

# Friday Times

ISSUE NO: 17943

MOHARRAM 28, 1441 AH | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

**4** Exploring the beauty of Jahra's Red Palace



**10** Former French president Jacques Chirac dies at 86



## PM tackles raft of key issues in UN address

See Page 7

## Local

## War of rumors



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

It is no secret that the world is going through a real crisis both globally and regionally, because the situation is delicate and critical. The problem is not in the crisis itself, because it can be resolved quietly behind closed doors. But rumors can easily shatter morale by creating unnecessary concern amongst the public.

Rumors are known as a means of psychological warfare. This makes it a threat to small societies such as ours, especially when some add their own views, wishes or comments as reliable sources. There is no doubt that news spreads quickly today, whether bad or good, due to the presence of social media and the proliferation of satellite TV and a large number of mobile devices. The rumor may be military, political, economic or social, but remains a method of psychological warfare.

These days, because of the volatile situation in the Gulf region, rumors abound, touching events such as war and political relations, which affects people and what goes on behind closed doors. It is difficult to read the political scene and economic situation in the Gulf region because it is not possible to predict what could really happen in the next few months and what the situation will be.

Recently, rumors have begun to increase. No one denies the tension in the Gulf region as well as in US-Iranian relations. This has a negative impact on the region, not because it is a sign of a devastating war, but because people worry about their future and lives. The fact is that war in any Gulf or Arab country will ignite the whole region with a war in which no one will emerge victorious and which will cause victims, in addition to damaging vital security facilities.

Any calls for war and conflicts undermines the importance of dialogue and diplomatic solutions, either by hinting or by declaring openly, so I hope everyone will not rush to disseminate abusive opinions and conclusions that could fuel the situation and increase anxiety among the people.

A rumor can be transmitted verbally or through the media, and is intended to break morale. It has an effective speed and influences people's minds and emotions. It tampers with them by formatting public opinion, making it one of the most important means of psychological warfare.

I believe that the speed of the rumor depends on the transparency of the government in dealing with it. Lack of quick transparency and clarification by government agencies and the dissemination of right information can make rumors grow. I do not agree with those who demand legal deterrence against those who spread rumors, especially on mobile devices or social media, because minds do not have walls. By educating people about any rumor, especially ones that are affecting the political or economic situation, the government should bear its responsibility for clarification and transparency.

I wish from everyone to be wary of transmitting false information that would destabilize the security of a country or state, and pay close attention to people who use their time to spread rumors, whether religious or intellectual, which is very dangerous.

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



Hundreds of craftsmen work in various fields in the traditional Souq Al Mubarakia. Here we see tailors at their sewing machines. \_ Photos by well known photojournalist Saleh Taqi

## Scammers target perfume buyers



IN MY VIEW

By Nawara Fattahova

nawara@kuwaittimes.net

Scammers work through a variety of means to make their money off unsuspecting victims. From emails to telephone calls to whatsapp messages. In the Gulf we suffer a lot from scammers, both based in the region and ones working in neighboring states.

A new scam in Kuwait is targeting women via telephone calls. Sellers of counterfeit perfumes are making cold calls to local numbers, then pretending to be from well known local perfume shops. They offer 'promotional' rates on luxury brand perfumes and free delivery to your home.

Ibtisam is one of those who bought these perfumes, as the caller convinced her she can exchange any of the perfumes that she didn't like at the local store. "When I received the phone call, I was doubtful about the genuineness of these perfumes, but when the caller assured me that I can exchange them at the well-known store if I change my mind, I trusted him, as I didn't imagine he could be lying," she told Kuwait Times.

After telling her friend about this great promotion, she

was shocked by her response. "My friend said she is sure that this offer is a scam, as this popular store doesn't have a delivery service and doesn't need to hold such promotions as it's already very much frequented by customers. So I had doubts and went to the store to find the truth. Unfortunately, the store's staff told me I wasn't the only one asking about this, as tens of people had come with a similar complaint," explained Ibtisam.

"I paid KD 39 for three perfumes, which are worth over KD 90. After what they told me at the store, I realized the perfumes I bought are counterfeit. So I didn't even open them and gave them away as gifts to my young niece. I tried to call the number of the seller, which was a landline, but they never answered. I didn't file a case at the police station as my husband refused to let me file a complaint," she concluded.

Visiting this store, the staff told Kuwait Times many people had been complaining about the fake perfume delivery scam since July. The saleslady said the management filed a case at the police station, as these scammers are spoiling their reputation by using the name of their store.

Fake perfumes usually have a similar smell as the real fragrances, but are much less intense. So if the original perfume lasts for a couple of hours, the fake perfume will disappear after a few minutes. Fake perfumes are also available at traditional markets and exhibitions, and never cost more than KD 5. So be careful and don't get scammed by random callers offering discounted perfumes!

Ready for the Beach ??



**Kuwait Times**  
Established 1961

Subscribe or renew your subscription  
& get K.D 50

**1** Coupon  
**FREE**



P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait | Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7  
Fax: 24835620 - 24835621 | E: info@kuwaittimes.net



## Exploring Jahra's Red Palace

By Faten Omar

Kuwait Times will take you to explore the beauty of the Red Palace which is located in the southeast section of Kuwait's second city, Al-Jahra. Jahra has long been known as an oasis and a major agricultural center in Kuwait because of its wells.

The Kuwaiti writer, Yacoub Yousef Al-Hajji mentioned in his book "Old Kuwait Images and Memories" that the Red Palace was built in 1897 as a summer place for Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The Red Palace is considered one of the most important historical landmarks of the State of Kuwait for its association with the famous 1920 Battle of Jahra.

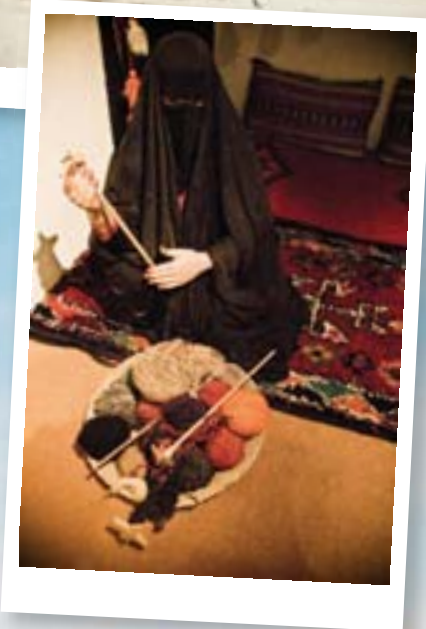
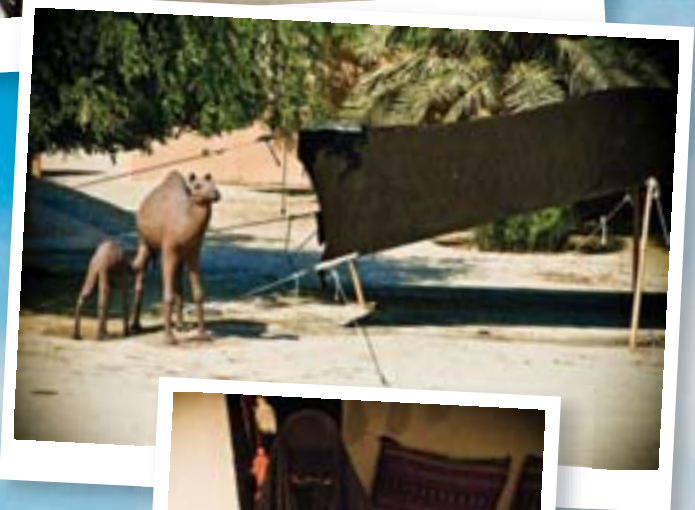
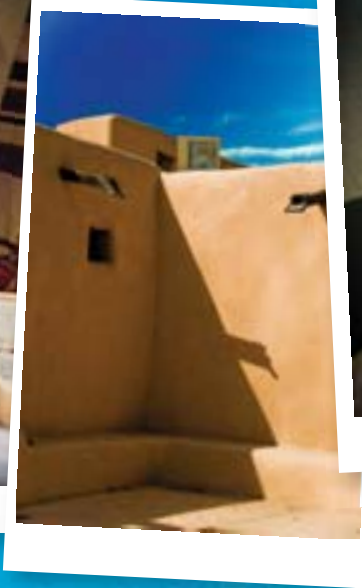
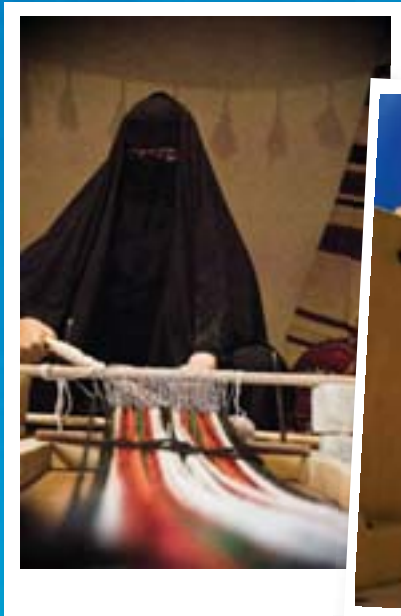
In October of that year, a 4,000-strong force of Ikhwan from Saudi Arabia attacked Kuwait and Jahra, which was defended by then ruler Sheikh Salem Al Mubarak and 1,500 Kuwaiti fighters. The battlefield was the Red Palace (Al-Qasr Al-Ahmar), which now stands as a source of heroism and martyrdom. British military intervention eventually turned the tide in Kuwait's favor.

The palace is a square-shaped building with an area of about 19,000 square meters by a 15 feet high and 2 feet thick walls. The palace also has three main gates.

Above these walls, there are towers called ghoula at the four corners of the palace that have different sizes of holes.



## Local



These were design to give infantrymen a view and line of fire in all directions. The four towers are built with bricks made from mud mixed with local desert shrubs.

The palace has 33 rooms and six yards, one of the yards has a non-potable water well in the center. During the battle of Jahra, well water was used to treat the wounded and was drunk mixed with date palm to sweeten the taste.

The name of the Red Palace derives from the type and color of mud that was used in its construction. The palace consists of three sections: the residence of the emir, mosque, and diwaniya.

The Red Palace is currently used as the headquarters of the Badia Heritage Center that is under the umbrella of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters.

#### Entry is free

You can visit the Red Palace during its opening hours from Sunday to Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and evening timing from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

The Red Palace also receives visitors in the weekend on Saturday from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM and from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

The Red Palace is under the protection and authority of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters.  
— Photos courtesy the NCCAL and by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# Naming the streets of Kuwait



By Nawara Fattahova

**K**uwait's streets are a hodgepodge of numbers, names and nicknames. Ask for directions and you might be told take the 30, get off at Fahheel Expressway or turn onto Istiqlal Street. Part of the confusion stems from the many different communities in Kuwait. Similar to some areas, different communities use different names for streets. Westerners, for instance, tend to refer to the numbered highways as the 30, 40, 50 or 55 and so on. Locals and those who have grown up in Kuwait seldom use the numbers but instead refer to these highways and streets by their given names.

A special 'nomenclature committee' at the Kuwait Municipality was established solely for the purpose of naming Kuwait's streets. Kuwait Times interviewed Head of the Committee and the Assistant Director General for Projects Affairs Yousef Al-Munawer to learn more about how names of streets are chosen and what are the issues surrounding the process.

The nomenclature committee was formed by the Municipal Council and consists of members from the Municipality and other institutions including the Ministry of Information, Amiri Diwan, the Cabinet, Kuwait Writers Association, National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and the Gulf Studies Institution. The committee is currently not empowered to set new criteria for naming.

## Based on numbers but still named

All streets in Kuwait have been assigned numbers. "Addresses in Kuwait are based on numbers, and the names are just an addition. Each street has a number, so the official address includes this number and not the name. Even Arabian Gulf Road has a number - 25. When the name of any street is changed, the Municipality sends official letters to various institutions in charge about this change," Munawer told Kuwait Times.

Names, however, are also used and can come about in a variety of ways. Some streets were named by Amiri decree, such as naming the Sixth Ring Road after the late parliament speaker and prominent businessman Jassem Al-Khorafi, and the Fifth Ring Road after the late ruler of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan.

Both the naming committee and ordinary citizens can recommend names for streets. Quite often, name suggestions are made to honor a prominent member of the community or someone who has made great achievements in the country. "A family can suggest naming a street after one of its members who passed away. We then research and study [the suggested person's] achievements. Here, we also cooperate with the Researches and Studies Center, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and other related institutions," Munawer said.

## A street by any other name

Confusion arises though when streets are known by locals and residents by a variety of different names. The so-called Share'a Al Hubb (Love Street) is a well-known and popular street between Daiya and Dasma, but most foreigners will have no clue of its location unless you call it the Second Ring Road. The so-called Restaurants Street in Salmiya is another famous local destination and most folks know it based on that name, but in reality it's called Amr bin Al-Aas Street.

Streets may also seem to have different names because the names represent different segments of the road. "If a road is intersected by another road, traffic light or roundabout, for instance, then it may have a different name, such as the Maghreb Highway, Riyadh Expressway or Istiqlal Road," explained Munawer. A good example of this is Gulf Road, which becomes Balajat Street in Ras Salmiya, and after passing through Al-Bidaa Roundabout, becomes Al-Ta'awon Street.

## Famous and local personalities

Sometimes the name of a road may be changed. "We have changed the name of many streets that were named after historical personalities after we found that their biographies were not honorable. For instance, Al-Azraq Road was recently the subject of much discussion on social media. We found that Al-Azraq was an infi-

del and against the Muslims during his time. So we suggested a change to the municipal council, which has to get approval from the Cabinet," he said.

Also, some street names have been modified and approved. "For instance, Al-Zahra Street was changed to include the full name of the person it's named after - Fatima Al-Zahra Street. A similar situation occurred with Sukaina Street, which was changed to Sukaina bint Al-Hussein Street. These were old street names and we recently revised the names on all the signs," said Munawer.

There have also been political problems with some street names. "For instance, Hassan Al-Banna Street is named after the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood. It has been proposed many times to change the name, but we couldn't as it was causing political problems. It's not easy to change the name of streets named after political personalities, though a few have been changed. So we have stopped approving names of contemporary religious personalities," concluded Munawer.

For those driving on Kuwait's streets, the naming system can seem as arbitrary. Directions and popular street addresses aren't always clear. The evolution of street names, however, can provide interesting clues to Kuwait's local history as well as important regional events.

• Shared from Kuwait Times archives

# Premier tackles Gulf, Iran, Palestine, Syria, terrorism, FDI in UN address

## Sheikh Jaber: UN provides ideal venue for addressing global challenges

**NEW YORK:** Representative of HH the Amir, HH the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said the United Nations has proved to be the ideal platform for managing disputes and addressing various global challenges through dialogue. Delivering Kuwait's address to the 74th UN General Assembly on Wednesday, Sheikh Jaber started by congratulating Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria on his assumption of the presidency of the current session of the UN General Assembly on Sept 17, 2019.

He wished Bande success in his mission, renewing Kuwait's full support to his leadership of the General Assembly and appreciating the efforts made by his predecessor Maria Fernanda Espinosa of Ecuador in this regard. Sheikh Jaber also spoke highly of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for his efforts in leading "this prestigious organization".

"Over the last seven decades and more, the UN, as a safe haven for dispute management, was able to tackle a lot of formidable challenges and chronic crises, prioritizing the logic of peaceful diplomatic dialogue to protect the next generations from the ordeals of conflicts and war," he said. "Since its emergence, the State of Kuwait has committed itself to a foreign policy based on peace and multilateral dialogue. During its non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council, Kuwait was able to engage and interact directly in addressing various global issues, whether chronic, regular or emergency issues," Sheikh Jaber said.

"With its tenure nearing an end, Kuwait has become more convinced that multilateral dialogue is a crucial means of addressing the global challenges and that the UN provides the ideal venue for such dialogue," Sheikh Jaber stressed. He renewed Kuwait's commitment to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and reiterated support for the UN in delivering its noble message for protecting the world peace and security.

### Acts of sabotage

Sheikh Jaber Mubarak denounced the recent terrorist attacks on two oil facilities in Saudi Arabia as a serious threat to the flow of energy supplies to the world market. He said the Arabian Gulf region has undergone a chain of acts of terrorism and sabotage over the last year, which posed a serious threat to the freedom of navigation inside the region and beyond, and hampered the flow of energy supplies to the world.

Sheikh Jaber cited as an example the terrorist attacks on two oil facilities in Saudi Arabia on Sept 14. He renewed Kuwait's condemnation of these terrorist attacks and reaffirmed full support to the measures the Saudi Arabia might take to protect its security and stability. He reiterated the call for the international community to shoulder its responsibilities for protection of free navigation in this region in keeping with the



**NEW YORK:** HH the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah speaks during the 74th Session of the General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters on Wednesday. — AFP

provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

### Palestine question

Sheikh Jaber said the Palestine question remains a central issue for the Arab and Muslim worlds. "If this question continues to be unsolved, it will deepen tensions and instability in the Middle East region. Therefore, we urge relaunching the (Palestinian-Israeli) peace talks within a specific timeframe," he stressed. "The need is that the substantive peace talks must ensure reaching fair and comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution, the outcomes of the previous rounds of talks, the relevant UN resolutions and the Arab peace initiative of 2002."

The negotiations must culminate into ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and establishing the independent state of Palestine within the pre-June 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital city, he added. Sheikh Jaber highlighted the need for ending Israeli aggressions on holy sites and illegal Jewish settlement expansions in occupied Palestinian territories, warning against any unilateral attempts to impose fait accompli in this regard.

### Conflict in Syria

Sheikh Jaber said the humanitarian disaster in Syria, which has entered its ninth year, is a reminder of the failure of the international community to reach a consensus on a possible solution. "The parties to this conflict also failed to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the protracted conflict. Therefore, we affirm our stance that there is no military solution to this conflict and

there is no alternative to a political settlement living up to the aspirations of the Syrian people based on UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and the outcome of the Geneva declaration of 2012," he noted.

Regarding Yemen, Sheikh Jaber said this crisis is another reminder of how to deal with UN Security Council resolutions and the failure of the parties to the conflict to implement the outcomes of the peace talks, including the Stockholm deal reached late last year. "Once again, Kuwait reaffirms that there is no military solution to this conflict and continues to back UN-led efforts to resume the political process in order to restore peace, security and stability in Yemen and preserve its territorial integrity," he said.

Kuwait remains ready to host the Yemeni brothers for another round of peace talks under the auspices of the UN in order to reach a final political solution based on the GCC initiative and its executive mechanism, the outcomes of the national dialogue and the UN Security Council Resolution 2216" he added.

### Confidence-building measures

Kuwait also called on Iran to take a number of bold confidence-building measures to help ease escalating tension in the Gulf region. "We reiterate our call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to take serious confidence-building measures to initiate a dialogue that is based on respect for sovereignty of states and non-interference in their internal affairs, ease tension in the Gulf region, and maintain safety of navigation," Sheikh Jaber said in his speech. He argued that such a measure will help create relations based on mutual respect and fruitful cooperation. "This

will embody the region states' aspiration of stability and security to achieve prosperity and development for their peoples," he said.

### Eliminating terrorism

Kuwait renewed its call for increasing international efforts to eliminate the scourge of terrorism, describing it as one of the gravest challenges to the world order. "There is no doubt that the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism is one of the most dangerous challenges facing the world order," Sheikh Jaber said. He reminded the world that the Middle East region has suffered most from the sabotage acts of terrorist organizations, especially the so-called Islamic State terrorist group, which put on a cloak of Islam to cover its destructive intentions.

"This is a direct reason to call for intensifying efforts to counter this real danger in all its forms and manifestations, dry up its sources and funding and activate international and regional conventions on combating terrorism," he said. He regretted that this destructive threat of terrorism is snowballing in a number of states like Yemen, Libya, Syria, Somalia and Afghanistan.

The Kuwaiti premier, however, cited Iraq's success in defeating the so-called Islamic State group as a good example how collective action in dealing with this threat could have great results. In the case of Iraq, which suffered most from IS' crimes, the great role of the international community and its cooperation with the national government helped clear all the Iraqi territories from the IS terrorist entity, he said.

### Foreign investments

Sheikh Jaber also said Kuwait is working to create an appropriate environment to lure investments from all over the world. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the development made over the last years, thanks to concerted efforts and a number of laws enacted by Kuwait. He said Kuwait looks forward to getting improved international indicators, including the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) which is issued annually by the World Bank.

He noted that Kuwait has assumed its responsibility towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, indicating that the country proposed its first national plan for 2019 to achieve these goals. This was done during a high-level political forum, which reflected the determination of the political leadership topped with the directives of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the premier told the attendees.

This aimed at bolstering international partnership and solidarity within the framework of policies made by the government in the long, medium and short terms to achieve the biggest gains of sustainable development and link them objectively to Kuwait's 2035 vision and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, he concluded. — KUNA

## Local

# FM says terrorism ugly threat to international peace, security

## Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stresses role of regional, sub-regional organizations

**NEW YORK:** Terrorism is one of the ugliest threats to international peace and security, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said on Wednesday. This came in Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's speech in a UN Security Council session on cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; the Collective Security Treaty Organization; and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to maintain international security and peace.

Terrorism targets innocent civilians, including children and women, he noted. Because of its growing threat to global security, countries and organizations must step up their efforts, he argued. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is of serious concern, he said, noting that this has become a main concern to many countries. He pointed out that the UN and its counter-terrorism agencies have a vital role to play, including through General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, as well as relevant treaties and conventions.

During its presidency of the Security Council last June, Kuwait organized a high-level briefing on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS), and means of cementing this collaboration, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said. The session culminated in a presidential statement encouraging cooperation between the United Nations, and regional and sub-regional organizations, he stated.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled called on the Security Council to hold further meetings to address the means necessary to ensure cooperation between regional and sub-regional organizations. Experience has shown that no one country by itself can confront the diverse and complicated modern challenges facing the world today, including terrorism, drug and people trafficking, among

others, he explained. The Kuwaiti minister stressed the important role of regional and sub-regional organizations, given their proximity and knowledge of the history and culture of the region, as well as their commonalities.

Central Asia is a vital and promising region with geostrategic importance and natural resources, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said. The three regional organizations being discussed today have close ties with the countries of the region, he noted. They play an important role by galvanizing collective efforts to confront its challenges, he said. He said that the UN and its bodies concerned with terrorism play a vital role in making international policies and strategies in line with legal frameworks represented in the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly as well as the relevant international conventions and treaties.

Despite all these international measures, they require further effective cooperation on the regional level, he made clear. The minister commended the key role of the United Nations Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in bringing views of the Central Asian countries together and bringing them to the negotiating table. He voiced his hope that the center's efforts, in cooperation with the regional organizations, would support economy and development of Afghanistan to achieve security and stability there as soon as possible.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said this is an essential element in maintaining regional and international peace and security, and a key factor in strengthening them. Being a member of several international organizations like the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and others, Kuwait has approved several plans and strategies, and exerted many efforts in this path, he said.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled pointed to contributions of these or-



**NEW YORK:** Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addresses the UN Security Council on Wednesday. — KUNA

ganizations to approving several pacts concerned with combating terrorism and putting a strategy contributing effectively to boosting efforts of member states of these organizations to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as criminalizing extremist ideologies and set up a database on terrorism and terror groups.

The organizations also contributed to disseminating awareness through social media and discarding extremism as well as promoting youth's role and family and setting a program to rehabilitate terrorists returning from the conflict zones, he said. Finally, the minister hoped that these discussions would lead to more proposals and strategies so as to promote cooperation between the UN, and regional and sub-regional organizations. — KUNA

## GCC FMs meet Indian, Pakistani counterparts

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah took part in the GCC-India and GCC-Pakistan ministerial meetings on Wednesday. The separate meetings, held on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly, were co-chaired by Oman's Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah - the current chair of the GCC Ministerial Council, and Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The meetings reviewed the friendly relations between the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and India and Pakistan as well as the status quo of the existing partnerships on cooperation in various fields. Also attending were Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Permanent Representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi as well as other senior diplomats. — KUNA

## FAO lauds Kuwait's support of programs

**GENEVA:** Kuwait support and donations to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is of a great interest in the region, said Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the UN at Geneva Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett yesterday. The remarks to KUNA came after her meeting with Kuwait's Per-

manent Representative to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim.

The meeting discussed Kuwait's support and donations allocated to FAO's programs in Yemen, which would help in the rehabilitation of the agricultural and food services sector in Yemen, she said. Birkett expressed hope of this fruitful cooperation with Kuwait to continue. Ghunaim said cooperation between Kuwait and FAO aims at directing humanitarian support to those in need and affected in the first place. Kuwait's cooperation with FAO, whether in Yemen or Syria, is the only one of its kind in the region, he added. — KUNA



**GENEVA:** Director of the FAO Liaison Office Carolyn Birkett meets Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Jamal Al-Ghunaim yesterday. — KUNA

## Sheikh Salman: ICAO recognition of DGCA efforts an 'honor'

**WASHINGTON:** The International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) recognition of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) efforts is an honor for all Kuwaitis, said the directorate's chief yesterday. In his speech to the ICAO's 40th General Assembly in Montreal, Canada, after being chosen as First Vice-President of the Organization, DGCA Director Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah said that he appreciated the recognition bestowed by the 194-member organization.

He affirmed that the recognition also came due to the extensive efforts carried out by Kuwaiti aviation in the international scene. Sheikh Salman also hinted at the humanitarian role played by Kuwait on the regional and global spheres, saying that those working in the aviation and air cargo sector played a huge role in implementing the directives of the Kuwaiti leadership in this



**MONTREAL:** DGCA Director Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah meets Singaporean Minister of Transport Khaw Boon Wan. — KUNA

regard. On the sidelines of the General Assembly, Sheikh Salman met Singaporean Minister of Transport Khaw Boon Wan, discussing with him ways to bolster cooperation within aviation security and air cargo. — KUNA



# Lawyer files case to compel CSC to sack expat workers

## Decision soon to boost Kuwaitization of insurance sector

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Lawyer Abdullah Marzouq Al-Rasheedi yesterday filed a case to force the Civil Service Commission to terminate the contracts of all expats working in government bodies and replace them with Kuwaitis, especially since many Kuwaiti lawyers are unemployed. Rasheedi said around 30,000 Kuwaitis holding law degrees work for the government and 6,000 others work for the private sector.

“What is the point of employing expats while considerable numbers of Kuwaitis with the same degrees, qualifications and

experience are unemployed?” he wondered, claiming that many senior officials do not trust Kuwaiti workers. He alleged one of the health minister’s advisors is an expat who gets a monthly salary of KD 2,100 plus other incentives, hajj allowances and free accommodation.

Meanwhile, the ministerial committee studying increasing the number of Kuwaiti workers in the private insurance sector announced that it will issue a decision about increasing those numbers before the end of this year, said official sources. The sources added that according to the new plans, the number of Kuwaitis will increase by 10 percent in less than a year at insurance com-

panies. The sources explained that insurance company owners believe that working in the field of insurance requires special skills, and that Kuwaitis need to undergo special training courses paid for by the manpower authority.

In a related development, the ministry of social affairs and labor decided suspending the issuance of work permits to expats to work in cooperative societies pending replacing them with citizens. Separately, the criminal court yesterday sentenced a Romanian to three years in jail after which he would be deported for attempting to break into a bank’s ATM using fake ATM cards he brought to Kuwait with him.

## Queen congratulates Amir on recovery

**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a cable of congratulations from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on his recovery from the recent health setback. The Queen expressed her sincere congratulations and praised the historic and solid relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom since its founding over 120 years ago. Her Majesty wished HH the Amir the best of health and Kuwait further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness.

HH the Amir sent a reply to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II expressing deep gratitude for her sincere sentiments, affirming joint aspiration towards bolstering the already good relations between Kuwait and the UK in various spheres. He also wished Her Majesty lasting wellbeing and more progress and prosperity for her country and people.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah also received a cable of congratulations from President of Mongolia Khaltmaagiin Battulga on his recovery. The Mongolian president lauded the distinguished relations bonding Kuwait and his country, wishing the Amir lasting well-being and hoping to see Kuwait experiencing further progress and prosperity under His Highness’ sagacious leadership.

HH the Amir sent a reply to the Mongolian president, expressing deep gratitude for his sincere sentiments, affirming the joint aspiration toward bolstering the already good relations between Kuwait and the friendly country in various spheres. He also wished him lasting wellbeing and more progress and prosperity for his country.

### First UAE astronaut

HH the Amir sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to the President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on the first UAE astronaut boarding the Soyuz MS-15 spacecraft that lifted off from a Kazakh base toward the International Space Station. In his cable - also addressed to Vice President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad Al-Maktoum and UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan - Sheikh Sabah lauded the unprecedented achievement by the Emirates in the field of space exploration. The Amir wished the UAE leadership and people more progress and development within the space exploration field and other domains to fulfill their compatriots’ aspirations and dreams.

### Condolences for Chirac, Indonesia

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of condolences to French President Emmanuel Macron over the death of former president Jacques Chirac. HH the Amir also cabled Indonesian President Joko Widodo expressing condolences on the victims of the earthquake that jolted the province of Maluku in East Indonesia. The Amir asked The Almighty to bestow mercy upon their souls and wished the injured quick recuperation, hoping that the officials of this friendly country will manage to tackle repercussions of this natural catastrophe. HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

## Zain holds internal blood drive campaign



Zain employees participate in the blood drive campaign.

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service in Kuwait, recently held an internal blood drive campaign for its employees. The campaign, held at the company’s main headquarters in Shuwaikh, came in strategic partnership with the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait.

Zain organizes this health initiative several times on an annual basis under the umbrella of its corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy towards the health sector through partnerships with major health organizations in the country, including the Central Blood Bank. The campaign also aims at encouraging Zain employees to donate blood and save the lives of those who are in most need of blood transfusion.

The blood drive campaign witnessed immense positive participation from Zain employees, who continued to donate blood throughout a whole day with the presence of

the Central Blood Bank’s medical staff. Zain strives to contribute to the community through its numerous corporate social responsibility initiatives and is pleased with the success this particular activity has achieved.

The company is keen to organize internal blood drive campaigns for employees in collaboration with the Central Blood Bank to encourage employees to donate blood and save lives, further reinforcing the company’s productive role in social and health activities, especially those that contribute with saving people that are in urgent need of blood like people with rare blood types.

Zain’s solid corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people’s everyday lives.

## KISR earns patent for hydrogen storage

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced that the nanotechnology program of the Institute of Energy and Building Research at the institute has obtained a global patent in hydrogen storage in nanoscale metals like magnesium. KISR earned the patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, KISR said in a statement yesterday.

Kuwait, represented by KISR, ranks seventh on a par with South Korea in the list of the 10 most active countries in the world in the production, utilization and use of nanomaterials stored for hydrogen gas, the statement added. The statement confirmed the institute’s interest in diversifying energy sources, especially new and renewable in order to improve the properties of magnesium and its ability to store hydrogen in quantities of weight up to more than five percent. — KUNA

## Kuwait pulls ranitidine drugs

**KUWAIT:** The ministry of health is suspending and withdrawing ranitidine medicines - namely Zantac - used to treat excessive stomach acid. Dr Abdullah Al-Badr, the assistant undersecretary for medicine and food supervision at the health ministry, said in a statement yesterday that the decision to pull these drugs from the market was made upon preliminary tests conducted at the department’s laboratories and reports by American and European authorities. Health authorities in other countries are currently trying to determine safe levels of the ingredient N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), included in food and some medical drugs, he said. He urged patients to seek their doctors’ help in prescribing alternative medicines. — KUNA



Israel's Netanyahu faces tough odds

Lower caste children beaten to death for 'open defecation'

Page 18

Page 12



NEW YORK: In this file photo, President Jacques Chirac views the World Trade Center site from a helicopter after the Twin Towers were attacked by terrorists using hijacked airliners on 11 September. Former French President Jacques Chirac has died at the age of 86, it was announced yesterday. — AFP

# French ex-president Chirac dies at 86

## Chirac suffered neurological problems

**PARIS:** Former President Jacques Chirac, a political chameleon who dominated French politics for decades and strived to make France's voice heard in Europe and beyond, died yesterday at the age of 86. Chirac was president from 1995 to 2007. He shaped his style in the mould of post-war leader Charles de Gaulle, seeking to strengthen France's status as a player on the world stage. The National Assembly interrupted a sitting to hold a minute's silence. President Emmanuel Macron cancelled a public engagement and scheduled a televised address later on.

Chirac passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones, his son-in-law Frederic Salat-Baroux told Reuters. Mayor of Paris for 18 years and prime minister for presidents on the political left and right before entering the Elysee Palace himself, Chirac had a knack for connecting with voters, particularly in rural France. "Jacques Chirac knew how to form a personal bond with the French people," said former socialist President

Francois Hollande. "France was in his blood. He explored every corner, tasted every local delicacy." In death, he will be remembered for his defiant opposition to the US-led invasion of Iraq, a military campaign which turned Chirac's relationship with then British Prime Minister Tony Blair into an acrimonious low. Blair said he was deeply saddened by Chirac's passing. "He was a towering figure in French and European politics over many decades. Whatever our differences from time to time, he was always unfailingly kind, generous and personally supportive," Blair said in a statement.

In Europe, Chirac became one of the bloc's main standard bearers. He forged an alliance with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder which brought Europe's two traditional powers closer together but upset some of their European Union partners. He said of Eastern European countries that supported then-US President George W Bush's coalition in Iraq that they had "missed a good opportunity to keep quiet." Chancellor An-

gela Merkel called Chirac a "great partner and friend to us Germans". Jean-Claude Juncker, the outgoing leader of the European Union executive, said the continent had lost a man of strong convictions.

### Corruption conviction

Five years after leaving office, Chirac was found guilty in December 2012 of abusing public funds as Paris mayor, making him the first head of state convicted since Nazi collaborator Marshal Philippe Petain in 1945. But he served no jail time and the saga did little to tarnish his image. Figures from French political life, including some who had locked horns with Chirac in the past, paid tribute to him yesterday. Far-right leader Marine Le Pen said despite political differences with Chirac "he was able to oppose the madness of the war in Iraq".

Chirac was born in 1932 in Paris. He studied at the elite Sciences Po university and ENA civil

service academy, and served as an army officer. By 1967, he had become a junior minister and was just 41 when he became prime minister in 1974. He left the government and by 1977 was elected as Paris's first mayor, a job he would keep for 18 years, until his election as president in 1995. He won a second term in 2002, after a fraught battle with far-right challenger Jean-Marie Le Pen, father of Marine Le Pen.

During his career, Chirac had flirted with Communism and ultra-nationalism before settling on mainstream right-of-centre politics, earning him the nickname "Chameleon Bonaparte." Another of his nicknames was "Houdini", a reference to his knack for managing to escape serious punishment, despite the allegations of misuse of funds. In the last years of his life, he suffered from neurological problems and was rarely seen in public. He lived quietly with his wife, Bernadette, in an apartment on Paris's Quai Voltaire, and worked on his memoirs. — Reuters

## International

# Moderate earthquake shakes Istanbul; eight people hurt

## Mosques damaged; schools closed

**ISTANBUL:** A moderate 5.7 magnitude earthquake shook buildings and damaged two mosques in Istanbul yesterday, slightly injuring eight people and causing residents to rush from buildings. Witnesses in the city of 15 million, Turkey's largest, felt buildings sway and said some offices and schools were temporarily evacuated. Three major seismic fault lines criss-cross Istanbul, which straddles Europe and Asia. "The quake really shook at the start and then it continued, maybe it felt like that because the building is so tall," said Ozge Etcan, 27, an employee at a financial firm in Istanbul's Levent district, where crowds gathered outside in the aftermath.

The tremor was at a depth of 12.6 km, the Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute said, locating its epicenter 70 km west of Istanbul in the Marmara Sea, south of the town of Silivri. It struck at 1:59 pm. Both the observatory and the US Geological Survey assessed its magnitude at 5.7. "Despite this earthquake having a magnitude that could be considered serious, we have not as yet received heartbreaking news, just some small damage," President Tayyip Erdogan told a news conference. He said eight people had

been treated for slight injuries, but did not provide further details.

The top section of a minaret had collapsed at the central mosque in Istanbul's Avcilar district, close to the Marmara Sea, CNN Turk footage showed. Another minaret collapsed in the Sariyer district of the city, the municipality's disaster coordination centre said. "There will be aftershocks of this quake. What we ask from citizens is that they don't enter damaged buildings," Murat Nurlu, head of the earthquake department at Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD), told Reuters.

### Some buildings damaged

Cracks emerged in some buildings across the city. Two of them in the Sultangazi and Eyup districts were damaged, AFAD said in a statement, clocking the quake at 5.8 magnitude. Mobile phone users had difficulty making calls shortly after the quake. AFAD said work was continuing to resolve the problem in communications. The epicentre was 22 km from the nearest inhabited area, Silivri, AFAD said. It said there had been 28 aftershocks, the strongest of which had a magnitude of 4.1.

The Istanbul governor's office said primary

Tuesday's earthquake. "You can see we have no arrangements, we don't have any place to live, have nothing to eat, we are pulling out rubble, and trying to restore electricity and water," Muhammad Waqas Aslam, who lives in the village of Nakkah Kharak outside Mirpur said. The village of Jatlan appeared to be one of the worst affected by Tuesday's quake, while Mirpur was largely spared major damage.

In Jatlan, bridges, mobile-phone towers and electricity poles were badly damaged while its roads were ripped apart. Pakistani geologists blamed the "poor construction of shanty houses in Jatlan" for some of the damage, as well as its location near a fault line and the shallowness of the quake. Pakistan's Kashmir information minister Mushtaq Minhas said at least 6,500 homes were destroyed by Tuesday's quake, adding that officials had begun to distribute thousands of tents to affected residents.

Mirpur, a city known for its palatial houses, has strong ties to Britain and many of its population of 450,000 carry both British and Pakistani passports. The city owes its prosperity to thousands of former residents who migrated to Britain in the 1960s, but retained their links to the area — repatriating money to buy land and build plush homes. Tuesday's quake also sent people in Lahore and Islamabad running into the streets, while tremors were felt as far as New Delhi.

Pakistan straddles the boundary where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet, making the country susceptible to earthquakes. In October 2015, a 7.5-magnitude quake in Pakistan and Afghanistan killed almost 400 people across rugged terrain that impeded relief efforts. The country was also hit by a 7.6-magnitude quake on October 8, 2005, that killed more than 73,000 people and left about 3.5 million homeless, mainly in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. —AFP



**ISTANBUL:** Office workers speak on their phones after fleeing their buildings in the Maslak District of Istanbul yesterday after an earthquake struck the city. —AFP

and middle schools had been ordered shut for the remainder of the day. In 1999, a quake measuring 7.6 struck the city of Izmit, 90 km southeast of Istanbul, killing more than 17,000 people. Recep Kutuk, a 37-year-old civil ser-

vant, said he experienced two major earthquakes in the region in 1999 and this had made him sensitive to any tremor. "It was really powerful. I hope this is not a precursor to another major earthquake," he said. —Reuters

## Shallow tremor rocks quake-hit area of Pakistan

**MIRPUR:** A shallow tremor yesterday sent terrified residents of northeastern Pakistan onto the streets, days after a powerful quake killed 38 people and caused widespread damage in the area. The tremor stretched already-frayed nerves in Mirpur, in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, as fears of aftershocks from Tuesday's quake sent hundreds into the streets and put local hospitals on alert.

The US Geological Survey put the quake at 4.7 magnitude and 10 kilometers deep, adding that it had struck just four kilometers outside of Mirpur. City residents huddled in streets following the quake, some still barefoot, while others recited verses from the Quran. "It's hell. I am running to save my life," Mohammad Bilal told AFP moments after the tremor. "I thought most of the building would have tumbled down," said Sagheer Ahmad. "Allah is very kind to us." Dozens of patients were evacuated from the main government hospital in Mirpur, some in wheelchairs or on stretchers. Dr Farooq Noor, the medical superintendent at the hospital, told AFP that 93 people were brought in after the tremor. Most were swiftly discharged with minor wounds or shock, but some with head injuries and broken limbs were admitted, he added. The city's hospitals were already packed with hundreds injured by the quake earlier in the week.

### 'Poor construction'

The tremor came as rescuers continued to pick through toppled buildings to reach victims from

## A vast underground hideout house rebel base in Syria

**LATAMINAH:** Tunnels run for hundreds of meters, connecting caves strewn with mattresses that formed what the Syrian army and its Russian allies say was a vast rebel underground network. The road leading to the entrance of the tunnels in Lataminah in northwestern Syria is lined with the charred shells of cars and armored vehicles.

According to the Russian army, which organized a press tour of the site for dozens of journalists, the network of caves dug into a rocky outcrop could shelter up to 5,000 people. "We think this network was dug about four years ago with sophisticated machinery, of a kind which is not available in Syria," a Syrian army colonel said as he led reporters into the tunnels, escorted by Russian demining experts. The red-brick entrance to this underground base still bears the scars of the battle that saw Russian-backed regime forces retake the area in the province of Hama earlier this year.

"Those who fought here retreated to the north. First to Khan Sheikhun and then further into Idlib province when our forces took the city," the colonel said. In some places, the tunnels are barely big enough to stand in but connect large rooms carved out of the rock, including a prayer room, a drone workshop, a bathroom and even a prison. Military officials

told AFP reporters that the total size of the underground network, in which crates of ammunition were found, has not yet been fully assessed.

### Drone workshop

It was used primarily by fighters from jihadist groups, among them the alliance known as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham that now dominates the entire Idlib enclave. The caves provided shelter to those fighters from the intensive air strikes Russian and Syrian aircraft usually conduct as a prelude to any ground advance. In some of the caves, empty food cans and crumpled plastic water bottles, jerricans and decaying clothes give a glimpse of daily life in the dark hideout.

Some rooms were done up with tile panels and a coat of paint while others have fully cemented walls, over which Syrian soldiers have since scribbled slogans praising President Bashar Al-Assad. One room was even equipped with an old TV, wired up with cables that run around one kilometer from the nearby town of Lataminah. The room which officers believe was used as a prison was dug out no less than 400 meters deep into the maze of tunnels and caves.

Blood stains are still visible on the ground, as are tiny separate cells with rusting doors. The Russian army said it has uncovered around 10 such underground networks across northwestern Syria and others in the desert region of Palmyra. Officers said the Lataminah cave was a local hub for the manufacture of drones that jihadist fighters used against regime and Russian forces. The massive Russian military base of Hmeimim, which lies in the neighboring province, has been repeatedly targeted by rebel drone attacks. —AFP

## International

# No breakthrough: Iran rules out talks as US intensifies sanctions

## Iran leader says Europe untrustworthy, condemns 'hostility'

**UNITED NATIONS:** Iran's president has closed the door on meeting Donald Trump despite last-minute European efforts to ease tensions as the United States again ramped up punishing sanctions. French President Emmanuel Macron had shuttled between his US and Iranian counterparts over two days at the United Nations, trying to arrange a historic encounter that he hoped could reduce the risk of all-out war in the Middle East.

But Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, addressing the UN General Assembly, said he would refuse talks so long as the United States maintains its economic pressure. "I would like to announce that our response to any negotiation under sanctions is negative," Rouhani said. He dismissed the idea of a photo-op with Trump, who is fond of drama and held three made-for-television meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. "Memento photos are the final stage of negotiations, not the first one," he said.

He doubted the sincerity of the Trump administration to negotiate, pointing to officials' boasts of applying "the harshest sanctions in history" against Iran. "How can someone believe them when the silent killing of a great nation, and pressure on the lives of 83 million Iranians, especially women and children, are welcomed by American government officials?" "The Iranian nation will never, ever forget and forgive these crimes and these criminals," he said.

### Europe untrustworthy

Meanwhile, Iran's supreme leader accused European governments of "hostility" yesterday, saying their actions showed they cannot be trusted. "The Europeans present themselves as mediators and say many things, but they are all

hollow," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a statement on his official website. "The countries which hold up the flag of hostility towards the Islamic system should not be trusted, principally America but some of these European countries as well, as they have a clear hostility towards the Iranian nation."

"The very people who did the negotiations now say that the Europeans have not acted on any of their commitments, and this is the strongest reason not to trust them over anything," Khamenei said. His remarks follow a failed European push led by French President Emmanuel Macron to arrange a meeting between Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York this week.

### Targeting Iran through China

Trump had already ruled out easing economic pressure and, hours before Rouhani's speech, his administration said it was stepping up sanctions. In a proclamation posted on the White House website Wednesday, Trump authorized the restriction and suspension of entry of senior Iranian government officials and their immediate family into the United States, calling Tehran "a state sponsor of terrorism."

"Given that this behavior threatens peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond, I have determined that it is in the interest of the United States to take action," the proclamation said. On Trump's last scheduled day at the annual UN summit of world leaders, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States would punish Chinese companies and their chief executives for buying Iranian oil.

"We're telling China, and all nations - know



**TEHRAN:** A Shahab-3 surface-to-surface missile is pictured on display next to a portrait of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at a street exhibition by Iran's army and paramilitary Revolutionary Guard celebrating 'Defense Week' - marking the 39th anniversary of the start of 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, at the Baharestan Square in Tehran. — AFP

that we will sanction every violation of sanctionable activity," Pompeo told a pressure group opposed to Iran's clerical regime on the sidelines of the United Nations. "This is one of the largest sanctions actions the United States has taken against entities and individuals identified as transporting Iranian oil since our sanctions were re-imposed in November 2018," Pompeo said in a statement.

"This action is aimed to deny the Iranian

regime critical income to engage in foreign conflicts, advance its ballistic missile development, and fund terror around the world," he said. China, which is embroiled in a trade war as well as myriad other disputes with the United States, is believed to be the biggest foreign buyer of Iranian oil. The Trump administration in May said it would unilaterally force all countries to stop buying Iran's oil, its major export, sending tensions soaring. — AFP

## Turkey doctor gets 15 months for revealing pollution cancer risk

**ISTANBUL:** A Turkish scientist was sentenced to 15 months in prison yesterday for revealing the cancer risks posed by toxic pollution in western Turkey. The court in Istanbul found Dr Bulent Sik guilty of "disclosing classified information" to newspaper Cumhuriyet last year. He published the results of a study carried out with other scientists for the Ministry of Health between 2011 and 2015 that linked the presence of toxicity in soil, water and food to high rates of cancer in several western provinces. He approached the press after realizing that the government was not acting on the study's findings, according to Amnesty International.

"Rather than suppressing the findings and prosecuting Dr Sik, the Ministry of Health and other relevant authorities should be taking the necessary urgent action to tackle this environmental pollution and protect public health," said Amnesty's Turkey campaigner Milena Buyum ahead of the verdict. She said Amnesty would consider Dr Sik a prisoner of conscience if he was jailed. Dr Sik had faced up to 12 years in prison, but the court found him not guilty of "obtaining classified information". He remained free on Thursday pending an appeal. — AFP

## Israel's Netanyahu faces tough odds

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched into what could prove to be an impossible mission to form a new government yesterday after the president tasked him with doing so following deadlocked elections. The mandate from President Reuven Rivlin on Wednesday night gave Netanyahu a temporary victory, but he must now cobble together a coalition without a clear path to a majority.

He will attempt to do so while facing potential corruption charges pending a hearing scheduled for October 2-3, and there are warnings that Israel could soon find itself headed to yet another election — a third since April. When accepting the mandate, Netanyahu again called on his main opponent Benny Gantz to join him in a unity government, but his challenger dismissed the premier's negotiating tactics so far as unserious.

Gantz says he should be prime minister under a unity government since his centrist Blue and White party finished as the largest, while also insisting he will not serve in a government with a premier facing a serious indictment. Blue and White has sought to convince members of Netanyahu's right-wing Likud to replace him as leader and form a unity

government together, but there is no sign for now of that happening. The situation has led Netanyahu's critics to accuse him of effectively holding the country hostage, arguing that a unity coalition would be possible if he would step down. But Netanyahu points out he has the support of more smaller parties in parliament than Gantz and has vowed not to abandon them in coalition talks. He has given no indication he would willingly give up the post he has held for more than 13 years in all, a tenure that has made him Israel's longest-serving prime minister.

Blue and White's number two Yair Lapid said yesterday that "Netanyahu didn't win the election. He lost. 'Benny Gantz is a better person than him and will be a better prime minister than him,' Lapid wrote on Facebook. "More people voted for (Blue and White) than for the Likud. They did so because they believe it's time for a discourse on values and a change of direction." Likud's chief negotiator, Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, told Israeli radio yesterday the party was open to a rotating premierships.

"We realize that if we form a unity government, Netanyahu will not be prime minister for an entire term," he said. Likud members have sought to shift blame for a possible third election onto Gantz - a position Blue and White describe as absurd. "At the moment, the option of third elections is more likely," Levin said. Rivlin urged Gantz and Netanyahu to form a unity government before his announcement Wednesday, but was unable to lead them to a deal. — AFP

## International

# Trump-Zelensky transcript sheds light on world of classified conversations

## Whistleblower: White House sought to conceal Trump-Ukraine call

**WASHINGTON:** The transcript of the July 25 phone call between US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky raises a curtain on the generally secretive world of discussions carried out between American and global leaders. Presidents and prime ministers frequently hold camera-friendly discussions about the “close,” “great” or “special” relationship between their countries, before slinking behind closed doors for meetings that are top-secret, the contents only revealed years later.

The phone conversations of US presidents take things one step further: The White House no longer systematically publishes a list of American leaders’ calls, meaning the occurrence itself could be a closely guarded secret. Only a year ago, Bill Clinton’s library published declassified transcripts of telephone calls and bilateral meetings between the former president and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin dating between 1993 and 1999.

The White House said the document that it released Wednesday was a summary—not a verbatim transcript—fleshed out with notes taken by presidential advisors who are in charge of listening to the conversations from the Situation Room, the ultra-secure meeting room located in the basement of the White House. “It is a long-standing practice, intended to not only memorialize the call but to protect the President against... egregious claims about the call,” Larry Pfeiffer, former senior director of the White House Situation Room under Barack Obama, explained on Twitter.

Recording the phone conversations of US

presidents has not been a practice for a number of years, said Pfeiffer, who also served as a former CIA director’s chief of staff. He emphasized that advisors’ notes are not exhaustive and, depending on topic and a conversation’s participants, range from exact transcripts to vague summaries.

### ‘Do us a favor’

The Trump-Zelensky exchange showed the two leaders, who had not yet met in person at the time of the call, attempting to establish a personal rapport. Trump, 73, opened the conversation by telling his 41-year-old counterpart: “Congratulations on a great victory. We all watched from the United States and you did a terrific job.”

Despite Zelensky light-heartedly ribbing the US president to call him more often, the exchange reflects the asymmetrical relationship between the US billionaire and Ukrainian leader. Zelensky oscillated between obsequious, agreeing with Trump “1,000 percent” and fawning, telling the US president that the last time he was in New York he stayed at Trump Tower. The exchange’s publication provoked strong reaction in Ukraine, where some described their president’s behavior as a point of shame. The White House said that the call lasted 30 minutes, and that note takers were at work in the Situation Room.

But then things took a turn for the newsworthy. When Zelensky told Trump Ukraine was “almost ready” to buy more anti-tank Javelin missiles from the United States, the US president replied: “I would like you to do us a favor.”

as environment and natural resources minister under President Viktor Yanukovich, and he reportedly issued licenses for gas production to his own company. Yanukovich fled to Russia in 2014 after Kiev’s pro-Western, anti-corruption revolution.

### Corruption, laundering

After the revolution, there were corruption investigations into the country’s former leadership. The month Biden arrived at Burisma, London froze \$23 million in Zlochevsky’s British accounts and several investigations for money laundering were launched in the UK and in Ukraine. In Kiev, these were overseen by Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin. Joe Biden – a major proponent of Ukraine’s reforms – asked Shokin to be dismissed, citing poor results against corruption.

Donald Trump and his lawyer, former mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani, accuse Joe Biden of asking for the firing to protect his son Hunter. But calls to dismiss Shokin were also made by the EU and the IMF, as well as Ukrainian activists, who accused him of covering up corruption and sabotaging reforms. —AFP

### Controversial company

A Western source in Kiev told AFP the Ukrainian business community was surprised that Biden accepted the role at Burisma, given its poor reputation. “I think the number one reason why Hunter Biden was brought on was to boost the reputation of Burisma,” the source said, while adding that the nature of Biden’s activities was not suspicious. “That’s the price you pay. You pay \$50,000 a month (in salary)” to improve its public image, the source said.

Biden was not the only international figure Burisma turned to in order to consolidate its standing abroad: Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski is also in the group’s employ. Two Ukrainian energy experts told AFP they saw no trace of Hunter Biden’s activities, suspicious or not, in Kiev. Some media said his presence on the supervisory board was a way of safeguarding against possible prosecution. Hunter Biden stayed on Burisma’s board until 2019. —AFP



**WASHINGTON:** Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire testifies before a hearing of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence yesterday in Washington, DC. Maguire is testifying on the whistleblower complaint, regarding communication between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. —AFP

Trump went on to say US Attorney General Bill Barr and the president’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani would be in touch about probing the Ukraine-related activities of his Democratic rival Joe Biden and his son. And now, an impeachment storm rages.

### Concealing Trump’s call

Meanwhile, White House officials sought to restrict access to the transcript of a phone call between Donald Trump and the leader of

Ukraine during which the US president sought help from Ukraine against a rival in the 2020 election, a whistleblower said in a complaint released yesterday.

“I have received information from multiple US government officials that the president of the United States is using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 US election,” the whistleblower, an unidentified intelligence community official, wrote in the complaint released by Congress.—Agencies

## Hunter Biden’s time in Ukraine

**KIEV:** Hunter Biden, the second son of former US Vice President Joe Biden, is at the centre of a scandal that has seen Democrats launch impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump. The scandal erupted after it emerged Trump had leaned on Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate the father and son over Hunter’s work in Ukraine. Here is what we know about Hunter Biden and his activities in the Eastern European country.

### Ivy League and cocaine

A lawyer by education, 49-year-old Biden is a graduate of the prestigious Georgetown and Yale universities. He works for a New York law firm and co-founded the Rosemont Seneca Partners investment consulting firm. He has also been an assistant professor at Georgetown. He joined the US Navy Reserve in 2012 but was fired in 2014 after testing positive for cocaine. US tabloids regularly report on his addiction problems and tumultuous personal life, including a relationship with his late brother’s widow.

### Ukrainian gas

In 2014, while his father was Barack Obama’s vice president and overseeing US relations with Kiev, Biden joined the board of the Ukrainian company Burisma Holdings. Burisma says it is the largest private producer of natural gas and one of the leading gas groups in Ukraine. It is registered in Cyprus, a popular tax haven for many companies in the former USSR. The group announced at the time that Biden would lead its legal unit and represent it in “international organizations”.

Biden has said he wanted to advise the group on “transparency.” Burisma was owned by controversial pro-Russian Ukrainian ex-MP and businessman Mykola Zlochevsky. From 2010 to 2012, Zlochevsky served

## Texas executes man for murdering family

**WASHINGTON:** Texas on Wednesday executed a man who murdered three family members, following a trial in which a bailiff wore a tie depicting a syringe in an apparent reference to the lethal injection procedure. Robert Sparks, 45, was pronounced dead at 6:39 pm local time (2339 GMT). He was sentenced to death in 2008 for stabbing to death his wife as well as his two stepsons aged nine and 10, before raping his 12- and 14-year-old teenage stepdaughters in their Dallas home in the middle of the night.

Shortly after the murders, he claimed he had been protecting himself from his wife, who he said was trying to poison him. His lawyers appealed his conviction to the US Supreme Court, saying that he was mentally disabled and suffering from psychosis, rendering him ineligible for the death penalty. They also stressed that his trial had been marred by the bailiff’s tie, saying it could have influenced the jury.

The Supreme Court rejected the appeal just hours before the execution. Justice Sonia Sotomayor acknowledged the bailiff’s choice was “deeply troubling,” but said there was not sufficient evidence that the jury had seen the tie. She urged judges to “intervene in future cases” by removing such clothing—or the people wearing it—from the courtroom. Sparks is the seventh person executed in Texas and the 16th in the United States since the start of the year. —AFP

## International

# Facebook tightens political advert rules for Singapore

## Facebook unveils virtual social space for its Oculus users

**SINGAPORE:** Facebook yesterday introduced strict criteria for political ads on the social network in Singapore to prevent the spread of misinformation as the city-state gears up for elections. Faced with criticism the site has been used to manipulate polls, Facebook has been tightening rules on such adverts around the world, from the United States to India.

Those advertising in Singapore about elections and politics on Facebook or its Instagram app will now have to first confirm their identity and location, and disclose who is responsible for the ad, the social network said. They must also provide information such as a phone number, email or website, said Katie Harbath, Facebook's public policy director. In addition, the new requirements will apply to those wanting to run ads related to social issues such as immigration and crime-topics that are hotly debated by Singaporeans on Facebook.

"To enable healthy discourse in Singapore, we've taken steps to reduce the spread of misinformation, help prevent foreign interference in elections, and, more recently, to bring greater transparency and authenticity to advertising," she said. Speculation has been mounting that Singaporeans could head to the polls soon after Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong convened a committee to review electoral boundaries this month, typically the first step towards a vote.

Facebook came under fire from Singapore authorities earlier this year in the run-up to the

passage of new legislation to combat "fake news", with the government accusing tech giants of being unable to police themselves. The law requires social media platforms to carry corrections or remove content the government deems to be false, but activists have warned it could be used to silence critics ahead of the elections.

Facebook is a major investor in Singapore. The firm has its Asia headquarters in the city-state and last year announced plans to build a \$1 billion data centre there, its first in the region. The Singapore government has long been accused of clamping down on civil liberties and free speech, and targeting their political opponents. The People's Action Party, which has ruled Singapore uninterrupted for more than five decades, is not seen as being at risk of losing power at the polls to a divided opposition.

### Virtual social space

Facebook said Wednesday it will launch a virtual social community where users of its Oculus headgear can "explore new places" and "create their own new experiences." The Horizon virtual world set for a beta launch in 2020 represents a new initiative for the Oculus virtual reality unit of the leading social network.

Oculus users will be able to choose an avatar and interact with others in the virtual social community, Facebook said as it opened its Oculus Connect 6 conference. "Our goal is to put people at the center of computing, not



**NANTES:** Photo shows the logo of the US online social media and social networking service, Facebook. Facebook has removed a group of pages on its platform reportedly linked to Ukraine which featured US patriotic messages and praise for President Donald Trump, with posts seen by millions of users. —AFP

just with great hardware, but with amazing software experiences as well," Facebook said in a statement. Facebook Horizon will be "a new social experience in VR where you can build your own worlds with easy-to-use tools (no coding skills required)," the company said.

Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg told the conference, "Because everyone is going to be able to create their own spaces and experiences within it, Horizon is going to have

this property where it just grows and expands and gets better and better over time." Horizon will replace earlier versions of the social VR community Facebook Spaces and Oculus Rooms. Oculus remains a small part of Facebook's services, with its core social network and other platforms reaching more than two billion people worldwide. Analysts expect sales of 1.3 million units in 2019 of the Oculus Quest, the headset unveiled last year. —Agencies

## Many feared dead in Chad gold mine collapse: Minister

**N'DJAMENA:** Many people were feared dead, possibly 30, after an illegal gold mine collapsed in northern Chad close to the Libyan border, officials said yesterday. Defense Minister Mahamat Abali Salah told AFP the mine caved in early Tuesday in a zone beset by illicit mining and trafficking at Kouri Bougoudi in Tibesti province. There were "many deaths, for sure," Salah said. "A mine collapsed. I cannot say exactly how many fatalities there are but there are many people working in these mines, so there must be many deaths, for sure," Salah told AFP by phone.

An army officer who requested anonymity spoke of "around 30 deaths," basing the figure on witness accounts with the army yet to arrive on the scene which is in a remote small town. A local lawmaker spoke for his part of "a dozen deaths," basing his tally on what witnesses had related to him. "I cannot give you an exact tally as we rushed troops to the scene this morning," said Salah, saying he expected a report later. Tibesti, the province where the accident occurred, is largely lawless and home to numerous gangs and traffickers seeking to profit from a gold rush. Clashes in January between Arab miners from Libya and miners from Chad's Ouaddai community left "dozens" dead, according to security and mining sources. Kouri Bougoudi has itself been the scene of clashes among rival ethnic, local and foreign groups since 2012 and 2013 after the discovery of gold deposits there. —AFP

## Chemical plant fire in northern France threatens Seine

**CAEN:** Thick black smoke billowed over the northern French town of Rouen yesterday after a spectacular fire broke out at a chemical factory, forcing authorities to close schools and warn of potential pollution risks for the nearby Seine river. After hours of battling the blaze, around 200 firefighters had brought it under control by afternoon, though officials said it could be several days at least before it is fully extinguished. "The fight they will have to wage to get the situation fully under control will take several days, maybe even weeks," Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said after arriving at the site.

The fire erupted at around 2:30 am at a storage facility owned by a Lubrizol, a manufacturer of industrial lubricants and fuel additives. Castaner said firefighters had managed to remove "the most dangerous products" that could have provoked other explosions at other nearby industrial sites. But the smoke had spread 22 kilometers and contains "a certain number of compounds which can be a health hazard," Castaner said, though there was no "particular danger" according to initial analyses.

Schools and creches nearby have been shut, and local authorities have asked people living near the factory to stay at home and everyone else to avoid unnecessary journeys. Prosecutors have opened an inquiry into the cause of the explosion and fire, which work up residents with a booming

explosion. "There was soot all over the streets, pavements and cars," said Jean-Claude Bleuzen, a deputy mayor of Preaux, a town some 15 kilometers northeast of Rouen.

### Environmental threat

"The smoke is really striking and wherever you are in Rouen you can see it," Marina Andre, a 25-year-old who works in a bar near the factory said. "You can smell fuel, not really a burned smell, it's very distinctive," she said, adding that people were still going to work and even cycling near the site of the blaze on the bank of the Seine river. The factory belongs to US multinational Lubrizol, which is owned by the billionaire American investor Warren Buffett, and sits just a few kilometers from the centre of the city of around 100,000 people.

Pierre-Andre Durand, a top regional official, told reporters that the danger was an overflow of fuel or polluted wastewater from the site into the river. The Seine, one of France's biggest rivers, flows through Paris to the south and empties into the English Channel further north in Le Havre, which is home to a major fishing fleet. In January 2013, the Lubrizol factory was responsible for a giant leak of the gas mercaptan, which smells like cabbage or rotten eggs and is often added to natural gas to alert people in case of leaks.

A cloud of the gas blew all the way to Paris and across the Channel into southern England, where residents complained about the odor. And in 2015, 2,000 litres of mineral oil, which is used in lubricants, leaked from the Lubrizol site into the local sewer system in Rouen, which is famed for its cathedral. "The biggest priority is to protect the most risky parts of the factory, which could explode and then create a domino effect of other fires," Jean-Yves Lagalle, the head of firefighting in the region, told reporters. —AFP

# Brexit 'inferno' lays bare a divided United Kingdom

## House of Commons at boiling point in raucous debate

**LONDON:** The fury of Britain's Brexit "inferno" is so intense that it could encourage violence unless politicians tone down their rhetoric, the husband of a lawmaker murdered a week before the 2016 EU referendum said yesterday. Parliament reached boiling point on Wednesday when Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his opponents engaged in hours of vitriolic argument over Brexit, with lawmakers hurling allegations of betrayal and abuse of power across the chamber. Jo Cox, a 41-year-old parliamentarian from the opposition Labor Party, was murdered on June 16, 2016 by Thomas Mair, a loner obsessed with Nazis and extreme right-wing ideology. She was the mother of two young children. Cox's husband Brendan said he was shocked by the inflammatory language on display and both sides should ponder the impact of the words they used.

When asked how his late wife might have responded, Cox said: "She would have tried to take a generosity of spirit to it and thought about how in this moment you can step back from this growing inferno of rhetoric." "To descend into this bear pit of polarization is dangerous for our country," he told the BBC. "It creates an atmosphere where violence and attacks are more likely."

Brexit has illustrated a United Kingdom divided about much more than the European Union, and has fuelled soul-searching about everything from secession and immigration to capitalism, empire and Britishness itself. The rage and ferocity of the Brexit

debate has shocked allies of a country that has prided itself as a confident - and mostly tolerant - pillar of Western economic and political stability. Cox was clear that the language across the Brexit schism was troubling and that the United Kingdom needed to come together rather than tear itself apart.

Some on both sides of the debate are now using the politics of contrived outrage to argue their point. Johnson says parliament is betraying the will of the people over Brexit, while opponents cast him a dictator who has ridden roughshod over democracy to take the United Kingdom to the brink of ruin. Parliamentary speaker John Bercow told lawmakers to stop treating each other as enemies, saying the atmosphere in the House of Commons was the worst he had known since he was elected 22 years ago. "The culture was toxic," Bercow said in parliament.

Johnson returned to the chamber on Wednesday after the Supreme Court ruled that his decision to suspend parliament earlier this month was unlawful. He goaded his opponents either to bring down the government or get out of the way to allow him to deliver Brexit. His opponents roared "resign" and some cast him as a cheating dictator who should stand aside after the court ruling.

Johnson provoked anger by repeatedly calling a law that forces him to ask the EU for a Brexit delay unless he can strike a deal as "the Surrender Bill". Speaking to Conservative lawmakers yesterday, he defended his use of the term and received support



**LONDON:** Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson leaves number 10 Downing Street in central London to attend a meeting with the 1922 committee. —AFP

from the party. Johnson told the 1922 Committee: "It IS a surrender act," arguing that it hurt Britain's negotiating stance with the EU. The prime minister added that he took threats to lawmakers very seriously. But some were still furious over his Wednesday response to a questions about Jo Cox.

Labor's Paula Sherriff told the House she had received death threats, some of which echoed the

prime minister's own rhetoric, Johnson replied: "I have never heard so much humbug in my life", sparking uproar. "I actually don't feel anger towards the prime minister - I feel pity for those of you who still have to toe his line." Another Labour lawmaker, Jess Phillips, said Conservatives in the chamber "know how appalling it was to describe the murder of my friend as mere humbug". —Reuters

## Five years on, 43 missing students still haunt Mexico

**MEXICO CITY:** Five years ago, 43 students in southern Mexico who were on their way to a protest were detained by corrupt police who handed them over to drug-cartel hitmen. Then they disappeared without a trace. Half a decade later, Mexico is still haunted by "the 43," a case that drew international condemnation and stained the government of ex-president Enrique Pena Nieto. The investigation has been marred by allegations of official incompetence or even corruption. Misconduct - especially the use of torture to extract supposed confessions - has resulted in the release of 77 detainees, including the main suspect earlier this month. New President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has promised to bring the case to justice, launching a truth commission. The new prosecutor general has meanwhile announced plans to reinvestigate "almost from scratch."

But it is uncertain whether the world will ever know what happened to the young men from the teacher training institute in the rural village of Ayotzinapa, in the violent state of Guerrero. "I don't think (a new investigation) will achieve a radically different result from the original," said Alejandro Hope, a security expert and former Mexican intelligence officer. "There are two facts that don't seem to be in doubt: the students were kidnapped by police and handed over to the Guerreros Unidos cartel." What happened after that, he said, might remain a mystery forever.

### 'Historic lie'

The students attended a college with a history of radical protest. They had a habit, among other rowdy behavior, of commandeering buses to drive themselves to protests. Dozens of them did that on the night of September 26, 2014, traveling to the nearby city of Iguala and hijacking five buses for a march in Mexico City. However, they did not get far. Local police opened fire on the buses, killing six people. Then they rounded up the remaining students and handed them over to Guer-

ros Unidos, which apparently had the police on its payroll. Under Pena Nieto, the federal prosecutor's office - which at that time answered to the president - concluded the cartel mistook the students for members of a rival gang. According to this version of events, which the administration called "the historic truth," hitmen took the students to a garbage dump, executed them, burned their bodies and threw the ashes into a river. However, a team of independent investigators from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights found that was impossible, based on forensic analysis of the supposed crime scene. Their conclusion led the students' families to rebrand the government's version "the historic lie." And it left Mexicans to wonder: if the government's gruesome explanation was a cover story, how horrific was the truth?

### Missing bus

The government did not renew the mandate of the international experts, who never finished their investigation. However, they hypothesized the students may have inadvertently hijacked a bus loaded with heroin bound for the United States. Of the five buses the students took that night, it was the only one stopped by federal police, rather than shot up by municipal police, the experts concluded. All mention of the bus later disappeared from the official case file. In Mexico, where murky links between government officials and organized crime are routine, it is anyone's guess who may have been in on such a plan. But it will be virtually impossible to find evidence, Hope said. "There is zero possibility of proving that the army or federal police were responsible or acted on Pena Nieto's orders," he said.

### New lead

The men's families continue to hope for justice, and even to find their sons. "I don't know if this is just a mother's heart talking, but I don't feel like my son is dead. I want to see him come back and hold him in my arms — him and the other 42," Blanca Luz Nava said through tears Wednesday at a protest against the lack of justice in the case. The families plan a new protest in Mexico City. Investigators meanwhile began chasing a fresh lead this week: they are excavating at a different garbage dump near Iguala, in the town of Tepeacoacuilco, where witnesses reportedly say some of the men were executed. —AFP

## Student lay dead in N Zealand university dorm for 2 months

**WELLINGTON:** A teenager lay dead in his campus dorm room for up to two months, a New Zealand university said yesterday, with the young man's body only discovered after fellow residents complained of the smell. The remains of the first year University of Canterbury student were so badly decomposed that specialist disaster investigators were brought in to identify them. "Clearly there's been quite a big failure here," New Zealand Education Minister Chris Hipkins said.

"And if that means that things need to change to make sure this sort of thing doesn't happen again in the future, then we will do that." The 19-year-old, who has not been publicly identified, was described by friends as a "good and confident guy", but who would sometimes "go off the grid for a week or so." The undergraduate began his course in July—the start of the academic year in New Zealand—having opted to live on Canterbury University's leafy campus in Christchurch.

Single rooms at the halls of residence where the student's body was found cost NZ\$17,000 (US\$10,000) a year, the university's website says, boasting they offer a "close knit community". The halls of residence is run by Campus Living Villages (CLV) - a company that operates student accommodation with more than 45,000 beds in the US, the UK and Australia, as well as New Zealand, according to its website.

"The thing that haunts me is how did we miss him?" CLV managing director John Schroder told reporters. "I'm very perturbed. If indeed the young man was deceased for as long as he was... then I would say that is a failing on our part and we have to adjust our processes and systems." Local media reported the dead man's stepfather had raised concerns with police after being unable to contact the student via friends. —AFP

## International

# Viral visuals driving the social media manipulation on YouTube, Instagram

## Social media sites under scrutiny over online disinformation

**LONDON:** The success of viral memes, videos and pictures in spreading online disinformation is fuelling organized social media manipulation on Instagram and YouTube, researchers at Oxford University said yesterday. In an annual report on disinformation trends, the Oxford Internet Institute's Computational Propaganda Research Project said Facebook remained the most popular platform for social media manipulation due to its size and global reach.

But a focus on visual content more likely to be shared online means users of Google's YouTube video platform and Facebook's Instagram photo-sharing site are increasingly being targeted with false or misleading messages, said Samantha Bradshaw, one of the report's authors.

"On Instagram and YouTube it's about the evolving nature of fake news - now there are fewer text-based websites sharing articles and it's more about video with quick, consumable content," she said. "Memes and videos are so easy to consume in an attention-short environment." The report's findings highlight the challenges faced by Facebook, Google and other social media companies in combating the spread of political and financially-motivated disinformation, as tactics and technologies develop and change.

A Facebook spokesman said showing users accurate information was a "major priority" for the company. "We've developed smarter tools, greater transparency, and stronger partnerships to better identify emerging threats, stop

bad actors, and reduce the spread of misinformation on Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp," the spokesman said.

YouTube said it had invested in policies, resources and products to tackle misinformation on its site and regularly removes content which violates its terms of use. A spokesman declined to comment on Oxford University's findings. Bradshaw said the move to target internet users with visual content would make it harder for social media platforms to identify and stamp out manipulated activity.

Facebook and YouTube both came under intense scrutiny over their ability to monitor and police visual content following a mass-shooting in New Zealand in March. In that incident, a gunman was able to live-stream the killing of 51

people on Facebook before internet users repeatedly shared and uploaded the video across multiple social media platforms. "It's easier to automatically analyze words than it is an image," Bradshaw said. "And images are often more powerful than words with more potential to go viral."

The Oxford University report said that increased awareness of social media manipulation meant such activity had now been identified in 70 countries worldwide, up from 28 in 2017. "Computational propaganda has become a normal part of the digital public sphere," the report said. "These techniques will also continue to evolve as new technologies ... are poised to fundamentally reshape society and politics." — Reuters

## Podemos woes mount as rival leftist enters Spanish elections

**MADRID:** The former number two of Spain's Podemos said Wednesday he would contest November's elections, running against his former close friend Pablo Iglesias who heads the far-left party. The move looks set to further fragment the divided left-wing parties just six weeks ahead of the November 10 vote, which will be the fourth general election in as many years.

Voters were recalled to the ballot box after Socialist Prime Minister Pablo Sanchez failed to secure support to be confirmed as premier despite months of negotiations, primarily with Podemos. Inigo Errejon, 35, said he would run at the head of a new list called Mas Pais—"More for the country"—capping weeks of speculation about whether he would throw his hat into the ring. At a meeting in Madrid, the party confirmed it would contest the elections with Errejon heading a list made up of mostly women.

The move is likely to cement the political and personal split between Iglesias and Errejon who had been part of Spain's anti-austerity "Indignados" movement and who jointly founded Podemos in January 2014. In a 30-minute address, Errejon said the only thing dragging the country back to the ballot box was "the irresponsibility of the political leaders" who had failed to reach an agreement, in a swipe at the Socialists and Podemos.

"I understand the almost unanimous anger... with the current leaders and the political impasse... which runs the risk of translating into abstention," he said. "Spain needs to break the impasse" and for that, it was crucial to ensure that no-one stayed at home "disillusioned, exhausted, drained". "If we want the result to be different, we have to vote in a different way to ensure there is a progressive government," he said, presenting Mas Pais as "part of the solution".

For years, Iglesias and Errejon—who both hold a doctorate in political science—were largely inseparable after becoming friends while studying at Madrid's Complutense University. After founding Podemos, they worked closely together with Errejon serving as Iglesias' deputy until 2017 when they became embroiled in a power struggle that sparked a deep rift within the party.—AFP

## US military struggles to weed out soldiers with far-right ties

**WASHINGTON:** The arrest of a US soldier with far-right sympathies who is suspected of plotting an attack on American soil to spark "chaos" has highlighted a challenge for the Pentagon: purging its ranks of extremists. Jarrett Smith, a private in the US Army based at Fort Riley in Kansas, was arrested and charged in federal court with one count of distributing information related to explosives after offering a detailed explanation to an undercover FBI agent. Smith also expressed interest in targeting members of the leftist group Antifa and heading to Ukraine to fight with a far-right paramilitary group, the FBI says.

But he is hardly the first US soldier to reveal far-right or ultra-nationalist leanings - and some fear the US military is being used as a training ground by extremist groups. "Everything old is new again," says Brian Levin, a professor of criminal justice at California State University, San Bernardino, and the director of the school's Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. "There is a renewed effort within part of the white supremacist world to focus on the military because they have such valuable skills," he added, pointing to Smith's case.

The links between the far-right and the US armed forces first came to light in the 1980s when Vietnam veteran Louis Beam came home, joined the Ku Klux Klan and had links to the Order, an underground neo-Nazi group that called for the overthrow of the US government. Earlier this year, a US Coast Guard officer who espoused white supremacist views, Christopher Paul Hasson, was arrested on firearms and drug charges outside Washington. Hasson - an avowed admirer of Norwegian right-wing extremist Anders Breivik, whose attacks in 2011 left 77 people dead - allegedly had drafted a hit list of Democratic politicians and prominent media figures.

Prosecutors have said Hasson identified himself as a "White Nationalist for over 30 years and advocated for 'focused violence' in order to establish a white homeland." And in May, the US Army said it was investigating a 22-year-old soldier over suspected ties to neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division. "Our standards are clear: participation in extremist activities has never been tolerated" and is a punishable offense, Pentagon spokeswoman Jessica Maxwell told AFP.

The Pentagon tries to "learn as much as possible about potential new soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines so we can assess whether



**PORTLAND:** A far-right demonstrator makes the OK hand gesture believed to have white supremacist connotations during "The End Domestic Terrorism" rally at Tom McCall Waterfront Park in Portland, Oregon. — AFP

they should be extended the privilege to serve in the military," Maxwell said. "While we can't guarantee that every person who enters the service will be free from holding extremist thoughts, various screening tools provide us the best opportunity to identify those who do not share our values."

In Smith's case, an investigation revealed that he had joined the army a year after connecting on Facebook with Craig Lang, an extremist known to US security officials for fighting alongside paramilitaries in Ukraine. "No former military experience, but if I cannot find a slot in Ukraine by October I'll be going into the Army," Smith told Lang in June 2016, according to the FBI.

One year later, he was stationed at Fort Benning in Georgia. Recruiters had not uncovered his leanings - or the risk presented. For Levin, Smith's case is interesting because it implies that white supremacist groups are on the prowl for soldiers sharing their views. He said that while the Pentagon is making a "sincere effort" to combat extremism within its ranks, it was not enough. "The military is acutely aware of the problem and they are certainly working on it," Levin said. "Now what we have to do is to retool our response to it."

Even if the US military is seen as the most ethnically diverse institution in the country, it remains a fertile breeding ground for far-right sympathizers. According to a poll conducted among 829 service members in October 2018 by the Military Times, 22 percent said they had seen signs of white supremacy or racism within the military in the previous year. — AFP



## International

# Anger, impatience mount in Pakistan's Kashmir; Khan makes diplomatic push

## Regional tensions swell since India strips its portion of autonomy

**MUZZAFFARABAD:** As Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan delivers another appeal to the world to address the situation in Kashmir, he faces the risk that rising anger in his country's portion of the disputed region could spiral into a confrontation with India. Some people in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir said thousands of people were preparing to storm the line of control (LOC) - a ceasefire line agreed with India that is one of the most militarized frontiers in the world. Reuters could not independently verify the claims.

But regional tensions have swelled since India stripped its portion of Kashmir of autonomy in August, made mass arrests, limited communications and imposed curfew-like restrictions in some areas to contain a decades-long uprising against New Delhi's rule. Khan has appealed to Kashmiris to give him the chance to sway the international community and he is scheduled to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Friday, but patience appears to be in short supply in Pakistani Kashmir.

"We are all waiting for the United Nations...to see if the world can help us. Otherwise, we will try to break the LOC border," said Habib Urhman Afaqi, the president of the Jamaat-e-Islami political party for the district of Kolti, near the LOC. He said tens of thousands of men around the region were organizing by

word of mouth and social media. "We are preparing people, emotionally, and collectively we will be ready to fight on 27 September," Afaqi said.

As of yesterday, there were no signs of any gathering of people in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan's portion of Kashmir which is about 30 km from the LOC. Political leaders in the region said they were waiting until after Khan's speech to take action. Khan has strongly criticized New Delhi's actions in Kashmir in an international diplomacy campaign and cut off trade ties, but has condemned the plan to storm the LOC.

He said in a speech this month that anyone who attempted to cross the border risked drawing the ire of India, losing international sympathy and would be an "enemy of Kashmir". Pakistan's military said it would not allow any one to cross the LOC. "Pakistan is making all peaceful/diplomatic efforts to awaken world conscience to get them (Kashmiris) relief," the military's media wing said in an e-mail. "However, as stated earlier Pakistan keeps all options open and shall go to any extent as regards resolution of the Kashmir dispute."

### 'Canon fodder'

Both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers and have fought three wars since independence

in 1947, two of them over Kashmir. A spokesman for the Indian military warned against using Kashmiris as "canon fodder" and said he hoped Pakistan would ensure the LOC was not breached. "The Indian army is aware of the public utterances of Pakistani leaders aimed at instigating unarmed civilians," the spokesman said in response to a question from Reuters.

"It is a known fact that they are being sent on harm's way to create a humanitarian crisis to draw world attention," Khan told the New York Times on Wednesday that he would appeal in his speech for United Nations intervention in Kashmir but was not optimistic he could accomplish much in the short-term. He warned of large-scale violence in Indian Kashmir when the restrictions on civilian movements were lifted.

Kashmir has been Pakistan's single most pressing foreign policy issue since it was born out of British colonial India, but some Pakistani Kashmiris say Khan is being weak. "Imran Khan has nothing at stake and this decision whether to trample down or storm the LOC should be of the Kashmiris," said Subiyal Rasheed, a 35-year-old software engineer from the town of Rawalakot, who says he is speaking with other young men about storming the LOC en masse.

Memes using the hashtag "#TweetoSultan" went viral in recent weeks, a play on historic Muslim warrior Tipu Sultan and a dig at Khan

that his battle was being waged through ineffective emotional tweets. Khan told reporters in New York this week that he was doing everything he could. "We can't attack India, clearly that is not an option, and apart from that we're doing everything possible we could do," Khan said.

India, which says its revocation of Kashmir's special status will allow the region to develop economically, has long accused Pakistan of training, arming and sending militants to Kashmir. Pakistan denies this and says it only provides diplomatic and moral support to non-violent separatists in the region. Khan has stepped up his warnings this month that India is planning a 'false flag' attack on its own soil to give it an excuse to attack Pakistan, a claim India denies.

Syed Salahuddin, a Kashmiri militant commander who heads an alliance of over a dozen groups fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, said in a speech this month that "harsh steps" from Pakistan's government had hindered his groups' ability to take action. He later said in an interview that Pakistan should send troops across the border or convince the United Nations to send peacekeeping troops there. "Pakistan has been extending us political and moral support...but the Kashmiris want some practical steps," he told Reuters by phone, declining to answer further questions. — Reuters

## Infant among at least 20 killed in Indonesian quake

**AMBON CITY:** At least 20 people were killed and dozens injured yesterday in a strong earthquake that rocked Indonesia's remote Maluku islands, triggering landslides that buried at least one of the victims, the disaster agency said. Terrified residents ran into the streets as buildings fell in around them when the 6.5-magnitude quake hit in the morning. "At least 100 people were injured and more than 2,000 evacuated," said national disaster mitigation spokesman Agus Wibowo who gave the latest death toll in statement. Among those killed was an infant, he said.

Earlier, local disaster agency officials said some victims had been killed by falling debris while one person was buried in a landslide. Another victim died of a heart attack as the tremor hit, while one woman died after falling off her motorbike while fleeing to higher ground, officials said. Residents of Ambon, a city of about 400,000 people, were seen helping injured residents in blood-stained clothes, while images showed wrecked homes with collapsed walls and rubble strewn on the ground.

Some patients fled a local hospital as the quake hit, prompting officials to set up makeshift shelters outside the building, an official said. "The impact was felt across Ambon city and surrounding areas," said Rahmat Triyono, head of the earthquake and tsunami division at Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency (BMKG). "Many people were woken up by the shaking... it felt like a truck was passing by." The US Geological Survey said the quake struck about 37 kilometers northeast of Ambon in Maluku province at a depth of 29 kilometers.



**AMBON CITY:** A resident inspects a collapsed wall of his house in Ambon, Indonesia's Maluku islands following a 6.5-magnitude earthquake yesterday. — AFP

The area was hit by at least two dozen aftershocks including one that measured 5.6 magnitude, Triyono said. An AFP reporter in Ambon described scenes of panic as people fled their houses when the quake struck. Architect Suryanto Soekarno said a construction site where he and his employees were working was rocked by the tremor. "It was a really hard shock," he said. "Filing cabinets fell over and my employees ran away to save themselves. Some were injured but thank God only with minor wounds."

Initial reports said the quake struck offshore, but later analysis found it hit onshore, raising the potential for damage, according to Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency. Local BMKG head Oral Sem Wilar called for calm. "People were panicking and started to evacuate in some places, but we are trying to tell them there's no need to panic because there's no tsunami threat," he told AFP. — AFP

## Indonesia student dies in law-change protests

**KENDARI:** An Indonesian student died yesterday as thousands hit the streets nationwide in a wave of opposition to a major overhaul of the country's criminal code and a bid to weaken its anti-corruption agency, police said. The death appeared to mark the first fatality in days of street battles across the Southeast Asian country, which have left hundreds injured and sparked a call from Amnesty International to probe what it described as "massive police violence" against protesters. The 21-year-old victim was rushed to hospital suffering from a chest wound and later died as riots erupted in Kendari city on Sulawesi island, where the local parliament was torched, authorities said.

But police denied playing a role in the death, amid social media claims that the engineering student was shot. "There was an injured student among the crowd. He was taken to the hospital and declared dead as doctors tried to save him. He had a wound on his right chest, but I cannot confirm what kind of injury it was," Southeast Sulawesi police spokesman Harry Golden Hart told Metro TV. "None of our officers carried live bullets... or even rubber bullets," he added.

The unrest was sparked by a proposed bill that includes dozens of law changes - from criminalizing pre-marital sex and restricting sales of contraceptives, to making it illegal to insult the president. There has also been a backlash against a separate bill that critics fear would dilute the powers of Indonesia's corruption-fighting agency - known as the KPK - including its ability to wire-tap graft suspects. The demonstrations across the archipelago are among the biggest since mass street protests in 1998 brought down the three-decade Suharto dictatorship. — AFP

## International

# 2 lower caste children beaten to death for 'open defecation'

## Poor sanitation forces Indians to defecate outdoors

**LUCKNOW:** Two children from India's lowest caste were beaten to death by two men after they defecated outside, officials and relatives said yesterday, in the latest case of communal violence in the country. Rajesh Chandel, superintendent of police in Shivpuri, a district in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, told Reuters the children, identified as 12-year-old girl Roshni and her nephew Avinash, a 10-year-old boy, were attacked at around 0630 local time on Wednesday.

Two men, whom Chandel identified as Hakam Singh and Rameshwar Singh, have been ar-

rested, he said. "The accused are mentally stable and during the interrogation they have said they committed this crime," Chandel said, adding the investigation was continuing. It was not possible to reach the accused or their representatives for comment.

The two children belonged to what are known officially as "scheduled castes", but also called "Dalits", or "untouchables" for their position in India's ancient caste hierarchy. Discrimination on the basis of caste is illegal but still widespread in India, especially in rural areas where hundreds of millions of people live. Both

Chandel and Avinash's father, Manoj Balmiki, said the murders followed an earlier verbal altercation between the two families where "casteist slurs" were used by the accused.

"There is a lot of untouchability issues in our village," Balmiki, 32 said. "Our children cannot play with their children." Poor sanitation that forces Indians to defecate outdoors is one of the country's biggest health issues, and its eradication has been a top priority for the Bharatiya Janata Party government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modi launched the Swachh Bharat, or Clean India, mission in 2014, and has

promised to make India "open defecation free" (ODF) by Oct. 2 this year.

This week Modi was given an award by the Gates Foundation at a ceremony in New York for his role in the scheme. Swachh Bharat has constructed more than a hundred million toilets for some of the poorest in Indian society, according to official data, but problems in some areas remain. Anugraha P, the district's top civil servant, told Reuters that Bhaukhedi village, where the two families live, had been declared as ODF in 2018, but that Balmiki's house did not have a toilet.— Reuters

## The economist and the eye doctor: The Afghan presidential hopefuls

**KABUL:** A former World Bank economist, an ophthalmologist, a spy chief and a one-time warlord are among the 15 candidates vying for the presidency when Afghanistan heads to the polls this weekend. Eighteen candidates are set to appear on the official ballot, although three have since dropped out and officials say there is not enough time to update the ballot papers. The run-up to the poll has been chaotic, with little in the way of campaigning and large swathes of the country unable to vote due to Taliban threats. Here is a rundown of the main candidates:

### The incumbent

President Ashraf Ghani has variously been described as visionary, short-tempered, academic and overly demanding. The former World Bank economist and finance minister has long nurtured dreams of rebuilding Afghanistan, and firmly believes he is one of the few people - perhaps the only one - capable of handling the responsibility. Despite a lack of credible polling, he is widely perceived as the overall favourite, though he has made little headway against either the Taliban or deep-rooted government corruption. And even though Ghani has made repeated overtures to the Taliban for peace, they continue to dismiss him as a US-controlled "puppet", while the Americans sidelined him from now-suspended talks with the militants. If re-elected, Ghani will be given a mandate in any future Afghan-led peace process with the Taliban - should they ever agree to such negotiations. If talking fails, Ghani has vowed in the past to fight the militants "for generations" if necessary.

### The doctor

Former ophthalmologist and resistance fighter Abdullah Abdullah is again on the cusp of becoming the president of Afghanistan after being defeated in two previous elections, both tarnished by widespread allegations of fraud. Abdullah, once an eye doctor in Kabul, was a member of Burhanuddin Rabbani's government during Afghanistan's 1992-1996 civil war, and made a name for himself abroad for his fluent English and refined manner. His formative political experience was as the right-hand man to Ahmad Shah Massoud - the celebrated Tajik commander who led resistance to the Soviet occupation in the 1980s and to the 1996-2001 Taliban regime, only to be assassinated by Al Qaeda two days before the 9/11 attacks. Both Abdullah and Ghani ran in 2014, and both claimed they had won.

To avert a full-blown conflict, then US secretary of state John Kerry brokered a power-sharing deal between the two that left Abdullah as



**KABUL:** Afghan presidential candidates Abdullah Abdullah (left) and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar take part in a presidential debate at Tolo News TV station yesterday.— AFP

the country's chief executive. Abdullah has been in an unending tug of war with Ghani ever since, with bitter infighting in their administration preventing major attempts at reforms and legislation, while the two avoid public appearances together due to deep-seated enmity. If finally elected, Abdullah has pledged to prioritize peace along with vague promises to improve the economy.

### The butcher of Kabul

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has lived many lives in a career forged in the crucible of Afghanistan's decades of war. Widely regarded as one of the most notorious warlords in Afghanistan's bloody history, he has also been an anti-Soviet commander, prime minister, and now presidential contender. He was accused of killing thousands during the 1992-1996 civil war and earned the nickname "the butcher of Kabul" for his brutal shelling of the capital. After the 2001 US-led invasion, Washington designated him a terrorist, accusing him of colluding with Al-Qaeda and Taliban militants. Hekmatyar made a surprising re-entry into the political mainstream in 2017 following a peace deal between his dormant Hezb-i-Islami militant group and Ghani. If elected, Hekmatyar has vowed to oversee the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan once and for all.

### The lion's brother

Ahmad Wali Massoud is hoping to cash in on the fame of his renowned elder brother Ahmad Shah Massoud, the so-called "Lion of Panjshir" who worked so closely with Abdullah. Other than a stint as the Afghan ambassador to the United Kingdom, Massoud has little in the way of political experience and has largely spent the last two decades as his brother's keeper, running a foundation in his name. But he remains popular with the country's Tajik ethnic group, especially powerbrokers from his native Panjshir province that has enjoyed an outsized role in the government since 2001. Massoud, however, is believed to have little chance of winning and at best can hope for an appointment in any future government.—AFP

## Little hope for peace as Afghans prepare for weekend vote

**KABUL:** Afghans go to the polls tomorrow to vote in a presidential election that few expect will have much effect in bringing peace to the war-torn country. With the Taliban threatening violence against anyone who participates, and concern that the widespread fraud which blighted previous elections will resurface, analysts fear a low turnout will seriously undermine the result. "The security threats, coupled with a trust issue in the election's transparency, may translate into a very low turnout," Afghanistan analyst Ahmad Saedi told AFP ahead of the vote. "That would undermine the legitimacy of the election process and any future government that may come out of it."

### The stakes are high

Whatever the turnout, Afghans are choosing a leader who will almost certainly have to negotiate with the Taliban at some point - even though the hardline Islamist group is doing everything it can to undermine the process. Eighteen names were originally on the ballot, but the poll is considered a two-horse race between current President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, the country's chief executive. Both claimed victory in the 2014 election - a vote so tainted by fraud and violence that it led to a constitutional crisis and forced then-US President Barack Obama to push for a compromise that saw Abdullah awarded the subordinate role.

Five years of bitter rivalry later, the parallels are unsettling, yet nothing suggests President Donald Trump would be willing to play such a role in any fresh disputes. In fact, analysts suggest the new Washington administration has largely undermined the Afghan government by excluding Kabul from months of talks it held with the Taliban in a bid to extract US forces from America's longest-running war.

### Agreement seemed imminent

The Taliban have also refused to negotiate with Ghani - whom they consider a Washington puppet - and he was totally marginalized during negotiations. An agreement between the Taliban and Washington seemed imminent less than a month ago and observers thought the election could be suspended yet again to allow for the implementation of the withdrawal plan, even as Ghani insisted it must go ahead. Ultimately, Trump scuppered the deal at the last moment. That decision boosted what has been a fairly lacklustre election campaign, strengthening Ghani's argument the winner needs a strong mandate to negotiate with the Taliban to finally achieve a lasting peace.— AFP

# Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

www.kuwaittimes.net



US model Bella Hadid presents a creation by Lanvin during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP

**Paris falls for jazz-age glamour of India's modernist maharajah**

See Pages 22-23

## Lifestyle | Features

## Dance star boycotts planes and hits out at 'artistic jet set'

The French choreographer Jerome Bel caused a stir yesterday by saying that he had stopped taking flights and was turning his back on the "artistic jet set". The enfant terrible of French dance told AFP that he would also be boycotting work by artists who flew or did not make an effort to combat climate change. He is one of a number of art and theatre stars who are now refusing to travel by plane for performances and rehearsals, including the acclaimed British director Katie Mitchell.

Just like Hollywood stars, major performance artists and directors are globetrotters, who can clock up millions of air miles. Bel said that neither he nor his dance company would be taking a plane again. "We cannot keep destroying the planet as we are doing," he said. For his new show, "Isadora Duncan", which is opening both in Paris—where he lives—and in the US, he had to work with his dancer in New York by Skype.

"There will therefore be two versions of the piece: one which will tour in Europe and one in the US, and both will travel by train," Bel added. He said the experience had pushed him to be even more radical. "Like Greta Thunberg (the teenage Swedish environmental campaigner), I am going to boycott dance companies who continue to pollute," he told AFP. "How can you trust a choreographer or a company which contributes to global warm-

ing?" he added.

**'I was watching hell'**

The "flight shaming" movement—which is trying to make frequent flying less socially acceptable—began in Sweden, where a concert hall in Helsingborg has become one of the first in the world to only book musicians and orchestras who agree to travel by train. Bel said while watching a "not very interesting" show in Vienna recently, he "began to calculate the carbon footprint of what was going on in front of me: all the international trips the dancers had to take, the decor, the technicians etc..."

"And I realised I was watching hell—I was watching the ice melting, the homes ravaged by storms, the millions of climate refugees who were going to have miserable lives," he added. A British government study published Wednesday found that just one percent of people in England were responsible for nearly a fifth of the country's international air travel. It also discovered that the top 10 percent of frequent flyers took more than half of all overseas flights last year. Movie stars have come under increasing scrutiny about the gap between their lifestyles and their stance on climate change.

**DiCaprio carbon neutral**

British actress Emma Thompson was pilloried by some commentators in April for flying



French choreographer Jerome Bel poses during a photo session in Paris. —AFP

8,700 kilometers from Los Angeles to take part in an Extinction Rebellion march in London. Leonardo DiCaprio, who has produced the documentary "The 11th Hour" warning of climate change and the new film "Ice on Fire" championing possible solutions, admitted he was responsible for more than 100 tons of greenhouse gases over a decade.

The Oscar winner said he is having trees planted in Mexico to offset that carbon footprint and has been investing in green energy projects. DiCaprio said he is now lives a carbon-neutral life and tries to fly on commercial

airlines if he has no option but to fly. Bel said he had a eureka moment last winter when was adjusting the heating in his Paris apartment to trying to "save as much energy as possible".

Then he realized that at the same time his four assistants were flying to Hong Kong and Lima to help with the staging of his shows. "That's when I realized I was being a hypocrite, that I was lying to myself, that my life was like a bad play," he said.—AFP

## Marvel's Kevin Feige to produce new 'Star Wars' film

Marvel Studios boss Kevin Feige will develop a new "Star Wars" as part of the franchise's next wave of projects, The Hollywood Reporter said Wednesday. Feige joins the Lucasfilm team as studio president Kathleen Kennedy prepares for the new chapter of films set in the "Star Wars" universe, the Reporter said. "We are excited about the projects Kathy and the Lucasfilm team are working on," Alan Horn, the co-chairman and chief creative officer of Walt Disney Studios, which owns both Marvel and Lucasfilm, told the publication.

"Kathy is pursuing a new era in 'Star Wars' storytelling, and knowing what a die-hard fan Kevin is, it made sense for these two extraordinary producers to work... together." Feige, who is widely credited with the phenomenal boom in comic book movies of the past decade, produced all 22 movies in the "Avengers" franchise. In July, superhero blockbuster "Avengers: Endgame"—the final installment—became the biggest movie of all time, ending the 10-year reign of James Cameron's "Avatar."

"Endgame" took in \$2.7902 billion globally since its April release, versus \$2.7897 billion for "Avatar," including its original theatrical run in 2009 and various re-releases. In addition to the new "Star Wars" film, Feige will oversee Marvel's upcoming host of movies and television shows featuring popular "Avengers" characters, as well as new Marvel franchises acquired by Disney in its purchase of 21st Century Fox, including the popular "X-Men."—AFP

## US drummer pleads guilty to embezzling from charity

Robin DiMaggio, a professional drummer who once served as the musical director for the United Nations and has worked with some of music's biggest stars, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to embezzling \$750,000 from a charity for homeless children. According to a criminal complaint, DiMaggio, 48, lied to a Bulgarian-based nonprofit called Peace for You Peace for Me Foundation, telling them he would help organize a charity concert in the Bulgarian capital Sofia to help raise funds for homeless and displaced children from war zones.

The foundation's financial sponsor wired

## Tom Hanks to get lifetime award at Golden Globes

Tom Hanks, one of Hollywood's most beloved actors, is to add another honor to his name with a lifetime achievement award from the organizers of

\$750,000 to a DiMaggio-controlled account in 2016, but instead of using the money to book celebrities for the gig, DiMaggio placed the money into his personal account, the complaint says. He then used the funds to buy his ex-wife a house in California, to make payments on cars for his mother and son, to settle his credit card debt and for his living expenses, prosecutors said.

When the foundation's financial sponsor became suspicious and demanded he return the \$750,000, DiMaggio claimed that he had sent the money to artists who were to perform at the concert and would give back the funds when the deposits were returned, the complaint said. In 2016, the foundation's financial sponsor sued DiMaggio, who subsequently filed for bankruptcy.

DiMaggio, who has performed with the likes of Paul Simon, David Bowie, Diana Ross and others over the last three decades, faces up to 20 years in prison at his sentencing in March of next year. He was the drummer and music director for comedian Arsenio Hall's late-night TV show in 2013 and served as the music director for a number of events at the United Nations.—AFP



In this file photo Robin diMaggio arrives for the Children's Defense Fund-California 22nd Annual 'Beat the Odds' Awards at Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.—AFP

the Golden Globe awards. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) said on Tuesday it would present the prolific actor and producer with its Cecil B. DeMille award at the Golden Globes ceremony in Beverly Hills on Jan. 5. The boyish-looking Hanks, now 63, made his movie breakthrough in "Big" in 1988, playing a teenager who wakes up to find himself in the body of an adult.

He went on to win back-to-back Oscars

and Golden Globes in 1994 and 1995 for his roles in AIDS drama "Philadelphia" and comedy "Forrest Gump." "For more than three decades, he's captivated audiences with rich and playful characters that we've grown to love and admire," HFPA president Lorenzo Soria said in a statement. "As compelling as he is on the silver screen, he's equally so behind the camera as a writer, producer and director."—Reuters

Hanks' next movie appearance will be

## Aleppo film-maker vows to continue showing reality of Syria

**A**Syrian film-maker whose documentary on the siege of Aleppo brought a Cannes audience to tears has said she wants to show the world the reality of her country. Waad al-Kateab's powerful and intimate film "For Sama" is a love letter to her infant daughter, documenting the desperate conditions she and her husband were living through, in case they didn't survive. Charting five years of her life from student protester to wife and young mother in Syria's battle-ravaged second city, it won an emotional standing ovation at the Cannes film festival in May.

For Kateab, the film is more than the story of one family's struggle. "It's a realistic depiction of everything that's happening now in the country," she told AFP on Wednesday in London, where the documentary is touring. "Unfortunately, the world is deaf and blind to what is happening, but as Syrians, our goal is to continue to tell and share Syria's story." Kateab was just 20 when pro-democracy protests broke out, triggering a bloody crackdown by loyalists of President Bashar al-Assad that has killed 370,000 people and displaced millions.

The northern city of Aleppo suffered some of the heaviest fighting after rebels seized its eastern sector in 2012. The young film-maker's goal was to document the desperate conditions of life in the city as regime forces closed in—along with the joy of falling in love and the excitement of becoming a mother. When she and her husband Hamza, on a trip to Turkey to see his sick father, heard regime forces were poised to cut off the city's east completely, they decided to return. Within an hour, they had packed and were on a treacherous journey, dodging shells and sneaking past government troops into the now-besieged part of the city.

Hamza, a medic, threw himself into work at a hospital which at one point hosted 300 casualties in a single day—before itself being hit by an air strike. Kataeb dedicated herself to filming the situation, while wrestling with the question of whether or not to flee the city to protect her daughter. After six months, Aleppo was overrun and they were forced into exile, leaving the city as part of a huge civilian evacuation. Kataeb then set about bringing her footage together into a feature-length production that would capture the imagination of audiences "tired of war films or films on Syria".

"So our challenge was to come up with a film that was different," she said. The result is a brutally honest, moving portrayal of life under siege: the absurdity of laughter as missiles crash down overhead, the snowball fights, the aching grief of two boys grieving over their brother. Kataeb said her aim was "to continue to describe in a way that is true and real what is happening in Syria". "It's not a civil war, it's a revolution, and unfortunately, we the Syrian people are the ones paying the price," she said.—AFP



In this file (L-R) Actress Alexandra Billings, guest, writer/producer/director Jill Soloway, actors Jay Duplass, actors Jeffrey Tambor, Judith Light, Amy Landecker and co-Executive Producer Andrea Sperling, winners of Best Actor in a Television Series Musical or Comedy for 'Transparent', pose in the press room during the 72nd Annual Golden Globe Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

## Pioneering show 'Transparent' takes final musical bow

**"T**ransparent," the series that forever changed how transgender people are portrayed on television, will sign off Friday with a feature-length musical finale—two years after it almost disappeared in the thick of a #MeToo scandal. The Emmy and Golden Globe-winning show is one of several that was forced to contend with the sudden loss of its main star due to misconduct allegations in recent years.

"Roseanne" turned into "The Conners" after Roseanne Barr was dismissed due to racist tweets, while "House of Cards" focused on Robin Wright's Claire Underwood once sexual assault charges against Kevin Spacey led to his departure. But for "Transparent," the exit of actor Jeffrey Tambor amid accusations of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior by multiple cast and crew members meant a new season was out of the question, according to creator Jill Soloway.

To end the series, Soloway—who uses the gender-neutral pronoun "they"—decided to write a 100-minute final episode beginning with the off-camera death of Maura Pfefferman, the 70-something transgender woman played by Tambor. "The musical is our opportunity to say goodbye but also transition into a new form," Soloway explained on Entertainment Tonight Canada.

Soloway, whose sister Faith wrote the songs for the episode, said the format offered a "joyful way of dealing with the pain of the loss of Maura" while also "reminding ourselves that life is about finding joy." The result is an esoteric mix, with the series' typically deft exploration of human relationships combining with a bright "La La Land" touch to tackle serious subjects from mourning to the Holocaust.

Following a breathtaking fourth season set in Israel, the final episode is an opportunity for new tensions and outbursts among Maura's remaining family, including neurotic ex-wife Shelly, and their children Josh, Sarah and Ali (now Ari.)

### Change is coming

Despite the absence of Maura, the trans community remains well represented on the show, most notably through the character Divina, played by transgender performer Alexandra Billings. The show has been praised for developing nuanced and complex

transgender characters without perpetually reducing them to their sexual identities, as has been the case with other series. While "Transparent" was not the first television show to feature trans characters and actors, it gave them more visibility than ever before.

In just a few short years in wider society, transgender people have become a much more widely recognized part of the LGBTQ community. On television, shows like "Pose" have moved the needle forward. "The world has changed so quickly," said Soloway, five years after the show debuted on Amazon, where it has earned the streaming giant eight Emmy Awards and two Golden Globes.

But Judith Light, who plays Shelly on the show, warned that while "change is coming," many transgender people in the US—especially African Americans—are still subject to harassment and violence. The actress, interviewed Monday by Yahoo! platform BUILD, said it would take more time for society to manage a true "transformation" on the issue.—AFP



In this file photo actress Gaby Hoffmann attends the Screening and Panel of 'Transparent' at the Director Guild of America, in Los Angeles. — AFP



People visit the opening of 'The Modern Maharajah' exhibition at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Paris. — AFP photos

## PARIS FALLS FOR JAZZ-AGE GLAMOUR OF INDIA'S MODERNIST MAHARAJAH



**T**hey were India's golden couple of the 1920s and 1930s, two beautiful people who cut a wildly glamorous dash across the globe, being photographed by Man Ray and sipping cocktails with Hollywood stars. The extraordinary lives and impeccable taste of the Maharajah of Indore and his maharani, Sanyogita Devi, are celebrated in a spectacular new exhibition at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Paris.

With the clouds of World War II darkening over Europe, the pair created a gem of an avant-garde palace on the Malwa Plateau in the heart of India. An oasis of understated but dazzling modernist luxury, it was furnished with pieces by Eileen Gray, Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret among others, with art by Brancusi.

The first building in the subcontinent to have air conditioning, it also had a ballroom where the couple could do the foxtrot to the jazz-loving maharajah's collection of 100,000 records. The aesthete prince commissioned the young German architect Eckart Muthesius to create his dream of the future.

### 'A veritable Rudolph Valentino'

Together the two men combed the salesrooms and artist studios of Paris and Berlin with art advisor Henri-Pierre Roche-author of the novel "Jules and Jim"-to find the works to fill it. Muthesius was also asked to kit out the 25-year-old maharajah's sleek new royal train, as well as a barge that was a "veritable floating modernist palace" and do the interiors of his private plane. He



## Lifestyle | Feature



designed, too, a hunting caravan so the prince—who had come to the throne at 17 — could stalk tigers in style.

Despite being bound together in an arranged marriage when she was 10 and he only a few years older, and having one foot in the Raj and age-old Indian princely traditions, the pair were a thoroughly modern couple, said the chief curator Olivier Gabet. The ever elegant maharajah was a “veritable Rudolph Valentino”, said Gabet, and few could fail to be charmed by his bright young wife, who shared his interests.

“She was involved in all their projects and was treated as an equal by her husband. In fact, they were quite an exceptional couple,” he said. Man Ray, their guest on the French Riviera, thought the same. He was very taken with the maharani, whom he described as an “exquisite girl in her teens”. “Dressed in the French style, she wore a ring with a huge emerald that the Maharaja had bought her that morning,” he later wrote.

#### Magnetic aura

Clearly deeply in love, the couple had “a magnetic aura”. In fact they charmed everyone wherever they went, whether filmmaker Cecil B DeMille and actor Gary Cooper in Hollywood, or old world royals like themselves. *Vogue* described the maharajah

as like a “character from a Visconti film, the last member of a care-free aristocracy, living its final hours in the lap of idle luxury.” And indeed, the couple did not have long to enjoy their idyll in their modernist home, the Manik Bagh, or “garden of rubies”.

The maharani died at the age of 22 from appendicitis, leaving behind their toddler daughter, Usha, the present maharani. The maharajah’s artistic adventures pretty much ended with her death, said Gabet, “which shows just what an influence she had.”

Despite being educated in England, Yeshwant Rao Holkar II — in the shortened version of the maharajah’s full title—turned away from the well-trodden tweedy anglophile tastes of his princely peers. His Paris-based son Richard Holkar believes the maharajah’s cosmopolitanism may have been a reaction to his father and his grandfather being forced to abdicate by the imperial overlords. Gabet agrees, believing that it “may have been a way of asserting” his independence.

#### Air of mystery

After his wife’s death, the maharajah went on to marry again twice but his inner life remains mysterious. He died in 1961 as he was planning to write his autobiography, having burned all his private papers. “They are both quite mysterious actually,” said

Gabet. “It was a time where people didn’t bare their souls in the press,” and they came from a class where “there was a great sense of holding back, of reserve and of discretion. “It’s the mystery in some ways which makes them so mythic,” he added.

But if their fame has been somewhat forgotten, even in India, where maharajahs were stripped of the last of their powers in 1971, the couple’s legendary connoisseurship has not. Collectors like fashion moguls Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge, and the Qatari prince Sheikh Saud bin Mohammed Al-Thani, snapped up much of their furniture and carpets in a legendary auction in Monaco in 1980. Their modernist “garden of rubies” has been swallowed up by the expanding city of Indore, now in Madhya Pradesh. The once stately salons of the Manik Bagh have long since been subdivided into offices for the local excise department. — AFP





Belgian designer Dries Van Noten, right, and French designer Christian Lacroix acknowledge the audience after the Dries Van Noten fashion show during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



# Christian Lacroix makes shock Paris catwalk comeback

Legendary French designer Christian Lacroix made a dramatic comeback to the Paris catwalk Wednesday after a decade thanks to the Belgian master Dries Van Noten. Lacroix, who no longer owns the trademark to his own name since his couture house closed in 2009, took a bow to thunderous applause at the end of the show in the Bastille Opera alongside Van Noten, who is known as the “King of Prints”.

The pair worked together in secret over the

last five months on the rich and opulent collection, which Van Noten said was inspired by the character of Lady Honoria Lyndon in Stanley Kubrick’s classic film about an 18th-century Irish rake, “Barry Lyndon”. The show opened with a pianist playing the second movement of Schubert’s “Piano Trio”, which featured in the film, on a grand piano.

Van Noten said that he found himself “needing exuberance, opulence, another volume and







fun... and I quickly realised that all roads seemed to lead to the work and world of Mr. Christian Lacroix." Lacroix's famously decadent shows in the 1980s and 1990s were soaked in the sun-soaked bull-fighting culture of his hometown of Arles in the south of France, which is famed for its Roman arena. Van Noten felt his own "particular mix of Dutch Protestant austerity and Burgundian opulence" might be an interesting match.

#### 'What fashion dreams are made of'

And critics seemed to agree, with *Vogue* calling their collaboration "what fashion dreams are made of". Van Noten admitted that given the state of the world, he needed some escapism and cheering up. "The political, economical and environmental climate can be divisive exclusionary and drab. "This left me thirsting for all that would be maximalist, optimistic, flamboyant, inclusive and enchantingly extravagant. "There is a place for powerful opulence, exaggeration and fun and I need that energy," he added.

Even so, the designer said that some of the acid floral jacquard prints they showed were in fact "more muted than the 18th- and 19th-century designs that inspired them." In a nod to the Lacroix tradition of throwing a flower on the runway at the end of his couture shows—an echo of the bullring in his native Arles—a single red rose was left on every seat labelled with the legend, "DVN\*XCLX". Lacroix works these days mostly as a commercial and theatre designer through his brand, XCLX. —AFP





Models present creation by Dries Van Noten during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.

## Call girl show on Paris catwalk as Epstein police raid model agency

French label Guy Laroche has raised eyebrows by celebrating prostitution in its Paris fashion week show just a day after police in the city raided a modeling agency linked to the Epstein scandal. Designer Richard Rene defended “cocking a snook” at political correctness by lionizing the notorious French pimp, Fernande Grudet, known as Madame Claude, and the band of sexually “free girls” she ran during the 1960s and 1970s.

Detectives searched the offices of Karin Models, which was formerly owned by French tycoon Jean-Luc Brunel, who has been accused of procuring young girls for disgraced US billionaire Jeffrey Epstein. They also carried out a raid Tuesday on Epstein's luxury Paris home not far from the Arc de Triomphe, a judicial source told AFP. The New York financier committed suicide last month in jail while facing charges of sexually trafficking minors.

Madame Claude operated a high-class call girl agency in Paris in the 1960s and 1970s that counted several heads of state among its clients. She claimed to have helped the French government by passing secrets revealed under the sheets to its intelligence services. Most of the girls on her books were

former models and actresses. Rene told AFP that the show was a reaction to what he felt was a growing atmosphere of uptight puritanism.

### ‘You can’t say anything’

“It’s cocking a snoot at the times which we live in, when you can’t say anything anymore or do anything. I find that troubling. “I thought it would be interesting to give a nod to all the boys and girls who sold their bodies and who are often denigrated, and to talk of that time of freedom and (sexual) liberty,” the designer added. “We shouldn’t mix things up. #MeToo is about sexual aggression, and people being forced. These were people who decided to sell their bodies. It was a free choice,” he added.

Rene was inspired to do the show because the label's founder, Laroche, designed the clothes for the 1977 French film, “Madame Claude”, based on Grudet's bestselling memoirs. A sequel was made four years later. With US actress Eva Longoria of “Desperate Housewives” fame watching in the front row, Rene sent out a collection of often tight white and brown 1970s-inspired power dresses and jackets with large shoulders, often decorated with prints of the label's logo from the time.

He said it was a homage to girls that for “a few 500 franc notes added to the luster of France”. The old French banknote also appeared on swimming costumes in the spring summer collection and on dresses and boots. “I found it quite funny,” Rene said. “When you had 500 francs then you thought you were rich. “It is a part of (our) history,” he added. “Madame Claude offered her girls as a luxury (service), not on the streets. You have to give people the liberty to do what they want,” the designer said. —AFP

## Sick Kylie Jenner pulls out of Paris fashion week

Makeup mogul Kylie Jenner on Wednesday pulled out of Paris Fashion Week where she was due to launch a new cosmetics line with French luxury brand Balmain. Jenner, 22, said on Twitter that she was sick and unable to travel to Paris to launch the collection as planned on Friday with Balmain Creative Director Olivier Rousteing. The “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” star did not give details of her illness but celebrity website TMZ.com said she was admitted to a Los Angeles area hospital earlier this week with what an unidentified source described as severe flu-like symptoms, including nausea and dizziness.

Jenner's representatives did not return a request for comment on Wednesday. “Unfortunately I’m really sick and unable to travel. I’m heartbroken to be missing this show ... Creating this collection with Olivier has been a dream,” she said on Twitter. Jenner, whose lip gloss kits and other cosmetics have made her a billionaire, was due to launch the Kylie X Balmain line of eye-shadows, lip liner and lip gloss on Friday at the Paris fashion show. The line is to be worn by Balmain models walking the runway for the Spring Summer 2020 collection. Jenner was also absent from the Emmy awards show in Los Angeles on Sunday where she was due to present an award with Kim Kardashian and her model sister Kendall. — Reuters



Models presents creation by Lanvin during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.—AFP photos

## Lanvin shows off capes and flowing looks in lush catwalk garden

Models at Lanvin's fashion show in Paris shrugged off the drizzle for a stroll through a dreamy museum garden on Wednesday, showing off long dresses, comic strip prints and adventurous capes. Guests, including French actress Isabelle Huppert, took shelter under see-through umbrellas on the outdoor catwalk, set among the bamboo and lush vegetation of the jungle-like garden at the Quai Branly, a museum focused on non-European cultures. The mix of male and female models, featuring sisters Bella and Gigi Hadid, swept past in flowing dresses and pastel tones.

Some looks, including a loose sky blue pleated ensemble and a short shiny dress, had echoes of ancient Greece, while accessories included oversize handbags and wide-brimmed hats. Men's T-shirts featured faded prints from "Little Nemo in Slumberland", a children comic strip that was published every week in the New York Herald in the 1910s and followed its hero's fantastical dreams. "The reminiscence of childhood is very important for me," said Lanvin's designer Bruno Sialelli after the show.

"I feel I'm in a generation that is pivotal, we had a childhood without digital so we had to read, we had to get bored, this

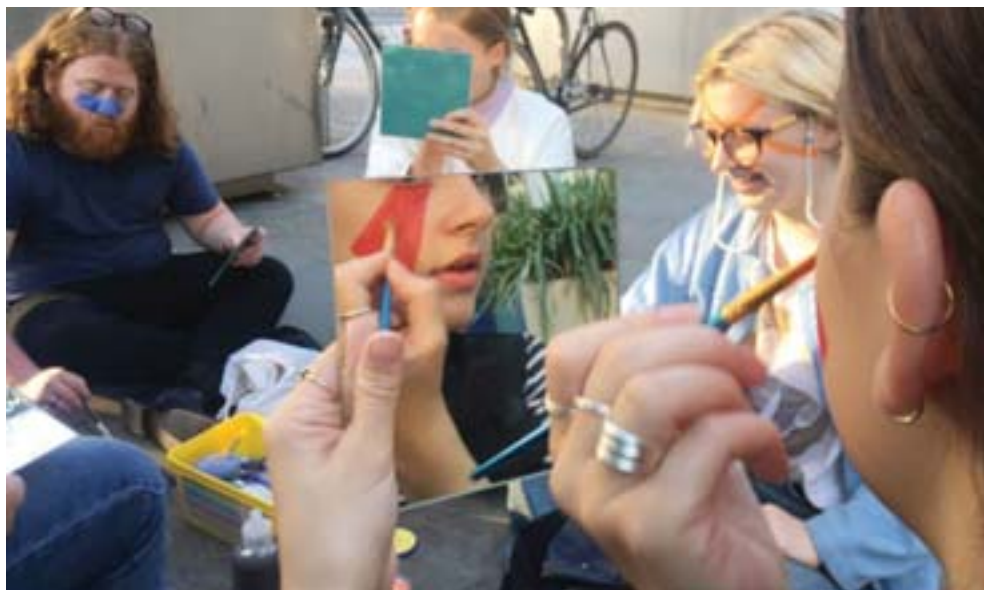
provided a lot of creativity as a kid. And at the same time now we are really in the digital world." The link with childhood was in Lanvin's DNA, Sialelli said, adding that Jeanne Lanvin, who founded it in 1889, first began making dresses for her daughter which other parents soon wanted copies of, before ordering versions for themselves.

The 32-year-old Frenchman was appointed creative director of the brand by new CEO Jean-Philippe Hecquet last January, as Lanvin attempts a turnaround under its Chinese owner Fosun. Lanvin became the darling of the fashion world in recent years thanks to designer Alber Elbaz, who, along with former owner Shaw-Lan Wang, revived the brand and led it to 14 successful years before his departure in 2015, after which sales stuttered.

Spectators at Wednesday's show were also given headphones playing sweet electronic music mixing violin and bird song, meant to immerse them in the garden's atmosphere. "I fell in love with the Quai Branly garden, it's like a bubble, I provided the viewers with headphones so that they could really contemplate the place and the collection", Sialelli said. Paris Fashion Week runs until Oct 1.—Reuters







A group of people take part in a 'dazzle club' silent walk in the King's Cross area of London, UK, applying colorful face make-up to avoid facial recognition by CCTV cameras. —Reuters photos



Super-realistic face masks are displayed at factory of REAL-f Co. in Otsu, western Japan.

# Face masks to decoy t-shirts: The rise of anti-surveillance fashion

As top designers wrapped up London Fashion Week and made their way to Paris to grab the world's attention with their lavish creations, a group of artists in London were making their own fashion statement, in a bid to become invisible. Emily Roderick, 23, and her cohorts in "The Dazzle Club" walked around the British capital last week with blue, red and black stripes painted across their faces in an effort to escape the watchful eye of facial-recognition cameras.

The artists took their silent stroll through the city's King's Cross area hoping their bold make-up would act as camouflage and confuse the cameras. "We're hiding in plain sight," Roderick told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, explaining that bright colors and dark shades of make-up are known to hamper a camera's ability to accurately recognize faces. Computers have become adept at identifying people in recent years, unlocking a myriad of applications for facial recognition, from tracking criminals to counting truants.

But as cameras appear at unlikely spots across the globe, activists raise fears about lost privacy and say society might be on the doorstep of a dystopia where Big Brother sees all. Altering people's looks to cheat cameras has become increasingly popular with artists and designers in recent years, as the use of facial recognition has grown more pervasive, raising fears over privacy, according to fashion experts.

From sunglasses to face masks, numerous wearable devices promising a veil of anonymity are making their way into the mainstream, said Henry Navarro Delgado, an art and fashion professor at Canada's Ryerson University. "There has always been something subversive about streetwear, and one of the new areas of subversion is definitely surveillance and, in particular, facial recognition," he said.

## Masks and t-shirts

The Dazzle Club's monthly decorative walks take place in different parts of London to raise awareness about the growing use of facial-recognition technology in public spaces, said Roderick. Last month, Britain's data protection

watchdog launched an investigation into the use of surveillance cameras by a property developer in the King's Cross area. The revelation that the cameras were capturing and analyzing images of people who passed through the site without their permission triggered a public backlash and led to the start of the Dazzle Club walks.

In a statement released in September, developer Argent said it had turned off the software, and had been using the technology "only to help the (police) prevent and detect crime in the neighborhood". The bright face paint Roderick and her associates wore was pioneered by US artist Adam Harvey in 2010 for an art project called CV Dazzle. The project's name is a nod to a camouflage technique first used in World War One, when British ships were painted in zig-zag patterns to stop German U-boats from being able to tell how big they were or which way they were heading.

Harvey, 38, said he drew inspiration from the London "BoomBox" party scene of the early 2000s and tribal make-up from Papua New Guinea to develop a series of eccentric looks combining face paint and spiky hair fringes that bamboozle cameras. In 2016, he doubled up with a "decoy" textile pattern featuring stylized faces that caused face detectors to register false hits. Some online clothing stores have since printed the pattern onto clothing to sell on their websites.

"The main objective of this project is to show people that surveillance is not invincible," Harvey told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview. Other designers have since joined the quest to use fashion to help people keep private in public. Online retailer Adversarial Fashion sells shirts, skirts and other garments emblazoned with fake license plates that it says are picked up by traffic surveillance cameras, "injecting junk data" into a system used "to monitor and track civilians".

Chicago-based designer Scott Urban has developed sunglasses that block infrared facial recognition cameras. Urban said his main concern was the potential hacking of facial feature data that is collected by cameras and tied to people's identities. "If someone steals your credit card, you can cancel it and get a new one ... (but) most of us are not going to do plastic surgery to rearrange our identity," he

said by phone.

US artist Leonardo Selvaggio took the mask concept one step further, developing a 3D prosthetic copy of his own face that anyone could buy online for about \$200 until the company manufacturing it folded earlier this year. Besides shielding users from cameras, the device aimed to mess up facial recognition systems by tying Selvaggio's face and identity to a multitude of different bodies, the artist said. "My hypothesis was that if we could do that large enough - and hopefully eventually with other faces - then we could call into question facial recognition's ability to do its job," he explained.

Selvaggio said he was aware of similar prosthetic masks that had been used to commit crimes. In 2010, a white man pleaded guilty to carrying out six robberies in Ohio wearing a mask of a black man's face - a ploy that initially led police to arrest the wrong man. The aim of his project, he added, was to show that no technology used to catch criminals was "infallible".

## New normal?

While anti-surveillance accessories offer some degree of disguise, many designers warn their creations are tools for social commentary rather than invisibility. Harvey, for example, acknowledged that his many-faced textile pattern worked on a system that was widely used a few years ago but has since been surpassed. "It does not work for modern face detection systems that would be used by law enforcement," he said.

Anti-facial recognition fashion has also drawn some criticism, with one academic saying it risked "normalizing" surveillance. "These artworks are accepting pervasive surveillance as being inevitable," said Torin Monahan, a professor of communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Meanwhile, the Dazzle Club walkers in London say camera camouflage is helping people reclaim their identities and hope the initiative will spread to other cities, said Roderick. "There's definitely something important about being able to take ownership of our own image and understand when we want to put that out into the public space," she said.—Reuters

# Resurrected Patou shows off chic, laid-back new look at Fashion Week



Designer Guillaume Henry poses as part of his Spring/Summer 2020 women's ready to wear collection presentation for fashion house Patou during Paris Fashion Week in Paris.



**F**rench couture house Patou came back to life on Wednesday under the helm of LVMH, its new parent company, and designer Guillaume Henry, who gave a modern, chic twist to its historical designs at a Paris Fashion Week presentation. Patou's office, a typical Haussmannian apartment a stone's throw from Notre-Dame Cathedral, was turned into a showroom where clients and journalists got a glimpse of the brand's first fashion collection since it closed its doors in 1987.

Instead of a catwalk, models stood around, artificially idle as they chatted or read books, showcasing dresses with lace trimmings, Navy-style officer jackets and wide denim jeans. Accessories included oversized handmade golden jewels, as well as tight-fitting bathing caps and black boxing boots which evoked the sportswear style of the Patou of old, which once dressed tennis player Suzanne Lenglen.

Other looks included a pale pink fencer's jacket, a fuchsia strapless puffball dress, and plenty of sailor-style necklines and bows and navy blue structured jackets. Henry described the laid-back but chic vibe of the collection as "sunny." "The Patou woman is an approachable woman," he told Reuters. Luxury goods group LVMH, which also owns Christian Dior

and Louis Vuitton, bought its majority stake in Jean Patou last year from privately held British group Designer Parfums for an undisclosed amount.

It tasked Henry, who previously worked at Carven and Nina Ricci, with breathing new life into its forgotten pret-a-porter lines, which the late Karl Lagerfeld as well as designers Jean Paul Gaultier and Christian Lacroix once worked on. Patou, created in 1914 by its eponymous founder, was still best known for its rich floral perfume "Joy," launched in the 1930s and the most expensive fragrance of its time. LVMH's Dior recently launched its own "Joy" fragrance.

"A year ago, Patou was a project without an address, without archives, without material, without anything," Henry said. "It was necessary to set up a company, a century-old company." "A lot of people don't know Patou so we don't want to bring back a brand with its patrimonial or historical background but to see it with a new perspective." Patou is targeting a wide audience, with prices in the bottom bracket of the luxury world with dresses varying between 450 euros and 5,000 euros for the most expensive. On average, a dress costs 650 euros.—Reuters



Comic

Word Search

Flowers

Find and circle all of the flowers that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a quotation from Romeo and Juliet.

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

- |                  |               |            |            |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| ALSTROEMERIA     | CORNFLOWER    | GOLDEN ROD | PANSY      |
| AMARYLLIS        | DAFFODIL      | HEATHER    | PEONY      |
| ANTHRUM          | DAISY         | HOLLYHOOKS | PETUNIA    |
| ASTER            | DELPHINIUM    | HYACINTH   | ROSE       |
| BABY'S BREATH    | FORGET-ME-NOT | HYDRANGEA  | SNAPDRAGON |
| BELL FLOWER      | FORGEOVE      | IRIS       | STATICE    |
| BIRD OF PARADISE | FREESIA       | LAVENDER   | STOCK      |
| BOUQUARDIA       | FUCHSIA       | LLIAC      | SUNFLOWER  |
| CALLA            | GERANIUM      | LILY       | TULIP      |
| CARNATION        | GERBERA       | LISIANTHUS | VIOLET     |
| CHRYSANTHEMUM    | GINGER        | MARGOLD    | YARROW     |
| CLEMATIS         | GLADIOLUS     | ORCHID     |            |

Yesterday's Solution

Fishing

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

- |                   |             |              |               |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| ANGLER            | FLIES       | LAKE         | SINKER        |
| ANGLING           | FLIPPING    | LANDING NET  | SPINCAST REEL |
| ALGER             | FLOAT       | LEADER       | SPINNER       |
| BAIT              | FLOUNDER    | LIVE         | SPOOL         |
| BASS              | FLY CASTING | LURE         | SPOON         |
| BLUEFISH          | FLY FISHING | NOBBLE       | STILL FISHING |
| BOAT              | FLY REEL    | PAWFISH      | STREAM        |
| BOMBER            | FLY ROD     | POLE FISHING | STRIKE        |
| CATCH AND RELEASE | GEAR        | POND         | TACKLE BOX    |
| CATFISH           | HOOK        | REDFISH      | TRAILER       |
| CRAPPIE           | JIGGING     | RIVER        | TROLLING      |
| CRAWLER           | JIGS        | ROD AND REEL | TROUT         |
| DAILY LIGHT       | KEEPER      | SALMON       |               |

The hidden sentence is: MANY MEN GO FISHING ALL OF THEIR LIVES WITHOUT KNOWING THAT IT IS NOT FISH THEY ARE AFTER.

Crossword 2318



ACROSS

1. Resembling or similar.
5. Covering designed to be worn on a person's body.
12. The compass point midway between south and southwest.
15. A large genus of dicotyledonous trees and shrubs of the family Aquifoliaceae that have small flowers and berries (including hollies).
16. Shining intensely.
17. An actor's line that immediately precedes and serves as a reminder for some action or speech.
18. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
20. Go on board.
22. At full speed.
24. Empty rhetoric or insincere or exaggerated talk.
26. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
27. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
29. Imperial moths.
32. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
33. A large number or amount.
36. Celebes megapode that lays eggs in holes in sandy beaches.
40. A city in east central Texas.
42. (Babylonian) Any of a group of powerful earth spirits or genii.
46. Of inferior or mixed breed.
47. Colored or impregnated with dye.
48. (botany) Relating to or attached to the axis.
49. A member of the Caddo people who formerly lived in the Dakotas west of the Missouri river.
52. A broad flat muscle on either side of the back.
53. English tennis player who won many women's singles titles (born in 1945).
57. Of or relating to a seizure or convulsion.
61. Wearing or provided with clothing.
63. A person who lacks confidence, is irresolute and wishy-washy.
66. Having or showing excessive or compulsive concern with something.
70. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
71. Battle in World War I (1917).
74. The basic monetary unit of most members of the European Union (introduced in 1999).
75. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
76. An oral antidiabetic drug (trade names DiaBeta and Miconase) that stimulates the release of insulin from the pancreas.
78. Being four more than ninety.
79. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
80. Someone who rows a boat.
81. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.

DOWN

1. Of a pale purple color.
2. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
3. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
4. (combining form) Former.
5. An abnormally large amount of this fetal protein in the fetus can signal an abnormality of the neural tube (as spina bifida or anencephaly).
6. A historical region on northwestern India and northern Pakistan.
7. Humble request for help.
8. (used of eyes) Open and fixed as if in fear or wonder.
9. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
10. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
11. Your general store of remembered information.
12. A large number or amount.
13. (linguistics) Of speech sounds.
14. Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
19. Large arboreal boa of tropical South America.
21. A yellow to brown wax secreted by honeybees to build honeycombs.
23. Realistic Norwegian author who wrote plays on social and political themes (1828-1906).
25. The capital of Croatia.
28. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
30. The sound made by a pigeon v l.
31. 16 ounces.
34. Of or relating to a directionless magnitude.
35. Any fungus of the family Boletaceae.
37. Frogs, toads, tree toads.
38. Horrible in fierceness or savagery.
39. A resource.
41. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
43. A port in southwestern Scotland.
44. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
45. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
50. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
51. East Indian fruit tree bearing fruit similar to but sweeter than that of the rambutan.
54. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
55. Common house and field crickets.
56. An accessory or adjoining anatomical parts or appendages (especially of the embryo).
58. A group of Plains Indians formerly living in what is now North and South Dakota and Nebraska and Kansas and Arkansas and Louisiana and Oklahoma and Texas.
59. A metallic element of the rare earth group.
60. The eighth month of the civil year.
62. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
64. Fertility goddess in ancient Greek mythology.
65. Not only so, but.
67. A narrow flattened pleat or fold that is stitched in place v l.
68. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
69. Any of numerous small pigeons.
72. A solution containing a phosphate buffer.
73. A recurring sleep state during which dreaming occurs.
77. A state in midwestern United States.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

TV Listings



- 00:00 Killers
02:20 Happy Hunting
04:00 Valerian
06:20 Iron Man 3
08:45 Valerian
05:49 Last Action Hero
13:35 Iron Man 3
16:00 12 Rounds
17:55 Bad Boys
20:00 Con Air
22:00 The Hitman's Bodyguard

- 13:45 Live PD: Police Patrol
14:10 It Takes A Killer
14:40 It Takes A Killer
15:05 Homicide Hunter
16:00 The First 48
17:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 It Takes A Killer
21:30 It Takes A Killer
22:00 60 Days In: Narcoland
23:00 Hero Ink
23:30 Hero Ink



- 00:45 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
01:40 After The Attack
02:35 Project Grizzly
03:25 Lone Star Law
04:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
05:02 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
05:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees
06:36 Animal Battlegrounds
07:00 Animal Battlegrounds
07:25 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
10:05 Wildest Middle East
12:50 Project Grizzly
13:45 The Vet Life
14:40 Nature's Strangest Mysteries: Solved
15:05 Nature's Strangest Mysteries: Solved
15:35 Monster Island
16:30 Whale Wars
17:25 Animal Cops Houston
18:20 Project Grizzly
19:15 The Vet Life
20:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
21:05 Wild Australia
22:00 After The Attack
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
23:50 The Vet Life

- Comedy Central
00:25 Roast Battle South Africa
00:50 Roast Battle South Africa
01:15 Tosh.0
01:40 Friends
02:03 Friends
02:25 South Park
02:50 Comedy Central Presents: Menna W FINA
03:20 Tosh.0
03:45 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
04:10 Roast Battle South Africa
04:35 Roast Battle South Africa
05:00 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
07:10 Lip Sync Battle
07:35 Lip Sync Battle
08:00 Comedy Central Presents
Comedy 3alwagef
10:15 Friends
12:20 Key And Peele
14:30 Lip Sync Battle
15:00 Lip Sync Battle
15:25 Tattoo Disasters
16:15 Tattoo Disasters
17:10 Friends
19:30 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
21:30 Comedy Central Presents: Menna W FINA
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
22:30 Amy Schumer-Mark Normand: Don't Be Yourself
23:30 Comedy Central Presents: Menna W FINA

- 03:45 True Nightmares
04:30 Murder Chose Me
05:20 Murder Comes To Town
06:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
07:00 Someone You Thought You Knew
07:55 Six Degrees Of Murder
08:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
09:45 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
10:40 Murder Comes To Town
11:35 Murder Chose Me
12:30 Murder Chose Me
13:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
14:20 Nightmare Next Door
15:15 Nightmare Next Door
16:10 Murder Comes To Town
17:05 The Perfect Murder
18:00 The Perfect Murder
19:00 Disappeared
20:00 Disappeared
21:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love
23:00 The Shadows Of Death



- 00:00 Alex & Co.
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Evermoor Chronicles
01:40 Alex & Co.
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Evermoor Chronicles
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:35 Violetta
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Penny On M.A.R.S
07:40 Freaky Friday
09:20 Raven's Home
10:10 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
11:00 Jessie
11:50 Fast Layne
12:40 A.N.T. Farm
13:05 A.N.T. Farm
13:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:20 Stuck In The Middle
15:10 Shake It Up
15:35 Shake It Up
16:00 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Raven's Home
17:40 Wizards Of Waverly Place
18:30 Jessie
19:20 Descendants Wicked World
19:25 Liv And Maddie
20:15 Bizaardvark
21:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:10 101 Dalmatian Street
21:35 101 Dalmatian Street
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Evermoor Chronicles
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



- 00:00 Sofia The First S3
00:25 Disney Junior Music Nursery Rhymes S2
00:30 Gigantosaurus S1
01:00 PJ Masks
01:25 PJ Masks
01:50 The Hive
02:00 Zou
02:15 Zou
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 The Hive
03:30 The Hive S2
03:40 Zou
04:25 The Hive
04:35 The Hive
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:10 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 The Hive
05:45 PJ Masks
06:30 Gigantosaurus S1
06:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons S3
07:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Y2
07:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:00 PJ Masks

- 08:30 Vampirina S2
09:00 Sofia The First S3
09:30 Elena Of Avalor
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 PJ Masks
11:00 Vampirina S2
11:30 Vampirina S2
12:00 Gigantosaurus S1
12:30 Gigantosaurus S1
13:00 Puppy Dog Pals
13:30 Puppy Dog Pals
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 PJ Masks
15:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers S2
15:30 Vampirina
16:00 Sofia The First S4
16:30 Elena Of Avalor
17:00 PJ Masks
17:25 PJ Masks Music Videos S1
17:30 T.O.T.S S1 Splits
17:45 T.O.T.S S1 Splits
18:00 Fancy Nancy S1
18:30 Vampirina S2
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Sofia The First S3
20:25 Vampirina Ghoul Girls Rock!
20:30 Doc McStuffins
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 T.O.T.S S1 Splits
21:45 T.O.T.S S1 Splits
22:00 Fancy Nancy S1
22:30 Vampirina S2
23:00 Paprika
23:30 The Lion Guard



- 00:15 Dual Survival
01:05 Savage Builds
01:50 Mythbusters
02:35 Salvage Hunters: The Restorers
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Fast N' Loud
04:50 How Do They Do It?
05:15 How Do They Do It?
05:35 Property Wars
06:00 Storage Hunters UK
06:20 Property Wars
06:45 Dual Survival
07:35 Deadliest Catch
08:20 Gold Rush
09:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
09:55 Salvage Hunters
10:45 How Do They Do It?
11:10 How Do They Do It?
11:30 Fast N' Loud
12:20 Fast N' Loud
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 Property Wars
13:55 Salvage Hunters
14:40 Into Alaska
15:30 Wildest Islands
16:15 Aaron Needs A Job
17:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier
17:50 Gold Rush
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:25 Fast N' Loud
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Speed Is The New Black
21:50 Aaron Needs A Job
22:40 Twin Turbos
23:30 Deadliest Catch



- 00:00 Very Cavallari
01:00 Very Cavallari
02:00 E! News
03:00 WAGs Miami
04:00 WAGs Atlanta
05:00 WAGs Atlanta
06:00 WAGs
07:00 WAGs
08:00 E! News: Daily Pop
08:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
09:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:40 E! News
12:35 Very Cavallari
15:20 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 Very Cavallari
21:00 Very Cavallari
22:00 Very Cavallari

- 23:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



- 00:15 Dogfights
01:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
01:45 Cities Of The Underworld
02:30 Jurassic Fight Club
03:15 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
04:00 Ancient Aliens
04:45 Deep Sea Salvage
05:30 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
06:15 What Really Happened
07:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
07:45 Cities Of The Underworld
08:30 Jurassic Fight Club
09:15 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
10:00 Ancient Aliens
10:45 Deep Sea Salvage
11:30 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
12:15 What Really Happened
13:00 Cities Of The Underworld
13:45 Jurassic Fight Club
14:30 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
15:15 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Deep Sea Salvage
16:45 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
17:30 What Really Happened
18:15 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
19:00 Cities Of The Underworld
19:45 Jurassic Fight Club
20:30 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
21:15 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Cowboys & Outlaws
22:45 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
23:30 What Really Happened



- 00:20 Hunting Hitler
01:05 Storage Wars
01:25 Storage Wars
01:50 American Pickers
02:35 Pawn Stars
03:00 Pawn Stars
03:25 The Lost Evidence
04:15 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
05:05 Forged In Fire
06:00 Counting Cars
06:45 Hunting Hitler
07:30 Storage Wars
07:50 Storage Wars
08:15 American Pickers
09:00 Pawn Stars
09:20 Pawn Stars
09:45 The Lost Evidence
10:30 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
11:15 Forged In Fire
12:00 American Pickers
15:00 Hot Wheels 50th Anniversary Special
15:45 Truck Wars
17:15 Hot Rods And Muscle Cars
18:45 Mountain Men
21:00 The Curse Of Civil War Gold
21:50 The Curse Of Civil War Gold
22:40 American Pickers
23:30 American Pickers

- 18:30 Confucius Was A Foodie
19:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
20:20 Fish Of The Day
21:15 Fearless Chef
22:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
23:05 Chasing The Sun
23:30 Chasing The Sun



- 00:00 Buried Secrets Of WWII
00:50 Primal Survivor
01:40 Border Wars
02:30 Genius By Stephen Hawking
03:20 Living Free With Kimi Werner
04:10 Buried Secrets Of WWII
05:00 Primal Survivor
06:00 Border Wars
07:00 Genius By Stephen Hawking
08:00 Buried Secrets Of WWII
09:00 Activate: The Global Citizen Movement
10:00 Scrapyard Supercar
11:00 Man vs Viral
12:00 India's Mega Kitchens
13:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
14:00 Locked Up Abroad
15:00 Activate: The Global Citizen Movement
16:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska
17:00 Scrapyard Supercar
18:00 India's Mega Kitchens
19:00 Man vs Viral
20:00 Activate: The Global Citizen Movement
21:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska
22:00 Locked Up Abroad
23:00 Man vs Viral



- 00:30 Animal ER
01:30 Born In Africa
02:30 Dog: Impossible
03:30 Borneo's Secret Kingdom
04:30 Shark Men
05:30 Hunter Hunted
06:30 Animal ER
07:30 Shark Men
08:30 World's Deadliest Animals
09:30 Cave Crocs Of Gabon
10:30 Snakes In The City
11:30 Shark Men
12:30 World's Deadliest Animals
13:30 Cave Crocs Of Gabon
14:30 Snakes In The City
15:30 Borneo's Secret Kingdom: Weird And Wild
16:30 Tree Climbing Lions
17:30 Shark Men
18:30 Hunter Hunted
19:30 The Flood
20:30 Snakes In The City
21:30 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
22:30 Little Giant
23:30 Hunter Hunted



- 00:12 Breadwinners
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
03:00 Regal Academy
03:48 Rabbids Invasion
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Welcome To The Wayne
05:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
05:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
06:12 The Loud House
06:36 Motu Patlu
07:00 Rise Of The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Chop Chop Ninja
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 Regal Academy
08:36 I Am Frankie
09:00 Henry Danger
09:24 The Bureau Of Magical Things
09:48 Game Shakers
10:12 School Of Rock
10:36 The Thundermans
11:00 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards Abu Dhabi 2019
12:20 The Loud House
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



- 00:00 Homicide Hunter
01:00 Secrets Of The Morgue
01:55 Homicide: Hours To Kill
02:50 It Takes A Killer
03:20 It Takes A Killer
03:45 Live PD: Police Patrol
04:10 Live PD: Police Patrol
04:30 The First 48
05:15 Homicide Hunter
06:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
07:00 Live PD: Police Patrol
07:20 The First 48
08:05 The First 48
08:50 Homicide Hunter
09:35 Homicide Hunter
10:30 Homicide: Hours To Kill
11:25 Homicide: Hours To Kill
12:20 Crimes That Shook Australia
13:15 Live PD: Police Patrol



- 00:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:30 Bizarre Foods With Andrew Zimmern
01:20 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
02:10 My Cat From Hell
03:00 Dirty Jobs
03:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
04:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:30 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
06:15 My Cat From Hell
07:00 Dirty Jobs
07:50 Dirty Jobs
08:40 Man v The Universe
09:30 Secret Space Escapes
10:20 Mighty Cruise Ships
11:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
11:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
12:00 Salvage Hunters
12:50 Unchained Reaction
13:40 Powering The Future
14:30 UFOs: The Lost Evidence
15:20 Dirty Jobs
16:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
16:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
17:50 My Cat From Hell
18:40 Dirty Jobs
19:30 Chopped Junior
20:20 The Next Great Magician
21:10 Breaking Magic
21:35 Breaking Magic
22:00 Sci-Jinks
22:50 Keeping Up With The Kruger
23:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things



- 00:00 True Nightmares
01:00 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
02:00 Impact Of Murder
03:00 Impact Of Murder



## Stars



### Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have a fine sense of appreciation and are very attentive to your loved ones. You love to help and take care of others, expressing a first-rate sense of compassion. You possess an almost infinite ability to respond to the needs and demands of others. Fragile and refined, you are perhaps too reserved. Your love of truth makes philosophy and religious ideas a life-long habit. You appreciate things of a global or universal level and could learn to love travel. Appearances mean little to you and you value honesty and candor in your partner and friends. Lovely words and a flair for description entertain neighbors and friends in a social scene this afternoon. You are artistic in all its many forms. There is an inner sense of warmth and goodness today.



### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The world is a sacred place to you and you have an absolute commitment to spiritual ideas. You could be enjoying a luncheon with people that are within your spiritual association. Although you may not recognize that you have intuition, it is strong and you use it in helping others. You are sensitive, kind and gentle. You are a romantic too, with a tender heart. You always work for a real future, doing what has to be done. You love all that is musical and artistic. You have a sensitivity to all that is psychic or spiritual. You have real faith. There is a natural appreciation for the past that stands out today as you demonstrate trends or point out tendencies and the possibilities of change. You will enjoy music, young people and being with loved ones.



### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Sympathy and understanding come into play this Friday as you interact with friends and family. It's wisdom, not knowledge, that counts now. Coming to grips with the past or getting in touch with the spiritual gives you a sense of completeness. If it makes sense you love it, and if it does not, you feel guilty about it—that's what it's like now. A loving attention to details and a sense of satisfaction in doing what is right are some of the qualities that come into play now—especially with respect to your health. You may find yourself at a nearby fruit and vegetable market this afternoon, mentally planning next week's menus. Your energies appear to be in the planning area this evening. You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts.



### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may be very forceful in what you say and think today. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well. You have much mental drive to accomplish whatever you set out to do today. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into your self-image or into your ideals and dreams. This is a time to reshape and renew your philosophy or religion during which your imagination is at full tilt. There are breakthroughs in compassion and communion. The new and unexpected may figure in your living situation or surroundings. An insight about your support system, your mother, or other females may be important. You could discover a difficult student or a difficult young person opens to you now.



### Leo (July 23-August 22)

Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized this day. Being appreciated and admired for your creative offerings are powerful needs. Taking chances can bring big rewards. Watch those judgments... They will keep you from joy and your expectations will make you unhappy. The best technique for now is to clear the mind and go-with-the-flow. You may enjoy getting away from your usual routine to do something different for a change. Your desires are strong and you will want to enjoy yourself. Romance is very possible. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life. Travel to a friend's new home may bring about an opportunity to talk about old times and laugh a lot! Take a simple housewarming gift.



### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are some of the focal points in your life. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have a special appeal for you now; transmitting ideas on a broader scale brings gain. You could decide you want to be a broadcaster on the airwaves. There is much energy and drive, perfect for starting something out or taking care of personal business. Very physical too—exercise is in order. A team effort will pay off, big time. Your emotions and the emotions of those around you are quite clear. This evening is a good time to catch up on family matters and, if needed, improve communications.



### Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may want to organize or rearrange your living situation. You may find ways that will help make it easier to help you remember to put things in their proper place. Marking containers, organizing the garage or utility room may take up most of your day. Later this afternoon you may decide to create a place to have "me time." This would be a nice chair, magazine rack, lamp or a desk where you can write or read or use your computer. Later today you will look for family or friends to join together for a little visiting time. A drive into the country with one of your friends or family members will find you at a garage sale, country vegetable stand or movie. This is a great time to share your time with another person and enjoy discussing all sorts of subjects.



### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Social connections are on your mind—on a more intellectual level than in the past, most likely. Powerful changes within you are demanding recognition and this may mean a new artistic interest or talent. Recognition will come in time—patience. A friend may want you to ride a motorcycle with him or her, or enter into some other situation that your participation might be worrisome. You may find that you have a problem with saying no. Today you learn to rise above the imagined guilt to state your thoughts. You are surprised at your progress and pleased with yourself. You may decide to look for another challenge so you can try out your new mind-set all over again. You may realize that you have discovered positive new things about you.



### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation this day or feel especially kind toward a friend or neighbor. Someone may compliment you on your belongings. You could find that you are in the mood to share and plans may develop to create a garden between neighbors. There is time today to have new thoughts and sudden insights and to get an unexpected boost in your ideas. Communications are simplified; connections of all kinds, news and so on, are furthered, which could mean the purchase of a camera, new phone, computer or some other form of communication. There is a time later to enjoy some special time with someone you love. General good feeling and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time.



### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

If there is something that needs to be said on the home front today—speak up now. Others lend their support to whatever you want to accomplish. Move forward instead of backward and keep your thinking in a forward-moving mode. Everything comes together to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions or inventions. Communicating with others in clear, intelligent conversations is important just now. Your timing should be perfect and others will find you most spontaneous. Enjoy a walk after the evening meal, perhaps with a friend or loved one. There are many stars to see.



### Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

If you are a female, you may find yourself hiding from someone today because you forgot to complete your makeup or do not have on the right clothes. Careful, you could knock something over, or run into someone, by running in the opposite direction. If you are a male, you may turn your head to someone's flattery that is not sincere. Look beyond the flattery to what this person is really saying. This is a busy day and one might find you huffing and puffing often. You can get more done than the average person and some things you have been putting off are included in your rush to ready yourself for the week ahead. Do be careful not to break some prized possession. This evening you will be able to relax with friends or loved ones.



### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is much to do today—fortunately you have the energy to match your goals. You can expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. Free your mind while you work or tend to your projects and find your sense of humor—laugh. Laughter is contagious and will put everyone in a good mood. A family member brings you good news this afternoon. There is much communication surrounding this subject. Phone calls and letters are underway. Your extra confidence may make you a bit outspoken so take care with your words while surrounded by so many people. Pamper yourself this evening, set some of those serious thoughts to the side and enjoy a loved one's attention or pour your own attention onto a loved one.

## Country Codes

Afghanistan	0093	Jordan	00962
Albania	00355	Kazakhstan	007
Algeria	00213	Kenya	00254
Andorra	00376	Kiribati	00686
Angola	00244	Kuwait	00965
Anguilla	001264	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Antigua	001268	Laos	00856
Argentina	0054	Latvia	00371
Armenia	00374	Lebanon	00961
Australia	0061	Liberia	00231
Austria	0043	Libya	00218
Bahamas	001242	Lithuania	00370
Bahrain	00973	Luxembourg	00352
Bangladesh	00880	Macau	00853
Barbados	001246	Macedonia	00389
Belarus	00375	Madagascar	00261
Belgium	0032	Majorca	0034
Belize	00501	Malawi	00265
Benin	00229	Malaysia	0060
Bermuda	001441	Maldives	00960
Bhutan	00975	Mali	00223
Bolivia	00591	Malta	00356
Bosnia	00387	Marshall Islands	00692
Botswana	00267	Martinique	00596
Brazil	0055	Mauritania	00222
Brunei	00673	Mauritius	00230
Bulgaria	00359	Mayotte	00269
Burkina Faso	00226	Mexico	0052
Burundi	00257	Micronesia	00691
Cambodia	00855	Moldova	00373
Cameroon	00237	Monaco	00377
Canada	001	Mongolia	00976
Cape Verde	00238	Montserrat	001664
Cayman Islands	001345	Morocco	00212
Central African Republic	00236	Mozambique	00258
Chad	00235	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Chile	0056	Namibia	00264
China	0086	Nepal	00977
Colombia	0057	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Comoros	00269	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Congo	00242	New Caledonia	00687
Cook Islands	00682	New Zealand	0064
Costa Rica	00506	Nicaragua	00505
Croatia	00385	Niger	00227
Cuba	0053	Nigeria	00234
Cyprus	00357	Niue	00683
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Norfolk Island	00672
Czech Republic	00420	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Denmark	0045	North Korea	00850
Diego Garcia	00246	Norway	0047
Djibouti	00253	Oman	00968
Dominica	001767	Pakistan	0092
Dominican Republic	001809	Palau	00680
Ecuador	00593	Panama	00507
Egypt	0020	Papua New Guinea	00675
El Salvador	00503	Paraguay	00595
England (UK)	0044	Peru	0051
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Philippines	0063
Eritrea	00291	Poland	0048
Estonia	00372	Portugal	00351
Ethiopia	00251	Puerto Rico	001787
Falkland Islands	00500	Qatar	00974
Faroe Islands	00298	Romania	0040
Fiji	00679	Russian Federation	007
Finland	00358	Rwanda	00250
France	0033	Saint Helena	00290
French Guiana	00594	Saint Kitts	001869
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Lucia	001758
Gabon	00241	Saint Pierre	00508
Gambia	00220	Saint Vincent	001784
Georgia	00995	Samoa US	00684
Germany	0049	Samoa West	00685
Ghana	00233	San Marino	00378
Gibraltar	00350	Sao Tome	00239
Greece	0030	Saudi Arabia	00966
Greenland	00299	Scotland (UK)	0044
Grenada	001473	Senegal	00221
Guadeloupe	00590	Seychelles	00284
Guam	001671	Sierra Leone	00232
Guatemala	00502	Singapore	0065
Guinea	00224	Slovakia	00421
Guyana	00592	Slovenia	00386
Haiti	00509	Solomon Islands	00677
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Somalia	00252
Honduras	00504	South Africa	0027
Hong Kong	00852	South Korea	0082
Hungary	0036	Spain	0034
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sri Lanka	0094
Iceland	00354	Sudan	00249
India	0091	Suriname	00597
Indian Ocean	00873	Swaziland	00268
Indonesia	0062	Sweden	0046
Iran	0098	Switzerland	0041
Iraq	00964	Syria	00963
Ireland	00353	Taiwan	00886
Italy	0039	Tanzania	00255
Ivory Coast	00225	Thailand	0066
Jamaica	001876	Toga	00228
Japan	0081	Tonga	00676

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

Friday, September 27, 2019

**DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY**  
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology  
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.  
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada  
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- Diagnosis/Treatment of General Ear, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatric
- Minimally Invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- Minimally Invasive Microscopic Endoscopic Ear surgery
- Diagnosis & treatment of Otolgy and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- Diagnosis & treatment of voice and swallowing disorders
- Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

Salmiya, Belajaf Street, Tel: 1881122

**DR. FAHAD S. BUHAIMED**  
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES:

- Dermatology board certified.
- Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

SPECIALIZED IN:

- Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- Laser Treatments.
- Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- Body & Face Contouring.
- Injectable Fillers & Botox.

SHARL Ahmad Alshar of., Building 16, Floor 11.  
Tel: (+965) 22060777  
@DrFahadS, @DrFahadS, @DrFahadS  
Email: drfahad@beautybeyond.com.kw  
www.beautybeyond.com.kw

**DR KHALED ALMERRI**  
Consultant Interventional Cardiology  
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

Specialized in:

- 1- Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty), Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4- Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24-hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

**Know your Doctor**  
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)  
**Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Specialist

- Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the British Laryngological Association
- Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the European Laryngological Society

Specialized in:

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

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

daralshifa

**Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine**  
Head of Cardiology departmenta at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

daralshifa

**IC**  
American Board Certified in General Surgery  
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)  
Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation  
Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- Day care surgeries
- Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- Surgery for morbid obesity ( sleeve, gastric bypass)
- Hernia repair
- Surgery for reflux disease
- Minor surgeries (pilonis, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- Breast surgeries
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

Dr. Hani Haider  
General Surgery Consultant  
http://www.international-clinic.com  
Tel: 1886677

**Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family**

Book your appointments today!

Dr. Kiran Taraka  
Dr. Zareena Zahir  
Dr. Masan Khan  
Dr. P. Seshendra Katti

**EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER**  
Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait


50721507  
24551555

Tel: 24568857 / 24568858 info@exircenter.kw www.exircenter.kw

### GENERAL SURGERY

These services include, but are not limited to, the below:

- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy
- Laparoscopic appendectomy
- Laparoscopic hiatus hernia procedures
- Laparoscopic rectopexy
- Procedures for morbid obesity
- Abdominal wall hernia repair
- Colon and small intestine resection



**1 800 888** taibahospital.com  
@taibahospital

### GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Housa Kharshid  
Consultant Surgeon



Dr. Adnan Ladiq  
General Surgery &  
Organ Transplantation Consultant



Dr. Khulod Kamil  
General Surgery &  
Laparoscopy Consultant



Dr. Kande Al Tarem  
General Surgeon



Dr. Nancy Hossary  
General Surgeon



Dr. Huda El Sheikh  
General Surgeon



Dr. Amir Ahmad  
General Surgeon

**1 800 888** taibahospital.com  
@taibahospital



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @hadclinic



Tel: 1808882  
Whatsapp Us  
+965-6000 2184



Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid  
Consultant



Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally  
Senior Registrar



Dr. Abeer Khattab  
Specialist

## Ophthalmology Services

Cataract Surgery

Glaucoma

Retina

General Ophthalmology

Follow-Up All Treatments

## Dr Sahar Ghannam

Dermatology consultant, skin treatment and laser

Timing: Saturdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 5 pm  
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 am to 5 pm  
Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm

Friday is a holiday.

Address: Fourth Ring Road - Abdallah Fadalah Street, Meidan Hawally, opposite fire station - block 35, building 31.  
Clinic Phones: 25610407/ 409/ 314 Fax: 25610465  
Mobaile: 90974754/ 99186746

saharpolyclinic | Dr.saharghannamclinic | Email: drsgderma@gmail.com

### WELCOME

**Dr Tammam Abu Ali**  
Consultant ENT, Head Neck  
Facial Plastic Surgery

Member of the royal college of surgeons in UK and Ireland.  
15 years experience in ENT Hospital UK & Ireland.  
As Head of ENT Department in Hamad Hospital QATAR since  
10 years with experience in UK and Ireland.

- Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Septoplasty and turbinate reduction surgery by laser or RF
- Snoring and OSAP Surgery
- Rhinoplasty with open and closed techniques
- Microscopic Middle Ear Surgery and Tympanoplasty
- Salivary gland and parotid surgery
- Thyroid and parathyroid surgery
- Micro laryngeal surgery


**1 888 883**  
www.qmc-kuwait.com

 qmckuwait



## To advertise on this Page

Call: 24833199 ext:101,102  
or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617  
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com



### DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM

Consultant Pediatrician

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

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368  
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

### DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED

Consultant of General Surgery  
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery



**Academic Certificates – Training**

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

**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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

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

# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ali Abdul Jamal Mohamed, holder of Indian Passport No. N9723698 having permanent address Kannachan Kandy (H) Atholi, Calicut, residing in Kuwait, hereby change my name to Abdul Jamal Mohamed Ali (Given Name). (C 5680)

I, SHAHUL HAMEED PUTHUR MOHAMED holder of Indian Passport No. N8635952 having permanent address Abrar Manzil, Mogral Puthur, Kasaragod, Kerala, India, Pin Code 671 128, presently residing in Kuwait hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: SHAHUL HAMEED and surname: PUTHUR MOHAMED. (C 5681) 27-9-2019

I, SIDDA LALITH REDDY, have changed my name from LALITH REDDY to SIDDA LALITH REDDY, hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5595)

I have changed my old name ALAJI MAHAMADSHAIK KASAM (Indian Passport No. L1429681 issued in Kuwait) to new name ALJI MAHAMAD SHAIK KASAM, with 'ALJI' as surname and 'MAHAMAD SHAIK KASAM' as given names for

all purposes.  
(C 5596) 26-9-2019

I, MOHD HUSSAIN REZAYE, (Civil ID no. 271012401914) have changed my name from NASER ABBAS REZA to MOHD HUSSAIN REZAYE, hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5594) 25-9-2019

I, ALVI MIRAHUSSAIN ABDUL LATIF, holding Indian Passport No. Z2816291, S/o ABDUL LATIF DAWOOD ALVI, PR/O 28/10, FLR-2, Ashok Niwas, Nawroji RD-5, Mumbai-400009. At present residing in Kuwait hereby declare that henceforth my name is read as given name: MIRAHUSSAIN ABDUL LATIF and surname: ALVI. (C 5678)

I, Harpreet S/o Dalip Kumar R/o V. Khojewala, P.o. Khaira Majja, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab, India. Have changed my name from Harpreet to Harpreet Kumar. (C 5677) 24-9-2019

I, Khaled Mansour Shaar, had lost my Passport (N012165597), nationality - Syrian, date of birth 10/01/1994, expires on 13/01/2020. If anyone found please call: 55252158 (C 5679) 26-9-2019

## LOST

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



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)



## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 32 km/h .

**BY NIGHT:** Fair and Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for fog forming at night.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 26/09/2019 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	43 °C	31 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	43 °C	25 °C		
ABDALY	44 °C	24 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	45 °C	28 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	39 °C	31 °C		
AHMADI	38 °C	32 °C		
NUWASIB	39 °C	24 °C		
WAFRA	43 °C	24 °C		
SALMY	44 °C	26 °C		

## 4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	09/27	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	42 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Saturday	09/28	Hot	44 °C	25 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 30 km/h
Sunday	09/29	Hot	44 °C	23 °C	N-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Monday	09/30	Hot	45 °C	27 °C	NW-W	12 - 30 km/h

## PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	04:19
Sunrise	05:38
Zuhr	11:40
Asr	15:05
Sunset	17:40
Isha	18:57

## RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	44 °C
MIN. Temp.	27 °C
MAX. RH	44 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	NE 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## Hospitals

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

## Clinics

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

# Business

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

**39** Hackers target Airbus suppliers in quest for commercial secrets



**40** Top economist Joseph Stiglitz sees 'significant slowdown'



**41** Huawei founder hints at problems with its access to western finance



BEIJING: People walk inside the new Beijing Daxing International Airport during its first day of operation. —AFP

## Beijing opens new massive, glitzy airport 'An extension of the phenomenal growth of the aviation market in China'

**BEIJING:** A futuristic airport that resembles a giant starfish opened in Beijing Wednesday, as China unveils another massive infrastructure project just days before it celebrates 70 years of Communist Party rule. Located 46 kilometers south of Tiananmen Square, Beijing Daxing International Airport will operate at full capacity in 2040, with eight runways and the potential to receive 100 million passengers per year.

The airport was opened by President Xi Jinping, but had an immediate hitch when its maiden commercial flight — an A380 super-jumbo heading to the southern city of Guangzhou — was delayed by nearly 30 minutes. State broadcaster CCTV, which offered a live coverage of the first flight, offered no explanation for the delay. Beijing Daxing — with the airport code PKX — is seen as an embodiment of the “Chinese dream” Xi has offered his fellow citizens.

### Teething problems

Both foreign and domestic carriers have plans to move their operations to the new airport, and British Airways, Cathay Pacific and Finnair have already announced new routes to tap into the potential of the modern aviation hub. “Switching airports can be a complex decision for airlines,” said aviation analyst John Strickland. “Airlines would prefer to see a new airport open and overcome teething problems before moving services from another well tried and tested airport.”

The SkyTeam alliance — which includes Delta, Air France and Dutch airline KLM — was also expected to move, along with local partners Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines. But when contacted by AFP last week, Delta and Air France said the decision whether to move airports had not yet been made. The third largest Chinese airline, Air China, is expected to keep flying

the bulk of its flights from Beijing Capital International Airport.

### Soaring growth

At 700,000 square meters — about the size of 100 football pitches — the new structure will be one of the world’s largest airport terminals. The building was designed by Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, who died in 2016. Inside, it stands out for its flowing, curved lines and use of natural light that filters down to the lowest levels of the building through openings on the roof.

Underneath the terminal is a train station and metro line that will allow travelers to reach the city centre in 20 minutes. The project cost 120 billion yuan (\$17.5 billion), or 400 billion yuan if rail and road links are included. At full capacity, Daxing would be the world’s largest single terminal in terms of traveler capacity, according to its design-

ers. Atlanta airport in the United States — the world’s busiest airport — can receive more than 100 million passengers, but across two terminals.

The current Beijing Capital International Airport — the world’s second largest — is already overflowing, with just over 100 million passengers annually. “Daxing is an extension of the phenomenal growth of the aviation market in China,” said Shukor Yusof, head of Malaysia-based aviation consultancy Endau Analytics. Air transport is booming in China as living standards increase along with peoples’ desire to travel. It is expected to surpass the US to become the world’s biggest aviation market by the mid-2020s, according to the International Air Transport Association. By 2037 the country will have 1.6 billion plane journeys each year — a billion more than in 2017, the organization estimates. —AFP

## Business

# Stock markets, dollar climb on upbeat Trump trade comments

**LONDON:** Stock markets and the dollar advanced yesterday after upbeat comments from US President Donald Trump that a trade deal with China could come sooner than expected and steps towards a new agreement with Japan. Trump, in an appearance Wednesday at the United Nations, said a deal with China was getting closer, sending equities higher despite concerns over the launch of an impeachment inquiry against the mercurial leader.

The remarks came just a day after Trump railed against Chinese “abuses” at the UN summit, comments that had been seen as among the factors causing stocks to fall Tuesday. Connor Campbell, analyst at Spreadex trading group, said “investors chose to buy into Trump’s trade optimism, allowing the markets to push higher”. Trump on Wednesday also said Washington and Tokyo had taken a major step towards sealing a comprehensive new trade deal, which will see Japan cut tariffs on \$7 billion of US farm exports while the US would cut tariffs on some Japanese agricultural goods.

“Investors have been ‘trade war’ bearish for so long that any sliver of optimism is cheered,” Stephen Innes, Asia Pacific market strategist at

AxiTrader, said in a note. The Japanese deal also “suggests the president is open to an ‘interim’ trade deal, possibly signaling he is willing to negotiate one with China”, Innes said. Asian markets largely cheered Trump’s positive comments on trade. Elsewhere, crude prices slipped after an unexpected rise in US inventory and a swift recovery in Saudi Arabia’s output following the September 14 attacks on its oil infrastructure.

The pound was little changed. The British currency had pulled back after it rallied on Tuesday on the belief that the odds of a no-deal Brexit had fallen. “It will probably take a Brexit agreement signed and sealed to give it new upside momentum,” said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA. On the corporate front, shares in Airbus were unchanged at 121 euros in Paris after sources revealed that the European aerospace giant has been hit by a series of attacks by hackers targeting its suppliers in search of commercial secrets, adding they suspected a Chinese link. AFP spoke to seven security and industry sources, all of whom confirmed a spate of attacks in the past 12 months but asked for anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information they were sharing. — AFP



**NEW YORK:** Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell gives a news conference as traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. — AFP

## Japan cattle farmers fear US trade deal will be death knell

**TOKYO:** US and Japanese officials insist a hard-won bilateral trade deal will be a “win-win”, but some Japanese cattle farmers fear the agreement could sound the death knell for their embattled sector. Cattle farmers are already struggling to adjust to the terms of two major free trade deals inked by Japan in recent years — the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and an agreement with the European Union. But they fear the US trade deal will put much greater pressure on them.

“We were able to maintain a market for our products in competition with the TPP members, because our beef quality is good enough to compete, even if imported beef was cheaper,” said Harumi Yoshikawa, an official in charge of live-stock at an agricultural cooperative in Hokkaido. “But American beef rivals ours in terms of quality and in that sense we are worried.” Akio Kawai, 61, who runs a ranch of some 4,300 beef cattle in Shikaoi town in northern Hokkaido, said: “Politicians are not thinking about us farmers at all.” He said he is determined to stay afloat “but others may think about quitting this business”. “Japanese beef may be delicious and offer a sense of safety to consumers, but US beef is absolutely cheaper, and that’s attractive to some,” Kawai said.

### Worries for the future

Under the deal announced in New York on Wednesday, Japan will eliminate or reduce tariffs on \$7.2 billion worth of US food and agricultural products. Milk cow farmers fear they too will struggle, despite assurances of assistance from Japanese government officials. The deal “will be a further blow to small cow farmers like us who keep just 30 to 50 cows,” said one dairy and beef cattle farmer in Kanagawa prefecture, south of Tokyo, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“Various costs — the price of feed crops, salaries for workers — are already weighing on us, and this deal will be

another factor to worry about in terms of the future of this business,” he said. “I wonder if many cow farmers, many of whom are ageing, will decide to quit the job,” he added. “And I wonder if it’s right for Japan to lose these small-sized farmers... who are the majority of the Japanese farm industry.” Japan came to the negotiating table reluctantly, after President Donald Trump’s administration withdrew from the TPP and threatened Tokyo’s key auto sector with sanctions.

But Japanese experts question whether the country’s negotiators have done enough to protect local farmers. “Japan could have drawn more concessions from the US because it is Americans who withdrew from the TPP” and wanted more access, argued Akio Shibata, head of the Natural Resource Research Institute and former researcher for trading house Marubeni. “Even if the levels of tariff cuts are same as those of the TPP, it will discourage Japanese farmers — who are already struggling to survive — from continuing their businesses,” he said.

### ‘Chew on car parts’

Manufacturing, including the auto industry, is seen as the main driver of Japan’s economic growth, accounting for roughly 20 percent of nominal GDP. By contrast, the country’s agriculture sector accounts for just one percent of GDP. The deal announced Wednesday is only the first phase of the talks, with Washington saying the second phase will include Japan’s auto sector. Washington continues to wield the threat of imposing tariffs of up to 25 percent on Japan’s auto sector, which US officials view as a key tool to keep negotiations moving.

Nobuhiro Suzuki, an expert on agricultural trade at the University of Tokyo, said Japanese negotiators were offering agricultural concessions to protect the auto sector. The “mindset is if the US threatens them with punitive measures on the auto sector, they offer (compromise in) agriculture,” he said. “The result will be a further reduction of agricultural production in this country.” Kawai agreed, saying: “I wonder what the government is thinking about food safety and self-sufficiency rate.” “The price of milk is already cheaper than (bottled) water. That’s unfair,” he added. “If the government think it’s okay to import 100 percent of the milk Japan consumes, then that’s fine. When a food emergency occurs, they can enjoy chewing on steel car parts.” — AFP

## Vaping backlash sparks profit warning at Imperial

**LONDON:** Shares in British tobacco giant Imperial Brands slumped yesterday after it issued a profit-warning linked to a backlash against vaping in the United States. Imperial, whose e-cigarette brand is blu and traditional tobacco brands include Davidoff and Gauloises, expects annual revenue to grow 2.0 percent, down from guidance of as much as 4.0 percent, it said in a statement.

The group blamed the downgrade on “a challenging NGP (next generation products) market in the USA”, as well as a weaker performance from its Africa, Asia and Australasia division. In reaction, the share price of Imperial Brands tumbled 10.4 percent to £18.50 on London’s benchmark FTSE 100 index, which was up 1.0 percent nearing midday. Rival British American Tobacco, which this month axed 2,300 jobs as part of a drive towards controversial e-cigarettes, saw its stock slide 0.9 percent to £28.97.

“Imperial Brands lowered its full-year outlook as there has been a backlash against vaping in the US,” noted David Madden, analyst at CMC Markets UK. “In some countries, cigarette sales have been in decline, so major tobacco firms has been ramping up their investments in alternative products like vaping, but given the recent adverse reaction to vaping, traders are fearful the sector will be squeezed.”

US President Donald Trump’s administration is considering an outright ban on flavored e-cigarette products, which authorities say target teen users, following a spate of vaping-linked deaths. Imperial meanwhile was not the London stock market’s biggest faller Thursday. Instead shares in publisher Pearson nosedived 17.8 percent to 708 pence after the company warned it would take a hit from weaker-than-expected trade at its US higher educational courseware business. — AFP

## Business

# Hackers target Airbus suppliers in quest for commercial secrets

**PARIS:** European aerospace giant Airbus has been hit by a series of attacks by hackers targeting its suppliers in search of commercial secrets, sources told AFP, adding they suspected a Chinese link. AFP spoke to seven security and industry sources, all of whom confirmed a spate of attacks in the past 12 months but asked for anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information they were sharing.

Two security sources involved in investigating the hacking said there had been four major attacks. Airbus has long been considered a tempting target because of the cutting-edge technologies that have made it one of the world's biggest commercial plane manufacturers, as well as a strategic military supplier. In January, it admitted to a security incident that "resulted in unauthorized access to data", but people with knowledge of the attacks outlined a concerted and far bigger operation over the last year.

AFP's sources said the hackers targeted British engine-maker Rolls-Royce and the French technology consultancy and supplier Expleo, as well as two other French contractors working for Airbus that AFP was unable to identify. Airbus did not immediately reply to a request for comment. A spokesperson for Rolls-Royce declined to comment on the specifics of any attack but said: "We have experience of attempts to gain access to our network and we have a team of experts who work closely with the relevant authorities to ensure that we combat these attempts and minimize any potential impact."

Expleo said it would neither "confirm nor deny" that it had been targeted. Romain Botton of the aerospace security specialist BoostAerospace said the intrusions as described by sources to AFP showed that hackers were seeking out weak links in the chain to compromise Airbus's systems. "Very large companies are very well protected, it's hard to pirate them, so smaller companies are a better target," he said.

## VPN entry point

The attack against Expleo was discovered at

the end of last year but the group's system had been compromised long before, one of the sources told AFP on condition of anonymity. "It was very sophisticated and targeted the VPN which connected the company to Airbus," the source said. A VPN, or virtual private network, is an encrypted network that enables employees to access company systems remotely.

Airbus suppliers sometimes operate in a VPN linking them with colleagues at the plane-maker. The other attacks used the same methods, with the first of them detected at a British subsidiary of Expleo, formerly known as Assystem, as well as Rolls-Royce, which provides engines for Airbus planes. According to several of the sources, the hackers appeared to be interested in technical documents linked to the certification process for different parts of Airbus aircraft.

They also said that several stolen documents were related to the innovative turbo-prop engines used on the Airbus military transport plane A400M. One of the sources said the hackers were also interested in the propulsion systems for the Airbus A350 passenger jet, as well as its avionics systems controlling the plane.

## Who to blame?

None of the sources who spoke to AFP could formally identify the perpetrators of the attacks, pointing to the extreme difficulty in obtaining evidence and identification. Many state-backed and independent hackers are known to disguise their tracks, or they may leave clues intended to confuse investigators or lead them to blame someone else.

But the sources said they suspected Chinese hackers were responsible, given their record of trying to steal sensitive commercial information and the fact that Beijing has just launched a plane designed to compete with Airbus and US rival Boeing. State-owned plane-maker Comac has already launched manufacturing of its first mid-range airliner but has struggled to get it certified. Engines and avionics are "areas in which Chinese research and development is weak," one of the sources said.

the United States, and one each in Italy and Malaysia.

Included were 1,800 jobs at the company's Babenhausen plant alone. And factories in the US states of Virginia and North Carolina employing a total of 1,400 people are set to close. But such closures "do not mean the people there will find themselves out of work," a spokesman told AFP. Continental also plans "a large number" of new jobs in new industrial sectors linked to battery-powered cars, IT and autonomous driving, which it will partly fill via an internal jobs market that will retrain workers.

"Operational redundancies will be the very last resort," chief executive Elmar Degenhart said, "but we cannot currently rule them out". "We are also responding proactively to the crisis in the automotive industry and, like 10 years ago, we will emerge stronger," he added. Germany's massive car industry — with 800,000 jobs and almost five percent of national output — has suffered as trade wars have intensified and the threat of a no-deal Brexit has grown. Meanwhile far-reaching transformations of the sector, including electrification and automated driving, require enormous investments in new technology. — AFP

## Continental launches job cuts, savings drive

**FRANKFURT:** German car parts giant Continental said Wednesday it would launch a massive restructuring including job cuts and factory closures, aiming to save hundreds of millions of euros annually in costs. In total, 20,000 out of the group's 244,000 jobs worldwide will be "affected by changes" between now and 2029, although not all of those will vanish.

Rather, some will be shifted between sites or reassigned to new activities, Continental said in a statement. "Continental is thus responding to the decline in global automotive production and the increase in customer demand for digital solutions," the Hanover-based company said. It aims to slash costs by 500 million euros (\$550 million) annually by 2023. Around 4,800 jobs could go at seven sites around the world in the coming years — three in Germany and two in



In this file photo taken on February 08, 2019 an Airbus A350-1000 conducts a test flight over Chateauroux airport, central France. —AFP

In its quest to break the stranglehold of Airbus and Boeing on the global aircraft market, Beijing also has ambitions to build a long-haul jet called the C929, which will be developed in partnership with Russia. Several sources said they believed a group of hackers linked to the Chinese Communist Party, known as APT10, could be behind the attacks. The United States considers APT10 to be state-backed hackers linked to the Chinese intelligence services and military.

But another source pointed to another group of Chinese hackers known as JSSD, which are believed to operate under the regional security ministry in the coastal province of Jiangsu. "The JSSD is focused on the aerospace industry," one source said, explaining that they employ people "familiar with the language, the software and aerospace codes." In October 2018, the US Justice department named several JSSD officers as being responsible for a hacking operation targeting an engine being developed by US-based General Electric and French aerospace group Safran.

"At the time of the intrusions, a Chinese state-owned aerospace company was working to develop a comparable engine for use in commercial aircraft manufactured in China and elsewhere," a US statement said. France and Airbus have been left in a delicate position by the discovery of the hacking attacks, sources told AFP, with the country and company needing to take into account their commercial ties with China.

## Achilles' heel

The attacks show up the vulnerability of Airbus to intrusions via its global supplier network, and the value of its technology to foreign countries. "The aerospace sector is the one that suffers most from cyberattacks, mostly through spying or people seeking to make money from this industry," said Botton of BoostAerospace. There is also a major industrial risk for Airbus, with hackers potentially able to knock out production for strategic suppliers which would have a knock-on effect on production. — AFP

## British Airways parent cuts profit forecast on strikes

**LONDON:** IAG, the owner of British Airways, said yesterday it was cutting annual profits guidance after taking a hit of 137 million euros from BA pilots carrying out historic strikes. IAG "expects its 2019 operating profit before exceptional items to be 215 million euros (\$236 million) lower than 2018", the group said, noting that it was taking hits also from threatened strike action elsewhere and lower bookings going forward.

BA grounded its entire UK fleet over two days this month when for the first time in its 100-year history pilots employed by the airline went on strike in a long-running dispute over pay. Even though pilots represented by the BALPA union have cancelled a third 24-hour stoppage, BA has said it has been able to revert to only a half-service on Friday having initially cancelled all UK flights scheduled for tomorrow. And de-

spite the strike being scrapped, "there have been no further talks between British Airways and BALPA", IAG said yesterday.

"The airline's offer of a 11.5-percent pay increase over three years still stands and has been accepted by British Airways' other unions, representing 90 percent of the airline's employees. "Clearly any further industrial action will additionally impact IAG's... 2019 operating profit," the airlines group added. In total, the disruption will have caused the cancellation of 2,325 BA flights, IAG said yesterday. "The net financial impact of the industrial action is estimated to be 137 million euros," it said.

"In addition, there were further disruption events affecting British Airways in the (third) quarter, including threatened strikes by Heathrow Airport employees, which had a further net financial impact of 33 million euros." IAG said also that it was taking a hit of 45 million euros from lower bookings, in particular for its budget carriers Vueling and LEVEL. Shares in IAG slid 2.6 percent to 467.70 pence in reaction to the update, while London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was up 1.2 percent overall approaching midday. — AFP

## Business

# Top economist Joseph Stiglitz sees 'significant slowdown', but no crisis

PARIS: Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said the global economy is entering a severe slowdown, but told AFP in an interview he did not see it hurtling towards crisis. "I would say that I don't see a crisis," said the US economist in Paris where he was promoting the French version of his latest book: *People, Power, and Profits: Progressive Capitalism for an Age of Discontent*.

"What I see is a significant slowdown," he said. "In the process of this significant slowdown, there will be bankruptcies." He said that slowdown deprived corporate managers of a cushion to soften the consequences of their errors. "When you are slowing down and you mismanage, you go bankrupt." This made people nervous, "but the particular situation for a global crisis requires much more disruption than that", he said.

Stiglitz said some developing countries like Argentina might be swept into dire straits "but I don't think it is likely that Europe and America will." The 2001 winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences said he was concerned about rate cuts by US and eurozone central banks and a revival of liquidity injections into the economy. "I think the benefit that they get out of this is very little," he said. "They are

clearly losing ammunition in case the situation gets worse."

## 'A problem called Trump'

Stiglitz said the three main economies — China, the eurozone and the United States — were all having problems. "China has been having a hard time going from a manufactured export led growth to a more domestically driven growth," he said. Germany is under pressure to stimulate its own economy as well as its eurozone partners, while the US "has a problem called Trump", said Stiglitz.

"It's not just a trade war. He has introduced a new degree of political uncertainty, a new level of chaos" that has reduced growth. "Those three together mean slow economic growth," said Stiglitz. "The trade war just makes it all worse." In his book Stiglitz argues for a "progressive capitalism" where the state would again wield more power over the economy, including regulating markets. He recommended the breakup of internet giants.

"There was no reason that Facebook should have been allowed to acquire Instagram and WhatsApp," said Stiglitz. The economist welcomed the French government's move to tax the revenue of Facebook, Apple, Amazon and Google who have



PARIS: (Left to right) US economist Joseph Stiglitz, Ugandan lawyer and politician Irene Ovonji-Odida, French economist Thomas Piketty and Indian economist pose ahead of a press conference on the theme "Taxes on multinational companies : a revolution for tomorrow ?". — AFP

been declaring global profits in targeted low-tax jurisdictions. The French initiative had forced "a global conversation about the taxation of the digital companies", he said. "And it helps the people realize that there is something fundamentally

wrong when the richest corporations in the world are not paying taxes". Stiglitz was chief economist at the World Bank for three years after serving as the head of US President Bill Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors. — AFP

## Merkel says don't 'overstretch' ECB

FRANKFURT: German Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday that European Central Bank and its monetary policy must not be "overstretched", after a board member resigned over new measures to support the eurozone economy. "Our political task is of course to not overstretch monetary policy, but to make sure with reasonable reforms and a reasonable fiscal policy that the ECB is not overburdened," Merkel told a conference in financial capital Frankfurt, home to the institution's towering headquarters.

"Monetary policy is a topic that stirs people up, that's seen differently in Portugal, Greece, Germany or the Netherlands," she added, less than 24 hours after German ECB board member Sabine Lautenschlaeger announced her resignation. But Merkel refrained from directly commenting on policymakers' decision to lower interest rates and re-launch mass "quantitative easing" (QE) bond purchases earlier this month, widely criticized in German media and politics.

Like other "hawks" on the governing council, who eye critically departing ECB president Mario Draghi's easy-money policy, Lautenschlaeger believed the situation was not dire enough to justify restarting the bond-buying scheme. Sources told AFP around 10 of the 25 members of the governing council opposed the new 20-billion-euro (\$22 billion) per month purchase program.

QE was first launched in 2015 to ward off an imminent threat of deflation — a harmful downward spiral of prices and activity. While such a danger is presently far off, trade conflicts and other threats are weighing on confidence, growth and inflation in the single currency bloc. Nevertheless, critics say low rates and QE take the pressure off highly-indebted governments to reduce debt and deficits.

Many central bankers and economists have acknowledged the fears around loose monetary policy, but say it is up to governments and the EU to lift demand before they can turn the screws. "There was unanimous consensus, unanimity... that fiscal policy should become the main instrument" to stoke demand, Draghi told reporters after this month's meeting. — AFP

## Dutch launch laundering probe into ABN Amro

THE HAGUE: Dutch prosecutors are targeting the country's third-largest bank ABN Amro in a money-laundering probe, the bank and prosecutors said yesterday, sending its share price into a nosedive on the Amsterdam stock exchange. The stock fell by around 9.5 percent on the AEX index shortly after opening following ABN Amro's terse announcement that public prosecutors told the bank it was "the subject of a probe under legislation against money laundering and the financing of terrorism."

"ABN Amro will cooperate fully with the probe," it added. Its share price further plunged by over 10 percent by lunchtime trade. "ABN Amro allegedly has not carried out client due diligence sufficiently, was insufficiently monitoring bank accounts and did not report unusual transactions, or reported them too late," a spokeswoman for the public prosecution service said. "Service providers such as banks have a legal obligation to protect society against abuse of the financial system for laundering criminal funds or financing terrorism," Marieke van der Molen told AFP.

She could not give further details but said "it was a wide-ranging investigation." Last month the Dutch Central Bank (DNB) ordered ABN Amro to audit all five million of its private clients. ABN Amro released an additional 114 million euros for this purpose, promising to "take all necessary measures to ensure full compliance with the legislation".

The latest investigation comes in the wake of a massive 775 million euros (\$848 million) fine dished out to top Dutch bank ING last year over money laundering after it failed to ensure its accounts were not misused. The scandal saw ING axe its chief financial officer Koos Timmermans after a two-year probe by Dutch authorities that found many white-collar crime suspects held accounts at the bank. — AFP

## China buys 'considerable' amount of US soybeans

BEIJING: Beijing said yesterday it had bought a "considerable" amount of US pork and soybeans, the latest sign of appeasement between the two sides in the drawn-out trade war. The US and China have been locked in a bruising trade war for more than a year, with the world's two biggest economies slapping tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars in bilateral trade.

China is also facing a severe shortage of pork — a staple food in the country — because of an outbreak of African swine fever which has raced through its hog supply and pushed prices up by 50 percent. "Recently Chinese enterprises have ... started price inquiry and purchases of US agricultural products, and have also completed a transaction of soybeans and pork of considerable size with the US," said commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng at a regular press briefing.

Gao said "China's market demand for high quality agricultural products is very large" and that he hoped the two sides could "create beneficial conditions for cooperation." Earlier in September, China said high-profile US agricultural products including pork and soybeans would be exempt from added tariffs, ahead of the next round of trade talks scheduled for October. It marked easing tensions between the world's two biggest economies.

### Appeasement

American farmers have borne the brunt of the US-China trade spat, especially after US soy exports collapsed last year. President Donald Trump has previously accused Beijing of backsliding on promises to increase purchases of US farm goods and has offered billions in aid to farms badly damaged in the trade war. China's conciliatory move to exempt pork and soybeans followed an unexpected announcement from Trump that he would postpone an October 15 tariff increase on Chinese products representing \$250 billion in annual imports.

Tensions between the two have ebbed and flowed since then, with Trump criticising Beijing in a speech at the United Nations this week over its trade policy and approach to pro-democracy unrest in Hong Kong. The US president declared in his speech that the time of Beijing's "abuses" of the system was "over." — AFP



## Business

# Huawei founder hints at problems with its access to western finance

**BEIJING:** The founder of embattled tech giant Huawei said yesterday that the firm's financing from western banks was not "very smooth", but insisted the group would resume growth in 2022 despite biting US sanctions. Amid a broad trade war with Beijing, Washington added the Chinese tech giant to a commerce department "blacklist" in May, imperiling the firm's access to critical US components and software.

Speaking at a panel discussion organized by the company at its headquarters in Shenzhen, southern China, CEO and founder Ren Zhengfei admitted the US sanctions had affected Huawei's financing. "In the past we used to get financing from western banks, now the western bank financing pipeline has slowly been not so smooth," Ren said. "So we've changed to trying domestic banks," he told the audience.

Huawei planned to raise up to 30 billion yuan (\$4 billion) in its first domestic bond issues, Chinese business news magazine Caixin reported earlier this month. Ren said yesterday he was not sure of the precise figure. The tech giant is the world leader in high-speed 5G mobile communications equipment and a top smartphone producer. The firm is ramping up production of its 5G base stations, Ren said.

"A large number of western companies have already received our products that don't have

US components in them," Ren told academics and reporters at the forum, saying he believed customers had faith in Huawei as a supplier. Ren said operations remained at full-throttle, but added "there will be no huge increase" in business next year. "By the end of next year people will see and believe that Huawei truly has survived," he said. "In 2022 and after everyone will see Huawei has resumed growth, they've resolved the difficulties and started to grow," said Ren.

Huawei's sales unexpectedly rose in the first half of 2019, the company said in July. The once media-shy tycoon has become more open as Huawei fights for its future. The US has expressed fears that Huawei equipment could contain security loopholes that allow China to spy on global communications traffic. The company has repeatedly denied the US accusations. Ren yesterday dangled the prospect of licensing all of Huawei's 5G intellectual property to a western telecom firm — in effect creating a potentially dangerous rival.

He said he preferred to license to a single American firm — in part because the US needed the most help in developing 5G technologies. Huawei would profit from licensing fees, he added. Asked about the hit to Huawei's business this year, Ren said he reckoned Washington's



**MUNICH:** Attendants of the presentation discover Huawei's latest smartphones after they were revealed during a show by the Chinese tech giant Huawei. — AFP

sanctions would knock about \$10 billion off revenue. Last year the company crossed \$100 billion in annual revenue for the first time.

The firm also faces a tough battle to maintain smartphone market share outside China. Its new models — like its recently-launched Mate 30 —

lack the Google Play Store, which provides access to hundreds of thousands of third-party apps and games as well as films, books and music. Users will also be unable to download popular apps such as Google Maps and Youtube. — AFP

## Google deals blow to EU copyright law in France

**PARIS:** Google said Wednesday it will not pay European media outlets for displaying their articles, pictures and videos in search results in France, a move that undercuts EU copyright law and could set up a legal fight between the US tech giant and Brussels. Google routinely shows extracts of news articles or small "thumbnail" images in its results and on Google News, without paying the publishers.

The new EU rule, which France will be the first to implement starting next month, would require internet companies to pay for such content. But Google has balked, saying it will not use the content in search results unless publishers make it available for free. If they refuse, only a headline and a bare link to the content will appear in search results, Google said, almost certainly resulting in a loss of visibility and potential ad revenue for the publisher.

"It's up to the publishers to decide how they promote their content," Richard Gingras, Google's vice president in charge of news, told journalists in Paris after meeting French Culture Minister Franck Riester. At Google, he added, "we don't pay for links to be included in search results" because "it would undermine the trust of users." The move was swiftly condemned by media groups, which have seen advertising and subscription revenues collapse as audiences switch to online news, often without paying.

"This was predictable," said Joy de Looz-Corswarem of the European Newspaper Publishers' Association. "We could have expected this sort of blackmail. We're going to have to look at all the legal aspects," she said. Riester said Google's stance was "obviously not acceptable," adding he would consult his European counterparts on a response. The EU directive must "ensure a fair share of the value produced by media content for internet platforms," he said in a statement. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said it was "at the disposal to the French government to support the transposition of the directive," reiterating that member states have until June 7, 2021 to enforce it. — AFP

## Amazon's Alexa will get into your head

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Amazon on Wednesday unveiled a cornucopia of new gadgets as it extended the reach of Alexa from automobiles and homes essentially into people's heads. Amazon digital aide Alexa vies with Google Assistant software to be at the heart of smart homes where lights, security systems, televisions and more are controlled with spoken commands. While the Seattle-based technology titan has worked with partners to get Alexa built into some 85,000 devices, it also expanded the lineup of hardware it creates itself.

### Echo Frames

Eyeglass frames with microphones built in to listen for commands and speakers that channel audio directly into the ears for just wearers to hear. The frames, which can be used for prescription lenses, have no camera or display capabilities and synch with smartphones. Echo Frames are available invitation-only, and priced at \$180.

### Echo Loop

A ring worn on a finger that can be used to interact with Alexa digital assistant using taps or swipes. The smart ring is available by invitation only and priced at \$130.

### Echo Buds

Wireless earbuds infused with Alexa digital assistant smarts but which synch with smartphones, where they can work with Google Assistant or Apple Siri software. Echo Buds are priced at \$130.

### Echo Studio

A smart speaker with five directional speakers and sophisticated software for premium sound quality and Alexa digital assistant controls built in. Priced at \$200. — AFP

## US House passes bill opening bank sector to cannabis sellers

**WASHINGTON:** The House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a measure opening the banking sector to sellers of cannabis, who have struggled to safeguard their earnings from the United States's booming marijuana industry. Forty seven of the 50 states allow varying degrees of marijuana usage and cultivation, and the country's cannabis industry generates billions of dollars in revenues and employs some 200,000 people, according to NORML, the main pro-legalization lobby.

But federal law considers marijuana a dangerous drug comparable to LSD, cocaine and heroin, meaning companies struggle to access the federally regulated banking system. That forces them to do business in cash, leaving them vulnerable to robbery and forcing many companies to hire armed guards and take other security measures.

The SAFE Banking Act, passed with 321 votes in favor and 103 against, "will improve transparency and accountability, and help law enforcement root out illegal transactions to prevent tax evasion, money laundering and other white collar crime," said Democratic Representative Ed Perlmutter, the bill's sponsor. "This will also reduce the risk of violent crime in our communities. These businesses and their employees become targets for murder, robbery, assault and more by dealing in all cash," the lawmaker added.

Opponents of the bill have cited the risk that it will allow drug cartels involved in the marijuana industry easier access to the financial sector. Cartels "are a significant problem and canvas legal states like California, Washington and Colorado," said Patrick McHenry, a Republican lawmaker. "The cartels have found that it's easier to grow and process marijuana in legal states like Colorado and ship it throughout United States than it is to bring it from Mexico or Cuba," he said. The bill must be approved by the Senate then signed by President Donald Trump before it can become law. — AFP

## Sports

# Twins win, clinch AL Central

**DETROIT:** Luis Arraez and Eddie Rosario hit two-run homers, and the Minnesota Twins clinched their first American League Central title in nine years shortly after earning a 5-1 victory over the host Detroit Tigers on Wednesday. The win reduced the Twins' magic number to capture the division to one, and when the second-place Cleveland Indians lost 8-3 to the Chicago White Sox later in the evening, Minnesota sealed the AL Central crown. Arraez was among a trio of Twins batters who had two hits. Nelson Cruz scored and knocked in a run with his two hits while Jorge Polanco went 2-for-5 with a run. Randy Dobnak (2-1) allowed one unearned run on just one hit and struck out six in six innings while collecting the win. He didn't walk a batter.

## BREWERS 9, REDS 2

Ryan Braun belted a grand slam to highlight a six-run first inning as Milwaukee secured a playoff berth for the second straight season by clobbering host Cincinnati. Eric Thames and Keston Hiura each launched solo homers, and Jordan Lyles (12-8) allowed two runs over five strong innings for the surging Brewers. Milwaukee has won six in a row and 17 of its past 19 contests. The Brewers, who are guaranteed at least a wild-card spot, moved within 1 1/2 games of first-place St. Louis in the National League Central and remained one game behind Washington for the top NL wild card. Cincinnati's Eugenio Suarez set a record for most homers by an NL third baseman by crushing his 49th of the season in the first inning.

## A'S 3, ANGELS 2

Matt Chapman's two-run homer in the ninth inning rescued Oakland from a potential devastating loss and instead lifted the A's to a win over Los Angeles in Anaheim, Calif. Trailing 2-1 going into the ninth, the A's got a leadoff single from Marcus Semien, who was sacrificed to second by Ramon Laureano. Chapman then hit the first pitch he saw from Hansel Robles (5-1) over the fence in center field to help Oakland avoid a third consecutive loss. A defeat also would have dropped the A's behind Tampa Bay for the top American League wild-card spot, but instead Oakland maintained a half-game lead over the Rays. Cleveland is two games behind Oakland and 1 1/2 games behind Tampa Bay.

## WHITE SOX 8, INDIANS 3

Tim Anderson went 4-for-5 to remain atop the American League batting race and help host Chicago White Sox beat Cleveland and eliminate the Indians from the American League Central race. Anderson notched his sixth four-hit game of the season, extending his hitting streak to 12 games with singles in the first, third, fourth and sixth innings. He is batting .339, with Yankees infielder DJ LeMahieu his nearest pursuer at .328. Wellington Castillo broke open what had been a tight contest with a three-run home run in the seventh that put Chicago on top by the final margin. The Indians loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth, but Alex Colome entered and struck out Francisco Lindor to end the game and record his 30th save.

## NATIONALS 5, PHILLIES 2

Wilmer Difo singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and host Washington topped Philadelphia for its fourth straight win. One day after the Nationals clinched a playoff

spot, manager Dave Martinez rested shortstop Trea Turner and third baseman Anthony Rendon. Washington starter Anibal Sanchez (11-8) allowed two runs on six hits in seven innings. He struck out seven without a walk. Sean Doolittle pitched a scoreless ninth inning with three strikeouts for his 29th save and first since Aug. 16.

## DIAMONDBACKS 9, CARDINALS 7

Wilmer Flores had three hits, including a two-run homer and a two-run double, and Arizona stalled St. Louis' run for the National League Central title with a victory in Phoenix. Flores' two-run homer capped a seven-run sixth inning that gave Arizona a 9-5 lead. Nick Ahmed and Adam Jones also had run-scoring hits in the rally, during which the Cardinals committed two infield errors, threw two wild pitches and issued two walks while using three relievers. Rookie Randy Arozarena had two hits, including his first major league homer, and stole home, and Jose Martinez had three hits and two RBIs for the Cardinals.

## METS 10, MARLINS 3

Jacob deGrom continued his Cy Young Award push, allowing just two hits in seven scoreless innings, but host New York was eliminated from playoff contention despite trouncing Miami. DeGrom (11-8), who won the NL Cy Young Award last year, concluded an impressive final kick by walking one and striking out seven. He allowed one run over his final 28 innings to lower his ERA to 2.43, just behind the Los Angeles Dodgers' Hyun-Jin Ryu (2.41) to lead the majors. DeGrom leads the NL in strikeouts (255). Rookie Pete Alonso hit his 51st homer, a three-run shot in the second inning. He is one homer shy of tying the all-time rookie record, set two years ago by the New York Yankees' Aaron Judge.

## ASTROS 3, MARINERS 0

Zack Greinke didn't allow a hit until the ninth inning as Houston defeated host Seattle for its 104th victory, breaking the franchise record for a season, set last year. Austin Nola broke up Greinke's bid for his first career no-hitter with one out in the ninth, lining a 3-2 pitch for a single into left-center field. Tim Lopes then lined a single to right, ending Greinke's night. The 35-year-old right-hander went 8 1/3 scoreless innings, striking out nine and walking one. Will Harris got the final two outs for his third save of the season as the Astros moved 2 1/2 games ahead of the New York Yankees in the race for the best record in the American League and home-field advantage throughout the AL playoffs.

## BRAVES 10, ROYALS 2

Josh Donaldson had his first career three-double game and drove in four runs as Atlanta scored 10 straight runs to win at Kansas City. Dansby Swanson added a career-high four hits and two RBIs for the National League East champion Braves. Atlanta spotted the Royals a 2-0 lead through four innings before scoring 10 straight runs. Three Braves pitchers struck out eight straight Royals batters in the fourth through sixth innings. Luke Jackson (9-2) picked up the win in relief, striking out all four batters he faced.

## RAYS 4, YANKEES 0

Charlie Morton made his final regular-season start a strong one, taking a no-hitter into the sixth inning as Tampa Bay boosted its wild-



**DETROIT:** Nelson Cruz #23 of the Minnesota Twins hits a RBI single in the eighth inning in front of Grayson Greiner #17 of the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park in Detroit, Michigan. — AFP

card hopes by shutting out New York in St. Petersburg, Fla. In their regular-season home finale at Tropicana Field, the Rays scored two runs in the first inning and let Morton, a two-time All-Star, take care of business against the Yankees, who lead the majors in runs. Morton (16-6) fired six innings of one-hit ball, striking out nine, walking three and lowering his ERA to 3.05. Joey Wendle and Avisail Garcia homered for the Rays.

## PIRATES 4, CUBS 2

Pittsburgh carved out two runs in the eighth inning without a hit to break a tie and ultimately beat visiting Chicago. The Cubs, who have lost eight in a row, would have been officially eliminated from postseason play with the loss, but that actually happened a little earlier in the evening when Milwaukee clinched by beating Cincinnati — just about the same time the Pirates were scoring in the eighth. With the game knotted at 2, Jose Osuna drew a one-out walk. Brad Wieck (1-2) was pulled for David Phelps, who walked Pablo Reyes. With Erik Gonzalez at the plate, Phelps threw back-to-back wild pitches, first advancing the runners and then allowing Osuna to score. Gonzalez's sacrifice fly to left brought in Reyes to make it 4-2.

## DODGERS 6, PADRES 4

Pinch hitter Edwin Rios led off the seventh inning with the longest home run by a Dodger this season — as well as the second-longest homer ever at Petco Park — to snap a tie and lead visiting Los Angeles over San Diego. Earlier, Joc Pederson hit two homers for the Dodgers — the first opening the game and the second to snap a 3-3 tie. Both blasts came off Padres starter Dinelson Lamet, who allowed four runs on six hits with 10 strikeouts in five innings. Dylan Floro (5-3), the fifth of eight pitchers deployed by the Dodgers, got the win after striking out the only batter he faced. Kenley Jansen tossed a scoreless ninth and picked up his 32nd save and second in as many nights.

## RED SOX 10, RANGERS 3

Mitch Moreland crushed a two-run home run among four hits as Boston overcame an early deficit to rout Texas at Arlington, Texas. Christian Vazquez also hit a two-run homer, and Rafael Devers added a solo shot as the Red Sox reached a franchise record with 241 homers on the season. Boston will seek a sweep in the three-game series Thursday after scoring 22 runs through the first two contests. Moreland's four-hit game tied his career high, set in August 2015 while he was a member of the Rangers. Rougned Odor drove in two runs for Texas, which lost for the ninth time in its last 10 games.

## GIANTS 2, ROCKIES 1

Jaylin Davis bombed his first major league home run, a solo shot to center field with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving host San Francisco a walk-off win over Colorado. The Giants squared manager Bruce Bochy's career record as their skipper at 1,051-1,051 with just four games remaining before his announced retirement Sunday. Davis, who entered the game 3-for-29 in his rookie season, capped a 2-for-4 performance with his blast off Rockies reliever DJ Johnson (0-2). Will Smith (6-0), brought into a tie game in the top of the ninth, was credited with the win after striking out all three batters he faced.

## BLUE JAYS 3, ORIOLES 2

Rowdy Tellez hit two solo home runs, Billy McKinney added a solo shot and Jacob Waguespack pitched six scoreless innings as host Toronto defeated Baltimore. By winning the rubber match of the three-game series, the Blue Jays took the season series from the Orioles 11-8. The Orioles, however, had a 5-4 advantage in games played in Toronto. Waguespack (5-5) allowed four hits and two walks while striking out five. Ken Giles struck out the side in the ninth inning to earn his 22nd save of the season. — Reuters

# Underwater hockey to make waves at Southeast Asia mini-Olympics

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Swimmers wearing snorkels and gripping short, curved sticks dive to the bottom of a pool in Malaysia and charge at a puck as they compete in an energetic game of underwater hockey.

Invented in the 1950s in Britain — where it is known as “Octopush” — to help divers keep fit during the winter months, the game has gained a small but dedicated following from Europe to Asia. This year the unusual discipline is set to debut at the Southeast Asian Games, the region’s biennial mini-Olympics that attracts thousands of athletes.

At the national aquatics centre in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur, male and female players donned snorkels, flippers, caps and gloves ahead of a tough practice session. Underwater hockey is not for the faint-hearted — players shoot around at high speed, swimming over one another and jostling as they try to hit the heavy puck, and smash it fast through the water. They occasionally bob up to the surface for a breath of air before diving back down again. “You need to be able to swim, and you need to be able to hold your breath,” said Ishmael Ho, who will captain the Malaysian men’s team at the SEA Games — held in the Philippines in November and December.

“Verbal communication is almost impossible,” he told AFP. A match usually consists of two teams of six playing in a space measuring 15 by 25 metres (50 by 80 feet) at a depth of two metres, with each half lasting anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes, depending on the tournament rules.

It starts off with teams charging from opposite ends of the playing area for the puck and then fighting it out below the surface as they try to push it into the opposing side’s goal. The goals are usually two long trays at each end of the playing area.

## STRANGE SPORTS

Ho took up the sport as a university student in Wales eight years ago and helped to pioneer it in Malaysia in 2016, playing with a handful of enthusiasts at a public pool outside of Kuala Lumpur. About 50 people in Malaysia now play the game, with the most dedicated doing four training sessions a week for two hours at a time.

Malaysia will send 24 players to compete in male and female categories of the sport at the SEA Games. Four gold medals are up for grabs and other teams competing are the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Myanmar.

The Philippines, where underwater hockey has been played for decades, is seen as one of the best sides while Singapore and Indonesia are also regarded as strong contenders.

Relative newcomers Malaysia, who are funding their trip to the Philippines out of their own pockets, are underdogs but hope to at least win bronze. “The team is working hard to get at least a podium finish,” Ho said. “For the bronze, we will give our competitors a good fight.” Indonesia coach Reza Anggara meanwhile said he was “optimistic” about his sides’ prospects, with the men targeting gold and its women aiming for silver.

“The team has been working hard training



**JAKARTA:** This picture taken on August 25, 2019 shows members of Indonesia’s women’s underwater hockey team during a training session at the Senayan Aquatic Centre in Jakarta ahead of the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in the Philippines later this year. — AFP

and they’re ready to go,” he told AFP after a recent practice session. SEA Games host countries are allowed to drop or add sports at the tournament. While regular sports such as athletics and gymnastics always feature, a crop of strange new disciplines usually appear at each edition,

drawing criticism that hosts are seeking to tilt the tournament in their favour. Other new sports at this year’s Games include eSports, Sambo, a martial art developed in the former Soviet Union, and an ancient form of wrestling from Central Asia called Kurash. — AFP

## Hamilton wary of Mercedes’ vulnerability in title run-in

**SOCHI:** Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes will venture into this weekend’s Russian Grand Prix with a rare sense of vulnerability after suffering three successive defeats by Ferrari ahead of a race they have dominated for five years.

Defending five-time champion Hamilton should have every reason to feel confident — he has won three times at the former Olympic Park venue, including last year, and Mercedes have won every contest since 2014. But after seeing Charles Leclerc triumph in Belgium and Italy and Sebastian Vettel win in last Sunday’s Singapore Grand Prix, he knows Ferrari have the car performance and the power to end the Silver Arrows’ supremacy by the Black Sea.

And, more than that, he also knows that his own team-mate Valtteri Bottas has a sense of unfinished business to attend to at one of his favourite circuits where, irked by finishing second last weekend, Leclerc has extra motivation to succeed.

For Hamilton, what was once seen as a comfortable run-in to his sixth drivers’ title now looks to be a perilous prospect. “These next races are going to be tough,” admitted Hamilton. “If anyone feels relaxed they need talking to because we should all be feeling the pain in our team. I think I am a realist so I see the

situation we are in — and Ferrari have come up with some sort of upgrade that’s given them a massive boost and something like 20 or 30 points.

“Clearly, their car works everywhere now so it’s going to be very hard to beat them, particularly as they are so fast on the straights. At the moment, they are delivering better than us so we have to get back together, work hard and move forwards.”

Hamilton may lead the title race by 65 points ahead of Bottas, but he has not had two successive wins since the French Grand Prix in June and knows the Finn, in Sochi, will be a tough rival if the team allow him.

“I’ve got unfinished business in Sochi,” said Bottas. “It has normally been a good track for me and I need to make sure it will be again.” Last year, Bottas was heading to victory until Mercedes asked him to let Hamilton through to win, a decision that irked him, just as Ferrari’s use of the under-cut for Vettel did the same to Leclerc in Singapore.

The Monegasque was initially furious, but calmed down after the race to adopt a more diplomatic tone ahead of Sochi.

“I think we were surprised by how powerful the under-cut was,” he said. “It was very frustrating for me in the car, but out of the car I understand the situation a lot more and I’m happy for the team, and for Seb. He deserved it.

“Now I move forward. Sometimes it goes that way. It’s life. I will bounce back stronger and arriving in Russia after three wins with the team, three positive weekends, feels great.”

Much will depend on how Ferrari’s updated car, with a heavily-revised front end, behaves at the demanding Sochi circuit, with several inviting straights, where Vettel has been the only non-Mercedes driver to claim pole in 2017. — AFP

## US judoka Hatton, dead at age 24

**WASHINGTON:** Jack Hatton, considered one of the top United States judo prospects for next year’s Tokyo Olympics, has died unexpectedly at age 24, USA Judo announced Wednesday. Hatton achieved his top result in the world judo Grand Prix circuit in April 2018 with a silver medal finish in the half-middleweight (81kg) class at Antalya, Turkey.

“It is with extremely heavy hearts that USA Judo announces the unexpected passing of USA Judo national team member, Jack Hatton,” the US national governing body said in a statement which did not give a cause of death. “We extend our sincere condolences to the Hatton Family and Jack’s teammates, coaches and friends. Jack was one of America’s top judo players and was a multi-time medalist for USA Judo in various competitions across the globe. “Jack made an indelible mark on all who had the pleasure of knowing him, and he will not be forgotten. We grieve with the entire USA Judo and international judo community during this tough time.”

Hatton reached the second round in each of the past three Judo World Championships, the most recent last month in Tokyo in his final competition, and lost in a bronze medal match at last

month’s Pan American Games in Lima, Peru.

“I’m deeply moved by the sudden death of @USAJudo international Jack Hatton,” tweeted International Judo Federation president Marius Vizer. “On behalf of @Judo I send my sincere condolences and wishes to USA Judo and Jack’s family and friends.”

Hatton trained under Jimmy Pedro, a seventh degree black belt who won the 73kg world title in 1999 and bronze medals at the 1996 and 2004 Olympics. Pedro’s Judo Center in Wakefield, Massachusetts, posted a tribute on Facebook.

“It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform you of the untimely passing of one of our students, teammates, brothers, and friends, Jack Hatton. “Jack has been a member of Pedro’s Judo Center since 2015 and pursuing his dream of becoming a member of the 2020 Olympic Team.

“Along with being a top US Judo athlete, Jack was kind-hearted, caring and an all-around great person. He was a true role model for students at our dojo and judoka all over the country. “He will be deeply missed... by all of us at Pedro’s Judo Center and the rest of the judo world.” — AFP

## Sports

# ATP hands Kyrgios suspended 16-week ban for poor behaviour

**PARIS:** Australian tennis star Nick Kyrgios received a suspended 16-week ban from the ATP yesterday and was placed on probation for six months for “aggravated behaviour” following a number of on-court outbursts over the past year.

The suspension is deferred pending Kyrgios’ compliance with several strict conditions mandated by the ATP, which include seeking additional support from a specialist in behavioural management during the off-season.

“The suspension will be lifted at the end of the six-month probationary period provided that the above conditions are met,” the ATP said in a statement. It added the same applied to a \$25,000 fine. Tour organisers opened an investigation into Kyrgios following an explosive meltdown at last month’s Cincinnati Masters which saw him smash two racquets, launch an abusive tirade at the chair umpire before appearing to spit at the official during a second-round match.

He was fined \$113,000 for ball abuse, leaving the court without permission, an audible obscenity and unsportsmanlike conduct during his loss to Russia’s Karen Khachanov. But the ATP decided to extend the inquiry into the volatile Kyrgios, who was also disqualified and fined for throwing a chair on to court during the Rome Masters in May.

“The investigation... has concluded that Kyrgios has been found to have committed aggravated behaviour under the Player Major Offense

provision in the ATP Code,” the governing body said yesterday. “The investigation found a pattern of behaviour related to Kyrgios’s verbal abuse of officials and/or spectators in the past 12 months that constitutes a violation” of the ATP rule book, it added. Kyrgios, 24, has five days to appeal the decision.

## ‘PRETTY CORRUPT’

However, he avoided further punishment for calling the ATP “pretty corrupt” during the US Open. “Following a clarification issued by the player the following day, it was determined that the incident did not constitute a Player Major Offense, and no additional penalties were applied,” the ATP said.

Tennis great Rod Laver this month called for Kyrgios to be suspended over bad behaviour, saying his fellow Australian appeared not to be learning from his mistakes. Laver, an 11-time Grand Slam champion who is considered one of the sport’s greatest players, said time away from tennis could be the answer.

“Whatever they have done hasn’t worked so far, so maybe a suspension is the only answer,” he told The Sydney Morning Herald. “I’m not sure he’s learned anything from any of the things that have gone on.” Kyrgios served a three-week ban in 2016 after being accused of not trying at the Shanghai Masters. His initial eight-week suspension was reduced after he agreed to see a sports psychologist. He lost in the first round of



**ZHUHAI:** Nick Kyrgios of Australia hits a return against Andreas Seppi of Italy during their men’s singles first round match at the Zhuhai Championships tennis tournament in Zhuhai in China’s southern Guangdong province. — AFP

the Zhuhai Championships on Wednesday, after which he said that he could sit out the rest of the season because of a collarbone injury. Kyrgios has already pulled out of next week’s China Open and will head home to Australia to recover.

“Unfortunately a collarbone injury I sustained at Laver Cup has escalated and has forced me to pull out of the Asian swing,” Kyrgios wrote on Twitter. “I’ll be heading back to Australia to rest and recover. See you all soon,” he added. — AFP

## Australia’s Finch eyeing Test comeback



**Aaron Finch**

**SYDNEY:** Australia’s one-day skipper Aaron Finch is keen to play Test cricket again after watching the top order fail to fire during the recent Ashes series.

The 32-year-old was dumped after scoring just 97 runs in three Tests as an opener against India last summer, later declaring his chances of padding up again had “probably slipped away”.

But he is reinvigorated and eyeing another chance after David Warner, Marcus Harris and Cameron Bancroft all misfired against England.

Finch said plans to score as many runs as possible in the upcoming domestic Sheffield Shield season to catch the attention of selectors ahead of the home Test series against Pakistan and New Zealand, starting in November.

“For me personally, it’s about probably having one really good crack at trying to get back to the Test team again,” he told SEN sports radio on Wednesday. “Obviously (I’ll) just try and get some runs, get some big runs there. That’s my plan.

“If it doesn’t happen, it doesn’t happen. I’m comfortable with that.”

Finch, an aggressive short-format specialist who has played just five Tests, is taking inspiration from Matthew Wade, who forced his way back into the Test team by hammering more than 1,000 Shield runs last season. “I think it’s a credit to himself, but also the hard work he’s done on his technique and the coaches down at Tassie (Tasmania) have done a fantastic job,” he said of Wade, who hit two Ashes hundreds.

Finch’s state side Victoria have four Shield games for him to shine ahead of the opening Test against Pakistan on November 21 in Brisbane. — AFP

## Karachi gears up for first one-day international in 10 years

**KARACHI:** Karachi hosts a one-day international for the first time in 10 years when Pakistan take on a depleted Sri Lanka on Friday, furthering the country’s revival in international cricket. “History will be made on Friday when Karachi will host the first ODI,” said Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed.

“We must thank the Sri Lankan team for touring us.” Teams have been reluctant to visit the cricket-mad country since a militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in 2009. Although no players were killed in the attack, several were injured and eight people died.

The attack forced Pakistan to play all their “home” Tests and most of its short-form games in the United Arab Emirates with Zimbabwe becoming the first team to return to Pakistan in 2015.

That tour was followed by a Twenty20 series by a World XI in 2017, a one-off T20 match against Sri Lanka that same year, and the West Indies for a Twenty20 series in Karachi in 2018. The current tour — comprising of three one-day internationals and as many Twenty20s — was tainted by the withdrawal of 10 Sri Lankan players who cited security fears.

Sri Lanka then stalled the tour after receiving information of a possible militant attack on the team, before the all clear was finally given last week. Pakistan have put in place stringent security measures normally re-

served for heads of state. All the arrangements are being led by the country’s military, with around 2,000 security personnel on alert at the team’s hotel and at the ground. Sri Lankan skipper Lahiru Thirimanne — captaining the side after regular skipper Dimuth Karunaratne pulled out — is confident cricket will be in focus.

“SLC (Sri Lanka Cricket) has presented us the security plan which we are getting in Pakistan so I am pretty happy with that and I explained to my family as well, so they don’t have a concern,” said Thirimanne earlier this week.

The captain said the decision by some of his teammates to pull out of the tour was a “personal matter”. “We still have a good team,” he said. “I believe if we play to our potential we can do very well.”

Sarfaraz and fast bowler Wahab Riaz are the only Pakistani players who have played a one-day international in Karachi before — back in 2008. “I can’t wait for Friday,” said Sarfaraz, who took over as ODI captain in 2017. The remaining ODIs will also be in Karachi on Sunday and Wednesday. The two teams will also play three Twenty20 internationals — all in Lahore — on October 5, 7 and 9.

### Teams:

**Pakistan:** Sarfaraz Ahmed (captain), Babar Azam (vice-captain), Abid Ali, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail, Mohammad Hasnain, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Shadab Khan, Usman Shinwari, Wahab Riaz.

**Sri Lanka:** Lahiru Thirimanne (captain), Danushka Gunathilaka, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Avishka Fernando, Oshada Fernando, Shehan Jayasuriya, Dasun Shanaka, Minod Bhanuka, Angelo Perera, Wanindu Hasaranga, Lakshan Sandakan, Nuwan Pradeep, Isuru Udana, Kasun Rajitha, Lahiru Kumara. — AFP

## Sports

# Asher-Smith leads three British muses in bid for world athletics glory

**DOHA:** Sprinter Dina Asher-Smith will lead a trio of women with high hopes at the World Athletics Championships in Doha of heralding a new golden era for British track and field. Asher-Smith — who will compete in the individual 100 metres and 200m as well as the 4x100m relay — along with Laura Muir in the 1500m and heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson carry more than just pressure to win medals.

British Athletics chiefs hope the talented trio can give a boost to the sport whose public profile has waned with the retirements of 2012 Olympic gold medalists Ennis-Hill and Greg Rutherford while Farah is focusing on the marathon and will not compete at these championships. Asher-Smith — who obtained a history degree while establishing herself on the track — was present back on ‘Super Saturday’ at the 2012 Olympics in London when Ennis-Hill in the heptathlon, Rutherford in the long jump and Farah in the 10,000 metres all won gold.

That night she was tasked with carrying the

kit for the competing athletes at the Olympic Stadium and their success — and especially Ennis-Hill’s — provided the drive to succeed herself. “I remember watching Jess Ennis-Hill win her final race and thinking how incredible it was that millions of people who did not even know her could become so proud of her in that one moment,” Asher-Smith told *The Stylist* magazine in 2016. “I was like, ‘I want to do that.’” Seven years later and Asher-Smith could be on the brink of just that in a global championships after becoming the undisputed queen of European sprinting last year with three gold medals.

The competition in Doha is of a different calibre, not least in the shape of Jamaican icon Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and her compatriot, the double Olympic sprint champion from the 2016 Rio Games, Elaine Thompson.

However, Asher-Smith has more than held her own this season and gave Fraser-Pryce a good run for her money in the Anniversary Games in London. “We’ve planned it so we work backwards

tators,” she said. “They will be closely watched!” Britain’s *Guardian* newspaper reported this week that free tickets would be distributed to labourers and children, bolstering crowds and offsetting the absence of regional spectators — claims the local organisers have denied.

## ‘OPEN FOR ALL’

International Association of Athletics Federations chief Sebastian Coe said last year he “fully expected a full contingent of federations” to attend. However, he did not comment on whether fans from boycotting countries would be in the stands.

“It’s very important that international sport consistently and continually makes the point that we have primacy over politics,” he said. But past events have highlighted the tensions and rivalries that plague the region.

The football Gulf Cup, meant to be hosted by Qatar beginning in December 2017, saw Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain withdraw, before rejoining after it was switched to Kuwait. Analyst James Dorsey said the biggest fallout may be for fans based in boycotting countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who would face barriers to travelling to the marquee event.

“Should the boycott be maintained until the 2022 World Cup, it’s going to be a serious problem for those countries,” said Dorsey, a researcher at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and the Middle East Institute in Singapore. The boycotting countries’ decision to send a handful of competitors “absolutely does not” represent a thawing of the diplomatic freeze, he told AFP. “Any country that boycotts an international tournament for which its athletes have qualified risks being suspended,” he said. He pointed to the Asian Cup in the UAE earlier this year when Qatar was permitted to play. But because of the ban on Qataris entering, the away side played with minimal support. The team nevertheless won the tournament. Chief organiser and IAAF vice-president Dahlan al-Hamad told AFP that Qatar’s “arms are open for all”. — AFP



**BERLIN:** In this file photo taken on August 11, 2018 Great Britain’s Dina Asher-Smith poses after the women’s 200m final race during the European Athletics Championships at the Olympic stadium in Berlin. — AFP

from the World Championships,” said Asher-Smith. “I’ll just keep training and working harder to make sure I’m in the best shape I can be.”

## ‘PLAY MIND GAMES’

Thompson-Johnson too has memories of

London 2012 having competed with Ennis-Hill in the heptathlon where she finished 13th. The 26-year-old Commonwealth Games champion’s duel with the formidable figure of Belgium’s Olympic, world and European champion Nafissatou Thiam should be one of the most memorable contests. The Briton will be encouraged by how close she ran Thiam in the seven-event discipline at last year’s European Championships. Her answer in how to finally beat the Belgian is not in the head but in the physical performance.

“Mind games is not my thing. I wouldn’t know how to get into other people’s heads,” she told the *Daily Mirror*. “Also that’s happened to me before in the past and it’s not a good way to try and win. “For me you’ve got to try and win with big performances. I would rather focus on myself and try and make me the best I can be rather than play mind games.” Muir comes to Doha as the 1500m European champion — the first Briton ever to hold that crown — and having won the Diamond League title twice, in 2016 and 2018. — AFP

## Risks, benefits for boycott-hit Qatar at flagship athletics

**DOHA:** Qatar fires the starting gun for the World Athletics Championships today with an opportunity to showcase both its preparations for the 2022 football World Cup and how it is coping with a boycott by its neighbours, experts say.

But Doha also risks being “judged harshly” for missteps during the athletics showcase which could be held up by detractors as proof of its shortcomings. Since 2017 Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and their allies have enforced an economic boycott of Qatar, accusing it of supporting Iran and Islamist movements — charges it denies. They cut direct air, land and shipping routes, closed airspace to Qatari aircraft and restricted citizens from visiting.

Nonetheless Saudi will send three athletes, Egypt five, the UAE one, and Bahrain 21 to the event being held for the first time in the Middle East. Tobias Borck, an analyst at the Royal United Services Institute, said the Championships would give Qatar an opportunity to transcend the blockade, but might also highlight its isolation. “It’ll show Qatar’s good relations with the world, and its difficult relations in the region and especially with its neighbours,” he said. “Ticket sales seem to have been slow... but I’m not sure it’s directly related to the Gulf crisis.”

A western diplomat based in Doha described the Championships as “an opportunity for them to show the world they are not at all isolated”. “Rather, (they’re) quite eager and capable of playing host to the world. It will be a test of their preparedness for the World Cup,” she said. But the source warned Qatar would be “judged harshly for any missteps”. “So the pressure is on them to deliver this event in an efficient way for athletes and coaches — and an entertaining and hassle-free way for spec-

## No sweat for chilled athletes at Qatar worlds

**DOHA:** Athletes competing at the World Athletics Championships which kick off in Doha today will warm up on a field where daytime temperatures reach 38 degrees Celsius and humidity hovers around 50 percent. But they will then make their way 150 m through a unique cooling tunnel into the air-conditioned Khalifa stadium where the climate is maintained at a pleasant 23-25 degrees.

The sophisticated system is being held up by Qatari authorities as proof they will be able to keep 2022 football World Cup venues at comfortable temperatures, despite concerns over the impact of the Gulf climate. A computerized system will prepare athletes’ bodies for the differential by lowering the temperature in stages as they proceed through the brightly lit underground walkway into the 46,000-capacity venue.

“They will have a thermal journey,” said Sebastien Racinais, head of athlete health and performance research at Aspetar, the Gulf’s first specialized sports medicine hospital. “But the temperature will not be freezing in the stadium — it is actually not good to have too cold a temperature in the stadium. Heat is good for the sprinters, but it’s an additional stress for the endurance athletes.”

Racinais said that athletes would be readily able to adapt to the extremes of heat and humidity of Qatar’s Arabian desert climate if given time to acclimatize. “The human species is probably the animal species with the best heat adaptation capacity,” he said in his office overlooking the World Championship warm-up field. “After a few days of training in the heat, the athletes will undergo some heat adaptations.” One of them is an increase in

plasma which will expand blood volume so it can be sent both to the muscles and to the skin — for cooling purposes. Repeated exposure to the local climate would also allow athletes to increase their sweat rate “improving the efficiency of the cooling at the skin-level”, he added. Khalifa, the principal venue for the Championships, opened in 1976 and was entirely overhauled ahead of a relaunch in 2017. Its elaborate cooling system has been deployed during other high-profile athletics meetings including Diamond League events. “It is not strange that the world championships are held in summer or heat — but be assured that we care for the safety of players and crowds,” Qatar’s chief organizer for the Worlds, Dahlan Al-Hamad, told AFP. Organizers are understood to have disabled low-level vents in the stadium to eliminate any chance that air currents could affect events like the javelin.

## HEAT IS THE NEW ALTITUDE

As well as adopting heat-combatting measures at the stadium, Doha organizers have dramatically altered the timing of the road races — staging them in the nighttime and shifting the marathon to midnight for the first time. “Before 2008 in Beijing (Olympics), everyone was saying it would be impossible to run a fast marathon because of heat — but at the end Samuel Wanjiru established a new Olympic record of two hours six minutes,” said Racinais. “We can expect it to be a bit slower — but not dramatically.”

While much attention has been paid to the issue of heat at the 2022 football World Cup, the conditions of Doha 2019 will be far more similar to those expected at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan. Aspetar has been collaborating with the International Olympic Committee ahead of the Tokyo Games, expected to be the hottest in history, on how best to manage heat and educate athletes. Some athletes will even ingest pill-sized thermometers to monitor the effects of Doha’s heat, with the data expected to be used to prepare for Tokyo, according to the IAAF. — AFP

## Sports

# Seven-try Italy bulldoze Canada for biggest win at Rugby WCup

**FUKUOKA:** Italy ran amok against Canada to bag their second bonus-point win in as many games with a 48-7 Rugby World Cup victory yesterday and vowed to celebrate with an “old-school night”. It was not a perfect performance as Italy slipped at times from flair and finesse to sloppy, but they did enough to dominate seven tries to one in what was their biggest margin of victory at the World Cup.

With Italy seeking a first World Cup quarter-final berth, their maximum points from two matches sent a message to heavyweights South Africa not to underestimate them. The Springboks, who lost their opener against New Zealand, paid a high price when they were guilty of taking Japan lightly at the last World Cup and cannot afford to do the same again when they meet Italy in Shizuoka in eight days.

“We’ve earned a few drinks tonight probably,” said Italian captain Dean Budd. Coach Conor O’Shea revealed he had promised his team an “old-school night” after only a four-day turnaround between games, which he said was “tough for any team, mentally as well as physically”.

“You have to be pretty happy. I thought we started the game really well and that’s where we imposed ourselves,” said O’Shea. Italy, still with the All Blacks to play as well as South Africa, showed their depth by making 10 changes to the starting XV when they beat Namibia and were still too strong for

the Canadians.

A day after Uruguay’s shock win over Fiji, Canada started with hopes of achieving a similar upset. The mostly neutral crowd in Fukuoka also gave their support to the Canadians in the 22,000-seat stadium, but it was the vastly rearranged Italian side with the superior forward pack who controlled most of the game.

## ‘SHORT-RANGE CHARGE’

In a dominant opening spell, fly-half Tommaso Allan landed a penalty and converted tries by Braam Steyn and Dean Budd. Steyn sent Peter Nelson flying and barged between Nick Blevins and Jeff Hassler on a short-range charge at the line.

New Zealand-born second-rower Budd, filling in as captain with Sergio Parisse rested, galloped 30 metres through a non-existent defence for his try. Italy’s explosive start realised 17 points in 15 minutes.

Canada arrested the scoring spree for the remainder of the half, but their own scoring opportunities evaporated with missed tackles, a misfiring lineout, and wrong options. Replacement Matt Heaton dropped the ball when he had the line at his mercy after Tyler Ardrone busted his way through the Italian defence.

DTH Van der Merwe confronted Italian fullback Matteo Minozzi with a two-man overlap and fed Gordon McRorie on the outside who was hustled into touch. The second half was barely three minutes old

game.” Schmidt, who hinted that Sexton could return against Russia next week, predicted that Carty would rise to the occasion in only his second Test start. “He’s very calm and doesn’t get ruffled easily,” said the New Zealander.

“He doesn’t get distracted by an error he might make or distracted by people trying to put pressure on him. He stays in the zone incredibly well, so that gives us a lot of confidence.” Ireland, who have never progressed beyond the World Cup quarter-finals, will be firm favourites to beat the Japanese, who thrashed Russia 30-10 in the tournament opener.

But Schmidt insisted he would not underestimate the Brave Blossoms, who shocked the world of sport by toppling South Africa in their opening match four years ago on England’s south coast.

“I think they’re really well prepared,” he said. “They had between 180 and 200 days in camp this year and they’ve got guys who can change it up. “I don’t think they will be intimidated by the occasion — I think they will be motivated hugely by it.”

Schmidt welcomes back fullback Rob Kearney and winger Keith Earls into the starting line-up, meanwhile, after both passed fitness tests. Earls has scored eight World Cup tries, an Irish record, and trails only legendary centre Brian O’Driscoll in their all-time list for Test tries. —AFP



**FUKUOKA:** Italy's wing Mattia Bellini (C) evades Canada's centre Ben Lesage (down) and scores a try during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup Pool B match between Italy and Canada at the Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium in Fukuoka yesterday. —AFP

when Italy were on the board again with Sebastian Negri scoring their third try.

Canada went close again when Van der Merwe set up Hassler but the cover defence put the wing out in the corner. A penalty try for an illegal tackle by Heaton ensured the bonus point for Italy and reduced Canada to 14-men with Heaton in the sin bin.

Mattia Bellini stretched the lead to 36-0 before Andrew Coe scored in the right corner to get Canada on the board. But the Italian pack, who had an impressive night, responded immediately to drive over the line for Federico Zani to touch down, and the backline followed with a long-range attack that ended with a try to Minozzi. —AFP

## Sexton to sit out Ireland's clash with Japan

**IWATA:** Ireland have decided not to risk talismanic fly-half Johnny Sexton for this weekend's Rugby World Cup Pool A clash against hosts Japan after he picked up a niggly against Scotland. Coach Joe Schmidt has stuck with 11 of the side who crushed their Celtic rivals 27-3 in their opening game, but confirmed Thursday that Sexton would be rested to give the World Player of the Year time to fully recover from a thigh strain. “Johnny is never happy about being left out,” said Schmidt, who has tapped Jack Carty to take over the playmaking duties against Japan in Shizuoka on Saturday. “(Sexton) got a little mileage against Scotland and we thought about bringing him off the bench, but it’s a case of being confident in the squad,” he added.

“He keeps himself in good condition and he’s a guy who can come back and hit the ground running.” Ireland skills coach Richie Murphy added: “When you get a bang in the quad as a kicker it can affect your kicking, so we’re obviously not going to risk him in that part of the

## England thrash 14-man USA at Rugby WCup

**KOBE:** England made it two wins from two at the Rugby World Cup as they scored seven tries during a 45-7 rout of the United States in Kobe yesterday that saw the Eagles receive the first red card of the tournament.

First-half tries from stand-in captain George Ford, Billy Vunipola and Luke Cowan-Dickie gave England a 19-0 lead at the break before Joe Cokanasiga secured the bonus point early in the second half. Ruaridh McCloskey and Lewis Ludlam then scored their maiden Test tries before Eagles flanker John Quill was sent off 10 minutes from time for an illegal shoulder charge on replacement back Owen Farrell.

There was still time for Cokanasiga to grab his second try and England’s seventh before Bryce Campbell ensured the USA avoided the embarrassment of being ‘nilled’ with a try after 80 minutes were up. “Good win again. We had to work for it again. USA very physical, passionate team, so we had to earn that win. I thought we did that pretty well,” said Ford.

England, the 2003 world champions, made 10 changes to the side that beat Tonga 35-3

in their Pool C opener in Sapporo last weekend for what was the USA’s first match of this tournament. Under the closed roof of the Kobe Misaki Stadium, the Eagles suffered an early setback when, after the opening scrum, 19-year-old prop David Ainu’u limped off injured in the third minute.

And three minutes later England had their first try. Number eight Vunipola, making his 11th consecutive Test start, ran the ball from deep before Ford, leading England in place of the benched Farrell, spotted a gap in the poorly aligned defence and ran in a try between the posts which he converted.

England, however, again conceded several early penalties before the forwards provided their second try. Ford, declining a kickable penalty, booted the ball deep for an attacking line-out. The ensuing rolling maul saw Vunipola driven over in the 25th minute, with Ford converting.

England’s third try arrived in similar fashion eight minutes later, the Eagles again powerless to resist a rolling maul from a penalty line-out, with hooker Cowan-Dickie scoring his second try in two matches.

Ford’s conversion hit the post but England were still 19-0 in front. They could have had a bonus point on the stroke of half-time only for centre Jonathan Joseph to knock on in sight of the line. Early in the second half, Ford failed to set up another attacking line-out when he carelessly kicked a close-range penalty dead. —AFP

# Real Madrid and Atletico warm up for city derby with victories

**MADRID:** Real Madrid's crisis has been averted for the time being at least after they beat Osasuna 2-0 on Wednesday without Eden Hazard and Gareth Bale to go top of La Liga. Hazard and Bale were among a number of players rested by coach Zinedine Zidane, with Real facing seven games in 21 days, the next of them against city rivals Atletico Madrid tomorrow.

Vinicius Junior, who has endured a difficult few months, filled the void, bending a shot into the top corner before crying tears of what presumably were a mixture of joy and relief. This time last year the 19-year-old exploded onto the scene but injury and then a dip in form saw him drift, with this a chance to reassert himself in a much-rotated line-up.

If Vinicius was Madrid's Brazilian sensation 12 months ago, Rodrygo might be one for the present. The 18-year-old, who was bought from Santos in 2018 but joined last summer, added a superb second goal, and his first for the club, just one minute after coming off the bench for a remarkable debut.

"I'm glad for them," said Zidane. "Sometimes we forget they are 18 (and 19) years old. We have seen the emotion they felt about scoring at the Bernabeu. I liked Rodrygo's goal but I liked the control even more."

Earlier, Atletico's Alvaro Morata made a swift impact too but with less positive results after he was sent off eight minutes after being introduced as a substitute against Real Mallorca. Atletico were already 2-0 up thanks to goals from Diego Costa and Joao Felix but Morata will now be suspended for the derby at the Wanda Metropolitano.

The Spaniard's dreadful night got worse as he also appeared to engage in a heated ex-

change with a fan as he later left the stadium. A week ago it would have been almost unthinkable that Atletico would play their rivals in a contest of first against second in La Liga but that could now be the setting this weekend, depending on Sevilla and Real Sociedad's results later.

La Real beat Atletico, who were then held to a goalless draw by Celta Vigo, but by far the deeper sense of gloom had engulfed Zidane's side, after they were humbled 3-0 by Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League.

That was Real's worst defeat under Zidane as coach and prompted questions about the Frenchman's future, with Jose Mourinho available and seemingly waiting in the wings. Instead, back-to-back victories for the first time since Zidane came back in March have lifted the malaise and offered hope there is still life in this Madrid squad, despite the lack of change since the summer.

"We believe in what we do," Zidane said. "With humility and work you achieve a lot. This is just the start."

The only disappointment might have been the lack of a goal for Luka Jovic, who missed some excellent chances and then did score, only to have it ruled out by VAR.

Vinicius had started the first two games of the season but none since, while he was without a goal himself in seven months. His first under Zidane was a peach, coming in the 36th minute, a curling effort that took the slightest of deflections on its way into the top corner.

Jovic saw a smart finish ruled out and then watched as Rodrygo scored almost instantly after coming on. The teenager cushioned Casemiro's crossfield pass beautifully before nipping inside Osasuna defender Lillo and banging the ball low and into the net.



**MADRID:** Real Madrid's Spanish defender Alvaro Odriozola (L) vies with Osasuna's Argentinian defender Facundo Roncaglia during the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and CA Osasuna at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. — AFP

Atletico's players might have been keeping tabs on their way home from Mallorca but their job was already done after Costa and Felix finally got the goals to suggest they might form a potent partnership together.

Costa's was simple, as Mallorca failed to clear Koke's cross and the striker nipped in to head past goalkeeper Manolo Reina. Felix's was more complex but owed something to fortune

too. The Portuguese did brilliantly to bring a looping ball down but his finish on the turn took a cruel deflection before spinning up and into the far corner.

Morata's moments of madness, that included two bookings in as many minutes after an argument with Mallorca's Xisco Campos, should mean Costa and Felix reunite this weekend. — AFP

## Man Utd survive shoot-out, West Ham crash out

**LONDON:** Manchester United survived a League Cup scare against third tier Rochdale as they won 5-3 on penalties, while West Ham suffered a shock 4-0 defeat at Oxford on Wednesday. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's struggling side were held to a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford after 16-year-old Luke Matheson scored a 76th minute equaliser following Mason Greenwood's opener for United eight minutes earlier.

With United in danger of a humiliating exit, they held their nerve in the shoot-out, winning 5-3 as Daniel James converted the decisive kick after Sergio Romero saved Rochdale's second penalty from Jimmy Keohane.

Although United avoided the embarrassment of losing to a team 17th in League One, the sloppy manner of their performance will raise fresh questions about Solskjaer's ability to inspire his side. United are languishing in eighth place in the Premier League after Saturday's dismal 2-0 defeat at West Ham left them with just two wins from six games. Liverpool eased to a 2-0 victory at third tier MK Dons as Harvey Elliott became the youngest player to start a competitive match for the club. The 16-year-old put in an accomplished display and twice hit the crossbar as James Milner profited from terrible goalkeeping from Stuart Moore to put the Reds in front before Ki-Jana Hoever wrapped up the win. — AFP

## Celtic, Rangers move into Scottish League Cup semi-finals

**GLASGOW:** Celtic thrashed Partick 5-0 to book a Scottish League Cup semi-final date with Hibernian, while Rangers beat Livingston 1-0 to clinch a last-four clash against Hearts on Wednesday. Ivorian striker Vakoun Issouf Bayo opened the scoring for holders Celtic with a close range header in the 15th minute at Parkhead. Celtic boss Neil Lennon had made eight changes for the Scottish champions, but they were still too strong for second tier Partick.

Tom Rogic added the second within a minute of the restart before two goals in six minutes from Olivier Ntcham. A 77th minute strike from substitute Scott Sinclair confirmed that the three-time treble winners have the squad to continue their success this season. Lennon was relieved to see Australia midfielder Rogic make a successful first start of the season. "That's Tom's first 90 minutes in a long time and you can see the work he has put in behind the scenes," he said.

"He got better as the game went on, it looked like he was really enjoying himself. I am really pleased for him. "He is in the best condition I have seen. He is a real asset when he is fit and firing." An early deflected goal from Glen Kamara was enough to edge Rangers past Livingston at the Tony Macaroni Arena.

Steven Gerrard's men took the lead when Kamara took advantage of Nicky Devlin's poor clearance to send a left-footed shot

in off the full-back from 18 yards inside five minutes. Livingston had two penalty claims rejected by Don Robertson - first when Robbie Crawford went down under the challenge of Filip Helander and then when Devlin's header hit Joe Aribo. Goalkeeper Chris Maxwell starred for Hibernian as they beat Kilmarnock 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw at Rugby Park.

Hibs were reduced to 10 men in the 120th minute when Ryan Porteous was given his marching orders. The decisive moment in the shoot-out came when Niko Hamalainen's penalty was saved by Maxwell.

Hearts made it through after a 3-0 penalty shoot-out success against Aberdeen following their 2-2 draw. Aberdeen's Sam Cosgrove netted a double from the spot in the first-half after Christophe Berra and Loic Damour had committed clumsy fouls.

However, strikes from Steven MacLean and an stoppage-time leveller from Craig Halkett sent the clash into extra-time. It was the Jambos who would progress in a fraught shoot-out, with Cosgrove and Niall McGinn blasting woefully over the bar and Joel Pereira saving Bruce Anderson's kick. — AFP

Live		MATCHES ON TV	
		LOCAL TIMING	
		SPANISH LEAGUE	
Villarreal CF v Real Betis	22:00		
beIN SPORTS HD 3			
		GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
FC Union Berlin v Eintracht Frankfurt	21:30		
beIN SPORTS			



LONDON: File photo taken on August 8, 2017 Britain's Dina Asher-Smith reacts after winning her heat of the women's 200m athletics event at the 2017 IAAF World Championships at the London Stadium in London. — AFP

# Asher-Smith leads in bid for world athletics glory

See Page 45