don't deliver on the commitments they made to us for weeks and in some cases months, the president of the United States is not going to reduce the pressure," Pompeo said on CNN.

Veteran US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad had spent a year meeting with the Taliban, who confirmed that they considered the deal finished. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that Trump showed "neither experience nor patience". "Americans will be harmed more than any other" by Trump's decision, a Taliban statement warned. US "credibility will be harmed, their anti-peace stance will become more visible to the world, their casualties and financial losses will increase, and the US role in international political interaction will be discredited even further," it said.

But the spokesman said that the Taliban still believe "that the American side will come back to this position" of talks that seek "the complete end of the occupation". The office of Ghani, whose government is rejected by the Taliban as illegitimate, cautiously saluted the "sincere efforts of its allies" after Trump called off the summit. The

Afghan presidency in a statement also "insisted that a real peace can only be achieved if the Taliban stop killing Afghans and accept a ceasefire, and face-to-face talks with the Afghan government."

Trump's dramatic about-face came weeks before Afghanistan holds presidential elections, raising fears that the Taliban will step up their campaign of violence to disrupt voting. Trump relishes dramatic gestures, such as meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, but the idea of inviting Taliban leaders to US soil still stunned Washington. The would-be talks angered even some allies of Trump, who noted that the Taliban would be visiting three days before the 18th anniversary of the Sept 11 attacks, which triggered the US invasion of Afghanistan. "Camp David is where America's leaders met to plan our response after Al-Qaeda, supported by the Taliban, killed 3,000 Americans on 9/11. No member of the Taliban should set foot there. Ever," tweeted Liz Cheney, a Republican congresswoman and daughter of former vice president Dick Cheney. Considering Trump's penchant for bombast, some questioned if the summit was even set to take place.

"I'm still looking for confirmation an actual, physical trip to Camp David was planned," Democratic presidential candidate Julian Castro told CNN, while adding: "It's very odd to invite a terrorist organization like that to Camp David." Pompeo said that Trump had said of the Taliban, "I want to look them in the eyes, I want to see if we can get to the final outcome that we need so we could sign off on the deal." On the eve of the canceled summit, Pompeo traveled to the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware for the return of the remains of the US soldier killed in Kabul, Elis Barreto Ortiz. — AFP

gestion and parking, especially since there is an increase in students and faculty members," she said.

Kuwait University Deputy Director General for Development Adel Al-Husseini said the university witnessed operation of a large part of its campus, which includes six colleges of Education, Arts, Business Administration, Life Sciences, Science and Engineering and Petroleum. Husseini called on students to make better use of their time and university facilities, which in turn will reflect on their educational achievement. The new faculties utilize modern scientific methods in the classrooms that help professors give lectures with the best methods, he added.

Dean of Admission and Registration Ali Al-Mutairi and Dean of Student Affairs Ali Al-Nami congratulated the students on the start of the academic year at the new campus, wishing them a fruitful year and for KU to become one of the distinguished universities. Classes were launched at the new campus with a special learning environment and services that contribute to improving the educational process and pushing students to do more to reach the highest ranks.

The 490-hectare Sabah Al-Salem University City has four gates. The traffic lights near the university turn red very quickly, barely allowing cars to approach. It is easier to reach the university through the new bridge on Sixth Ring Road off Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh instead of the inside streets of Farwaniya.

Meanwhile, the administrative court yesterday adjourned hearing a case demanding suspending the transfer of Kuwait University to the new Shadadiya campus pending the government's response. The case was filed because construction at the campus is still in progress, which could endanger the lives of students. (Material from KUNA used in this report)

## Kuwait University receives 22,000...

Continued from Page 1

In a statement, Ansari said that the start of classes at the new campus is a distinctive step and a new addition to Kuwait University. He expressed congratulations on the start of the new academic year and thanked KU members and academic staff for providing all opportunities to students to increase their educational level and improve their scientific and practical experiences at various university colleges.

The traffic problems at the campus led many students and professors to express their dissatisfaction on social media via videos, memes and angry comments. Khalid Al-Saud, a student who posted a video on Twitter of the traffic jam at the university yesterday morning, said he was upset about having to wait a long time in the traffic. "I think the lack of gates is the cause of this chaos. Also, the roads could not absorb the large number of students who came today," he told Kuwait Times. Saud however praised the architectural design of the university, adding the classrooms looked great.

Noura, another student, said opening Sabah Al-Salem University is the first step of Kuwait's educational development and progress, but said authorities have to solve the problems of traffic congestion that they experienced at the old campus in Kaifan. "We hope that the problems of old Kuwait University will not be repeated at Sabah Al-Salem University. The management must work to avoid the problems that occurred previously over traffic con-



Iraqi Shiites perform mourning rituals as part of Ashura in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf on Saturday. — AFP

## US, Turkey begin joint patrols in...

Continued from Page 1

said Colonel Myles Caggins, spokesman for the US-led coalition against IS. The YPG forms the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) - a key partner of Washington in the fight against IS jihadists in Syria. But Ankara sees the YPG as an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party.

The PKK, which has waged an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, is blacklisted as a terrorist group by Ankara, the US and the European Union. Washington's support for the SDF has been a major point of friction with fellow NATO member Turkey. Caggins said the patrol demonstrated the coalition's "continued commitment to address Turkey's legitimate security concerns, while also allowing the coalition and our SDF partners to remain focused on achieving the enduring defeat" of IS.

Turkey carried out unilateral offensives in northern Syria against IS in 2016 and the YPG in 2018. As the regional fight against IS winds down, the prospect of a US military withdrawal has stoked Kurdish fears of another Turkish attack. "We are implementing the agreement and we have no problem with it as long as it prevents war,"

said Riyadh Khamis, the head of an SDF-led military council in the border town of Tal Abyad. Although they led the US-backed fight against IS, Syria's Kurds have largely stayed out of Syria's eight-year civil war, instead building their own autonomous institutions in areas they control.

Yesterday's patrol drew sharp criticism from Damascus, which labelled it a flagrant "aggression" that seeks to prolong Syria's war. It also reiterated its "absolute rejection" of the planned safe zone, calling it a violation of Syria's sovereignty. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to launch an operation against the YPG in Syria unless progress is made on setting up the safe zone. Erdogan said his US counterpart Donald Trump had promised the buffer would be 32 km wide. Turkish army chief General Yasar Guler told General Joseph Dunford, the top US military officer, in a phone call on Saturday that the safe zone must be set up without delay, the Turkish defense ministry said. A joint center of operations was recently established as part of the agreement. Ankara hopes the safe zone will smooth the way for the return of some of the more than 3.6 million Syrian refugees living in Turkey, but experts say the situation remains unclear.

"We may have joint patrols but we still don't have a joint understanding of what the safe zone is," said Nicholas Danforth, senior visiting fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. "America sees the safe zone as a way to preserve our relationship with the SDF and preserve the SDF's autonomy. Turkey sees the safe zone as a step toward ending them both." — AFP

## Tunisia Islamist party rebrands...

Continued from Page 1

Whereas the last legislative elections, in 2014, were fought along pro- and anti-Islamist lines, economic and social factors are the key issues in the next polls. "This divide between Islamists and supporters of secularism is no longer... credible," said political scientist Hamza Meddeb, pointing out that all of Tunisia's main political parties have governed in coalition with Ennahdha over the past five years.

But Ennahdha carries the scars of its first taste of political power after the party in late 2011 won the first legislative polls after Ben Ali's fall. Weighed down by crises and faced with a strong opposition, Ennahdha had to make way for a cabinet of technocrats in early 2014. Since 2016, Ennahdha has been branding itself as a "civil" movement that distinguishes between politics and religion, and it now describes itself as a "Muslim democratic" party.

Opinions are divided on whether its candidate will

emerge as one of the two candidates who go forward to a second round of presidential polling. But Mourou, who has been interim speaker of parliament since July, is widely seen as a moderate and far less divisive figure than Ghannouchi. "He's the least Islamist of the Islamists, he can attract voters who are not close to the party," according to Meddeb. A lawyer in his 70s who wears traditional costume while advocating more openness in the party, Mourou is not typical of Ennahdha.

Although it was beaten in 2014 by Essebsi's secular Nidaa Tounes party, Ennahdha took part in a coalition. In effect, it has never been fully left out of power in the last eight years of transition to democracy. In the presidential contest, voters will for the first time have to decide whether they can entrust Ennahdha with the office of head of state, responsible for the North African nation's defense.

Trust on social issues is also a key factor. As for Ghannouchi, he has his sights set on the post of parliament speaker after the October vote and wants Ennahdha to play a key role in forming Tunisia's next government, political analysts say. Editorialist Ziyed Krichen sees the party keeping up its "strategy of alliances so as not to be center stage". But "if Mourou gets a low score, it risks being swept away in the legislative polls", he said. — AFP

## OPEC kingpin Saudi replaces...

Continued from Page 1

Falih's powers were diminished last month when the world's top oil exporter announced the creation of a new ministry of industry and mineral resources, separating it from his energy ministry.

It was widely speculated that top officials were dissatisfied with Falih as oil prices sagged ahead of the Aramco IPO. Economic uncertainty fanned, by an ongoing US-China trade war, has dragged Brent crude prices to around \$60 a barrel in recent weeks, well below the \$85 mark that experts say is needed to balance the Saudi budget.

The OPEC petroleum exporters' cartel and key non-OPEC members are scheduled to meet in Abu Dhabi on Thursday to review their strategy on limiting production to halt a slide in prices. Cartel kingpin Saudi Arabia, which pumps around a third of OPEC's oil, has resorted to massive production cuts to lift prices since the market crash in mid-2014. It was unclear whether there would be a change in policy under Prince Abdulaziz, who joined the oil ministry in the 1980s and has held a variety of senior roles.

"Prince Abdulaziz is a very seasoned veteran of Saudi and OPEC policy making," Bob McNally, president of Rapidan Energy Group, told Bloomberg News. "He won't have a learning curve. I don't expect any big rupture in current Saudi oil policy." "He (Prince Abdulaziz) is an incredibly capable technocrat, who is steeped in the energy industry," said Helima Croft,

managing director of RBC Capital Markets. "I do not think there will be any major shifts coming on OPEC policy or broader initiatives."

Aramco is stepping up efforts to float around five percent of the company, seeking to raise up to \$100 billion based on a \$2 trillion valuation of the whole firm. But low oil prices have left some investors in doubt that Aramco is really worth that much. Failure to reach a \$2 trillion valuation as desired by Saudi rulers is widely considered the reason the IPO, earlier scheduled for 2018, was delayed.

The planned IPO forms the cornerstone of a reform program envisaged by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to wean the Saudi economy off its reliance on oil. Saudi Aramco has not announced where the listing will be held, but London, New York and Hong Kong have all vied for a slice of the much-touted IPO.

Prince Abdulaziz helped negotiate the current agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC countries, a group known as OPEC+, to cut global crude supply to support prices and balance the market. "Saudi oil policy will be enhanced by the appointment of Prince Abdulaziz, through strengthening cooperation among OPEC and with non-OPEC," a Saudi official told Reuters. Saudi Arabia has cut more than its oil output target under the OPEC+ supply pact to support oil prices needed to achieve a high valuation of state oil giant Aramco ahead of its planned listing.

The prince was named minister of state for energy affairs in 2017 and worked closely with previous oil minister Ali Al-Naimi for years as his deputy. Some industry insiders say his lengthy experience has helped overcome an unwritten rule against appointing a royal to run the oil portfolio in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has had five oil ministers since 1960, and none of them has been a royal. — Agencies



Sports

# Yelich walk-off double lifts Brewers past visiting Cubs

## Ohtani drives in five as Angels hold off White Sox

**MILWAUKEE:** Christian Yelich hit a walk-off double with two strikes and two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the Milwaukee Brewers celebrated a 3-2 win over the visiting Chicago Cubs on Saturday night. Yelich laced an opposite-field line drive that bounced on one hop off the wall in left field to score Tyler Austin from first base. It capped a terrific night for Yelich, who finished 2-for-2 with an RBI, three walks and three stolen bases. He now has 30 stolen bases, making him the 10th player in MLB history with 40 home runs and 30 stolen bases in the same season. Addison Russell homered in a losing effort for Chicago, which dropped 3 1/2 games behind the St. Louis Cardinals for first place in the National League Central. The Cubs learned before the game that shortstop Javier Baez has a hair-line fracture in his left thumb and could be out for the rest of the season. The star 26-year-old is hitting .281 with 29 homers and 85 RBIs in 133 games.

### Yankees 5, Red Sox 1

Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run homer that completely exited Fenway Park in the fourth inning, and J.A. Happ pitched 6 1/3 outstanding innings as New York won in Boston. The Yankees won for the ninth time in 12 games as they work toward their first American League East title since 2012. After the first nine Yankees were retired in order, they sent nine men to the plate and took a 4-0 lead. New York took a 2-0 lead when Gary Sanchez's double off Colten Brewer fell in between second baseman Brock Holt and right fielder J.D. Martinez and kicked into the stands. On the next pitch, Encarnacion hammered a curveball from Brewer that soared over the seats atop the Green Monster in left-center field and landed on Lansdowne Street.

### Giants 1, Dodgers 0

Tyler Beede emerged from some recent struggles to throw five scoreless innings, and Kevin Pillar's RBI groundout was all the offense visiting San Francisco needed to shut out Los Angeles. The Dodgers were shut out for just the fifth time this season and for the first time since May 18 against the Cincinnati Reds. Their magic number for clinching their seventh consecutive NL West title remained at four for the second consecutive day. Sunday will be the Dodgers' final home game against the Giants this season. Los Angeles holds a slim 8-7 season-series lead against its rival.

### Astros 2, Mariners 1

Alex Bregman joined elite company in team history, and Kyle Tucker scored the go-ahead run following his leadoff double in the seventh inning as Houston continued its dominance of visiting Seattle. Bregman smacked his 34th home run leading off the sixth inning, recording his 100th RBI and tying the game in the process. With his walk in the first, Bregman joined Jeff Bagwell and Lance Berkman as the only players in club history with at least 100 runs, 100 walks and 100 RBIs in a season. Bregman has scored 109 runs in 2019. On the heels of his third career no-hitter, Justin Verlander (18-5) delivered yet another strong start that seemed pedestrian by his lofty standards. He allowed one run on four hits and one walk with seven strikeouts over seven innings.

### Twins 5, Indians 3

Mitch Garver capped his fifth career multi-homer performance with a go-ahead, three-run shot in the sev-

enth inning as Minnesota topped Cleveland in Minneapolis. Jonathan Schoop had an RBI triple in the seventh inning as the AL Central-leading Twins posted their 11th win in their last 14 contests to move 6 1/2 games ahead of second-place Cleveland. The victory notwithstanding, Minnesota was dealt a significant blow earlier on Saturday as Major League Baseball handed right-hander Michael Pineda a 60-game suspension without pay for violating the league's drug policy.

### Braves 5, Nationals 4

Atlanta got home runs from Ozzie Albies and Josh Donaldson for the second straight night and received another strong effort from starting pitcher Julio Teheran to top visiting Washington. Atlanta used solo homers from Albies, Donaldson and Matt Joyce and a two-run homer from Brian McCann in winning its season-best ninth straight game, the third straight against the Nationals. The Braves set a modern-era franchise record with its 13th consecutive home win. Atlanta improved its lead in the NL East to 10 games over the Nationals and lowered its magic number to 11.

### Cardinals 10, Pirates 1

Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer, and Adam Wainwright pitched seven strong innings as St. Louis evened its series against Pittsburgh with an easy win. Harrison Bader drove in three with a double and a single, Paul DeJong hit a two-run double, and Dexter Fowler and Tommy Edman added RBI singles for the Cardinals. Wainwright (11-9) allowed one run and six hits, with three strikeouts and one walk. He also doubled, singled and scored a run.

### Phillies 5, Mets 0

Drew Smyly allowed four hits in seven scoreless innings, and two relievers finished Philadelphia's shutout of host New York. Smyly (4-6) completed seven innings for the second time, not allowing a run either time, since joining the Phillies as a free agent on July 19. He won his second straight start by cruising through the latter portion of his outing, retiring 12 of the last 13 hitters he faced. Philadelphia gained a game on the Chicago Cubs for the second-wild card spot and are now three back, though the Arizona Diamondbacks are 1 1/2 games ahead of the Phillies.

### Rays 5, Blue Jays 3

Travis d'Arnaud's pinch-hit sacrifice fly broke an eighth-inning tie, and Daniel Robertson followed with his second RBI hit of the game to provide a bit of a cushion as Tampa Bay overcame Toronto in St. Petersburg, Fla., for the club's fourth consecutive win. Taking over in a game the Rays trailed 3-2 in the seventh, three Tampa Bay relievers combined for three innings of one-hit, five-strikeout relief, helping the home team improve to 8-1 on its current 10-game homestand. Pinch hitter Ji-Man Choi led off the bottom of the eighth with a walk against Toronto's fourth pitcher, Jordan Romano (0-2), and advanced to third on a double by Kevin Kiermaier. One out later, d'Arnaud brought home pinch runner Mike Brosseau with the go-ahead run on his sacrifice fly, after which Robertson singled home Kiermaier for a 5-3 lead.

### A's 10, Tigers 2

Chris Bassitt struck out 11 in his return from paterni-



**MILWAUKEE:** Jason Heyward #22 of the Chicago Cubs is forced out at second base as Cory Spangenberg #5 of the Milwaukee Brewers makes a throw to first base during the eighth inning at Miller Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

ty leave, and Matt Olson had a solo home run among four hits as Oakland thumped visiting Detroit. Jurickson Profar and Matt Chapman also homered for the A's, who moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Cleveland in the battle for the second AL wild card. With the aid of a couple of extra days off for the birth of his daughter, Bassitt (10-5) remained unbeaten in his last seven starts. He allowed two runs and eight hits in six innings, but no walks.

### Diamondbacks 2, Reds 0

Ketel Marte had an RBI single and scored in a two-run fourth inning, and rookie left-hander Alex Young struck out a career-high 12 in eight scoreless innings as Arizona continued its playoff with a win in Cincinnati. Young (7-3) gave up only two hits, infield singles by Jose Iglesias in the fifth inning and Curt Casali in the eighth, and walked one while winning his third straight decision. He threw a career-high 109 pitches. Eduardo Escobar had two hits for the Diamondbacks, who have won five in a row and 11 of 12.

### Padres 3, Rockies 0

Joey Lucchesi and three relievers combined on a three-hit shutout, and Wil Myers and Manny Machado hit opposite-field homers as San Diego topped visiting Colorado. Myers broke up a scoreless pitching duel between Lucchesi (10-7) and Rockies right-hander Jeff Hoffman with a solo homer opening the bottom of the fifth. Machado hit a two-run homer off Hoffman (1-6) an inning later. Lucchesi is 3-0 over his last four starts with a 1.57 ERA and a 1.13 WHIP, allowing four runs on 16 hits and 10 walks with 18 strikeouts in 23 innings.

### Angels 8, White Sox 7

Shohei Ohtani had three hits and five RBIs —

including a three-run home run — to power Los Angeles to a narrow victory in Chicago. Angels pitchers struck out 13 White Sox batters. Hansel Robles fanned one in a perfect ninth to earn his 20th save, helping the Angels hold on after they led 7-2 through 5 1/2 innings. Batting cleanup, Ohtani smacked a two-run double just four batters into the game, sending the first pitch he saw from White Sox right-hander Dylan Covey into left field. Ohtani then struck for a three-run, opposite-field home run off Covey in the third.

### Rangers 9, Orioles 4

Rougned Odor hit a three-run home run to cap a six-run first inning as visiting Texas defeated Baltimore. The Rangers batted around in that first inning against Orioles starter Aaron Brooks (4-8), who needed 41 pitches to muddle through it. The Rangers scored six runs on just three hits, and those runs came from three straight hitters to give Texas control of the game from the start. The Rangers loaded the bases with no outs before Nick Solak grounded back to Brooks, who then made a high throw to the plate trying for the force. Danny Santana followed with a two-run single that gave Texas a 3-0 lead, before Odor's blast.

### Royals 7, Marlins 2

Ryan McBroom's three-run double capped a six-run seventh inning as Kansas City won in Miami. After the Royals did little of anything against Marlins starter Caleb Smith, who scattered four hits and struck out eight with two walks in six innings, they unloaded against Miami's bullpen in the seventh. After RBI singles by Whit Merrifield and Hunter Dozier, Alex Gordon then walked on four pitches, forcing in a run, before McBroom hit a Stanek fastball down the right field line to clear the bases. — Reuters

## Turkish Airlines and River Plate announce jersey sponsorship collaboration



**ISTANBUL:** Flying to more countries than any other airline, Turkish Airlines first announced its sponsorship of River Plate, the world-famous Argentinian football team, a couple of weeks ago. On Saturday, August 31st, it was reciprocally announced and celebrated with River Plate on a press conference held at River Plate Stadium, attended by Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayçi, President of River Plate, Rodolfo D'onofrio, Turkish Ambassador to Argentina, Vural Altay, and a large number of press members as Turkish Airlines became the jersey sponsor of River Plate, one of the most prominent football clubs of Argentina.

With this cooperation, River Plate will be participating in its matches with the jersey that carries the logo of Turkish Airlines for the next three years. Turkish Airlines also became the first airline company to sponsor River Plate, also known as "The Millionaires".

Starting with the Lanus match on August 4, River Plate will be competing in the field with the jerseys adorned with Turkish Airlines logo for the next three seasons.

Emphasizing the importance of the cooperation between Turkish Airlines, which became a global friend of sports and athletes with vari-

ous sponsorship deals to this day, and River Plate, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayçi said: "We have been the airline that flies to more countries than any other airline for a considerable period of time. We reach over 310 destinations spread over five continents. While continuing the development of our network access strength, we also continue to establish strong bonds with different societies and communities across the world with our global sponsorships to various sports branches thanks to the encompassing nature of sports. With that in mind, we are happy to be able to form such another connection between the Argentinian sports fans with this cooperation that we celebrate here today to become the jersey sponsor of River Plate, one of the most prominent football teams of the world."

President of River Plate, Rodolfo D'onofrio said: "It is a very important partnership for our club, being the result of a global vision that will enhance the expansion of both brands. Turkish Airlines is a worldwide brand and one of the most prestigious airlines of the world."

Known for its support to various national and international names, teams and organizations, both professional and amateur, Turkey's

national flag carrier became the sponsor of world-famous football clubs such as Barcelona, Manchester United and Borussia Dortmund along with the UEFA Euro 2016. The Turkish Airlines' ads with famous athletes such as Lionel Messi, Kobe Bryant and Didier Drogba were also a big hit when they were broadcasted.

River Plate, which Turkish Airlines became the jersey sponsor of, was founded in 1901 and took its name from the common English name for the Rio de la Plata. It is Argentina's one of the biggest football clubs having a major number of fans. River's home stadium is Estadio Monumental Antonio Vespucio Liberti, known simply as 'El Monumental', the largest stadium in the country with a capacity of more than 66,000 people.

Nationally, River Plate has won the Primera Division championship a record 36 times, with its latest title the 2014 Final. Domestic achievements also include 11 National cups, with the 2017 Supercopa Argentina. The team's achievements in international arena include four Copa Libertadores, one Intercontinental Cup, one Supercopa Sudamericana, one Copa Sudamericana, three Recopa Sudamericana, one Copa Interamericana, and one Suruga Bank Championship.



## Kuwait Taekwondo fighters win eight medals in Beirut Open

**BEIRUT:** Taekwondo athletes from Kuwait stockpiled an octad of medals amid stiff competition at the 2019 Beirut Open Taekwondo Tournament. The Kuwaiti Taekwondo fighters claimed a pair of gold medals, one silver and five bronzes, according to the head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the event Ali Bin Haider, who spoke to KUNA via telephone yesterday. "We are proud of our national team and

congratulate the athletes on their impressive performances," said Kuwait's consul general in Beirut Fawaz Al-Qahtani, who was among the legions of spectators. Some 600 Taekwondo fighters from all over the globe have assembled in the Lebanese capital for the tournament, which guarantees the winners a berth in the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games. — KUNA

## Al-Mulla welcomes new basketball coach



**KUWAIT:** Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Deputy Director General for Competitive Sports sector Dr Saqer Al-Mulla received Chairman of Basketball Federation Rasheed Al-Enezi, and National Team

Coach Adel Al-Telati, who was recently appointed. Al-Mulla wished the new coach good luck in improving the team's performance and level, and lauded him for his experience and talent.

## Sports

# Spinners Rashid, Zahir Khan take Afghanistan close to historic win

## Bangladesh reduced to 136-6 before rain forced early stumps

**CHITTAGONG:** Spinners Rashid Khan and Zahir Khan shared five wickets between them as Afghanistan came within four wickets of a historic win over Bangladesh in the one-off Test in Chittagong yesterday.

The visitors — playing only their third Test ever — reduced Bangladesh to 136-6 before rain forced early stumps on the fourth day, with the hosts, who were set a record target of 398 runs, still needing 262.

The highest successful run chase in Bangladesh is 317-7 by New Zealand at the same ground in 2008. “Yes, we are bit excited because we are in a good position,” Afghanistan’s wicketkeeper-batsman Afsar Zazai said.

“It means a lot to be honest,” he added. “The people know about us good enough in white-ball cricket. We’ve discussed in our dressing room that this Test match is very important for us to win because we want to show we can play Test cricket.”

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan remained unbeaten on 39 runs, giving a little hope to Bangladesh amid the gloom at the Zahir Ahmed Stadium, where rain interrupted play in all three sessions much to Afghanistan’s frustration.

Shakib will resume the fifth day’s play along with Soumya Sarkar, the last recognised batsman for Bangladesh, who was yet to open his account.

Shakib seemed to be preparing for a loss. “The realistic result is we are very close to defeat. Unless there is some rain... probably we are losing,” he said. Rashid

who made his debut as youngest-ever Test captain, led Afghanistan from the front, finishing the day with 3-46 while left-arm chinaman Zahir claimed 2-36 runs.

Retiring all-rounder Mohammad Nabi claimed the other wicket. Zahir started the victory push when he dismissed opener Liton Das, who was trapped leg before for nine two balls after a caught-behind decision against him was overturned by the TV umpire on review.

One-down Mosaddek Hossain chased a ball from him wide outside the off-stump to give a catch to Asghar Afghan at long off after making 12 runs. Rashid trapped Mushfiqur Rahim plumb in front after the former Bangladesh skipper started confidently to make 23 off 25 balls.

Rashid delivered another blow in his next over to dismiss Mominul Haque out lbw for three. Nabi removed Shadman Islam, who made 41 runs, the highest for Bangladesh so far in the second innings.

Rashid then snapped the wicket of Mahmudullah Riyad for seven before rain provided the home side some respite. Earlier, resuming at 237-8 after more than two hours’ delay due to drizzle, Afghanistan added 23 runs to their overnight score before they were all out for 260, which took their lead close to the 400-run mark.

Yamin Ahmadzai was run out for nine and off-spinner Mehidy Hasan removed last man Zahir, leaving Zazai stranded on 48. —AFP



**CHITTAGONG:** Afghanistan cricketer Rashid Khan (L) celebrates with his teammates after the dismissal of Bangladesh cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim during the fourth day of the one-off cricket Test match between Bangladesh and Afghanistan at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. —AFP

## Cheika hails Wallabies camaraderie as ‘closest he’s seen’ for WCup

**SYDNEY:** Australia coach Michael Cheika says his close-knit Wallabies squad are exactly where he wants them to be and bubbling with spirit as they head to the Rugby World Cup.

The two-time World Cup winners fly to Japan yesterday after a scratchy 34-15 win against Samoa in Sydney featuring a mostly second-string side.

But Cheika was pleased it had left him with a selection dilemma for the Wallabies’ opening game against Fiji on September 21.

“You want to have as many players as possible competing for the spots, it’s exactly where you want to be going into the tournament,” Cheika said.

“I think we have a really good atmosphere in the team, where players all compete with each other and then once one gets selected, the other one works with him to make sure the right outcome comes in the game.”

Only three players from their Bledisloe Cup defeat to New Zealand last month were risked in the starting side on Saturday — Adam Coleman, Lukhan Salakaia-Loto and Marika Korobete.

Coleman went off with a sore thumb, but everyone else came through unscathed, including inspirational flanker David Pocock who played 58 minutes in his first international in almost a year after an injury-plagued season.

A plus point for Cheika was the form of the lightning quick Korobete, while veteran Will Genia distributed well from the scrum as he tries to force his way back into the team after being unseated recently by Nic White.

Long-time first-choice fly-half Bernard Foley, who has lost his spot to Christian Lealifano, had a solid game but kicked only two conversions from six attempts.

Of more concern will be handling errors and defensive lapses in the second half that allowed Samoa to score two tries though Cheika said he was happy with “a really good hit-out”.

Cheika said the squad were keen to get to Japan after a long build-up that has seen them win three and lose two this season while dealing with the off-field drama of Israel Folau being sacked for making homophobic comments.

“This is the closest I’ve seen the team from a camaraderie point of view since I’ve been involved with the side,” said the coach, who was also in charge during the last World Cup four years ago when Australia lost in the final to New Zealand.

“And we’ve had good momentum on different occasions and a very solid feeling around the team. “To go through some of the things we’ve had to go through off the field, that tests you,” he added. —AFP

## Brathwaite reported over bowling action

**DUBAI:** West Indies player Kraigg Brathwaite has been reported for a suspected illegal bowling action during the second Test against India, the International Cricket Council announced yesterday.

The match officials’ report, which was handed over to the West Indies management, cited concerns about the legality of the 26-year-old’s bowling action during the match, which ended last Monday.

Brathwaite, who bowls off-spin, was reported for a suspect action in August 2017 but was cleared following an independent assessment.

He will be required to submit to further testing by September 14 but is permitted to continue bowling in international cricket until the results are known.

India won second Test in Jamaica by 257 runs to win the two-Test series 2-0. —AFP

## Cummins dismisses Stokes as Australia close in on Ashes

**MANCHESTER:** Pat Cummins dismissed Ben Stokes for just one as Australia closed in on an Ashes-clinching win by reducing England to 87-4 at lunch on the fifth day of the fourth Test at Old Trafford yesterday.

England still need a further 296 runs to reach a huge target of 383, whereas Australia require six more wickets for a victory that would see them keep the Ashes at 2-1 up with one to play in the five-Test series.

Cummins, the world’s top-ranked Test bowler, has taken all the wickets to fall in a return of 4-23 in 11 overs that included two in two balls on Saturday, with the paceman dismissing England captain Joe Root for a golden duck — the skipper’s third nought in five innings.

Joe Denly was 48 not out and Jonny Bairstow two not out at the lunch break.

Stokes, whose stunning 135 not out had seen England to a dramatic series-levelling win in the third Test at Headingley, fell for just one on Sunday when Cummins cut one back to the left-handed batsman, with Australia captain and wicketkeeper Tim Paine holding a sore diving catch off the inside edge.

All-rounder Stokes did not even wait for umpire Marais Erasmus to raise his finger, with England then 74-4.

England resumed on 18-2, knowing the most they had made in the fourth innings to win a Test was the 362-9 they made at Headingley

Their immediate goal, however, was to bat out the fifth day for a draw — something they had not done since Matt Prior led a rearguard action

## Rosberg backs off after Hamilton says ex-racers are irrelevant

**MONZA:** Retired world champion Nico Rosberg has moved to defuse a Formula One spat after his former Mercedes team mate Lewis Hamilton suggested the German had become “irrelevant”.

Rosberg, who hung up his helmet days after winning the 2016 title, told followers of his YouTube blog that he would “try and change my tone a little bit” when he discussed his former rivals.

Hamilton, heading for his sixth title this season, made his comments after Red Bull’s Max Verstappen hit back at criticism from Rosberg, who is now a Sky Sports television pundit and YouTube blogger.

The Dutch 21-year-old suggested Rosberg was just being controversial to attract viewers, and said the son of 1982 champion Keke should have stayed in Formula One if he needed the money.

He also compared him to 1997 world champion Jacques Villeneuve, known for forthright and often controversial opinions about the sport.

Hamilton then published on Instagram a snapshot of a website story quoting Verstappen’s response, with a clapping emoji and the comment “this had me in stitches!”. Asked after Italian Grand Prix qualifying about his post, and what he thought of Rosberg’s comments, Hamilton made a further dig at his former team mate while siding with Verstappen.

“I think Max is generally a really funny guy so I was cracking up when I saw it,” he said. “Unfortunately, drivers become irrelevant when they retire and ultimately have to hang on to utilise other



**MANCHESTER:** England’s Jason Roy is bowled by Australia’s Pat Cummins for 31 during play on the fifth day of the fourth Ashes cricket Test match between England and Australia at Old Trafford in Manchester, north-west England yesterday. —AFP

against New Zealand at Auckland in 2013 — in order to keep the series level ahead of next week’s finale at the Oval.

Denly was 10 not out and Jason Roy eight not out as play started under sunny skies.

The pair survived some testing early deliveries from Josh Hazlewood and Cummins before Denly was fortunate to see a loose drive off left-arm quick Mitchell Starc fly over the slips for four.

But Denly swept off-spinner Nathan Lyon for a well-struck boundary.

Denly, however, almost gave his wicket away

when, despite England’s desperate position, he lofted a sweep off Lyon that just dropped short of deep midwicket.

World Cup-winner Roy, who has struggled to transfer his one-day form into the Test arena, defended solidly before getting well forward to cover-drive Starc, bowling from around the wicket, for four. England got through the first hour without losing a wicket.

Cummins, however, struck again when a fine-off cutter got through a gap between bat and pad to bowl Roy for 31. —AFP



**MONZA:** Third placed Mercedes’ British driver Lewis Hamilton (R) celebrates with his trophy on the podium next to winner Ferrari’s Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc after the Italian Formula One Grand Prix at the Autodromo Nazionale circuit in Monza yesterday. —AFP

people’s light to keep them in the light and so...but that’s the way of sport, I guess,” he said.

Rosberg, who was close to Hamilton in their go-karting days and in junior series before the relationship grew increasingly frosty when they were Formula One team mates, said he could understand where Hamilton and Verstappen were coming from.

“When I was still active one of the things I hated most was ex-drivers or journalists telling me about comments that ex-drivers made about me, which came across in a critical way,” he said. “In my case

it was often David Coulthard. It would drive me nuts, seriously it was horrible.

“So now we have the situation that journalists have been relaying some of my stuff, or some comments I said that were negative, to Lewis or even Max...you can imagine journalists must have annoyed him pretty much if he Insta stories about me.

“So I need to make a little bit of a change there because I don’t want (to upset) those guys, my ex-colleagues, whom I respect a lot.” —Reuters

## Sports

# France, Portugal back on track, England cruise in Euro qualifiers

## England maintain 100 percent qualifying record with a 4-0 demolition of Bulgaria

**PARIS:** France and Portugal got their Euro 2020 qualification campaigns back on track with impressive wins over Balkan pair Albania and Serbia that boosted the world and European champions chances of making next summer's tournament.

France moved back top of Group H with a 4-1 thumping of Albania thanks to a Kingsley Coman's first international goals in more than three years and further strikes from Olivier Giroud and substitute Jonathan Ikone at the Stade de France.

Iceland briefly led the standings after beating Moldova 3-0 earlier in the day, but were joined on 12 points by Didier Deschamps side and Turkey, who needed a last minute Ozan Tufan strike to edge Andorra 1-0, with the French on top on goal difference.

"The balance sheet is very positive. We could have won by more," said Deschamps. "We did what we had to do, even if we relaxed a bit at the end." The easy win was a good end to a night that started off in bizarre fashion, with the match kicking off late after the hosts mistakenly played the Andorran anthem, leading to the bemused Albanian players refusing to play until the right tune was played.

"It was a big thing. The players said they wouldn't start without the right anthem," said Albania's Italian coach Edoardo Reja.

### PORTUGAL OFF THE MARK IN SERBIA

Portugal meanwhile are second in Group B on five points from three games after they also struck four times in Belgrade, with William Carvalho, Goncalo Guedes, Cristiano Ronaldo and Bernardo Silva giving Fernando

Santos' side a 4-2 victory that was also their first win of the qualifying campaign.

They are eight points behind leaders Ukraine, who top the group unbeaten having played five times after their 3-0 drubbing of Lithuania.

However Portugal had a much trickier time than the French, with Nikola Milenkovic and Aleksandar Mitrovic twice pulling goals at a loud Stadion Rajko Mitic back before Silva finally made sure of the three points four minutes from the end.

Tomorrow, Portugal have a chance to consolidate their position in the group when they head to winless Lithuania, while Serbia travel to lowly Luxembourg with both a point behind Ronaldo and co.

Earlier England maintained their 100 percent qualifying record as Harry Kane's hat-trick inspired a 4-0 demolition of Bulgaria at Wembley. Kane has now scored 25 goals in 40 England appearances after a 25th-minute tap-in and two second half penalties which keep his side top of Group A with nine points from three matches, a point ahead of Kosovo who stunned the Czech Republic with a 2-1 win.

Captain Kane also laid on Raheem Sterling for his strike 10 minutes after the break, highlighting his ability beyond just goalscoring. "To be able to study him and the way he works at his game, for the youngsters he's an incredible example. In those moments he has supreme temperament and technique," Southgate said of Kane.

England will have a chance to open up a gap at the top of the group when they host Kosovo at St Mary's stadium in Southampton tomorrow. — AFP



**SAINT-DENIS:** Albania's midfielder Amir Abrashi (L) fights for the ball with France's midfielder Blaise Matuidi during the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying Group H football match between France and Albania at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis. — AFP

## Germany under Euro 2020 pressure in Belfast after Dutch debacle

**HAMBURG:** Joachim Loew has demanded a reaction from his young Germany team against Group C leaders Northern Ireland today after their recent resurgence was cut short by their Euro 2020 qualifying 4-2 defeat to the Netherlands.

Having come into the international break on a wave of optimism, Loew's side now travel to Belfast on Monday needing a win to keep their qualification campaign on course against a Northern Irish side yet to drop a point in

four qualifying matches. "We need to win, we need to approach the game in such a way that we leave the pitch as winners," said Loew on Friday. Germany had just begun to find their feet after a long period of recovery from their disastrous campaign at last year's World Cup.

The group stage exit in Russia prompted a major generational overhaul, and after three wins in a row in 2019, Loew's new-look young team were full of confidence ahead of Friday's game.

Victory over the Dutch would have put second-placed Germany nine points clear of their rivals and left Germany on the brink of automatic qualification. Instead, they now find themselves only three points above the play-off place, having played a game more than the Netherlands.

"We will need to pick the young players up a bit and give them the feeling that they can be stronger. I am sure we will see a reaction today," said Loew. The Germany coach, who was criticised for playing with a back three and allowing his team to sit deep against the Netherlands, also said that he would make tactical

changes against Northern Ireland. "Northern Ireland are amazingly robust, they play a lot of long balls. They will sit deeper and we will not have much space, so we need to think of something tactically," he said. Loew defended his tactics, yet the German media remained critical on Saturday.

Berlin daily Der Tagesspiegel warned that "lessons must be learned" from the defeat to the Netherlands, while the country's biggest tabloid Bild said that "alarm bells" were now ringing around the qualification campaign.

Kicker magazine claimed there was "no need to panic yet", but Germany captain Manuel Neuer warned his side against complacency ahead of their visit to Belfast. "We know that anything can happen in football, we experienced that ourselves in 2018, so it is important we take this game seriously," he told Bild newspaper.

"It is not ideal for us to be playing an away game in Belfast right now. They have won all their games so far and it is always difficult to score goals against such opponents." — AFP

## 'Stupid' Jokic ejected as Spain stun Serbia at Basketball WCup

**WUHAN:** All-Star Nikola Jokic was ejected for "a stupid reaction" in the third quarter as strongly fancied Serbia were stunned 81-69 by Spain to blow the Basketball World Cup wide open yesterday.

Led by Ricky Rubio of the Phoenix Suns, Spain set up a quarter-final meeting with surprise packages Poland on Tuesday while Serbia will need to pick themselves up quickly for Argentina on the same evening.

Spain and European rivals Serbia had already qualified for the last eight in China but Group J supremacy and a supposedly easier game in the next round was at stake.

Serbia, the reigning world and Olympic silver medallists behind the Americans, had looked imperious in their previous four matches, but this loss will raise questions about their title credentials.

Coach Sasha Djordjevic said Spain were the better team and refused to use the loss of Jokic — turfed out after yelling at a referee — as an excuse.

But he had harsh words for his key man, saying: "I did not like the stupid reaction of my player, who should be on the floor. "We can even lose with him, why not if the other team is better? But he should stay on the floor and be one of the leaders." In one of the most eagerly anticipated games of the tournament so far, Spain surged back from a slow start in the first quarter to lead by eight points at half-time in Wuhan.

Serbia, who had looked the chief threat to the young roster of reigning champions the US, were rattled for the first time in China and on their way towards a first defeat.

Midway through the third quarter, their chances of making a comeback suffered a fatal blow when Denver Nuggets' Jokic — one of the World Cup's biggest names — was thrown out. The 24-year-old was irritated initially



**WUHAN:** Vasilije Mijic (L) of Serbia takes a shot during the Basketball World Cup Group J second round game between Spain and Serbia in Wuhan yesterday. — AFP

by the close attentions of Spain's defence and made his feelings clear to the officials.

### 'WE NEED HIM'

The plain-speaking Djordjevic said he had already spoken to Jokic about the incident. "We don't have time for long meetings, he knows (he was wrong)," said Djordjevic.

"He's a tough kid, one of the greatest right now, (so) we need him on the floor. "I hope it won't happen again and this is a moment for him to grow." Bogdan Bogdanovic of the Sacramento Kings was again key for Serbia, keeping

them within range of Spain with 26 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. Rubio racked up 19 points for the Spanish while veteran Marc Gasol had six rebounds and six assists.

"They really kicked us today," said Bogdanovic, who has been in sparkling form at the World Cup and was unlucky to be on the losing side. Spain coach Sergio Scariolo was full of praise for the 27-year-old Bogdanovic, calling him "ridiculous" and "an unbelievable player". Argentina topped Group I — and teed up a meeting with Serbia — after a dominant 91-65 victory over Poland. Both had already reached the last eight. — AFP

## WR Brown joins Patriots after Raiders release

**LOS ANGELES:** Mercurial receiver Antonio Brown is reportedly headed to the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, hours after he was cut by the Oakland Raiders before he could make his debut with the NFL stragglers.

Brown posted a photo of himself grinning in a Patriots uniform on Twitter as US media, including NFL.com, reported he had agreed to a one-year, \$15 million deal with New England. Brown won't be eligible to play in the Pats' season-opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday because he wasn't on their roster in time after a soap-opera Saturday saw him cut, finally, by the Raiders.

The Patriots, led by superstar quarterback Tom Brady, were apparently undaunted by Brown's troubles with his last two teams. Upon being released — as he demanded — from the Raiders Brown posted on Twitter Saturday: "The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth".

The saga of the talented wide receiver has riveted the NFL through training camps, the tension between Brown and the Raiders ratcheting up this week as the league launched its centenary season.

After Brown, irked at being fined for missing training camp activities, faced off in a heated altercation with general manager Mike Mayock, the Raiders thought they had smoothed things over. On Friday, Raiders coach Jon Gruden said Brown had apologized and he still expected Brown to start today's game against the Denver Broncos.

But after Brown again took to social media to air his discontent on Saturday — demanding in an Instagram post that the team "release me" the Raiders did just that. Gruden had come in for criticism for failing to back Mayock, but the coach said Saturday he was only sorry to see Brown go.

"We tried every way possible to make it work," Gruden said in a press conference at the team's practice facility. "I'm sorry it didn't. I wish Antonio nothing but the best." Brown arrived in Oakland in an off-season trade after an acrimonious end to his tenure with the Pittsburgh Steelers, where he feuded with quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and was benched for the final game of last season. The Raiders snapped him up with a three-year deal worth a reported \$54.1 million.

The 31-year-old seven-time Pro-Bowler was forced to miss two weeks of training camp in August after

reporting for duty with frostbite on his feet, which he blamed on a cryotherapy mishap. He vented angrily against the NFL over new safety regulations forcing players to switch to a new type of helmet.

The Raiders had welcomed Brown back into the fold on Friday, after he apologized for the dust-up with Mayock. But after he was fined for conduct detrimental to the team, a sanction that would have cost him \$30 million in guaranteed salary, Brown said he wanted out.

"I have worked my whole life to prove that the system is blind to see talent like mines (sic)," Brown wrote on Instagram. "Now that everyone sees it, they want me to conform to that same system that has failed me all those years. I'm not mad at anyone. I'm just asking for the freedom to prove them all wrong. Release me @raiders. #NOMore" Brown's agent Drew Rosenhaus soon said that the player was "looking forward to a new beginning" and the Patriots could certainly be the team to supply that.

New England have a history of betting on star talent that has run afoul of other teams. This year their roster features wide receiver Josh Gordon, who was reinstated from indefinite suspension under the league's substance abuse policy in August. Gordon and Brown now have a chance to prove themselves — alongside stalwart receivers Julian Edelman and Demaryius Thomas — as targets for one of the all-time greats in Brady. — AFP

## When anthems strike the wrong note at sporting events

**PARIS:** At its best, sport can promote international harmony, but that was not the case at the Stade de France where the hosts played the Andorran anthem for the Albanian team.

The visitors refused to kick off their Euro 2020 qualifier on Saturday night. When their demand was met, they beamed, sung, celebrated and started the match, which they lost 4-1. "It was a big thing," said Albania's Italian coach Edoardo Reja.

Anthems, and other national symbols such as flags, are an inescapable part of international sports. Yet with surprising frequency, teams solemnly lined up for anthems register surprise or outrage when they find "they aren't playing our tune."

On Saturday, the hosts played the anthem of Andorra, the next visitor to the Stade de France, a tune unlikely to cause political offence to anyone. Sometimes the errors are understandable. Slovenia's anthem played after a Slovakian victory at the ice hockey world championships. Other incidents have struck a political nerve.

The often-changed Russian anthem has caused frequent problems. Russia adopted Mikhail Glinka's 'Patriotic Song' in 1991. Nine years later, after the election of Vladimir Putin, Russia reverted to a modified version of the old Soviet anthem, retitled 'State Anthem of the Russian Federation.'

Russian athletes have become adept at singing the latest version. After the wrong anthem was played at the biathlon world championships in Hochfilzen, Austria, in 2017 the winning quartet took a microphone and sang the correct version. Two years earlier, Russian media, reported the women's under 18 ice hockey did the same at their world championships in Buffalo.

Three years later, after the USA beat Russia in the quarterfinals of the under-18 men's ice hockey world championship in Chelyabinsk in Russia, they lined up to hear an unrecognisable and curtailed version of a tune that might have been the Star Spangled Banner. They responded by singing themselves.

The 2003 Davis Cup final between Australia and Spain almost provoked a diplomatic incident.

The hosts hired a famed local jazz trumpeter, James Morrison to play the anthems. When he played the pre-civil war Himno de Riego instead of the Marcha Real, Spain's secretary for sport, Juan Antonio Gomez Angulo, in Melbourne for the event, ordered his team to refuse to start until they had received a formal apology for "this intolerable offence".

In 2015, Armenian media reported drily that at the youth championships for Sambo, in Serbia, the Azerbaijani winner had to listen to the Armenian national anthem. The two countries are officially at war.

When Uruguay played Mexico in Phoenix in the Copa America, their anthem was replaced with that of Chile. Television images showed star striker Luis Suarez angry on the Uruguayan bench.

Organisers blamed "human error." It could have been worse. At a shooting competition in Kuwait, Kazakh winner Maria Dmitrienko listened straight-faced to "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan" a parody anthem from the Sacha Baron Cohen film Borat downloaded by mistake from the internet.

Sometimes it is not enough to play the right anthem. It has to be played right. For the London Olympics the organisers had the seemingly foolproof idea of hiring the famous London Philharmonic Orchestra to record all the anthems at the even more famous Abbey Road Studios.

The reviews were not all positive. After winning a fencing gold and hearing their anthems, the Hungarians politely requested a change. "The rhythm and tones were off," said Jenő Kamuti, chief of the Hungarian fencing team. — AFP

## 25 Yelich walk-off double lifts Brewers past visiting Cubs



## 26 Spinners Rashid, Zahir Khan take Afghanistan close to historic win



## 27 'Stupid' Jokic ejected as Spain stun Serbia at Basketball WCup



NEW YORK: Bianca Andreescu of Canada (R) poses with the trophy after she won against Serena Williams of the US after the Women's Singles Finals match at the 2019 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York. — AFP

# Andreescu topples Serena in US Open final

## Serena says her poor effort 'inexcusable'

NEW YORK: Serena Williams is wondering when she will start playing like a 23-time Grand Slam champion again in a major final, calling her poor showing in Saturday's US Open final loss "inexcusable."

Williams fell to 19-year-old Canadian Bianca Andreescu 6-3, 7-5 at Arthur Ashe Stadium on the same court where she won her first Grand Slam title 20 years ago, nine months before Andreescu was born.

"I love Bianca. I think she's a great girl. But I think this was the worst match I've played all tournament. It's hard to know that you could do better," Williams said. "Bianca obviously played well. I think her returns make me play better and put pressure on my serve."

"At the same time it's inexcusable for me to play at that level."

Williams had 33 winners but just as many unforced errors. She hit nine aces but misfired eight double faults and hit only 44 percent of her first serves. She dropped 30 of 43 points on her second serve.

"I believe I could have played better. I believe I could have done more. I believe I could have just been more Serena today," Williams said. "I honestly don't think Serena showed up. I have to kind of figure out how to get her to show up in Grand Slam finals."

Williams, who remains one Slam title shy of matching Margaret Court's all-time record, has lost the past two Wimbledon and US Open finals since returning after having a baby two years ago.

And she's struggling to find answers for bad performances in the biggest matches. "All of it honestly, truly is super frustrating," Williams said. "I'm so close, so close, so close, yet so far away. I don't know what to say. I guess I got to keep going if I want to be a professional tennis player. And I just got to just keep fighting through it."

Williams, who turns 38 later this month, downplayed the pursuit of Court's record. "I'm not necessarily chasing a record. I'm just trying to win Grand Slams," she

said. "It's definitely frustrating, but for the most part I just am still here. I'm still doing what I can do."

Williams fell behind 5-1 in the second set, sounding somewhat embarrassed and humbled at her situation before saving a match point in the seventh game to begin a fightback. "I was just thinking, honestly at that point, 'Wow, this is terrible. You got to play better. I have to do better,'" Williams said.

"I just couldn't go down like that, so I just wanted to play a little bit better."

Most spectators in the crowd of 26,191 cheered on Williams, helping revive her to level the set at 5-5 before Andreescu broke again in the 12th game to win the title. "Well, I was thinking, 'OK, Serena, you didn't miss a serve, you lost serve maybe twice in the whole tournament, and you didn't hit a first serve in today,'" she said.

"So that was obviously on my mind: 'How do I play at a level like this in a final?'" As her recent Slam finals

losses go, she rated the effort superior to that against Simona Halep in dropping last July's Wimbledon final — "I definitely did better than I did against Halep" — and discounted last year's Wimbledon loss to Angelique Kerber, saying, "Kerber doesn't count because I was exhausted. My baby was eight months, and that's tough."

Williams, who has not won a Slam since the 2017 Australian Open while she was pregnant with daughter Olympia, said the time after her loss was spent pondering why she played so woefully. "I'm not really happy, but I have to take it one moment at a time," she said. "I honestly didn't play my best. I could have played better. That's the only solace that I can take."

Williams figures time will heal the pain, but it won't be any time soon. "In 20 years, I definitely will be like, 'Wow, that wasn't so bad,'" she said. "It's very hard right now in the moment to take this and say, 'You did OK,' because I don't believe I did." — AFP

## Kenya's Brigid Kosgei runs fastest-ever women's half-marathon

LONDON: Kenya's Brigid Kosgei ran the fastest half-marathon ever by a woman yesterday, winning the Great North Run in a time of one hour, four minutes and 28 seconds. Her time was 23 seconds quicker than the world record set in 2017 by fellow Kenyan Joyciline Jepkosgei but the course in the northeast of England is not eligible for records.

Kosgei, who won this year's London Marathon, led a Kenyan sweep of the top four places, with Magdalyn Masai second (1:07:36) and Linet Masai third (1:07:44). Mo Farah won the men's elite race for a record sixth successive year as he warms up to defend his Chicago Marathon title next month.

Four-time Olympic champion Farah, 36, was pushed hard by Tamirat Tola, but proved too strong in the final mile for the Ethiopian, finishing the 13.1-mile course in 59min 7sec and winning by six seconds.

Abdi Nageeye of the Netherlands was third (59:55). Farah, a two-time Olympic champion in both the 5,000m and 10,000m, is aiming to establish himself among the world's elite marathon runners.

He claimed his first marathon title last year when he won in Chicago in a time of 2:05:11 — a European record. "I've really enjoyed it but the past couple of years has been in the middle of marathon preparation. It was good to test myself," Farah said after his victory on Sunday.

"Things are looking good and I'm happy with the win. Tokyo (2020 Olympics) is definitely on the cards — as an athlete you always want to represent your country. You just have to take it one year at a time. Hopefully, come Tokyo time, we will be in the mix."

Farah, double Olympic champion at both 5,000 and 10,000 metres, said the race was an ideal preparation for October's Chicago Marathon, with his sights set firmly on running at the Tokyo Olympics next year. "The crowd was so loud I didn't know if he was closing the gap so I kept looking behind," the 36-year-old told BBC Sport. "I've really enjoyed it but the past couple of years has been in the middle of marathon preparation. It was good to test myself. Things are looking good and I'm happy with the win."

"Tokyo is definitely on the cards - as an athlete you always want to represent your country. You just have to take it one year at a time. Hopefully, come Tokyo time, we will be in the mix." — Agencies



Brigid Kosgei