

## Bahrain to hold ICITEE 2019 later this month

TDT | Manama

Applied Science University, in association with London South Bank University, is hosting the International Conference on Innovation, Technology, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (ICITEE 2019) on 24th and 25th of November.

69 papers of researchers from 16 countries are included in the conference held under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Chairman of the Higher Education Council, Dr Majed bin Ali Al Nuaimi. The Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of London South Bank University (LSBU), the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU), and the President of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) headquartered in the UK will also be in attendance.

The keynote speakers are Professor David Phoenix, Vice-Chancellor of (LSBU) and Professor Paul Ivey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at LSBU. The gala dinner speaker will be



Professor Ghassan Aouad

Professor Charles Egbu, President of (CIOB).

Professor Waheeb Al Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Honorary Chair of the Conference, highlighted the commitment of the University to support research in collaboration with our local and international partners.

Professor Ghassan Aouad, President of ASU and Chair of the conference said the conference supports the goals of the Economic Vision 2030 to make Bahrain an acknowledged educational hub.

## Lebanon central bank says bank deposits are safe

Reuters | Beirut

Lebanon's central bank, seeking to shore up battered confidence in the financial system amid the worst economic crisis in decades, said yesterday bank deposits are secure and it had the ability to preserve the stability of the pegged Lebanese pound.

In a televised news conference, governor, Riad Salameh, said capital controls were not on the table because Lebanon depended on free movement of money, adding that the central bank had taken steps to safeguard deposits and there would be no haircut.

Already in deep economic turmoil, Lebanon has been plunged deeper into trouble since Oct. 17 when an unprecedented wave of protests against the ruling elite erupted across the country and prompted the resignation of Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri.

Lebanon is in urgent need of a new government to enact emergency economic measures. The head of the powerful, Iran-backed Shi'ite group Hezbollah, said he wanted to avoid public discussion of closed-door talks over the new government, saying he wanted to leave the door open for an agreement.



Lebanon's Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh

Three senior sources said on Sunday the talks were still deadlocked.

A big part of Lebanon's economic crisis stems from a slowdown of capital inflows which has led to a scarcity of US dollars and spawned a black market where the Lebanese pound has weakened below its official pegged rate.

Since reopening on Nov. 1 after a two-week closure, banks have been seeking to stave off capital flight by blocking most transfers abroad and imposing curbs on hard-currency withdrawals.

Referring to these restrictions, Salameh said the central bank had asked banks to review what he described as somewhat "conservative" steps taken because of instability that was prevailing at the time banks had reopened.

# Britain's Farage withdraws Brexit threat to PM Johnson

AFP | Hartlepool | United Kingdom

Populist Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage yesterday withdrew his threat to challenge the governing Conservatives at every seat in next month's election, in a boost for Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Farage, a leading force behind the 2016 referendum vote to leave the European Union, had faced criticism that he risked splitting the eurosceptic vote on December 12.

Instead, he promised to focus on seats held by the main opposition Labour party which voted "Leave" -- although this could still see him take votes from Johnson's Tories.

"The Brexit Party will not contest the 317 seats the Conservatives won at the last election," Farage said on the campaign trail in Hartlepool, north-east England.

The former leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) had earlier promised to field 600 candidates unless Johnson agreed to abandon the exit terms he agreed with Brussels.

Farage said the deal, which has yet to be ratified by parliament, would deliver "Brexit in name only".

But the prime minister refused and Farage has now given in, noting wryly: "In a sense we now have a Leave alliance, it's just that we've done it unilaterally."

Ignoring Tory-held seats, he promised to target Labour areas which voted for Brexit, seeking to capitalise on disillusionment with the opposition party's stance.

Labour has promised a second referendum on Brexit, a call backed by many smaller parties in the House of Commons, with the option that it could campaign to stay in the EU.

Farage said his decision "pre-



**The Brexit Party will not contest the 317 seats the Conservatives won at the last election**

BREXIT PARTY LEADER NIGEL FARAGE

vents a second referendum from happening. And that to me, I think right now, is the single most important thing in our country".

Johnson welcomed the move, saying: "I'm glad that there's a recognition that there's only one way to get Brexit done and that's to vote for the Conservatives."

**'I'm with Nigel'**

Farage was speaking as he campaigned in Hartlepool, a long-time Labour area which voted by 64 percent to leave the European Union in 2016.

Labour's Mike Hill won the seat at the last election in 2017 with a majority of 7,650.

It was formerly represented by former prime minister Tony Blair's chief spin doctor-turned-EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson.

But Pat Stamper, 81, a former Labour voter attending the Brexit Party rally, told AFP: "I'm with Nigel all the way. It's the only way to get out of the EU."

Sara Hobolt, a political expert

at the London School of Economics, said the decision was a boost for Johnson, tweeting: "This makes a Tory majority much more likely."

**Labour seats**

However, the prime minister still faces difficulties.

The Conservatives won 317 out of 650 seats at the 2017 election but they go into next month's vote defending only 298, after some MPs were expelled and others defected over disagreements over Brexit.

Farage's decision could help them keep the most marginal of these seats.

But they are not enough to govern and could see them scramble to forge parliamentary alliances with smaller parties.

After 2017, the party had to form an alliance with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) to stay in power.

Johnson is aiming for Labour-held seats to boost his numbers and in this, will still be up against Farage.

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PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON

In areas where Labour and the anti-Brexit Liberal Democrats are strong, the Brexit party "is more likely to take votes from the Conservatives than Labour," said Tim Bale, from Queen Mary University of London.

Labour accused Farage and Johnson of cooking up an alliance that threatened to "sell out our country" and pave the way for a post-Brexit trade deal that would open the state-run health service to US drugs firms.

"We urge voters to reject this Thatcherite 1980s tribute act, which would lead to more savage Tory attacks on working class communities," said Labour chairman Ian Lavery in a statement.

## 737 MAX to resume commercial service in January

Reuters | Washington

Boeing Co said yesterday it now expects its grounded 737 MAX to resume commercial service in January as it works to address questions from regulators over its documentation for revisions to the plane's software.

Boeing said it is possible that resumption of MAX deliveries to

airline customers could begin in December and added it is working towards final validation of the updated training requirements "which must occur before the MAX returns to commercial service, and which we now expect to begin in January."

American Airlines and Southwest Airlines said Friday they were pushing back the resump-

tion of flights because of the 737 MAX grounding until early March.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must complete that audit before a key certification test flight can be scheduled.

Boeing said in a statement Monday, adding that it is aiming for "FAA certification of the MAX

flight control software updates during this quarter."

Boeing also said that it has completed one of five milestones needed before the plane can return to service: a multi-day eCab simulator evaluation with the FAA to ensure the software system performs as intended even if there is a system failure.



Students of Bahrain Indian school - Bhavans Grade 6 visited Carrefour Store as a part of their Math educational trip. They learnt budget shopping, the addition of decimals, ratio and proportion, measurements and so on in real-life scenarios. Students were accompanied by their teachers. Above, students and teachers along with Bilal Antar, Carrefour, Store Manager.

