

# NASA scraps all-women spacewalk for lack of well-fitting suits

Washington, United States

The US space agency NASA scrapped yesterday a planned historic spacewalk by two women astronauts, citing a lack of available spacesuits that would fit them at the International Space Station.

Christina Koch will now perform tasks in space Friday with fellow American Nick Hague -- instead of Anne McClain as originally planned.

Had Koch and McClain done their spacewalk together, it would have been the first ever by two women astronauts.

Until now, male-only or mixed male-female teams had conducted spacewalk since the space station was assembled in 1998 -- 214 spacewalks until now.



NASA astronauts Christina Hammock Koch and Nick Hague, members of the International Space Station (ISS) expedition 59/60, react shortly before the launch onboard the Soyuz MS-12 spacecraft from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan

McClain worked outside the station last week -- with Hague -- when she realized that a "medium"-sized upper half of her spacesuit fit her better.

"Because only one medium-size torso can be made ready by Friday, March 29, Koch will wear it," NASA explained.

The spacesuits aboard the ISS are in fact assemblies of several parts put together as best adapted to each astronaut's body, explained Brandi Dean, spokeswoman of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas where American astronauts are based.

She said two upper parts in each of the three available spacesuit sizes are currently held at the ISS: medium, large and extra large.

"We do our best to anticipate the spacesuit sizes that each astronaut will need, based on the spacesuit size they wore in training on the ground, and in some cases astronauts train in multiple sizes," she said in explaining the problem that hampered Friday's planned spacewalk.

"However, individuals' sizing needs may change when they are on orbit, in response to the changes living in microgravity can bring about in a body.

"In addition, no one training environment can fully simulate performing a spacewalk in microgravity, and an individual may find that their sizing preferences change in space."

# US hits Iran Guard finance network with sanctions

Washington, United States

The US Treasury took fresh aim yesterday at the international network funneling dollars and euros to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), naming 25 individuals and entities for financial sanctions.

The targets were front companies of the IRGC-controlled Ansar Bank and Ansar Exchange in Iran, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, that have collectively been able to move more than \$1 billion for the Tehran regime, the Treasury said.

The funds have benefitted both the IRGC and the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces



**Key figures in Ansar Bank and Ansar Exchange were designated for sanctions**

Logistics, according to a Treasury announcement.

The sanctions seek to lock those named out of the global

financial system by banning US citizens and US businesses -- including international banks with a US presence -- from doing business with them.

"Any foreign financial institution that knowingly facilitates a significant transactions for any of the individuals or entities designated today could be subject to US sanctions," the Treasury warned.

The 25 named were mostly relatively small trading and money exchange firms, dubbed by the Treasury "front companies," and their owners and managers who worked with Ansar Bank and Ansar Exchange. In addition key figures in An-

sar Bank and Ansar Exchange were designated for sanctions.

"This vast network is just the latest example of the Iranian regime's use of deceptive practices to exploit the global financial system and divert resources to sanctioned entities," said Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Sigal Mandelker.

Washington has stepped up economic pressure on Iran since President Trump decided to withdraw last year from the 2015 agreement to freeze the country's development of nuclear weapons, saying Tehran was "not living up to the spirit of the deal."

# South Korea professor forced students to write daughter's thesis: report

Seoul, South Korea

A Seoul university professor forced students to write her daughter's thesis to gain entry to an elite dental school, a government report revealed yesterday, the latest scandal to hit South Korea's hyper-competitive education system.

The professor, who teaches at Seoul's Sungkyunkwan University, made her graduate students conduct a three-month experiment -- and even asked them to fabricate the results -- before the daughter published the findings in an academic journal under her own name.

The daughter then included the thesis in an application to Seoul National University's dental school -- the top institution of its kind in the country -- and earned admission last year.

**The daughter also won a number of academic awards for posters and research reports that were actually completed by her mother's students**

"The Education Ministry plans to ask her university to expel the professor," an official said.

The investigation discovered the professor had one of her students do 54 hours of volunteer work -- converting a book into braille -- in her daughter's name, for which she was paid 500,000 won (around US\$440).

# US successfully tests anti-ICBM system: statement

Washington, United States

The US military said it had successfully tested an anti-intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system, with a target launched from the Marshall Islands shot down by two interceptors based in California.

To protect against the

threat from ICBMs, the US has developed the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system, which is designed to fire an interceptor missile into space and use kinetic energy to destroy target. This was the first successful test involving a salvo of interceptor missiles, the military said in a statement.

# Georgia court rules to extradite British speedboat killer

Tbilisi, Georgia

A Georgian court yesterday ruled to extradite a British man who killed his date in a speedboat crash in London and gave himself up in the ex-Soviet republic after fleeing his country.

Jack Shepherd, 31, "consented to the prosecutor's demand for his extradition and will most likely be sent to Britain next week," his lawyer Taniel Kakabadze said.

Shepherd was convicted of manslaughter last year for the death of Charlotte Brown, a 24-year-old woman he took on a champagne-fuelled first date on his speedboat in the

River Thames in 2015. The boat flipped over after Shepherd handed Brown the controls and she was recovered unconscious and later died in hospital.

Shepherd, a web designer, was rescued after being found clinging to the upturned hull.

He vanished before his trial last summer and was convicted of manslaughter by gross negligence and sentenced to six years in prison in his absence. An international warrant was issued for his arrest.

In January, he turned himself in to police in the Georgian capital Tbilisi and has since then remained in custody, awaiting an extradition trial.

|  الشركة المتحدة للتأمين ش.م.ب (مقفل)<br>United Insurance company B.S.C (closed) |  |                                    |                    |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018   |  |                                    |                    |
| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER  | 2018   | 2017                               |                    |
|  | BHD  | BHD                                |                    |
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |  |                                    |                    |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>  |  |                                    |                    |
| Property Plant and equipment   | 222,245  | 203,773                            |                    |
| Investment property  | 538,357  | 538,357                            |                    |
| Available for sale investments   | 9,751,897  | 8,159,413                          |                    |
|  | <b>10,512,499</b>                                | <b>8,901,543</b>                   |                    |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |  |                                    |                    |
| Reinsurance contract receivables   | 1,092,817  | 797,309                            |                    |
| Other receivables and prepayments  | 388,766  | 307,871                            |                    |
| Statutory deposit  | 75,000   | 75,000                             |                    |
| Mudharaba deposit  | 1,400,000  | 600,000                            |                    |
| Cash and Bank Balances   | 13,219,471                                       | 15,984,056                         |                    |
|  | <b>16,176,054</b>                                | <b>17,764,236</b>                  |                    |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>26,688,553</b>                                | <b>26,665,779</b>                  |                    |
| <b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>  |  |                                    |                    |
| <b>Capital and reserves</b>  |  |                                    |                    |
| Share capital  | 5,000,000  | 5,000,000                          |                    |
| Statutory reserve  | 2,500,000  | 2,500,000                          |                    |
| Investment Fair value reserve  | 1,437,780  | 1,480,654                          |                    |
| Retained earnings  | 4,405,917  | 5,317,976                          |                    |
|  | <b>13,343,697</b>                                | <b>14,298,630</b>                  |                    |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>   |  |                                    |                    |
| Insurance liabilities  | 11,619,331                                       | 11,033,253                         |                    |
| Other liabilities and provisions   | 1,725,525  | 1,333,896                          |                    |
|  | <b>13,344,856</b>                                | <b>12,367,149</b>                  |                    |
| <b>Total equity and liabilities</b>  | <b>26,688,553</b>                                | <b>26,665,779</b>                  |                    |
| These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 20 February 2019   |  |                                    |                    |
| <b>Soliman Al Humayyd</b><br>Chairman  | <b>Sameer Ebrahim Al-Wazzan</b><br>Vice Chairman |                                    |                    |
|  |  | <b>STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS</b> |                    |
|  |  | FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER     |                    |
|  |  | 2018                               | 2017               |
|  |  | BHD                                | BHD                |
| <b>Income</b>  |  |                                    |                    |
| Gross premiums written   |  | 9,091,573                          | 8,684,431          |
| Insurance premiums ceded   |  | (318,205)                          | (324,363)          |
| Net insurance premiums written   |  | 8,773,368                          | 8,360,068          |
| Change in unearned premiums  |  | (57,290)                           | (45,141)           |
| Other Insurance Income   |  | 526,997                            | 500,625            |
| <b>Total income from insurance operations</b>  |  | <b>9,243,075</b>                   | <b>8,815,552</b>   |
| <b>Expenses from insurance operations</b>  |  |                                    |                    |
| Gross claims paid  |  | (3,549,035)                        | (3,275,308)        |
| Claims recovered from reinsurers   |  | 25,277                             | 60,283             |
| Net claims paid  |  | (3,523,758)                        | (3,215,025)        |
| Change in provision for outstanding  |  |                                    |                    |
| Claims, net of reinsurance   |  | (244,392)                          | (751,715)          |
| Commissions paid   |  | (216,682)                          | (210,686)          |
| Motor compensation fund contribution   |  | (63,759)                           | (58,673)           |
| Staff costs  |  | (1,652,438)                        | (1,528,470)        |
| General and Administrative expenses  |  | (717,928)                          | (434,885)          |
| Depreciation   |  | (44,347)                           | (37,083)           |
| <b>Total expenses from insurance operations</b>  |  | <b>(6,463,304)</b>                 | <b>(6,236,537)</b> |
| <b>Net income from insurance operations</b>  |  | <b>2,779,771</b>                   | <b>2,579,015</b>   |
| Investment income  |  | 1,076,140                          | 793,394            |
| Impairment Loss on available-for-sale investment   |  | (67,708)                           | (130,281)          |
| Directors' remuneration  |  | (200,000)                          | (200,000)          |
| Charity expense  |  | (40,000)                           | (40,000)           |
| Other income   |  | 39,738                             | 78,554             |
| <b>NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>   |  | <b>3,587,941</b>                   | <b>3,080,682</b>   |
| <b>Earnings per Share - Basic</b>  |  | <b>718 Fils</b>                    | <b>616 Fils</b>    |
| <b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>   |  |                                    |                    |
| Net Profit for the Year  |  | 3,587,941                          | 3,080,682          |
| <b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>  |  |                                    |                    |
| Net (Loss)/gain on revaluation of available for sale investments   |  | (42,874)                           | 198,264            |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>   |  | <b>3,545,067</b>                   | <b>3,278,946</b>   |
| These financial statements have been audited by BDO.   |  |                                    |                    |