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Amir will take any decision to safeguard Kuwait's security

Speaker delivers Amiri message to lawmakers

Zain introduces key initiative to empower women

KUWAIT: Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa announces the launch of its all-female empowerment initiative, aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering women in the organization to act, lead, develop and succeed. The impressive initiative has been driven by the Vice-Chairman and CEO of Zain Group Bader Al-Kharafi, who pointed to the fact that today women account for less than 25 percent of Zain's workforce; a situation that led him to conclude that decisive action needed to be taken in this area.

While the program has already been running internally at Zain for a few months, it was unveiled at an event on Nov 6, 2017 at The Symphony Hotel in Salmiya, where approximately 300 of Zain Group's female employees from across its footprint gathered at a networking occasion. Also in attendance were the CEOs of each Zain operation and their respective HR heads. This meeting is set to become an annual event, geared towards producing an annual, actionable implementation plan for the subsequent year.

Leadership advisor Connie Dieken led the kickoff



Vice-Chairman and CEO of Zain Group Bader Al-Kharafi speaks to Zain leaders during the event.

program. The founder of Influence 360°, Dieken was recently named one of the world's Top 10 Executive Coaches and has been honored as one of the Top 10 Female Business Owners in her region in the United States. During the meeting, Kharafi was interviewed by Dieken, where he made several statements and acknowledgements that inspired the audience. (See Page 3)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah informed MPs in a message conveyed by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday that he will not hesitate to take any decision deemed necessary to safeguard Kuwait's security and stability. Opposition MP Mohammad Al-Dallal meanwhile said HH the Amir will meet lawmakers next week to discuss the prevailing regional tensions.

Ghanem conveyed the written Amiri message at an informal meeting attended by 42 lawmakers. The speaker said that in his message, the Amir emphasized the need not to get involved in the Gulf crisis, insisting that Kuwait is a true mediator and not a party in the dispute between Qatar and a Saudi-led alliance. The Amir also called for preserving national unity, adding he will not allow any calls that may promote divisions and disunity, the speaker said.

Sheikh Sabah underscored the important role of lawmakers and the need to behave as matured statesmen and to refrain from escalating tensions, adding that they should work towards the stability of the country and assist the political leadership in this endeavor. The Amir added MPs will have to be more concerned about the "urgent economic and security files". Ghanem said that he told MPs that the Amir knows a lot more than they know about the situation and that the lawmakers expressed their total support for the relentless efforts of the Amir.

The speaker said that there are enemies inside and outside the country, but insisted that "we will foil any plot to destabilize Kuwait". Ghanem said the meeting did not discuss the issue of grillings, "because we are experiencing extraordinary conditions", adding that he is confident that Kuwait will sail through the trou-



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks during a press conference yesterday. — KUNA

bles and crises like it did in the past. MP Saleh Ashour said the message of HH the Amir is very clear on safeguarding national unity, adding "all of us are with the leadership in this situation". Dallal said the Amir will address a similar message to the government. MP Jamaan Al-Harbash described the situation as "delicate", and called on lawmakers to be true statesmen, but insisted the Assembly will not succeed if the government doesn't comprise of statesmen.

News in brief

New visit visa laws in offing

KUWAIT: Director General of the Residency Affairs Department Maj Gen Talal Maarafi said proposed new visa bylaws include several amendments to increase the number of visitors to the country, such as issuing one-year multiple-entry visit visas to businessmen in order to encourage capital and economic movement in the country. He told Al-Rai daily visit visas will be issued to students who want to study in Kuwait's private universities, adding they will have the right to work in the private sector as graduates of local universities. He said visas will be issued to expats seeking treatment at private hospitals, and the treatment period will remain open until the patient recovers.

Ban on young expats from Jan 1

KUWAIT: The manpower authority's spokesperson and PR Manager Aseel Al-Mezayad announced that administrative decision number 1280/2017 pertaining to banning the issue of work permits to expat graduates younger than 30 in the private and oil sectors will be effective from Jan 1, 2018.

Arrest for spreading rumors

KUWAIT: A citizen, suspected of spreading rumors and misinformation on social media, was arrested by police, the interior ministry said yesterday. The ministry's public relations department said the citizen committed illicit acts on his social media accounts, revealing 24 charges were filed against the suspect. The department warned that any individuals spreading lies through the Internet and similar mediums will be violating the law and their actions will be considered as cybercrimes.

Angry woman gets flight diverted

NEW DELHI: An enraged woman forced an airliner to make an emergency landing after she discovered mid-flight that her husband was apparently cheating on her. The woman, an Iranian national, was travelling from Doha to Bali with her husband and child on a Qatar Airways flight on Sunday. As her husband slept, she used his hand to unlock his fingerprint-protected phone, revealing the alleged affair in all its sordid detail. Angered by the discovery, the woman reportedly started to hit her husband. With the inflight episode spiralling out of control, the pilots decided to make an unscheduled stop in the southern Indian city of Chennai.

Houthis threaten to attack Saudi, UAE airports; MBS blames Iran

SANAA: Shiite rebels in Yemen threatened yesterday to attack ports and airports in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, raising the stakes in a flare-up between Riyadh and Tehran. The threat came hours after Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince accused Iran of "direct military aggression" through its support for the rebels - a claim Tehran rejected as "contrary to reality".

The soaring tensions between the key oil producers saw crude trading at close to two-year highs yesterday

Hariri visits UAE as Saudis up ante against Lebanon

BEIRUT: In a new twist in the saga of Lebanon's prime minister who resigned over the weekend from Saudi Arabia, Saad Hariri's office said he visited the United Arab Emirates briefly yesterday for a meeting with a top official before returning to the kingdom. Much is unknown about Hariri's unexpected resignation, which stunned the Lebanese, threw its government into disarray and prompted a frenzy of speculation.

One of the rumors is that Hariri has been under house arrest in Saudi Arabia, or in some way forced to do the Saudis' bidding. His brief visit to the UAE could appear to dispel that, except that the Gulf federation is a close Saudi ally - the two countries have been spearheading a war in Yemen since 2015 against the country's Shiite rebels who are backed by Iran. Abu Dhabi's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan met Hariri and tweeted a photo, saying they discussed "brotherly ties" and the situation in Lebanon, without elaborating. Hariri's office also said the two discussed the situation in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia yesterday sent its harshest threat to the Lebanese government, dominated by the Shiite group Hezbollah, accusing it of declaring war against the kingdom through support that Hezbollah allegedly provides to Yemen's rebels. Saudi Minister for Gulf Affairs Thamer Al-Sabhan said the situation was "very sensitive and worrying" and that the Saudi patience over Hezbollah was running thin. "The Party of Satan has become a tool of killing and terrorism for the

and spooked Gulf markets. The rebels already showed on Saturday that despite a more than two-year Saudi-led bombing campaign, they retain missiles capable of striking targets deep inside the kingdom. A rebel missile was intercepted and destroyed near Riyadh international airport - the first to reach the Saudi capital - with smoldering debris inside the perimeter underscoring the growing fallout for Saudi Arabia from its involvement in neighboring Yemen.

"All airports, ports, border crossings and areas of any importance to Saudi Arabia and the UAE will be a direct target of our weapons, which is a legitimate right," the rebels' political office said in statement. "We will not stand idly by - we will seek more radical means to prevent both the tightening of the blockade and all acts aimed at starving and humiliating the people of Yemen."

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are the two major powers in a coalition that has been fighting against the Yemeni rebels since 2015 in support of the internationally recognized government. Since Saturday's missile attack, the

coalition has tightened its blockade of rebel-held areas of Yemen, blocking even UN-supervised relief supplies despite urgent appeals from the world body. The coalition said its action was aimed at filling the gaps in inspection procedures that enable "smuggling of missiles and military equipment" to the rebels. But the blocking of all relief supplies further threatens some seven million people already on the brink of famine and the UN urged the coalition to lift it as soon as possible.

Saturday's missile attack sparked a bitter war of words between Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia and predominantly Shiite Iran. "The involvement of Iran in supplying missiles to the Houthis is a direct military aggression by the Iranian regime," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as saying. This "could be considered an act of war," he said. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif retorted that "the allegations by Saudi officials were contrary to reality", a foreign ministry spokesman said.

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ABU DHABI: Lebanon's outgoing Prime Minister Saad Hariri (left) meets Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan at the Al-Shati Palace yesterday. — AFP

kingdom," he told the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV, a play on Hezbollah's name, which in Arabic means the Party of God.

Both Hezbollah and the Houthis, as Yemen's Shiite rebels are known, have denied any role by the Lebanese group in the war in the Arabian Peninsula country. "The Party of Satan is represented in the Lebanese government and the government should be aware of such dangers," Sabhan said. "The Lebanese government will be dealt with as a government that has declared war against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." Sabhan added that the Lebanese people should be aware of the dangers "before we reach a point of no return."

In Lebanon, President Michel Aoun held consultations yesterday with leading politicians over the crisis. Aoun has not called for consultations with parliamen-

tary blocs on the formation of a new Cabinet, saying he will wait until Hariri returns home so that he can hear from him in person about the reasons that made him resign. Credit ratings agency Moody's warned that Hariri's resignation threatens to disrupt "the fragile political balance in place." It added that a drawn-out political stalemate less than a month after the government passed its first budget since 2005 "would undermine recent institutional improvements and expose the banking system to a loss in confidence."

"The Saudis appear to have decided that the best way to confront Iran is to start in Lebanon," a European diplomat said. It is not clear what comes next: Saudi-backed efforts to weaken Hezbollah in Lebanon failed badly a decade ago, ending with a bout of Sunni-Shiite

Continued on Page 11

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister hands President's letter to Amir

Sheikh Sabah meets Speaker Ghanem, officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Rasit Meredow. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Rasit Meredow, in the presence of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Minister Meredow handed in a written letter on bolstering ties from President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow to His Highness the Amir. Deputy

Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

Minister Meredow later met with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well. The meeting was attended by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, as well as Head of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikhha Etimad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iran and non-resident Ambassador to Turkmenistan Majdi Al-



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.

Dhafiri. The visiting minister held a separate meeting with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled in which they discussed ways to enhance the ongoing bilateral relation in various fields, in addition to regional and international developments that concerns both nations.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister received Minister of State for Municipality Affairs and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Nasser Al-Jabri accompanied by visiting Consultant of the Saudi Royal Diwan and Member of the Senior Scholars Council, Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Al-Manea. The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Awqaf Undersecretary Farid Emadi. — KUNA

Cabinet condemns Houthi missile attack on Riyadh

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday fiercely condemned the recently thwarted ballistic missile attack on the Saudi capital, Riyadh, carried out by the Houthis, saying the incident shows the group is 'not serious' about peace. "This sinful assault by the Houthis, which targeted the security and stability of the Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia), proves that this group (Houthis) is not serious in responding to international efforts which aim to put an end to the conflict in Yemen," said the ministers.

According to a statement, the ministers during their weekly session expressed Kuwait's support and backing of the measures taken by Saudi Arabia to maintain its security and stability under the wise leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. Separately, they expressed extreme sorrow over the aircraft crash incident which led to the loss of Saudi Arabia's Aseer Province Deputy Governor Prince Mansour bin



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

Muqren bin Abdulaziz and several other officials. They went on to express their condolences over the loss to both the Saudi King and the families of the victims.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet condemned as "criminal acts" the running over attack in New York and the shooting incident in a Texas church; both of which left scores dead and injured. During the session, which was chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the ministers said these "criminal acts that target the lives of peace-

ful innocents negate all laws, human values and religions." The ministers also expressed Kuwait's solid stance in rejection of all forms of terrorism. They also expressed support of the international community's efforts to combat terrorism.

The Cabinet also welcomed next week's visit to the country by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. During the session, the ministers also reviewed the State Audit Bureau's annual budgetary assessment report of ministries and public institutions. — KUNA

Kuwait emerged victorious from 1991 environment disaster: Official

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil Sheikh Talal Al-Athbi Al-Sabah said the Kuwaiti people made epic efforts to rehabilitate environment following the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion. "The Iraqi troops set fire to 727 oil wells and experts estimated that it would take two years for firefighters to put out these fires. Thanks to the glorious national efforts of the Kuwaitis, these fires were extinguish in just seven months," he said. Sheikh Talal made the comments at a function held on Monday evening by Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) to mark the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

He was addressing the event on behalf of Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq. "Due to the well fires and the emissions of 150 tons of air pollutants, the State of Kuwait witnessed the world's worst environment disaster. The country's oil sector sustained losses of nearly \$75 billion at that time," Sheikh Talal recalled. Twenty-seven international firefighting teams, including 26 Kuwaiti members were able to put out 41 percent of the well fires and stop the air, land and marine pollution, he added.

International Day
Meanwhile, Nezar Al-Adsani, CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), commended the UN General Assembly resolution on November 5, 2001, to declare November 6 an International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. "This is a chance for govern-



KUWAIT: Officials attend a ceremony held to mark the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. — KUNA

ments around the globe to work together and find ways to limit environmental destruction caused by armed conflicts and wars," he pointed out. He highlighted the importance of honoring all those who took part in the battle against well fires in Kuwait.

In the meantime, Chairperson of Kuwait Voluntary Work Center Sheikhha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah took pride in the presence in the function of members of firefighting teams who risked their lives in the glorious battle against well fires. She recalled that late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was keen on observing the efforts of the firefighting teams and made inspection tours to the sites of the well fires. "His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah - the then foreign minister, and the supreme council of environment had also made relentless efforts to convey Kuwait voice to the UN and spotlight the environmental disaster," she pointed out. "The UN declaration of this international day is a great achievement that is attributable to the efforts of the Kuwaiti leaders," Sheikhha Amthal stressed.

Top priority

KEPS Chairperson Wejdan Al-Oqab appreciated the efforts of the Kuwaiti oil companies and workers to strengthen the

economy of the country and care for environment. "It is a top priority for the country's oil sector to protect the safety of environment," she said.

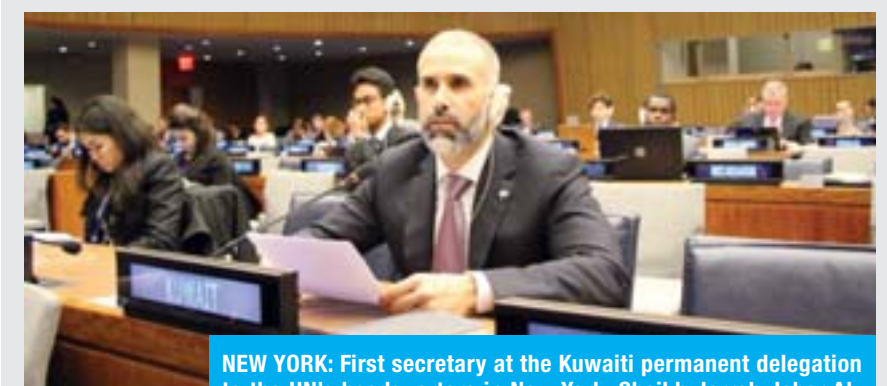
She stressed the need to prevent any spillover of armed conflicts on environment in order to protect the natural resources, the public health and the future generations. In a similar speech to the gathering, Kuwait former Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Mohammad Abul-Hassan extolled efforts made by His Highness the Amir after the Iraqi invasion to lobby friendly countries for fight against well fires and turn this process into a national and global success.

His Highness the Amir, the then foreign minister, successfully advocated for the UN General Assembly declaration of November 6 as International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, the senior diplomat said.

Abul-Hassan appreciated KEPS observation of this occasion, urging the competent agencies in the region and beyond to work together to raise public awareness about, sharing information on, environment protection. Speakers at the function included director of the cultural centers dept. of the Amiri Diwan Sahar Al-Oqab and representative of the firefighting teams Isa Buyabes. — KUNA

Kuwait keen on supporting UNRWA: Diplomat

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait is always keen on supporting the activities of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), donating a sum of \$162 million since the agency's establishment in 1949, said a Kuwaiti diplomat yesterday. During a meeting focusing on UNRWA activists, held within the 72nd UN General Assembly, First secretary at the Kuwaiti permanent delegation to the UN's headquarters in New York, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said Kuwait was keen on supporting the agency's mission.



NEW YORK: First secretary at the Kuwaiti permanent delegation to the UN's headquarters in New York, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah addresses the meeting. — KUNA

In 2015, Kuwait donated a sum of \$15 million to cover the expenses of 500,000 Palestinians studying at UNRWA-operated schools, said the diplomat. Kuwait had provided \$50 million between 2013 and 2015 during the Syria donors' conference to help Palestinians seeking refuge in the fellow Arab country, said Sheikh Jarrah, adding that a sum of \$34 million was provided to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip after the Israeli aggression on UNRWA schools.

He indicated that Kuwait had provided \$200 million in 2014 to help in the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, which also suffered from another Israeli attack. In December 1949, UNRWA was created as a relief and human development agency, which supports more than five million registered Palestinian refugees, and their descendants. The refugees were expelled from their homes during the 1948 Palestine war and the 1967 Six-Day war. — KUNA

Kuwaiti envoy urges doubling efforts for sustainable development

PARIS: Representative of Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research Dr Ali Al-Kandari highlighted the need of public-private partnership to realize the targets of sustainable development. Addressing the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference on Monday, Dr Kandari said it is imperative for public and private institutions to make concerted efforts on the national, regional and international levels to speed up pace towards sustainable development.

He noted that the UNESCO affirmed the crucial importance of the public-private strategic partnership geared to development in its ministerial Incheon Declaration adopted in 2015 under the title of "Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all."

Dr Kadari took pride in the fact that



PARIS: Representative of Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research Dr Ali Al-Kandari speaks during the UNESCO General Conference. — KUNA

his foundation is one of the Kuwaiti agencies contributing to the international efforts relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The foundation and its chairperson Sheikhha Fadia Al-Saad Al-Sabah cooperate with the Kuwaiti government to educate people on, and promote awareness about, the development agenda, he added. — KUNA

Local

Zain Group introduces Women Empowerment Network initiative with inaugural meeting in Kuwait

Kharafi: Championing gender diversity at Zain creates competitive differentiation



Bader Al-Kharafi with Connie Dieken and a number of Zain CEOs and female leaders.

KUWAIT: Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa announces the launch of its all-female empowerment initiative, aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering women in the organization to act, lead, develop, and succeed.

The impressive initiative has been driven by the Vice-Chairman and CEO of Zain Group, Bader Al-Kharafi, who pointed to the fact that today women account for less than 25 percent of Zain's workforce; a situation that led him to conclude that decisive action needed to be taken in this area.

While the program has already been running internally at Zain for a few months, it was given its unveiling at an event on November 6, 2017 at The Symphony Hotel in Salmiya, Kuwait, where approximately 300 of Zain Group's female employees from across its footprint gathered at a networking occasion. Also in attendance were the CEOs of each Zain operation and their respective HR heads. This meeting is set to become an annual event, geared towards producing an annual, actionable implementation plan for the subsequent year.

Leadership advisor Connie Dieken led the kickoff program. The founder of Influence 360, Dieken was recently named one of the world's Top 10 Executive Coaches and has been honored as one of the Top 10 Female Business Owners in her region in the United States. A former newswoman on two American television networks, Dieken is a five-time Emmy Award winning journalist and the only woman to have been inducted into both the Radio/Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Speakers Hall of Fame. Dieken advises leaders at many of the world's best-known organizations on their influence strategies including Apple, HP, Nestle, and The Cleveland Clinic.



Strategic master plan to advance women's careers at Zain

Corporate agenda
Commenting on the establishment of the Women Empowerment Network, Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO said, "I thank Connie Dieken for her sound advice on leadership and inspiring all my fellow Zainers, as the topic of gender diversity has been on our corporate agenda for quite some time and yet, in this region, we can observe only a marginal increase in women occupying senior roles, therefore it is clear something is not working."

Kharafi added, "The talent, creativity, and passion women bring to their roles is undeniable, and I believe developing a program to initiate and measure actual progress achieved in this respect over time will reap benefits not just for women within Zain, but for the organization as a whole. A company cannot be considered as being progressive if it doesn't identify and encourage all its various constituencies, and given the massive contribution that women have already made to Zain's success, I am very excited to see what more can be achieved through the establishment of this empowerment initiative."

During the meeting, Bader Al-Kharafi was interviewed by Connie Dieken where he made several statements and acknowledgements that inspired the 300-strong female audience. "Although females across the region represent the highest ratio of University degrees, however unfortunately this does not translate in the workforce of Zain and other like corporate entities, now it is time to make the change," said Kharafi to the applause of the audience.

The Group CEO concluded by saying, "Championing gender diversity at Zain will create competitive differentiation and ultimately improve the company's bottom line. By implementing a series of targeted initiatives for our female workforce, we ultimately promote economic development for the communities we serve."

Connie Dieken commented "Zain's leadership team understands that gender equality drives business growth. As a businesswoman and entrepreneur, I am honored to be part of a movement giving women in the Middle East the ability to step forward, gain influence, and make their boldest contributions in the workplace."

Following the hosting of the inaugural Women Empowerment Network event, a heavy baseline of existing data is being undertaken, including a review on all Zain Group-related policies and female-related initiatives; statistics of females in leadership positions, women serving in truly operational leadership roles and identifying common trends and hurdles across the Group.

Fantastic step

Eaman Al-Roudhan, CEO of Zain Kuwait, said "This is a fantastic step forward for women in the workplace, often an overlooked issue within organizations. Formalizing a program that identifies and uplifts the contributions made by women in Zain is long overdue, and I am pleased to finally have it off-the-ground and ready to make an impact on the lives and careers of women inside and outside our organization."

A session with Zain Group's digital partner, FOO, was initiated, aimed at developing a female digital community that will include online functionality such as instant messaging; ideation and validation; knowledge sharing; and communications with the Group CEO.

Beyond the creation of an annual implementation plan, the Women Empowerment Network will also look to pro-



Bader Al-Kharafi during the interview with Connie Dieken.

mote economic development through female entrepreneurship that will help drive local economies in the countries in which Zain operates. The initiative will seek to establish links to youth empowerment and support the education of girls through a series of targeted initiatives.

The program is also set to develop a comprehensive media campaign that showcases Zain's consistent support and involvement in empowering women that aligns to the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.



Bader Al-Kharafi and Connie Dieken with Zain HR heads.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The Tijiya Tower in Kuwait City with the evening sky in the background. —KUNA

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KRCS chief urges activation of nat'l charity societies at IFRC

ISTANBUL: Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer has called for activating the role of national charity organizations in the executive committees of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC).

This will help national societies keep pace with the

major humanitarian issues in the world, and improve the conditions of refugees around the globe, Sayer said yesterday on the sidelines of the IFRC Assembly, Istanbul. It will also contribute to countering the growing challenges of humanitarian work and enhance the role of volunteers, he said.

Meanwhile, Sayer congratulated head of the Italian Red Cross Francesco Rocca on being elected as new IFRC President, as well as his deputies for different region worldwide.

He also congratulated the Libyan and the Palestine Red Crescents on winning seats at the IFRC's board for four years to come. Sayer is leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the Istanbul assembly. —KUNA

Kuwait reiterates resolve to achieve 2030 sustainable development goals

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait has reaffirmed determination to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for a dignified living conditions for everybody. This was the core of Kuwait's statement to the UN 2017 Pledging Conference for Development Activities, delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Bader Al-Munayyekh Monday evening.

Efforts through 2015 have led to endorsing major developmental results and it is "our international duty and responsibility to do our best to put them into effect, guided by what has been achieved during the past two years, and taking into consideration the new opportunities generated by the scientific and technological progress and innovation," Munayyekh said.

He also stressed the necessity of remedying shortcomings and removing obstacles that faced the developing countries in the implementation of these results. Honoring the outstanding international commitments based on the spirit of responsibility, partnership and solidarity is the best way to reach sustainable development by 2030, he said. Donors must honor their pledges to meet the needs of the developing countries, he stressed.

Meanwhile, Munayyekh emphasized Kuwait's eagerness to promote the national policies for development in the framework of implementing the 2030 SDGs. This will be accomplished by the participation of the entire Kuwaiti society within the country's future development vision, considered a roadmap for a "New Kuwait" by 2035, the Kuwaiti diplomat said. This vision aims to develop Kuwait into a leading regional financial, trade, cultural and institu-



Bader Al-Munayyekh

tional hub. In the meantime, Munayyekh pointed to Kuwait's hard efforts for enhancing its usual developmental and humanitarian approach. He stressed that Kuwait would not dawdle to extend a helping hand to the needs all over the world. The diplomat underlined Kuwait's commitment to provide the contributions it pledged in line with noble initiatives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Kuwait is a developing nation, yet it has been keen on assuming its regional and international responsibilities, carrying on with support to the world's humanitarian issues, he said. Since 2008, Kuwait has channeled up to 10 percent of its aid to the afflicted nations through the UN organizations

and agencies, he said. In addition, the country in 2015 pledged \$15 billion to finance projects in developing nations over fifteen years, through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

Kuwait's volunteer financial contributions for 2018, \$6.4 million, will be directed to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and I1 bodies, he said.

Moreover, Kuwait offers annual contribution of \$3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross, and \$250,000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). —KUNA

Local

No injuries in Subhan factory fire



KUWAIT: Firefighters tackle a blaze at a Subhan factory yesterday.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A fire was reported yesterday in a furniture factory in Subhan, and it was tackled successfully by firemen from the Subhan, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Salmiya, Ardhiya and back up fire stations. The isolated area around the factory kept the fire from spreading. No injuries were reported in the blaze which completely destroyed the 4,000 sq m factory. Meanwhile, investigations are underway to find out the reason behind the fire.

Arrests

Airport security arrested three Asians; one without an ID and wanted by police, another for being reported absconding and the third for being banned from entering Kuwait. They were sent to Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police station for further legal action.

Deported

Residency detectives deported 18,866 law violators so far this year and recorded 32,627 absconding complaints in cooperation with service centers. The number of security restrictions of expatriates' missing passport was 1,804.

At large

An SUV driver escaped from police with the help of four persons who got in the way of a patrol and hit it deliberately. One of them then threw an axe at the patrol car and broke its window. Detectives are working on arresting the five, who are still at large.

Impounded

An Egyptian man borrowed a citizen's car, only to have it impounded because he committed a traffic violation. When the Egyptian told the car owner about it, he beat him up. The Egyptian told Salmiya police what happened, and submitted a medical report as he lodged a complaint. Detectives summoned the citizen, who claimed the Egyptian was lying, but it was proved that he did beat him, so he was referred to concerned authorities for further legal action.

Negligence

Two young women, a citizen and a bedoon (stateless), were arrested after they were found sitting in the street near a Rumaithiya park. Both of their families were called to take back the girls, and they signed undertakings not to leave them outside. A police patrol saw the two girls after midnight. When asked why they were out this late, they said they spend the weekends together. Both girls were taken to the police station, then the citizen's mother and the bedoon's elder sister came and took them. They were told they will face charges of negligence in caring for minors if this is repeated.

Cross-dresser

Hawally police stopped a cross-dresser from going to a party, and he was taken to the vice detectives department, where he was detained. The man was in a car with tinted windows, so he was stopped. Police found he was dressed in women's clothes with makeup and accessories.

Wanted

A citizen went to Mubarak Al-Kabeer police station to lodge a complaint, and because he did not have his ID on him, his fingerprint was taken and he was found wanted on a financial case worth KD 8,000. Police registered his complaint, then he was detained and referred to the civil implementation department.

Fight

Jahra police broke up a bloody fight in Taima during which two citizens ganged up against a third and caused him several injuries. Paramedics were called and the injured man was taken to Jahra Hospital, while the other two were taken to the police station.

Jaber Hospital construction 100% complete

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Work's Undersecretary Awatif Al-Ghunaim said that 100 percent of the construction work at Jaber Hospital has been completed and a date will be set later on to hand it over to the Ministry of Health. Ghunaim explained that the hospital will provide 1,168 beds, 19 OPDs, five nine-storey towers and a doctors' accommodation building. Arab Open University Rector Dr Moudhi Al-Humoud said during an inspection tour that the hospital will be a significant medical edifice in Kuwait and stressed that the project is a pride for every Kuwaiti.

Smartphones

Kuwait Society of Engineers urged the Civil Service Commission to meet the demands made by the Ministry of Electricity and Water and other state departments to activate the fingerprint system for checking in and out of work on smartphones of employees, namely those working on construction sites. The society's board member Ali Abbas Mohseni hailed the step made by Undersecretary Mohammed Boshheri in this regard as the latter had announced intentions to contact the commission accordingly. Mohseni added that the society had previously called for flexibility and using modern technological solutions for the problem.

KD 20.6 billion deficit estimated in four years

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait's financial deficit over the four years from 2014 to 2018 was recently estimated at KD 20.6 billion (\$67.9 billion), said oil and financial sources, predicting that the deficit would drop by 20 percent next year thanks to the rise in oil prices to more than \$68 per barrel. This would prevent the government from borrowing to make up for the deficit. In view of this deficit, oil sources expected a rise in fears of the consequences of economic reforms. The sources added that ongoing reforms and cutting spending had cost citizens their savings and led to postponing some service projects. "The state's low non-oil revenues will lead to a \$1.4 trillion deficit, which is larger than the current state reserves," the sources underlined. Meanwhile, financial sources expect Kuwait will face a \$179 billion deficit by 2030.

Kuwaitis outnumbered

Educational statistics show that non-Kuwaiti teachers outnumber their Kuwaiti peers in public secondary schools and that the total number of secondary school teachers is 13,988 - 8,018 non-Kuwaitis and 5,970 Kuwaitis, including 1,828 male and 4,142 female teachers. Statistics also elaborated that the total number of Kuwaiti Arabic teachers in high schools is 348, while expats are 1,282; Kuwaiti English teachers are 286, while expats are 1,152; Kuwaiti French teachers are 54 compared to 423 expats; Kuwaiti science teachers are 837 compared to 1,612 expats, Kuwaiti math teachers are 255 com-

pared to 1,081 expats and Kuwaiti computer teachers are 261 compared to 569 expats. The statistics showed the number of Kuwaiti teachers compared to expats is 169/304 in music, 33/55 in practical studies and 16/55 librarians.

Job opportunities

Recent Civil Service Commission (CSC) statistics show that 18,674 job opportunities are available for citizens holding various degrees, including 9,166 for males, 7,077 for females and 2,431 for both.

Housing units

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare said 50,000 housing units will be distributed to citizens in South Sabah Al-Ahmad and South Saad Al-Abdullah cities soon. Speaking on a briefing and awareness meeting held for citizens, the authority spokesperson Ibrahim Al-Nashi said the authority had distributed 12,000 units so far and considerably cut citizens' waiting time to get a house.

Fishermen's diwaniya

Head of the Kuwaiti fishermen diwaniya Khaled Al-Othainah urged the state's premier to act and undo or postpone a decision made to remove the diwaniya until an alternative location is found. Othainah added that the diwaniya is vital for investing the time of both young and retired nationals, namely fishermen, adding that fishermen had been only granted a one-week grace period before removing the diwaniya.

Nine flights diverted due to heavy fog

KUWAIT: Nine inbound planes to Kuwait International Airport were diverted to nearby airports due to heavy fogs yesterday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's Public Administration said in a statement. The administration said that weather conditions improved after 8:30 am and inbound flights returned to normal.

The authority added that the nine diverted planes in the early hours yesterday morning landed in Dubai, Bahrain, and Al-Damam, Saudi Arabia. The flights, which were diverted due to heavy fogs that swept Kuwait, were rescheduled for later in the day, the statement reads.

Meanwhile, navigation operations at Shuwaikh Port were normal despite decrease in visibility due to fog, Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) said. Director of Operations Captain Bader Al-Enezi said that the maritime traffic in Kuwait was normal, noting that the weather factors such as wind speed and visibility remained at the allowed limits to maintain a safe navigation. Enezi added that the observation tower at the port is monitoring the weather around the clock. — KUNA

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Delhi wakes up to 'hazardous' smog

France, Switzerland in joint anti-terrorism swoop

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LONDON: A sign is pictured outside the offices of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Royal department that provides Britain's ruling monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, with an income and handles her investments, in central London. —AFP

UK expands project on mental health in terrorism

Police fear militants deliberately target the vulnerable

LONDON: A project looking at links between mental health and terrorism in three English cities has been expanded nationwide after it found a significant number of people referred to counter-radicalization programs suffer some form of mental illness. Studies have suggested the prevalence of mental health issues among militants working together on major strikes is very low but a string of killings by so-called lone wolves has fueled concerns mental illness could be a factor behind some attacks.

Authorities say some of those involved in four attacks in Britain this year blamed on Islamist militants appeared to people who had self-radicalized via the internet and whose mental state had been questioned. To look more closely at the issue, British police launched pilot programs in April last year in England's three biggest urban areas - London, Birmingham and Manchester - to embed mental health experts with counter-terrorism officers.

The aim was to give psychiatrists the chance to identify people referred to Britain's counter-radicalization program Prevent who had mental health issues, and treat them. "Anecdotally, I am surprised that there appears to be a much higher prevalence of people with mental health problems than you would expect," said Professor Jennifer Shaw, the mental health lead for Greater Manchester Police, referring to the people her team had dealt with since the pilot was launched.

The hubs are considered so successful by the government they have been expanded nationwide, Shaw, professor of forensic psychiatry at the University of Manchester said.

But such is the secrecy around the work of Prevent and Channel - a de-radicalization program within the overall project - there are few details about its successes or failings and Shaw's work has not previously been discussed in the media.

Some psychiatrists argue that no scientific link between mental health issues and terrorist attacks has yet been established and they worry the programs risk stigmatizing people suffering from mental illnesses. Another psychiatrist gathering data under the pilot programs told Reuters that Britain's Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism had told them not to disclose any details of their findings ahead of a final report. Those findings are expected to be among a raft of data about people referred to Prevent due to be released this week. Britain's interior ministry did not respond to requests for comment.



UK mental health experts work with counter-terror police

problems and terrorist acts had not been established. He said a lack of evidence, partly because militant attacks were so rare, was at the heart of the problem, adding that an unnecessary level of secrecy about Prevent also meant many psychiatrists viewed the program with suspicion. "If it is true that there is a link, we need to know and then need to look at the causes of that and what we can do about them," James told Reuters. "We just want the facts."

Past studies have disagreed about the significance of mental health issues among lone wolf attackers, with some academics concluding that such illnesses are blamed to try to explain often complex reasons for attacks. British police decided to launch the pilot programs because they believed that roughly half the 7,500 people referred to Prevent each year had a broad range of mental health and psychological difficulties. Those working on the pilot projects hope the information being gathered will now help experts assess any possible links between mental health issues and attacks.

Shaw said determining who might be a potential attacker from mental health problems alone was not really feasible and fraught with problems, but she said it might be possible

to ascertain the characteristics of people most likely to be at risk and ensure they got appropriate help. "That doesn't mean you can't manage the risks. Trying to nip it in the bud, that's all you can do. But that's good if you can achieve that, it's going a long way," said Shaw. Police officers say they have struggled in the past to reach medical practitioners when they had concerns about some people and Shaw said the pilot was designed to address those worries.

According to one of Shaw's case studies, a man went to a hospital saying he monitored Islamic State websites, had been walking around the city centre working out how many people he could kill in a gun attack, and wanted to behead his mother. Shaw's team discovered the man had no contact with mental health services and no diagnosis of any illness. An urgent assessment concluded his anger stemmed from experiences in his childhood and safeguarding measures were put in place.

British police have no doubts about the importance of the work, especially given the global shift from carefully planned spectacular attacks by militant networks to unsophisticated, strikes by individuals using cars and knives as weapons. Mark Rowley, Britain's most senior counter-terrorism officer, told the British Medical Journal in April that a disproportionate number of suspects in 13 attacks foiled by British police since 2013 had mental health issues. "If part of the terrorist methodology is to prey on the vulnerable ... then it stands to reason that there will be people with certain mental health conditions who will be ... susceptible to that," he said. —Reuters

'We want the facts'

Dr Adrian James, registrar at Britain's Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCP), said the link between mental health

At North Korea's doorstep, Trump warns and strikes conciliatory note

SEOUL: President Donald Trump yesterday warned North Korea he was prepared to use the full range of US military power to stop any attack, but in a more conciliatory appeal than ever before he urged Pyongyang to "make a deal" to end the nuclear standoff. Speaking on North Korea's doorstep during a visit to Seoul, Trump said that while "we hope to God" not to have to resort to the use of full US military might, he was ready to do whatever was necessary to prevent the "North Korean dictator" from threatening millions of lives. "We cannot allow North Korea to threaten all that we have built," Trump said after talks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has supported diplomatic outreach to Pyongyang. But at times taking a more measured, less confrontational tone, Trump also urged North Korea to "do the right thing" and added that: "I do see some movement," though he declined to elaborate. "It really makes sense for North Korea to come to the table and make a deal," Trump told reporters at a joint news conference with Moon.

Despite Trump's renewed threats against North Korea, it was a far cry from the more strident approach he has pursued in recent months, including his previous dismissal of any diplomatic efforts with Pyongyang as a waste of time. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has made clear, however, that he has little interest in negotiations, at least until he has developed a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the US mainland. Landing earlier at Osan Air Base outside Seoul, the president and First Lady Melania Trump stepped down from Air Force One onto a red carpet as he began a 24-hour visit that could aggravate tension with North Korea.

He then flew by helicopter to Camp Humphreys, the largest US military base in the country, and met US and South Korean troops, along with Moon. The White House billed Trump's trip as



SEOUL: US President Donald Trump (centre left) shakes hands with South Korea's President Moon Jae-in during a bilateral meeting at the presidential Blue House yesterday. — AFP

intended to demonstrate US resolve over a hard-line approach to the North Korean nuclear and missile threats. But many in the region had expressed fear that any further bellicose rhetoric by Trump toward Pyongyang could increase the potential for a devastating military conflict.

Trump praise for Moon

Trump praised Moon for "great cooperation" despite differences in the past over how to confront North Korea and over a trade pact between the United States and South Korea. At the news conference, the leaders said they had agreed to renegotiate the trade agreement in a timely fashion.

In formal talks after an elaborate welcoming ceremony outside the presidential Blue House in Seoul, Moon told Trump he hoped his visit would relieve some of South Koreans' anxiety over North Korea. Pyongyang's recent nuclear and missile tests in defiance of UN resolutions and an exchange of insults between Trump and Kim have

raised the stakes in the most critical international challenge of Trump's presidency. At the news conference, Trump said Pyongyang must understand the "unparalleled strength" that Washington had at its disposal.

He cited three US aircraft carrier strike groups that are converging on the Western Pacific for exercises as well as a nuclear submarine he said was also in position. Trump has rattled some US allies with his vow to "totally destroy" North Korea if it threatens the United States and by deriding Kim as a "Rocket Man on a suicide mission." Kim responded by calling Trump a "mentally deranged US dotard." Trump's senior aides privately have since urged him to avoid "personalizing" the conflict any further, US officials say.

On the second leg of his five-nation trip, Trump toured the sprawling Camp Humphreys garrison, which lies about 100 km from the border with reclusive North Korea, and met commanders and troops. —Reuters

Gunmen storm Kabul TV station in deadly attack

KABUL: Gunmen disguised as policemen stormed a television station in Kabul yesterday, killing one person and wounding two dozen others in the latest deadly attack targeting Afghan journalists. The assault, claimed by the Islamic State group, lasted about three hours before Afghan Special Forces overpowered the attackers, who were armed with guns and grenades, and freed staff trapped inside the building.

"The attack has ended. According to the commander of the special forces all the staff who were inside the building have been rescued," Shamsad TV announced as it went back on the air in an act of defiance just moments later. "This is an attack on freedom of media but they cannot silence us," Shamsad news director Abid Ehsas told rival Tolo News at a hospital in the Afghan capital where some of his wounded colleagues were being treated. The station reported that one attacker blew himself up at the gate. Another went inside and shot at staff before going up to the roof to fire at security forces.

A Shamsad news presenter, his hands bandaged after cutting his hands on glass as he fled the attackers, told viewers that 20 colleagues had been wounded. Six were in a critical condition. "We have all come back (to work), all our journalists and colleagues are back on duty," he said boldly. Special forces had to blast their way through a wall of the com-

pound to enter the premises of the Pashto-language broadcaster.

"I was in my office when gunmen wearing police uniforms attacked the building," Ehsas said. "They killed one of our guards and entered the building and started firing. Most of us were able to flee but some were wounded and some jumped out of the windows." He said the station had not received any threats before the attack. Gunshots could be heard inside the building every few minutes during the assault as more and more security forces and emergency services swarmed the area. At least one employee told AFP he had seen three attackers entering the building on security cameras.

"They first shot the guard and then entered the building. They started throwing grenades and firing," Shamsad TV reporter Faisal Zaland, who escaped through a back door said. Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said one employee had been killed and 24 people wounded, including four firefighters. In a tweet the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee (AJSC) renewed its call for "the government to take all preventive measures to protect" the media-sentiments echoed by Amnesty International. President Ashraf Ghani pledged to take "serious measures" to protect journalists in a statement condemning the attack.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the assault in a statement released by their Amaq propaganda agency. The Taliban had earlier released a Twitter statement denying involvement. Pashto is one of the official languages in Afghanistan and is spoken mainly in the south where the Taliban have a large presence. —AFP

International

After WhatsApp threat, Indonesia steps up Internet obscenity purge

Internet companies to be summoned over content

JAKARTA: Indonesia said yesterday it will summon executives of messaging services and search engines, including Google, to demand they remove obscene content, but dropped a threat to block WhatsApp Messenger after "GIF" images were taken off the service. The Internet is already partly censored in Indonesia, but the latest steps mark an escalation against a background of growing conservatism in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation. "We will call all providers, including Google to clean up their network," said Semuel Pangerapan, a director general at Indonesia's communication and informatics ministry. Google, which is owned by Alphabet Inc, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The ministry vowed on Monday to block Facebook Inc's WhatsApp Messenger within 48 hours if the service did not ensure that obscene Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) images were removed. WhatsApp said on Monday that message encryption prevented it from monitoring the animated graphics files, known as GIFs, that are available on the app through third-party services. It said it had asked the government instead to work with those providers, which integrate their technology into WhatsApp to allow users to enter keywords to search for GIFs. Tenor Inc, one of the third parties, said on Tuesday it had "already implemented a fix for the content issues".

Users of WhatsApp Messenger on iPhones were unable to access Tenor GIFs yesterday. "We see now that they have done what we asked," Pangerapan said. "Therefore, we won't block them because they have responded to us." WhatsApp Messenger is widely used in

Indonesia. Civil servants and ministers, including Minister of Communication and Information Rudiantara, are among the heaviest users. Giphy Inc, a New York City GIFs company that also works with WhatsApp, did not respond to requests for comment. Giphy offers partners a feature to filter inappropriate images.

Indonesia's warning did not appear to target Gboard, a keyboard app developed by Google that provides comparable GIF search results but must be installed separately from WhatsApp on most devices. Rudiantara has vowed in the past to clamp down on pornography sites and, after meetings with representatives of Google, Twitter Inc and Facebook in August, he said his ministry's priority was to protect Indonesians from content that promoted radicalism, terrorism and drugs. Rudiantara, who uses one name, said however that the government was not trying to foster "a



Government partly censors the Internet

regime of censorship".

Netizens skeptical

Indonesia blocks access to websites offering criticism of Islam, dating services and sex education, research published in May by Tor Project, a non-profit maker of Web browsing tools, showed. Indonesia had 69 million monthly active Facebook users by the first quarter of 2014, ranking it fourth globally after the United States, India and Brazil, company data showed. Some reaction on Indonesian social media to the threatened block of WhatsApp was skeptical.

"While you're at it, why don't you block Twitter too, (and) if necessary all browsers in the Playstore, because it's way easier to search for porn there than on WhatsApp," wrote one Twitter

"These are not the organizations that students form themselves, but they are from outside," he said at a briefing that outlined ways to help universities tackle radicalism following the Bali conference. The campaign to root out boosters of the caliphate is not just confined to schools. A document collated by Indonesia's intelligence agency lists 1,300 HTI members in senior posts in the civil service, universities, the military and police. An intelligence source confirmed the authenticity of the document, which was reviewed by Reuters. Some of those on it declined to comment after being contacted, but HTI's former spokesman Ismail Yusanto said it did include some of its members.

Suharto tactics

Illustrating how a politicized brand of Islam has gained traction, nearly 20 percent of high school and university students in Indonesia support the establishment of a caliphate, a survey showed last week. Moreover, around one in four of the 4,200 Muslim students in the survey by pollster Alvara said they were, to varying degrees, ready to wage jihad to achieve this. Hizb ut-Tahrir, an international organisation, established by a Palestinian Islamic scholar in 1953, has been banned in some Arab, Asian and European countries. One of its former members in Indonesia is Bahrun Naim, who went to fight for Islamic State in Syria and is accused of masterminding a series of attacks in Indonesia since early last year. An officially registered organization in Indonesia since 2000, HTI has sought a judicial review in the constitutional court over its disbanding. "They never gave us a chance to defend ourselves. Is it not an authoritarian and repressive action?" said HTI spokesman Yusanto, who likened the crackdown to the tactics used against opponents under former strongman President Suharto. —Reuters

in the battle against grinding poverty and is something to celebrate. Swarms of children wave Malian flags, excitedly singing along to the beat of drums, as others dance and clap.

Nearby, other children sit on the sandy ground alongside a French soldier, his rifle slung over his shoulder, while other troops hand out mango juice and cakes to local people. The well has six taps and an automatic pumping system that runs on solar energy, capable of drawing up water from 80 meters (262 feet) deep into a 10-cubic-metre (10,000-litre) tank. It aims to transform the lives of 6,000 local residents, and some 25,000 people living in the surrounding area, who previously had to walk many kilometers to access a water source.

The 'situation was critical'

"In 2015, a two-year-old child died here due to the lack of water. It is what motivated us to act," said Boureima Keita, a member of a group calling itself the Young Patriots. "The water stocks were insufficient, the situation was critical," Keita said, explaining that the population of Gao has grown again since jihadists were cleared from the city in 2013.

His group asked French troops to help tackle the water crisis, as supplies delivered by tanker trucks had failed to meet demand. The Barkhane mission responded by offering 10,000 euros (\$11,600) in financing. "We have a common history with Mali, the relations between France and Mali are old, they did not start with Barkhane," said French Colonel Arnaud Cervera, outlining other military initiatives to help local communities, including supplying medicine and computers for schools. —AFP



JAKARTA: A motorist crosses a railway barrier during weekend rush hour in Jakarta. —AFP

user, with the handle @jnassy. The country's regulators have reached settlements with several technology companies after threatening to shut them down. In August, Indonesia announced it would block Giphy's website for showing gambling-related ads. Access was soon restored after it agreed to cooperate with regulators.

Bans were similarly rescinded in recent years on social media websites, such as Tumblr, and the

chat app Telegram, which regulators had said was "full of radicals and terrorist propaganda." The Indonesian Consumers Foundation (YLKI) had urged the communications ministry to block pornographic GIF images accessible via emoticons, complaining that children could easily reach them, according to news website Kompas.com. Terms of use for WhatsApp, Tenor and Giphy specify users must be at least 13. —Reuters

Indonesia's bid to root out Islamists throws spotlight on universities

NUSA DUA: When students at Indonesia's prestigious Institute of Agricultural Studies swore an oath to support a caliphate in the world's largest Muslim-majority country last year, a video of the event went viral and the government grew alarmed. Months later, Indonesian President Joko Widodo banned the decades-old hardline group Hizb ut-Tahrir Indonesia (HTI), which organized the student pledge, and declared its goal to set up a caliphate was incompatible with the constitution and could threaten security.

Last month, under prodding from the government, thousands of students across the nation made an anti-radicalism pledge. It followed an unprecedented gathering in late September of some 3,000 academics in Bali, who also pledged to fight extremism and defend the secular constitution. The campaign against extremism in education comes amid a rise of a hardline, politicized Islam in Indonesia, which until recently had occupied the fringe of the nation's politics. "Radical organizations can spread like a virus in universities," said Professor Muhammad Sirozi, rector of the State Islamic University Raden Fatah in Palembang on Sumatra.

A well changes lives in Mali city

GAO: Among the lines of small mud houses, plastic litter and piles of parched earth, children gaze skywards at a shiny blue tank perched on steel legs. It holds a vital resource of which they have been deprived for years: water. In a world where more than a billion people lack access to water, residents of this dusty corner of Gao, the main city in Mali's sprawling arid north, know the terrifying consequences of drought—and today is a time for celebration.

"Before, I had to walk three or four kilometers to go and get water with jerrycans. Sometimes I had to queue all day," said Hawa Kante, a mother of six who had dressed up in a black and yellow turban, immaculate white blouse and gold jewelry for the inauguration of the well. "I was obliged to take my little ones to help me carry the water, they were not able to go to school," she said. After years of French forces fighting a jihadist insurgency in the west African country's north, building up infrastructure is part of a renewed focus to win over local hearts and minds—a campaign to help stabilization.

The well was built by a local company and funded by France's Barkhane mission—an anti-terror operation involving some 4,000 troops across the Sahel region, a vast stretch of territory on the edge of the Sahara Desert. In this former French colony, French troops have not always been welcomed. But today is a victory

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International

France and Switzerland in a joint anti-terrorism swoop

Ten arrested in counter-terrorism operation

PARIS: French police arrested nine people and another was arrested in Switzerland in coordinated counter-terrorism swoops that follow a spate of deadly attacks in Europe in recent years. Swiss officials said a 23-year-old Colombian woman was taken into custody after police raids there. A Swiss man aged 27 was among those arrested in parallel French police swoops linked to Islamist militant activity, they added.

French police conducted simultaneous raids on premises on the eastern edge of Paris and in the southeastern region that borders Italy and Switzerland, taking nine people into custody, a source in the French judiciary said.

Those arrested were aged from 18 to 65 years, said the French source, who spoke on condition of anonymity-standard practice for most French officials on such matters. Le Parisien newspaper said it was possible the raids had thwarted an attack. The French judicial source spoke of suspected participation in a criminal terrorist network and of communications via the Telegram network that many militants use because messages can be encrypted.



Switzerland cites suspected links to Al-Qaeda, IS

A Swiss statement cited suspected involvement in terrorist activity and banned Islamist militant groups such as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State. The arrests took place a week after France introduced tougher national security laws to permanently replace emergency powers given to police and intelligence services following deadly attacks by Islamist militants on Paris two years ago. More than 240 people have been killed in France since early 2015 in attacks by Islamist militants or assailants inspired by the Islamic State group, which has sought to establish a caliphate in Syria and Iraq and called for attacks on France.

France is among countries contributing to military operations against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb, who says 32 attack plots have been thwarted in the past two years in France, played down the latest operation when asked about it during a visit to Berlin. "It's part of operations which, sadly, are conducted relatively regularly, where we arrest a number of people we consider dangerous," he said. —Reuters



MENTON: Photo shows the car of an alleged suspect parked outside his residence in Menton, southeastern France, after ten people were arrested in an anti-terror operation in France and Switzerland. —AFP

News in brief

An elderly nun raped

KOLKATA: An Indian court yesterday found a Bangladeshi guilty of raping an elderly nun in a crime that sparked an outpouring of anger at persistent high levels of sexual assault in the country. The 71-year-old nun needed surgery after the brutal attack in 2015, when a gang of robbers broke into the convent school where she lived in the eastern state of West Bengal. A court in the state capital Kolkata found Nazrul Islam guilty of rape and attempted murder, among other offences. "It was a shameful act," additional judge Kumkum Singha told the packed City Sessions Court. Singha said Islam acted alone in raping the nun, adding that five others arrested for their involvement were charged with offences unrelated to the sexual assault. Islam will be sentenced today. The nun, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was attacked after the robbers ransacked the Convent of Jesus and Mary in Ranaghat and stole cash and other items.

Car ploughs into class

SYDNEY: Two young children were killed and three seriously injured yesterday when a car ploughed into their classroom at a Sydney school, with witnesses and emergency services describing "pandemonium" at the scene. The tragedy occurred at the Banksia Road Public School when the car smashed into a wooden classroom building not long after lessons started. The license of the 52-year-old woman driver was suspended and she was charged with two counts of dangerous driving causing death and with negligent driving. She was reportedly dropping off a child at the time. "The vehicle continued inside the building and tragically we have had a number of young children injured as a result," said Stewart Smith, assistant commissioner of traffic police in New South Wales state. "As a result of that collision, five kids were urgently conveyed to Westmead Hospital. Tragically, two of those kids, male children, are deceased."

'Most-wanted' fugitive

BEIJING: One of China's "most-wanted" overseas fugitives, a manager in a real estate company sought on charges of corruption and bribery, turned himself in yesterday after fleeing to Canada seven years ago, the anti-graft agency said. He Jian, a manager in the northern province of Hebei who had fled in September 2010, becomes the 49th on a list of 100 most-wanted individuals to return, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said on its website. Reuters could not immediately reach He, his family, or a legal representative to seek comment. He's assets were frozen after he fled and Interpol issued a "red notice" for his provisional arrest, the agency said, but it did not make clear where He lived after his flight to Canada, nor from which country he had returned. The widely-publicized "Fox Hunt" and "Sky Net" operations to repatriate overseas fugitives suspected of corruption and economic crimes constitute a key plank of President Xi Jinping's sweeping anti-graft campaign.

Bloody dog-boar fights

JAKARTA: Authorities in Indonesia's West Java province have called a halt to contests pitting dogs against wild boars, following media coverage of the bloody spectacle and pressure by animal rights activists, the provincial governor's spokesman said yesterday. Last month, Reuters reported that cash prizes of up to \$2,000 were being given to dogs victorious in the fights, which villagers call 'adu bagong', or boar fighting. Owners of participating animals said they saw the fights as a way to preserve a regional tradition, besides testing the agility and hunting abilities of the dogs. "Not all traditions that we have are good," said Ade Sukalsah, a spokesman for provincial governor Ahmad Heryawan.

Fear and faith: Church security scrutinized after Texas massacre

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS: After one of the nation's deadliest mass shootings unfolded on their doorstep, pastors and parishioners around the tiny Texas hamlet of Sutherland Springs have begun asking whether guns have a rightful place inside their houses of worship. It is a debate that is echoing across the United States as security experts and some politicians ask churches to consider a wide range of enhanced measures to thwart tragedies like Sunday's deadly rampage at the First Baptist Church.

Barbara Burdette, who knew the 26 people killed in the massacre and as well as the 20 wounded, is ready to see her church hire armed security, or allow congregants to carry their own concealed firearms for self-defense. "God is our protector," said Burdette, 62, "but I do still think that we need to have people with conceal carry." Her pastor at the First Baptist Church of La Vernia, a one-story brick sanctuary 7 miles from the shooting scene, said the issue of

Japan 'Black Widow' sentenced to death

TOKYO: A one-time millionairess dubbed the "Black Widow", who tricked elderly lovers into drinking cyanide and then pocketed millions in insurance payouts and inheritance, was sentenced to death in Japan yesterday. Kyoto District Court condemned Chisako Kakehi, 70, to the gallows for the murder of three men-including her husband-and for the attempted murder of another, ending a high-profile case that has gripped the country. Kakehi became notorious after using poison to dispatch a number of elderly men she was involved with, drawing comparisons with the spider that kills its mate after copulation.

"The accused made the victims drink a cyanide compound with a murderous intention in all four cases," Judge Ayako Nakagawa told the court, according to public broadcaster NHK. "The cases were well prepared in advance. They were cunning and malicious. I have no choice but to impose the ultimate penalty." Nakagawa rejected defense lawyers' arguments that Kakehi was not criminally liable because she was suffering from dementia. More than 560 people queued for 51 seats in the courtroom to witness the outcome of the marathon trial, which lasted 135 days. It was the second-longest court case involving a jury since Japan introduced a joint judge-jury system in 2009.

'Love of money'

Gray-haired Kakehi, wearing a hearing aid headphone, asked the judge to speak loudly. She showed no emotion when the judge handed down the sentence. The court said she killed the men after they made her the beneficiary of life assurance policies that reportedly ran into millions of dollars. "For the love of money," the accused poisoned the victims who fully trusted her, the judge said. Kakehi reportedly amassed one billion yen (\$8.8 million) in payouts over 10 years but subsequently lost most of the fortune through unsuccessful financial trading.

She had relationships with many men, mostly elderly or

Catalonia deposed leader urges unity as deadline nears

MADRID: Catalonia's deposed leader Carles Puigdemont yesterday urged the region's political forces to unite against Spain, as hours remained for him to agree terms for an electoral pact with other pro-independence parties. Puigdemont went into self-imposed exile in Belgium last month after Spain's central government fired his secessionist

guns in church requires a delicate balance between providing safety instead of fear.

Arming parishioners is not the only option. At the historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina, where a white gunman killed nine at a June 2015 bible study session, uniformed police officers now attend regular worship services. "It's part of our new normal," said Reverend Eric Manning at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, by phone. He said the church also created in-house security, as have most black churches in the region. Muslim and Jewish institutions for years have added security measures to address the threat of violence and hate crimes.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) stresses the importance of security cameras, strong doors and clearing brush away from buildings so attackers have no place to hide. A law enforcement vehicle prominently parked in front of a house of worship is also a strong deterrent to crime, said Claude Pichard, director of Training Force USA, which worked with churches across the country to improve security after the Charleston shooting. The question of enabling, or even encouraging, parishioners to shoot back is a discussion particularly important to communities where guns are a part of life, such as rural Texas.

In Sutherland Springs, the shooter was confronted as he left the church by a resident who shot and wounded him. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton told Fox News that churches should consider whether they wanted parishioners to be armed as a way of preventing another tragedy. His state allows for the concealed carrying of handguns by

licensed owners. It is not clear exactly how First Baptist Church, where the shooting occurred, addressed gun issues.

A sheriff in Williamson County, Texas, a two-hour drive from the massacre, expects to discuss arming parishioners at a church security summit he is organizing in the wake of the attack. He said churches have a responsibility to ensure that responding officers can distinguish a protector from the assailant. "What are you doing to make sure we don't have a friendly on friendly fire?" said Sheriff Robert Chody by phone. New Life Church, a congregation of 10,000 people in Colorado Springs, Colorado, requires churchgoers to leave their guns in their vehicles, a decade after it was the scene of a deadly shooting that killed two. A parishioner trained in church security used a firearm to wound the shooter, preventing greater carnage, said pastor Brady Boyd.

"Pastors are now waking up to this reality that we are not living in Mayberry anymore," he said, referring to the fictitious North Carolina hometown on the "Andy Griffith Show," a long-running 1960s television comedy. He pointed out that no church could have security in place to withstand an attack by a military-trained shooter using an assault rifle, the scenario that unfolded this weekend in Texas. About 10 miles from the shooting, Floresville Christian Fellowship Pastor Bennie Herrera said he needed to re-examine security but knows there is only so much that can be done. "We will not be gripped by fear," he said. "Faith will rise up and we will come together," he said. —Reuters



KYOTO, Japan: Japanese woman Chisako Kakehi, who was arrested on suspicion of poisoning her husband with cyanide in the latest 'Black Widow' case, arrives at the Kyoto district court. —AFP

ill, meeting some through dating agencies, where she reportedly stipulated that prospective partners should be wealthy and childless. Kakehi, also known as "The Poison Lady", is said to have stashed some of her cyanide in a plant pot she later threw out. The poison was found in the body of at least two of the men she was involved with and police reportedly found traces of cyanide in the rubbish at her Kyoto home.

They also found paraphernalia for administering drugs and medical books at an apartment she kept south of

Kyoto. Kakehi initially refused to speak when her trial began in June but later stunned the court by admitting killing her fourth husband in 2013. "I killed him... because he gave other women tens of millions of yen but did not give me even a penny," she told the court, according to Jiji Press. She had earlier told judges she was ready to hang. "Even if I were executed tomorrow, I would die smiling," Kakehi told judges. After yesterday's ruling, her lawyers immediately appealed to a higher court, suggesting the high-profile trial could yet drag on. —AFP

administration, dissolved the Catalan parliament and called an election in the region for Dec 21. Madrid also issued an arrest warrant against him on charges including rebellion, but a Brussels court ruled on Monday he could remain at liberty in Belgium until it had decided whether he should be extradited. The independence push has deeply divided the country, dragging it into its worst political crisis since its return to democracy four decades ago and fuelling anti-Spanish feelings in Catalonia and nationalist tendencies elsewhere.

Pro-independence parties want the December vote to become a de facto independence referendum, and Puigdemont's PDeCAT and the ERC party led by Oriol Junqueras said at the weekend they might contest it on a combined ticket. But they must register any alliance by the end of Tuesday, and prospects of them bridging their differ-

ences in time looked slim. ERC's spokesman Sergi Sabria said on Monday his party did not rule out a coalition with PDeCAT, but would agree only if other parties joined them, including the anti-capitalist CUP which has yet to decide whether it will contest the December ballot.

Polls suggest secessionist parties would win enough votes combined to hold a slim majority in the Catalan parliament. Running together would increase their chance of success. Puigdemont and other secessionist leaders face charges of rebellion, sedition, misuse of public funds, disobedience and breach of public trust for organizing an illegal independence referendum on Oct 1 and later proclaiming a Catalan republic, something that goes against Spain's constitution. In an interview with Catalunya Radio yesterday, Puigdemont said all parties standing in the region should unite against Madrid's actions. —Reuters

International

China detains N Koreans amid possible defector crackdown

Group detained in Shenyang, trying to defect to S Korea

SEOUL: Ten North Koreans, including a three-year-old child, have been detained in China, where they face being deported back to the North, two sources with direct knowledge of the situation said. The group was trying to defect to South Korea but were detained by Chinese police in the northeastern city of Shenyang in Liaoning province, according to the sources, both of whom requested anonymity citing the sensitivity of the situation.

China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in a daily news briefing yesterday she was unaware of details of the case. She said China consistently upholds the handling of such matters in accordance with domestic and international law and humanitarian principles. One of the two sources said yesterday he was able to confirm the group was in Shenyang until Monday morning, "but they seem to have been transferred elsewhere since then".

The man only wanted to be identified by his surname Lee because his wife and three-year-old son were among the detained 10. "I told her to call again and was waiting and hoping she would find a safe place somewhere, but she never called me back," Lee said. The group consisted of seven women and three men, Lee said. His wife and son had met the rest of the group at a safe house in Shenyang, but lost contact with him on Saturday, Lee said. A second source with direct knowledge of the situation confirmed the detention and said that China appeared to have intensified its crackdown on North Korean defectors in China, especially in the past two months.



Rights group says defector arrests rise sharply

Deputy Asia Director for Human Rights Watch, said in a statement about the most recent detention.

"China should release this group of 10 North Koreans and let them proceed to a third country where they can receive the protection they urgently need," Robertson said. China says North Korean defectors are illegal migrants who flee their country for economic reasons, and does not treat them as refugees. North Korea calls them criminals and describes those who try to bring them to South Korea as kidnappers. The vast majority of North Koreans who escape to China defect to South Korea where over 31,000 of them have resettled, according to South Korean government data. Safe passage for defectors fleeing oppressive North Korea often depends on their ability to make the grueling and at times dangerous trip across rural China without being detected.

'Diplomatic efforts'

South Korean foreign ministry spokesman Roh Kyu-deok said Seoul was "closely monitoring" the latest case of the 10 North Koreans in China. "We're making diplomatic efforts with related countries so that the defectors will not be forcibly repatriated," Roh said, declining to provide details citing safety concerns and "cooperative relations" with those countries. An official at the South Korean consulate in Shenyang said they had checked with local police regarding the whereabouts of the group, but had been unable to reach them.

The official said it had "become even tougher" for defectors to cross the border into China following tightened security around the Chinese Communist Party congress last month. Last week, Seoul and Beijing agreed to move beyond a year-long stand-off over the deployment of a US anti-missile system in South Korea - a factor which some observers worry may make Seoul more reluctant to raise the issue of deportations. "North Korean defectors and people working in the field are worried that South Korea isn't raising this issue with Beijing as strongly as before, as they are trying to improve relations," said the second source with direct knowledge of the group detained in Shenyang.—Reuters



This undated picture shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (center) visiting the March 16 factory at an undisclosed place. —AFP

Delhi wakes up to 'hazardous' smog

NEW DELHI: New Delhi woke up to a choking blanket of smog yesterday as air quality in the world's most polluted capital city reached hazardous levels. The US embassy website said levels of the fine pollutants known as PM2.5 that are most harmful to health reached 703 — well over double the threshold of 300 which authorities class as hazardous. "The moment I stepped out of my home I started coughing and there was a burning sensation in my eyes," said Naresh Yadav, a bank employee, as he walked to work in central Delhi.

"The government can't solve this problem alone,

people need to pitch in and help the government to protect the environment." Delhi's air quality typically worsens ahead of the onset of winter as cooler air traps pollutants near the ground, preventing them from dispersing into the atmosphere, a phenomenon known as inversion. Firecrackers set off to celebrate the Diwali festival of lights in the city add to the toxic mix created by pollution from diesel engines, coal-fired power plants and industrial emissions.

The problem is further exacerbated by the burning of crop stubble by farmers after the harvest in north India, a practice that remains commonplace despite an official ban. India's Central Pollution Control Board said high levels of moisture in the air and a lack of wind meant emissions had become trapped in the environment. "Total calm conditions, marked by the complete absence of wind, has led to the situation," Dipankar Saha, a senior executive with the board, told the Press Trust of India news agency.—AFP

News in brief

Scottish parliament evacuated

EDINBURGH: Police said the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh was evacuated yesterday after a suspicious package was found, with a source saying a suspicious white powder had been sent to a Conservative Party lawmaker. "It's a white powder incident, there were a couple of suspicious packages sent to a Tory (Conservative) MSP," the source at the parliament said. Asked how long the incident could last "police told us it could be a while". "Police in Edinburgh responded to the Scottish Parliament at around 11.35 am ... following the discovery of a suspicious package," police said in a statement. "The building has been evacuated as a precaution and inquiries are continuing." The Scottish parliament confirmed the incident was ongoing and police were at the scene.

Greens drop demands

BERLIN: The leaders of Germany's Greens said yesterday they would not insist on fixed dates to shut down coal-fired power stations and ban cars with internal combustion engines, dropping two key demands ahead of crunch coalition talks with other parties. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose conservative bloc came first but lost seats in a federal election in September, is trying to forge a tricky three-way alliance with the Greens and the pro-business FDP that is untested at national level. Despite weeks of exploratory talks, the parties remain far apart on climate, energy and immigration policy and they disagree on where the blame lies for the lack of progress. A lack of progress in coalition talks would mean that Germany faces a lengthy period of drift at a time when Europe's biggest economy is firing on all cylinders and many in Europe look to Berlin for leadership on issues ranging from euro zone governance to trans-Atlantic ties.

US ends 'protected' status

WASHINGTON: The US government has announced the end of a program which gives 5,300 Nicaraguan immigrants temporary protection in the United States, while tens of thousands of Hondurans will have their stay extended. Most of them arrived illegally but were allowed to remain under Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which applies to migrants from several countries around the world. The decision to end TPS for Nicaragua on January 5, 2019, announced on Monday, comes as President Donald Trump's administration tries on many fronts to restrict the flow of immigrants and refugees. Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke said the end date would provide for "an orderly transition." In a statement, she said she needed more information before making a final decision on Honduras.

Trafficked on Myanmar passports, Indian maids struggle to return home

AIZWAL: The 17-year-old recalls being excited as she took the car journey and bus ride from her home in northeast India and across the border into Myanmar. But a few weeks into her stay in Yangon, a phone call to her distraught mother suddenly made her fearful. "She told me I had illegally crossed into another country," she said. "My family said I should come back and their tone made me very scared." An agent - a man she had seen around her neighborhood but "didn't know too well" - had housed her in a Yangon hostel, and had promised to get her a fake Myanmar passport and a well paid job, she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. She and seven other girls from northeast Indian state of Manipur had crossed borders in June and were holed up in Yangon for three months, waiting to be moved on to jobs as housemaids in Singapore or Malaysia with their new travel documents. They were among hundreds who transit through Myanmar's biggest city - an emerging hub for traffickers seeking to send Indian girls to Southeast Asia to become domestic workers, said Hasina Kharbhij of Impulse NGO Network, a charity that has helped repatriate many trafficking victims.

Travelling on illegal documents leaves the already vulnerable young women with little protection, she said. Since Myanmar's democratic government took over in 2016, it has been easier to travel through the country and traffickers have stepped up activity, according to a recent report by the anti-trafficking unit in northeast Indian state of Mizoram.

"The Myanmar route to South East Asia is seeing increasing trafficking because for many miles on both sides of the border, the people are the same - speaking the same language, looking the same," said Thianghlma Pachuau, head of the Mizoram police force. "We have had tragic cases in the region. In one instance the girl died in Singapore but could not be brought home (to India) since her documents indicated she was a Myanmar national. Her parents never got closure."

Border routes

Years of ethnic violence and armed conflicts in northeast India have made it a trafficking hotspot, campaigners say. The region is a source, destination and transit point for girls being trafficked into brothels or domestic servitude. The underdeveloped region is bordered by China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan. Many of these porous borders are crossed every day by thousands of people, who share similar ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural characteristics, security officials say.

Traditionally, traffickers have used Nepal as a transit point to send women to the Gulf countries. But trafficking through Myanmar is now on the rise, police say. More, a thriving business hub on the India-Myanmar border, is the first stop for girls trafficked from the northeastern states. "The border crossing is easy because agents have family and friends along border villages, who shelter the girls and get them across," Pachuau said.

"Once they cross over, they are told not to reveal their Indian identities and then they are just lost." Now back home, the 17-year-old high school dropout - who did not want to reveal her name - remembers praying three times a day in her Yangon room as she waited for the agent to get her a passport and ticket to fly to Singapore to work as a maid. "I thought I was escaping to a better place. I was wrong," she said.—Reuters

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Nicaragua climate politics in hot water over canal plan

Shaking off its climate change "pariah" status alongside the United States and war-torn Syria, Central American nation Nicaragua took the plunge and joined the Paris Agreement to tackle global warming before UN climate talks began on Monday. But environmentalists say Nicaragua's lecturing of big polluters and ambitious renewable energy goals contrast with its slack environmental protection and a controversial plan to carve out a \$50 billion Chinese-backed shipping canal from coast to coast with potentially severe impacts.

"The government talks a lot about respect for 'Mother Earth' and care of the environment. But that is just political rhetoric - in practice, the government is too lenient on environmental contamination," said Jorge Huete-Perez, University of Central America professor and vice president of Nicaragua's Academy of Sciences. In 2015, Nicaragua was the only one of about 195 countries to reject outright the Paris deal, which it deemed too weak to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, as well as unfair for holding poorer nations to account in the same way as developed countries.

But ahead of the annual UN climate negotiations taking place in Bonn, Nicaragua said the pact aimed at reducing planet-warming emissions was the only international mechanism that could turn the tide on climate change. Being in the accord could give the country of 6 million a better chance to ramp up pressure on industrialized nations for more climate action, said experts.

Liane Schalatek, associate director at the Heinrich B'Il Foundation North America, said Nicaragua's change of heart indicated it did not want to be associated with US President Donald Trump's aim to renegotiate the Paris Agreement. "It really narrows the circle of climate pariahs to two countries," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Some believe Nicaragua's U-turn, recent weather disasters and growing Chinese and Indian climate leadership combined may have a slim chance of nudging Trump back to the pact he said the United States would leave because it would harm the economy.

"I'm hopeful the US administration understands... the degree to which climate is one of the overwhelming priorities in the international agenda, along with issues such as security and trade," said Paula Caballero, global director of the World Resources Institute's climate program. Ranked as the second-poorest country in the northern hemisphere, heavily deforested Nicaragua is one of the region's most vulnerable to disasters - hit regularly by storms, floods, droughts and earthquakes.

The decision by President Daniel Ortega, a former Marxist guerrilla leader, to join the Paris Agreement could help funnel more cash into green energy and other development projects in Nicaragua which once received subsidized Venezuelan oil. Lauded by the World Bank as a "renewable energy paradise", Nicaragua generates over 50 percent of its power from geothermal, wind and other clean sources, with plans to reach 90 percent.

Raul Delgado, lead climate change specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank, said joining the Paris accord could open the door for Nicaragua to access money from the Green Climate Fund and other international pots. "It's a good time for them to join," he added. Some said the timing fits with the expected appointment next year of Nicaragua's chief climate negotiator Paul Oquist to the influential co-chair position at the multi-billion-dollar Green Climate Fund, where he is now an alternate board member. Oquist, also a government minister, did not respond to requests for comment.

All talk?

Environmentalists, however, point to a stark contrast between Nicaragua's hard-line climate stance on the international stage and weak environmental regulation at home, urging the government to halt deforestation, tighten controls on miners and help communities adapt to climate impacts. Dozens of demonstrations have been held to oppose a planned 278-km Caribbean-to-Pacific canal, approved by the National Assembly in 2013. Campaigners say it would lead to mass evictions and destroy rainforest, wetlands and endangered species as it slices through protected and indigenous land.

Crossing Lake Nicaragua, the biggest in Central America, it risks widespread damage from dredging and contamination of the water on which many rely, they say. A key environmental impact report was superficial and flawed, they argue. "It's going to affect important ecosystems - there's the fear that the lake water will become salinated, and also there's the potential of accidents with the ships circulating in the area," said Victor Campos, director of Managua's Centro Humboldt, an environmental non-profit group. "There's no consistency between the political will shown at an international level and the steps they are taking internally," he added.

Campaigners against the canal - designed to rival Panama's - also say they have suffered violence and intimidation. Human rights watchdog Global Witness ranks Nicaragua as the most dangerous country for environmental activists per capita, with 11 killed last year. "There does remain a considerable gulf across a number of countries between what they say (on climate change) and what they're actually doing," said Guy Edwards, a research fellow at Brown University. —Reuters



Iran vying for leadership of Iraq Shiites

In early September, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, a senior Iranian official and cleric, flew to the holy city of Najaf in southern Iraq. His entourage included a sizable security detail and the former head of the Revolutionary Guards, the most powerful military force in the Islamic Republic. Shahroudi, 69, spent several days on a charm offensive meeting officials, clerics and seminary students at his office near the golden dome shrine of Imam Ali, one of the world's holiest Shiite sites.

His aim was to raise his profile as a replacement for the top Shiite cleric and most powerful man in Iraq: the 87-year-old Ayatollah Ali Sistani, according to current and former Iraqi officials. While attention has focused on Iraq's battle against Islamic State, the country's future could equally hinge on what is happening in Najaf. With Sistani's advanced age and persistent rumors about his health, the question of his replacement has become more pertinent.

Iraqi Shiite factions are jockeying to influence who replaces Sistani. Iran, whose population is mostly Shiite, backs Shahroudi. Shahroudi could prove a controversial replacement for Sistani. Senior clergy in Najaf are wary of Iran trying to expand its influence and Shahroudi is viewed with some suspicion, although he could still build support among students. Since Sistani has distanced himself from Iranian politics some of his followers may not want a replacement who is close to Tehran.

Sources in Najaf were unwilling to go on the record on a matter as sensitive as Sistani's successor, but a former senior Iraqi official told Reuters: "The Iranians will try their best. It's not just religious, politics have become part of it. It will decide the fate of Iraq."

Disputed areas

Iran has already expanded its influence in Iraq by helping the Shiite-led government in Baghdad retake disputed areas from the Kurds. The head of the branch of the Revolutionary Guards responsible for operations outside Iran, Qassem Soleimani, personally convinced some Kurdish leaders to abandon their claim to contested towns, like the oil-rich Kirkuk. Attempts to reach Shahroudi and the Revolutionary Guards media office were unsuccessful, as were attempts to reach Sistani's office for comment.

US working homeless sleep in cars

In the same affluent, suburban city where Google built its headquarters, Tes Saldana lives in a crowded but tidy camper she parks on the street. She concedes it's "not a very nice living situation," but it also is not unusual. Until authorities told them to move, more than a dozen other RVs filled with people who can't afford rent joined Saldana on a tree-lined street in Mountain View, parked between a Target and a luxury apartment complex.

Homeless advocates and city officials say it's outrageous that in the shadow of a booming tech economy - where young millionaires dine on \$15 wood-grilled avocado and think nothing of paying \$1,000 for an iPhone X - thousands of families can't afford a home. Many of the homeless work regular jobs, in some cases serving the very people whose sky-high net worth is the reason housing has become unaffordable for so many. Across the street from Saldana's camper, for example, two-bedroom units in the apartment complex start at \$3,840, including concierge service. That's more than she brings home, even in a good month.

Saldana and her three adult sons, who live with her, have looked for less rustic accommodations, but rents are \$3,000 a month or more, and most of the available housing is distant. She said it makes more sense to stay in the camper near their jobs and try to save for a brighter future, even if a recent city crackdown chased them from their parking spot. "We still need to eat," said Saldana, 51. "I still want to bring my kids, once in a while, to a movie, to eat out."

She cooks and serves food at two hotels in nearby Palo Alto, jobs that keep her going most days from 5 in the morning until 10 at night. Two of her sons, all in their 20s, work at a bakery and pay \$700 toward the RV each month. They're all very much aware of the economic disparity in Silicon Valley. "How

If Iran can influence who becomes the next top Shiite cleric in Iraq, it could tighten its grip on power within the country for years. A senior cleric in Najaf who is sympathetic to the interests of Iran would also eliminate a rival to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who claims to be the leader of Shiites worldwide. For years, Sistani, who has endorsed a religious and political viewpoint independent of Iran, has been Khamenei's top challenger for the leadership of the global Shiite community.

Sistani is rarely seen in public but his decrees are sacrosanct to his millions of Shiite followers. Sistani's fatwa to rise

support of a large number of ordinary Shiites, seminary students and other clerics. Shahroudi is no stranger to Najaf: he was born in the city to Iranian parents. In the 1970s he was jailed and tortured by Saddam Hussein's security forces because of his political activities. He moved to Iran after the Islamic revolution and has been promoted to top posts since Khamenei became supreme leader in 1989. Shahroudi was head of the Iranian judiciary for a decade and is currently the head of the Expediency Council, a body intended to resolve disputes between parliament and a hardline watchdog body, the Guardian Council. In public, Shahroudi is often seen sitting next to Khamenei.

Rally support

Shahroudi's visit is only one sign of how Tehran is trying to rally support for its candidate to replace Sistani. A company linked to the Revolutionary Guards is involved in a \$300 million project to expand the Imam Ali shrine, making it the second largest Muslim holy site after Makkah in Saudi Arabia. "These projects create a state of dependency between recipients of aid and Iran since they integrate the Iraqi infrastructure into the Iranian infrastructure network," said Ali Alfoneh, an expert on the Guards at the Atlantic Council. "Furthermore, such activities provide a cover for the Islamic Republic's intelligence networks operating in Iraq."

In 2011, Shahroudi opened an office in Najaf and began paying clerical students stipends, which observers say was an attempt by Iran to increase its influence. "It was a provocative move," said an Iraqi analyst familiar with the Shiite clergy who asked not to be identified. Shahroudi subsequently opened offices in Baghdad and Karbala. He pays stipends to thousands of seminary students, according to Iraqi officials and clerical sources in Najaf.

Clerics often pay stipends to students to gather support, raise their profile and perhaps become accepted as a marja, or top cleric, observers say. "Iran is trying to influence the process of who comes after Sistani through the students," said a Western diplomat in Iraq who did not have permission to speak on the record. Sistani is now the main sponsor of Shiite clerical students, paying millions of dollars in Iraq and elsewhere. His son Mohammed Ridha oversees the financial and administrative work of his office. —Reuters



Senior clergy in Najaf are wary of Iran

Without Sistani's restraining influence, clashes are likely to break out between sects as well as among rival Shiite groups, Iraqi officials and observers say. "Sistani is not just a poor guy sitting in a house. He can control millions of people," the Iraqi former senior official said. "It will be a very bloody struggle after Sistani passes away." Sources in Najaf expect Sistani to remain in his post until his death. There is no clear succession process, but Shahroudi would need to obtain the

group's push toward Baghdad in 2014. The cleric has also used his decrees to reduce sectarian violence in the country. Sistani opposed the secession of the Kurdish region after the referendum on independence in September but then urged Baghdad to protect Kurds after reports of abuses surfaced last month.

about for us people who are serving these tech people?" Saldana said. "We don't get the same paycheck that they do."

It's all part of a growing crisis along the West Coast, where many cities and counties have seen a surge in the number of people living on the streets over the past two years. Counts taken earlier this year show 168,000 homeless people in California, Oregon and Washington - 20,000 more than were counted just two years ago.

The booming economy, fueled by the tech sector, and decades of under-building have led to an historic shortage of affordable housing. It has upended the stereotypical view of people out on the streets as unemployed: They are retail clerks, plumbers, janitors - even teachers - who go to work, sleep where they can and buy gym memberships for a place to shower.

States of emergency

The surge in homelessness has prompted at least 10 local governments along the West Coast to declare states of emergency, and cities from San Diego to Seattle are struggling to come up with immediate and long-range solutions. San Francisco is well-known for homeless tent encampments. But the homeless problem has now spread throughout Silicon Valley, where the disparity between the rich and everyone else is glaring.

There is no firm estimate on the number of people who live in vehicles in Silicon Valley, but the problem is pervasive and apparent to anyone who sees RVs lining thoroughfares; not as visible are the cars tucked away at night in parking lots. Advocates for the homeless say it will only get worse unless more affordable housing is built. The median rent in the San Jose metro area is \$3,500 a month, yet the median wage is \$12 an hour in food service and \$19 an hour in health care support, an amount that won't even cover housing costs. The minimum annual salary needed to live comfortably in San Jose is \$87,000, according to a study by personal finance website GoBankingRates.

So dilapidated RVs line the eastern edge of Stanford University in Palo Alto, and officials in neighboring Mountain View have mapped out more than a dozen areas where



In this photo taken Oct 10, 2017, Ellen Tara James-Penney, a lecturer at San Jose State University, prepares to stay the night inside her station wagon in the parking lot of Grace Baptist Church in San Jose, California. —AP

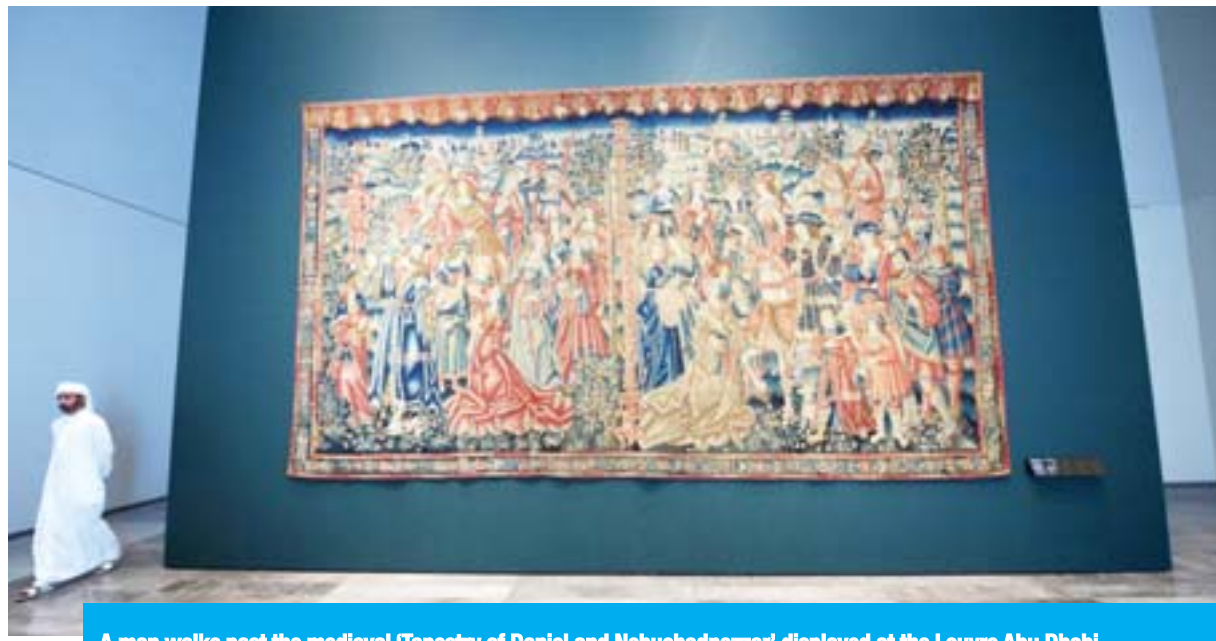
campers tend to cluster, some of them about a mile from Google headquarters.

On a recent evening, Benito Hernandez returned to a crammed RV in Mountain View after laying flagstones for a home in Atherton, where Zillow pegs the median value of a house at \$6.5 million. He rents the RV for \$1,000 a month and lives there with his pregnant wife and children. The family was evicted two years ago from an apartment where the rent kept going up, nearing \$3,000 a month. "After that, I lost everything," said Hernandez, 33, who works as a landscaper and roofer. He says his wife "is a little bit sad because she says, 'You're working very hard but don't have credit to get an apartment.' I tell her, 'Just wait, maybe a half-year more, and I'll get my credit back.'"

The plight of the Hernandez family points out one of the confounding problems of the homeless surge along the West Coast. "This is not a crisis of unemployment that's leading to poverty around here," said Tom Myers, executive director of Community Services Agency, a nonprofit based in Mountain View. "People are working." —AP

Louvre Abu Dhabi prepares to unveil itself to the world

Matisse meets George Washington at new museum



A man walks past the medieval 'Tapestry of Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar' displayed at the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Hariri visits UAE as Saudis up ante...

Continued from Page 1

fighting on the streets of Beirut that only underlined Hezbollah's military dominance. The regional struggle moved elsewhere in recent years, notably neighboring Syria where years of Saudi investment in rebel groups fighting President Bashar Al-Assad failed to withstand direct military intervention by Iran and Hezbollah.

In Iraq, Tehran-backed militias and Iranian commanders have often seemed as powerful as the US-backed Iraqi military, most recently in an operation to retake Kirkuk from Kurdish forces. So emboldened was Iran that top Iranian official Ali Akbar Velayati trumpeted his regional alliance's success from Beirut last Friday, declaring victories in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. His statement to the media after a meeting with Hariri was seen as a major provocation to regional Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia. Hariri left for Saudi Arabia immediately afterwards, cancelling previously scheduled engagements and catching even his closest advisors off guard the next day with a declaration first

broadcast by Saudi-owned media.

Hezbollah was established by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in 1982 to fight Israeli troops in Lebanon. Its last major war with Israel was in 2006, since when Hezbollah has grown stronger. While Sabhan vowed that Hezbollah would be forced back into "its caves" in southern Lebanon, any Saudi military action in Lebanon - such as air strikes - would come as a major surprise. Political paralysis and tension is however a big threat to an already stagnant economy, and could derail next year's parliamentary elections - Lebanon's first since 2009. Policymakers have scrambled to calm concern over the financial stability of the heavily indebted state. They say the Lebanese pound - pegged against the dollar at the same rate for 20 years - is stable.

Hariri was spearheading efforts to garner international aid to help Lebanon deal with the strain of hosting 1.5 million Syrian refugees, or a quarter of the population. Leaders on all sides say there should be no further escalation. Both Hezbollah and Hariri's Future Movement have worked to contain Sunni-Shiite tensions during the war in neighboring Syria. Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has called for calm and patience in the face of Hariri's resignation. Okab Sakr, a member of Hariri's Future Movement, noted that protests in solidarity with Hariri had been cancelled to avoid trouble. — Agencies

Houthis threaten to attack Saudi...

Continued from Page 1

The rebels' threat of more missile attacks like that on Riyadh airport threatens to escalate the proxy conflict between Riyadh and Tehran, which back opposing sides in wars and power struggles from Yemen to Syria. On Monday, the Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen said it

reserved the "right to respond" to the missile attack, calling it a blatant military aggression by the Iranian regime which might amount to an act of war.

The tensions come as Saudi Arabia remains embroiled in the biggest purge of the kingdom's elite in its modern history. Dozens of high-profile figures including princes, ministers as well as billionaire tycoon Al-Waleed bin Talal were swept up in the weekend purge - just after an anti-graft commission headed by Prince Mohammed was formed. US President Donald Trump voiced support for the crackdown late on Monday, saying that some of those arrested had been "milking their country for years". — Agencies

ABU DHABI: Nested under a dome with geometric arabesque patterns and appearing to float on water, the Louvre Abu Dhabi is now home to Matisse, Mondrian - and George Washington. The abstract expressionism of Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko hangs a few steps away from Henri Matisse, Vincent van Gogh and a portrait of George Washington in 12 "chapters", or galleries, in the Emirati capital. Other galleries are dedicated to artifacts from China, Iraq and DR Congo, among others, aimed at telling the story of the civilizations and religions of the world.

The museum expects to welcome around 5,000 visitors in its first days which start with the public opening on Nov 11, according to Mohammed Al-Mubarak, chairman of the Abu Dhabi Culture and Tourism Authority. "Because this is an international museum, we're expecting visitors from around the world," Mubarak said during a media tour ahead of the inauguration ceremony to be held today. "So a museum visitor from China will find something that speaks to her, to her history. A visitor from India will find the same."

On an island off the coast of Abu Dhabi, the galleries sit inside low-roofed white structures, reminiscent of an Arab "medina", surrounded by water that flows between the museum buildings. In one gallery - or chapter - is a dark, quiet room home to a leaf from the Blue Quran, a ninth century manuscript with gold lettering on blue parchment. Right next to the Quran sit a 1498 Yemeni Pentateuch, the first book of the Jewish Torah, and two volumes of a Gothic bible bound in calfskin going back to the 13th century.

A star attraction, according to organizers, is Leonardo da Vinci's "La Belle Ferronniere", the portrait of an unknown woman, which is on loan from the Louvre in Paris. And on your way out is Ai Weiwei's 23-foot-high "Fountain of Light," a spiralling structure draped in crystals inspired by communist plans for a massive monument that never actually saw the light of day.

The opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to carry the famed art brand outside of France, comes after a more than five-year delay. The launch comes a decade after France and the UAE agreed to a 30-year partnership reportedly worth \$1.1 billion, including nearly half a billion dollars for the rights to the Louvre brand alone. French President Emmanuel Macron is set to attend the inauguration on his first visit to the United Arab Emirates since taking office in May.

During construction, the project faced intense criticism

over conditions faced by laborers, who faced low pay, long hours and hot conditions. A worker was killed in an accident in 2015 while another died of "natural causes" in 2016, according to Abu Dhabi authorities. Hundreds working on projects on the island, including the Louvre, also were deported or lost their work visas for launching strikes over their conditions, according to a 2015 Human Rights Watch report. Labor strikes are illegal in the UAE.

Jean-Luc Martinez, the president-director of the Louvre in Paris, contends the museum spoke "very frankly" about laborer conditions. He described the museum as a bridge between Asia, Africa and Europe. "We are not a European museum," he told the AP. "It's a place to see the world from Abu Dhabi." That begins in the first gallery, where the floor bears an outline of the UAE with the names of different world cities in Arabic, Chinese, English and Hindi. Different cultures face each other in exhibits: For example, a French suit of armor is positioned to look directly across from a Japanese warrior's outfit.

The museum also makes a point to put the world's religions side by side. In one exhibit, a Jewish funerary stele from France in 1250 sits next to a Tunisian Muslim's funerary stele and a Christian archbishop's stone epitaph from Tyre, Lebanon. A painted French stone statue of Virgin and Child stands by a section of a Syrian Quran dating to around 1250, open to a page recounting the night during the holy month of Ramadan when the holy book was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In a Middle East still torn by religious and sectarian conflict, whether between Sunni and Shiite or Israelis and the Palestinians, simply putting them side by side is a major statement. "By addressing their message to all humanity without distinction, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam transcended local cultural characteristics and deeply transformed ancient societies," one placard reads. "These religions shared with Judaism the concept of monotheism but diverged on the subjects such as the representation of the divine."

Nudity, however, is only lightly represented, either in bare breasts on an Italian dish or nude bronze ballerina statuettes by Edgar Degas, seemingly dancing in the line of sight of James McNeill Whistler's famed painting of his mother. Whistler's painting joins a woman's portrait on wood by Leonardo da Vinci, two works by Pablo Picasso and a hot-pink Andy Warhol image of an electric chair. — Agencies



ABU DHABI: A cleaner mops the floor next to a painting titled "Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul, Crossing the Alps" by French artist Jacques-Louis David at the Louvre Abu Dhabi during a media tour on Monday on Saadiyat Island. — AFP

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Sports

Veteran Rossi keen to keep racing beyond 40

MILAN: Italian motorcycling legend Valentino Rossi said yesterday he will make a decision on his future next year but was keen to keep racing beyond 40. "I will decide on my future over the next season," the Yamaha rider, who turns 39 in February, told Sky Sport Italia. "If I find out after a few races that I'm competitive, I'd like to keep going longer." The nine-time world champion suffered a double tibia and fibula fracture in early September but returned to competition after just three weeks fuelled by new energy and motivation. "I'm preparing in a focused and organised manner for the final weekend race in Valencia," he insisted ahead of the Spanish race he won in 2003 and 2004. Rossi is out of this season's title fight as he sits fourth ahead of Sunday's Valencia MotoGP where Spaniard Marc Marquez can clinch a fourth title in five seasons. —AFP



Spain's WCup jersey sparks controversy

MADRID: The Spain jersey that will be used in the World Cup has sparked controversy after being linked to the Republican flag of the 1930s. The jersey has the colors red, yellow and blue, but some say that from afar the blue appears to have the same purple tone of the Republican flag used from 1931-39. The flag is still used by those who oppose the Spanish monarch. Apparel maker Adidas said there is no political implications in the jersey, and that the design was agreed upon with the Spanish soccer federation. Federation officials also said that there is no intended link to the Republican flag. The jersey is a throwback to the one used by Spain at the 1994 World Cup, with a side pattern mixing the three colors. Its main color remains red. Spain is in the midst of a political crisis after Catalonia pushed for independence from the rest of the country. —AP

Inter captain Icardi out of Argentina squad

MILAN: Inter Milan captain Mauro Icardi will miss Argentina's upcoming international friendlies because of a knee injury, his Serie A club confirmed yesterday. The 24-year-old picked up the injury against Torino at the weekend and will train separately for four or five days. But he will not travel to Russia for Saturday's friendly against the 2018 World Cup hosts and a game on Tuesday against Nigeria. "Mauro Icardi this morning underwent tests," the club said in a statement. "There is no tear for the Nerazzurri striker, but there is evidence of severe bruising with associated inflammation on the front of his right knee. "He'll have physiotherapy and separate work for four to five days, before returning to Luciano Spalletti's squad." Icardi had been on form for Inter Milan scoring 11 goals in 12 games as his side are third in Serie A two points off leaders Napoli. —AFP



Carlson scores in OT, Caps beat Coyotes 3-2 for 3rd straight win

Tatar scores late in third to lift Red Wings over Canucks

NHL results/standings

Detroit 3, Vancouver 2; Winnipeg 4, Dallas 1; Boston 5, Minnesota 3; Toronto 4, Las Vegas 3 (SO); NY Rangers 5, Columbus 3; Washington 3, Arizona 2 (OT).

Western Conference

Central Division

	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
St. Louis	11	3	1	50	36	23
Winnipeg	8	3	3	46	40	19
Colorado	8	6	0	48	47	16
Nashville	7	5	2	37	41	16
Dallas	8	7	0	42	43	16
Chicago	7	6	2	43	36	16
Minnesota	5	6	2	40	40	12

Pacific Division

Los Angeles	10	2	2	48	31	22
Las Vegas	9	4	1	50	41	19
San Jose	8	5	0	36	30	16
Calgary	8	6	0	35	38	16
Vancouver	7	5	2	37	34	16
Anaheim	6	6	2	40	43	14
Edmonton	4	8	1	30	43	9
Arizona	2	12	2	41	65	6

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Tampa Bay	11	2	2	59	42	24
Toronto	9	7	0	61	58	18
Ottawa	6	3	5	51	47	17
Detroit	8	7	1	45	43	17
Boston	6	4	3	39	40	15
Montreal	6	8	1	41	55	13
Florida	4	7	2	47	56	10
Buffalo	4	8	2	35	53	10

Metropolitan Division

New Jersey	9	3	1	49	42	19
Columbus	9	5	1	51	43	19
Pittsburgh	8	6	2	42	58	18
NY Islanders	8	5	1	54	46	17
Washington	8	6	1	46	48	17
Philadelphia	7	6	2	47	43	16
NY Rangers	7	7	2	52	55	16
Carolina	4	5	3	32	37	11

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

WASHINGTON: John Carlson scored the winner in overtime and the Washington Capitals came back to beat the Arizona Coyotes 3-2 on Monday night for their first three-game winning streak of the season. Carlson scored with 45.4 seconds left on the clock in OT, his first goal in 16 games, after T.J. Oshie whiffed on his shot attempt. Devante Smith-Pelly and Alex Ovechkin scored in regulation for Washington, which got 24 saves from Braden Holtby. Clayton Keller scored his rookie-best 11th goal of the season and Christian Fischer added another for Arizona. Coyotes goalie Scott Wedgewood made 37 saves. The Capitals outshot the Coyotes 40-26.

RANGERS 5, BLUE JACKETS 3

Michael Grabner had two goals and New York scored four times in the third period to rally past Columbus for its fourth straight victory. Kevin Shattenkirk, Chris Kreider and Pavel Buchnevich scored in the third for the Rangers, with Mika Zibanejad getting an assist on all three goals. New York trailed 2-0 before Grabner got his first of the



Maple Leafs blew a two goal lead

game at 12:41 of the second. He sealed it on an empty-netter with 49 seconds left. Shattenkirk and Buchnevich each had a goal and an assist. Henrik Lundqvist made 22 saves as the Rangers improved to 7-7-2 this season. Artemi Panarin, Josh Anderson and Oliver Bjorkstrand scored for the Blue Jackets.

BRUINS 5, WILD 3

Jake DeBrusk and Frank Vatrano each scored a first-period goal, and Boston held off Minnesota for its third victory in the last 11 games against the Wild. Sean Kuraly and Torey Krug both scored in the second for the Bruins, shut out in two matchups versus Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk last season. Tim Schaller wrapped it up with an empty-netter in the final minute. Zdeno Chara and Jordan Szwarz each had two assists as Boston solved Dubnyk early this time. Minnesota's netminder was pulled after facing 24 shots in two periods. Tuukka Rask stopped 24 shots for Boston, including a right-pad save on Mikael Granlund's penalty shot with 13:05 to play. Eric Staal, Nino Niederreiter and Granlund each had a goal and for the Wild, who lost consecutive games in regulation for the first time this season.



WASHINGTON: Nicklas Backstrom #19 of the Washington Capitals crashes to the ice after colliding with Brad Richardson #15 of the Arizona Coyotes during the third period at Capital One Arena in Washington. — AFP

MAPLE LEAFS 4, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3, SO

Mitch Marner scored in the shootout to lift Toronto over Vegas after the Maple Leafs blew a two-goal lead. Nazem Kadri had two goals and James van Riemsdyk also scored for Toronto, which led 3-1 after the first period. Frederik Andersen made 22 saves and stopped three skaters in the shootout. Deryk Engelland's third-period goal for Vegas forced overtime. James Neal and Reilly Smith also scored for the expansion Golden Knights. Maxime Lagace stopped 25 shots. The win was a much-needed boost for a Maple Leafs team that had dropped back-to-back games and lost six of their past 10 after starting the season 7-1.

JETS 4, STARS 1

Mark Scheifele scored in the opening minute and final seconds, and Blake Wheeler had four assists to help Winnipeg beat Dallas. Patrik Laine scored on the power play and Kyle Connor also had a goal for the soaring Jets, who took a 3-0 lead after one period and are 8-1-3 in their

last 12 games. Connor Hellebuyck (8-0-2) made 33 saves for the win. Scheifele has five goals in two games against Dallas, including a hat trick in Winnipeg last Thursday. He has a 10-game point streak vs. the Stars, with 12 goals and 11 assists during that span. Dallas captain Jamie Benn scored on a power play at 4:13 of the second. Scheifele sent a wrist shot past Ben Bishop just 26 seconds into the game and added a short-handed goal into an empty net with 13 seconds to play.

RED WINGS 3, CANUCKS 2

Tomas Tatar scored the tiebreaking goal with 1:14 left to lift Detroit over Vancouver. Martin Frk and Darren Helm also scored for the Red Wings, who have won four of five following a six-game losing streak. Jimmy Howard stopped 26 shots after Petr Mrazek's 36-save shutout in Edmonton the night before. Daniel Sedin and Michael Del Zotto scored for Vancouver, which completed a 2-2-1 homestand. Jacob Markstrom made 26 saves in his fourth straight start. — AP

All Blacks fight for bus seats and food as depth shows

PARIS: The All Blacks have been left scrapping for food and the best seats on the team bus as the old heads of the world champion outfit are forced to accommodate a raft of young guns. Assistant coach Ian Foster predicted a "demanding" week ahead for the New Zealand backroom staff with an enlarged squad of 43 players. A host of more experienced players were rested for the opening autumn victory over the Barbarians, but they are now back for France and rubbing shoulders with a crop of outstanding up-and-coming talent that underlines New Zealand's strength in depth.

"In some ways it's more complex, in some ways it's easier," Foster said of the squad. "You've got a fully fit squad to train against, you've got plenty of energy. "You have the ability to run players against a full 15-on-15 scenario, which you sometimes don't have on tour what with injuries or illnesses." Foster added: "There are scraps to see who sits where on the bus, they're fighting for every bit of food and every seat they can get!" While lauding the inclusion of younger players, Foster played down the theory that it was an integral part of a longer-term strategy with an eye on the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

FOCUS ON HERE AND NOW

"The answer is no, but yes a little bit," Foster said. "You're always thinking of trying to take a helicopter view, looking at the bigger picture and assessing things, but you don't stay long in that state. "The art of it is to focus on the here and now... because that's what Test match rugby is about.

"If we don't (do that), we don't get what we want. "This game against France is all that matters." Turning to France, whom New Zealand take on at the Stade de France on Saturday, Foster expressed his wariness at Les Bleus' long injury list. "Talk about injuries and disruptions can galvanise a team," said the former Waikato fly-half.

"We're all under pressure for results. "When I look at the French situation, I see a massive player base... you've got a lot of quality players here. In some ways it's a little bit like us where you've been forced to give a number of newer, younger players more gametime in bigger games and sometimes that can be a blessing in disguise. "There'll be people out there wearing the blue jersey wanting to put their best foot forward.

"They're a team that is evolving," he said, calling France the "highest off-loading team in the world". "If we let them do that with their enthusiasm and younger players, we're going to be in trouble." Foster added: "From what we've seen, it's actually exciting times for France because if that can get some of these younger boys through, like Damien

Penaud and the midfield, if they get an opportunity, it's going to be massive for the depth of French rugby going forward and our job is make those lessons quite hard." — AFP

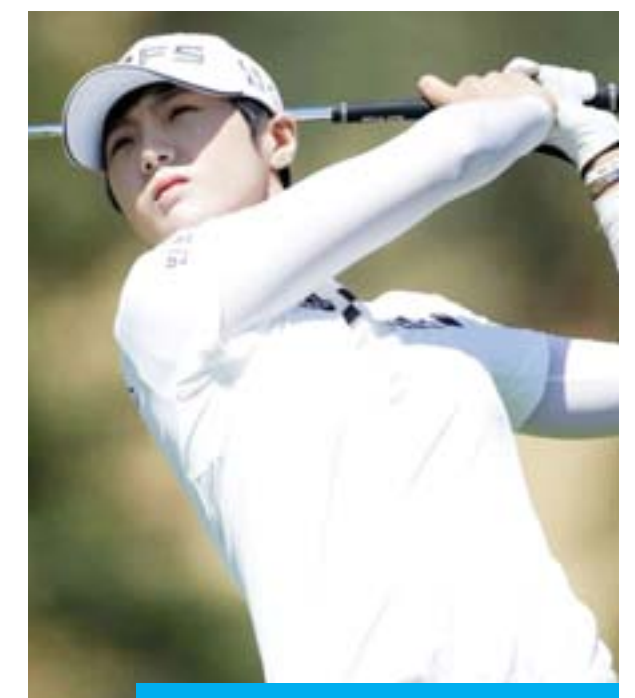
Park becomes first rookie number one

BEIJING: South Korean sensation Park Sung-Hyun became the first LPGA Tour rookie to be crowned world number one yesterday after a season in which she also won her first major. The 24-year-old, who knocked countrywoman Ryu So-Yeon off the top spot, is the fourth South Korean world number one since the rankings were introduced in 2006, joining Shin Ji-Yai, Park In-Bee and Ryu.

"I was very surprised and amazed by what I've achieved," Park told LPGA.com in Hainan Island, where she will play in this week's Blue Bay LPGA tournament. "This is all too sudden for me, and it hasn't hit me yet," Park added. "I think this is an honour for my whole family." Park reaches number one exactly a year after she held a press conference in Korea to announce she would take up membership on the LPGA Tour, after a season in which she won seven times on the Korean LPGA Tour, contended in three major championships and had risen to world number 10. Her incredible form carried through to the LPGA Tour this year with two wins to date including a first major at the US Women's Open, nine top-10 finishes and top-20 finishes at three other majors. Not only that, the super-consistent Park has never missed a cut in her 29 career LPGA Tour starts.

She had romped away with the LPGA's Rookie of the Year honours long before this season ended and with two tournaments to go, she is ranked second in the Player of the Year standings.

Only Ryu, who is sitting out this week, is ahead of



Park Sung-Hyun

Park who is seeking to become just the second player in history after Nancy Lopez in 1978 to earn both rookie and player of the season honours in the same year. Park had originally declared she wanted to become number one within three years of moving full-time to the LPGA Tour.

"I've accomplished my goal a lot faster than I'd planned, and it does put some pressure on my shoulders," Park said. "But I am also determined to keep trying harder and harder. I think I was able to get this far this fast because I continued to push myself without settling for less." — AFP

Sports

Lions snap three-game skid in win over struggling Packers

Brett Hundley finished 26 of 38 for 245 yards

NFL result/standings							
Detroit 30, Green Bay 17.							
American Football Conference							
AFC East							
	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT
New England	6	2	0	0	216	179	.750
Buffalo	5	3	0	0	174	149	.625
Miami	4	4	0	0	116	179	.500
NY Jets	4	5	0	0	191	207	.444
AFC North							
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	1	167	131	.750
Baltimore	4	5	0	1	190	171	.444
Cincinnati	3	5	0	1	129	158	.375
Cleveland	0	8	0	1	119	202	0
AFC South							
Tennessee	5	3	0	0	181	193	.625
Jacksonville	5	3	0	1	206	117	.625
Houston	3	5	0	0	229	208	.375
Indianapolis	3	6	0	1	162	260	.333
AFC West							
Kansas City	6	3	0	0	253	208	.667
Oakland	4	5	0	0	196	214	.444
LA Chargers	3	5	0	0	150	152	.375
Denver	3	5	0	0	150	198	.375
National Football Conference							
NFC East							
Philadelphia	8	1	0	0	283	179	.889
Dallas	5	3	0	0	226	178	.625
Washington	4	4	0	0	177	194	.500
NY Giants	1	7	0	0	129	207	.125
NFC North							
Minnesota	6	2	0	0	179	135	.750
Detroit	4	4	0	0	206	186	.500
Green Bay	4	4	0	0	181	191	.500
Chicago	3	5	0	0	134	171	.375
NFC South							
New Orleans	6	2	0	0	221	155	.750
Carolina	6	3	0	0	168	159	.667
Atlanta	4	4	0	0	170	172	.500
Tampa Bay	2	6	0	0	158	198	.250
NFC West							
LA Rams	6	2	0	0	263	155	.750
Seattle	5	3	0	0	189	149	.625
Arizona	4	4	0	0	139	201	.500
San Francisco	0	9	0	2	143	239	0

GREEN BAY: Matthew Stafford passed for 361 yards and two touchdowns to Marvin Jones, and the Detroit Lions snapped a three-game losing streak with a 30-17 win on Monday night over the offensively challenged Green Bay Packers. Stafford was 26 of 33, including 12 of 14 in the first half with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Jones. Ameer Abdullah added a 4-yard touchdown run for Detroit (4-4). Green Bay (4-4) finally got in the end zone on Brett Hundley's 1-yard quarterback sneak with 9:52 left. The Lions answered with Stafford's 11-yard touchdown pass to Jones with 8:06 remaining, putting the game out of reach with a 17-point lead. Jones had seven catches for 107 yards.

The Packers have lost three straight games. Their



Special teams didn't help the Packers

once-potent offense has struggled since star quarterback Aaron Rodgers broke his right collarbone on Oct. 15 at Minnesota. Brett Hundley finished 26 of 38 for 245 yards. Cornerback Darius Slay blanketed Jordy Nelson when the Packers did try to throw long while the game was still competitive. Abdullah fumbled the ball away in the third quarter, but the Packers went three-and-out on the ensuing drive. Familiar problems in the red zone popped up for the Lions when they were stopped on three plays at the Packers 1, forced to settle for a field goal for a 17-point lead with 12:25 left. But without Rodgers, the Packers couldn't keep up with the accurate, rocket-armed Stafford.

CRITICAL PENALTY

The Lions' opening score was set up by an unnecessary roughness penalty on Mike Daniels, after the defensive lineman appeared to head-butt Detroit center Travis Swanson. The flag negated an incompletion on third-and-15 that would have forced the Lions to punt from their own 25. Stafford connected with Jones



GREEN BAY: Detroit Lions' Marvin Jones catches a touchdown pass in front of Green Bay Packers' Davon House during the first half of an NFL football game, in Green Bay. — AP

for the touchdown pass five plays later.

MILESTONE

The first scoring strike to Jones was the 200th touchdown pass in 117 career games for Stafford, the sixth-quickest in NFL history to reach the milestone. Stafford, who turns 30 in February, is also fourth in NFL history for career touchdown passes before age 30 behind Dan Marino, Peyton Manning and Brett Favre.

NOT SPECIAL

Special teams didn't help the Packers. Working in their third long snapper of the season because of injuries, Green Bay had a 38-yard field goal blocked in the first quarter on a play that started with a low snap. Trevor Davis didn't get past the 22 on three kickoff returns in the first half.

LIONS: WR Golden Tate joined Jones over the 100-yard mark with seven receptions for 113 yards. ...

Abdullah had 21 carries for 48 yards.

PACKERS: The team's playmaking receivers did have more opportunities, though most came on short passes. Randall Cobb finished with 58 yards on five receptions, including a catch-and-run for a 46-yard gain that set up Hundley's TD run. Davante Adams had seven catches for 53 yards.

INJURIES

Packers S Morgan Burnett left in the third quarter with a groin injury. He had returned from a two-game absence with a hamstring injury. RT Bryan Bulaga left in the fourth quarter with a knee injury.

ANTHEM

It appeared that all members of both teams stood for the national anthem, with many players and coaches locking arms on their respective sidelines. Lions: Host the Cleveland Browns on Sunday. Packers: Visit the Chicago Bears on Sunday. — AP

Browns' Gordon admits drinking, drug use before 'every game'

BEREA: Josh Gordon has never played an NFL game sober. That has to change if he plans to play in another one. One day before the Browns wide receiver gets another shot at rebooting his star-crossed career, Gordon revealed in a candid magazine interview that he used drugs or alcohol before every game of his career - pro or college. Gordon, who was reinstated on a conditional basis by Commissioner Roger Goodell last week after being suspended for nearly three years, told GQ he drank or smoked marijuana before "every game. Probably every game of my career."

The former Pro Bowler did the interview before meeting with Goodell in New York. Gordon said he began taking drugs in seventh grade, and he outlined a pregame routine as a pro where he would do shots of alcohol to "get the motor running." "We would stay at the team hotel, and then players are allowed to go back home, get what they need and then go to the game," Gordon said. "So I'd leave the hotel early morning, go home, eat breakfast, do my little ritual, whatever it may be, some weed, some alcohol and then go to the game. And then, I'd definitely be partying after every game, win or lose. Every game." Gordon's shocking admission came as the Browns prepared to welcome him back to their facility on Tuesday. On Monday, executive vice president of football operations Sashi Brown said the team has had limited contact with

Gordon since his reinstatement.

"We have had some preliminary conversations with him," Brown said. "We are looking forward to having him back." Coach Hue Jackson said Gordon's disclosure won't change the team's decision to accept him back.

"I think he was letting things out if that is what was said," said Jackson, who coached Gordon before the 26-year-old checked himself into rehab in 2016. "I think he was cleansing himself of his past, and I get that a little bit, but again, I think he said what he felt he needed to say."

Jackson said he planned to sit down with Gordon and discuss his disclosures, which included him saying, "a bunch of guys smoke weed before the game. But we're not talking about them."

Gordon has been suspended three times for multiple violations of the league's substance-abuse policy. During his first stint with the Browns, Gordon said he found ways to cheat the league's rules.

"If I had already been drug tested that week, or the day before the game, I knew I had a couple days to buy to clean my system," he said. "Even before I was getting tested for alcohol, prior to my DWI in 2014, I would take the biggest bong rip I could. And try to conceal all the smell off all my clothes. I'd be dressed up to go to the game. I would have these little pre-made shots. I used to love Grand Marnier. I could drink it down smooth. I could usually drink a lot of it."

"But if it wasn't that, it might be a whiskey or something. And I would drink probably like half a glass, or a couple shots to try and warm my system up, basically. To get the motor running. That's what I would do for games."

In the conditions established by Goodell, Gordon is allowed to attend team meetings and work out by himself. As long as he fulfills requirements, Gordon can begin practicing with the Browns on Nov. 20. Gordon has missed 51 games since 2014 due to the suspensions, derailing a career filled with so much promise.

In the GQ piece, Gordon said he was forced to move from Ohio to Florida to escape ridicule after he was sus-

third Irish-trained stayer to win following Vintage Crop (1993) and Media Puzzle (2003), and the sixth overseas winner overall.

Property developer Williams also owns runner-up Johannes Vermeer. "An absolute dream. I am so thrilled," Williams said. "Just to do it with this 24-year-old (trainer Joseph O'Brien). He has been taking the world on. I thought that this horse had some chance."

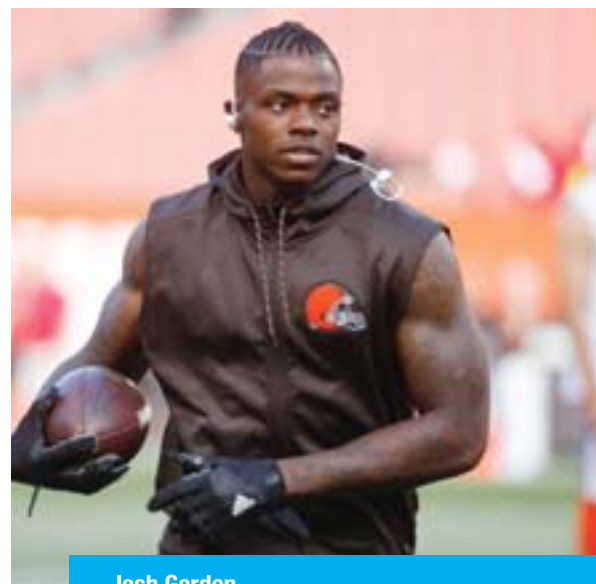
IT'S A DREAM

Brown was dumbfounded after his second win in Melbourne following his ride on Shocking in 2009. "It is a dream to even ride in the race," the jockey said. "To come out and win it again, I'm lost for words."

"I chased the ride about six weeks ago and with a light weight (thinking I was) a big chance to get on him." Rekindling was the first three-year-old to win the Melbourne Cup since Skipton in 1941. Johannes Vermeer, ridden by Ben Melham, looked the likely winner halfway down the long Flemington track before Rekindling, with a three-kilogram weight advantage, reeled him in.

Rekindling came to Australia with impressive form. Three starts ago he won the Curragh Cup before he ran second to staying star Order Of St George, also at the Curragh. He was a close-up fourth at his last start in the English St Leger and he came into the Melbourne Cup weighted at just 51.5 kilograms.

Big Duke was fourth ahead of the Scottish-trained Nakeeta, with another Irish runner, Thomas Hobson, sixth. The well-backed English stayer Marmelo led into the home straight but fell off to ninth, while the Godolphin stable's



Josh Gordon

ended. "I've been harassed, had drinks thrown at me," he said. "I've been (followed) in the grocery store, heckled everywhere. At the games, people harassed and heckled my brothers and my mom. Somebody dented the hood of the car. Had to sue a guy and get the money back cause he damaged the car. People are throwing money, pennies, to break the windows. So Cleveland was rough, man."

Jackson said he's not worried that Gordon is painting a gloomy picture to get out of playing for the winless Browns. "I don't think he is trying to do that," he said. "I do need to feel comfortable that he is not. If he is coming back to play football, I think he knows he needs to play football here. There is no other place that he can do what he needs to do in the National Football League. I am talking about as far as playing. It is right here." — AP



MELBOURNE: Corey Brown jockey on Rekindling (22) kisses the cup after he won the 157th Melbourne Cup at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne. — AFP

Melbourne Cup drought continued with topweight Hartnell finishing a fading 20th in the 23-strong field. Last year's winner Almandin, another of Williams's six runners, finished 12th with Italian jockey Frankie Dettori still without a win in his 16th ride in the Melbourne Cup. — AFP

Rekindling leads Irish sweep at Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE: Irish trainer Joseph O'Brien edged his famous father Aidan to land the Melbourne Cup as Rekindling led an all-Irish sweep of the placings after a close finish yesterday. Aidan O'Brien has trained a world-record 27 Group 1 wins this year but his 24-year-old son beat him to a debut victory in the Aus\$6 million (US\$4.6 million) race when Rekindling wore down Johannes Vermeer to snatch it by half-a-length.

The Willie Mullins-trained Max Dynamite, who finished second in 2015, completed an all-Irish one-two-three when he finished three lengths behind in the famous 3,200-metre (2 mile) handicap at Flemington.

Rekindling gave his Australian owner Lloyd Williams his sixth success in the Melbourne Cup and was jockey Corey Brown's second win in the race. "I can't believe it. I am thankful to Lloyd who suggested I bring him down and he would have a good chance in the race," Joseph O'Brien said. "His preparation went really good. Corey gave him an unbelievable ride. Everyone, the lads at home and the lads here, have done an unbelievable job."

In the race's 157th edition, Rekindling becomes the

Chinese team kicked out after rider attacks Swiss rivals

SHANGHAI: A Chinese rider with the local Keyi Look team faces severe punishment after attacking members of the Swiss national team at the Tour of Hainan in extraordinary scenes. Race organisers on the southern Chinese island said that Wang Xin and his team would never be allowed back following the violent incident that saw police step in and Keyi Look expelled from the event.

Video footage posted online shows a rider, purported to be Wang, beating one staff member of the Swiss team to the ground and kicking him in the head, before attacking a second one. The rider then retrieves a tyre pump from a support car, with the seeming intent to use it as a weapon.

Police and bystanders rush in to intervene, as dozens of people look on in shock. The Chinese Cycling Association (CCA) is weighing further punishment following the incident at the end of stage seven on Friday, a 166.5 kilometre ride between the cities of Sanya and Wuzhishan. It was sparked when the Swiss team car "had physical contact" with Wang, causing him to fall, the CCA said.

The CCA said it had "a zero-tolerance attitude towards uncivilised behaviour and violence" and alleged that in addition to Wang, Keyi Look team staff were also involved. "CCA will make a further decision after more investigations on this incident," it said in a statement.

Daniilo Hondo, the Swiss team manager and allegedly one of Wang's targets, denied their car had struck the Chinese rider. "We never bumped into him, you can see that from the race video," he told Eurosport.

"He simply hit the back wheel of another rider and went down. He was obviously embarrassed and took out his frustration on us. "We tried to approach him after the race, in fact we waited 45 minutes after the finish for him to cross to apologise for any misunderstandings and to show him and his team that we respect them and meant no harm. "But both he and his team approached us with anger and everything escalated from there."

Keyi Look and Wang apologised in statements on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter, but blamed the Swiss for knocking him over with their car. The Tour of Hainan vowed never to allow them back. "Wang's behaviour is not acceptable and doesn't reflect Chinese cycling. Hainan people are known for being very friendly," race organisers said in a statement. "The image and the reputation of the Tour of Hainan cannot be tarnished by such improper behaviour. "Fighting will never be permitted in this event." — AFP

Sports

Kyrie Irving stars as Celtics roll on, Warriors chill Heat

Boston now lead the Eastern Conference with a 9-2 record

NBA results/standings

Golden State 97, Miami 80; Brooklyn 98, Phoenix 92; Boston 110, Atlanta 107.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	9	2	.818	-
Toronto	5	4	.556	3
NY Knicks	5	4	.556	3
Philadelphia	5	4	.556	3
Brooklyn	4	6	.400	4.5

Central Division

Detroit	7	3	.700	-
Indiana	5	5	.500	2
Milwaukee	4	5	.444	2.5
Cleveland	4	6	.400	3
Chicago	2	6	.250	4

Southeast Division

Orlando	6	4	.600	-
Washington	5	4	.556	0.5
Charlotte	5	5	.500	1
Miami	4	6	.400	2
Atlanta	2	9	.182	4.5

Western Conference

Northwest Division

Minnesota	7	3	.700	-
Portland	6	4	.600	1
Utah	5	5	.500	2
Denver	5	5	.500	2
Oklahoma City	4	5	.444	2.5

Pacific Division

Golden State	8	3	.727	-
LA Clippers	5	4	.556	2
LA Lakers	5	5	.500	2.5
Phoenix	4	7	.364	4
Sacramento	1	8	.111	6

Southwest Division

Houston	8	3	.727	-
Memphis	6	4	.600	1.5
San Antonio	6	4	.600	1.5
New Orleans	5	5	.500	2.5
Dallas	1	10	.091	7

LOS ANGELES: Kyrie Irving exploded for 35 points to steer the Boston Celtics to a ninth consecutive victory on Monday as Golden State extended their winning streak to four games. Irving broke the 30-point barrier for the first time since his summer move to the Celtics as Boston overcame a battling Atlanta Hawks side to win 110-107 on the road. Boston needed a three-point-er from Irving with 1min 37sec remaining to finally subdue the Hawks, giving the Celtics a 104-103 lead.

It was the final twist of a game that saw no fewer than 25 lead changes. "He made huge plays down the stretch," coach Brad Stevens said of Irving. "I thought he not only made the plays, but he made a lot of right reads, too."

Stevens said he suspected Irving might be due a big



It was the final twist of a game

performance after an 11-point outing in his previous game at Orlando on Sunday. "When you're coaching against people, I always look at the box score for the game before," Stevens said.

"If they really struggled but they're really good, that's just scary stuff. Guys like that don't have quiet nights twice in a row." Jayson Tatum also weighed in with a double-digit tally, scoring 21 points while pulling down eight rebounds. Al Horford added 15 points while Jaylen Brown chipped in with 11 points.

But Irving's virtuoso display was the main talking point amongst his team-mates after the win. "It's exciting to be out there on his side, watching him do all those incredible things," said Celtics rookie Tatum. "He's a great player."

Irving, meanwhile, was pleased with the way Boston held on to close out the win. "We had to get our act together," Irving said. "You could just tell that mentally and physically, we were dragging a little bit."

Boston now lead the Eastern Conference with a 9-2 record. Atlanta, who had stunned Cleveland on Sunday in an upset win, are bottom of the conference at 2-9.



OAKLAND: Goran Dragic #7 of the Miami Heat goes up for a shot on Andre Iguodala #9 of the Golden State Warriors at ORACLE Arena. — AFP

WARRIORS DOWN 'SCRAPPY' HEAT

In the Western Conference, Kevin Durant and Draymond Green steered Golden State to a scrappy 97-80 victory over the Miami Heat at the Oracle Arena. Durant scored 21 points with eight rebounds while Green weighed in with 18 points and nine rebounds as the Warriors were made to work for victory by a physical Miami team at Oracle Arena. The win saw the Warriors improve to 8-3 in the standings, putting them alongside leaders Houston. Warriors duo Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry had a relatively quiet night, with Thompson scoring 13.

Curry added 16 but had an off night with his normally reliable three-point shooting, making just two of nine attempts. "That's a scrappy team," Green said afterwards. "We knew coming into this game it was going to be tough, they were going to grab, they were going to

hold. "It wasn't pretty we couldn't make our shots, so we knew we had to just stick to the basics, play physical and grind out a win." Miami's top scorer was James Johnson with 21 points, followed by Goran Dragic who scored 19 and Kelly Olynyk with 10.

The Warriors had opened up a 50-37 halftime lead but were never able to fully cut loose from a dogged Miami team. Miami rallied to cut a 20-point deficit to just 10 points in the third quarter but the Warriors were able to keep their opponents at arm's length for the remainder of the contest.

In Monday's other game, the Brooklyn Nets held off a late Phoenix Suns rally to clinch their first road victory of the season. D'Angelo Russell scored 13 of a 23-point haul in the final nine minutes to help the Nets close out the 98-92 win in Phoenix. "I just didn't want to lose and wanted to do whatever it took to win," said Russell. — AFP

Martino joins race for US soccer top job

LOS ANGELES: Former Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Kyle Martino on Monday joined the crowded field vying for the presidency of the United States Soccer Federation in the wake of the country's 2018 World Cup debacle.

Martino, best known in the US as an analyst for NBC television, said he had decided to challenge for the USSF presidency after the result of "many conversations" in recent weeks. The 36-year-old will take a break from his work with NBC, which he described as his "dream job" in an effort to mount a successful bid to replace current incumbent Sunil Gulati.

"US Soccer is at the lowest point of its modern existence, with failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup merely a symptom of bigger issues," Martino said in a statement on his campaign website. "We need a change, not just of direction but of vision and ambition. It's time to put soccer back at the center of the United States Soccer Federation." Soccer in the United States was left reeling last month after a humiliating loss to Trinidad and Tobago in their final 2018 World Cup qualifying game saw them fail to reach next year's finals in Russia.

Next year's tournament will mark the first time since the 1986 World Cup in Mexico that the United States have failed to feature. Martino said the World Cup collapse was a symptom of a wider malaise across US soccer. "When a nation of more than 300 million fails to qualify for the World Cup, it's not because of a few bad bounces on a less-than-perfect pitch; it's because of systemic failures across all levels of the game," he said. Martino said his presidency would be defined by delivering success at international level, saying he would resign if the men's team failed to qualify for the 2022 World Cup or failed to reach the quarter-finals of the 2026 competition.

Nomination for next February's USSF election must be confirmed by December. So far USSF president Gulati has not said if he plans to run again for what would be a fourth four-year term.

Last week, USSF vice-president Carlos Cordeiro announced he planned to run, joining former international Eric Wynalda and Boston-based attorney Steve Gans in the field.

Unlike many of his rivals, Gans, who has four decades of involvement in US soccer as a player, attorney and advisor, had announced his challenge before the US World Cup exit. Others in the field include Mike Winograd, former international Paul Caligiuri and Paul Lapointe. —AFP

World Cup qualifying tournament reaching its climax next week

MOSCOW: The lineup of teams at the World Cup in Russia will be confirmed over the next week. Here's a look at the two-leg European and intercontinental playoffs matches, as well as how African qualifying is shaping up:

NORTHERN IRELAND vs. SWITZERLAND

Northern Ireland is within reach of its first World Cup in 32 years after hitting its target of second place in a group won by defending champion Germany. Switzerland, ranked No. 4 in August, finds itself in a tense playoff despite nine straight wins to start qualifying. On Monday, Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic was still looking back to the 2-0 loss at Portugal last month, saying he had imagined playing a "nice friendly" game this week. He acknowledged his team was too passive against Portugal, and challenged players he did not identify to take more responsibility now.

The Swiss need to forget about that match before the first leg Thursday at Windsor Park, where only Germany has beaten Northern Ireland in a competitive match in the past four years. Switzerland has a nine-game winning streak at home in tournament qualifiers, and hosts the return on Sunday in Basel.

CROATIA vs. GREECE

Greece is bidding to reach a major tournament again after an embarrassing qualification campaign for the 2016 European Championship. Without defender Kostas Manolas, who is banned from the first leg, the Greeks will play at Croatia tomorrow and then host the return match on Sunday. Manolas is out because FIFA suspended him for trying to manipulate his disciplinary record by deliberately earning a yellow card against Cyprus on Oct. 7. The decision compounded problems for coach Michael Skibbe, who is missing midfielder Petros Mantalos and striker Tasos Donis because of injury. Croatia is set to miss defensive midfielder Milan Badelj for both matches against Greece.

The Croatians and the Greeks were in the playoffs for the 2014 tournament in Brazil. Croatia eliminated Iceland 2-0 on aggregate, while Greece beat Romania 4-2 on aggregate.

SWEDEN vs. ITALY

Four-time champion Italy has participated in every World Cup since failing to qualify for the 1958 tournament, which coincidentally was held in Sweden. But Italy has showed poor form recently, ever since a 3-0 loss to Spain in September. After that match, Italy edged Israel 1-0, drew 1-1 with Macedonia and beat Albania 1-0. While Sweden didn't qualify for the last two World Cups, it impressed in qualifying with a win over France and finished ahead of the Netherlands.

"We are winners just by being here," Sweden coach Janne Andersson said. The first leg will be in Sweden on Friday, with the return match on Monday in Italy. Sweden



BURTON-ON-TRENT: England's striker Tammy Abraham (L), England's Ruben Loftus-Cheek (2L), England's midfielder Jesse Lingard (2R) and England's goalkeeper Joe Hart attend a training session at St George's Park in Burton-on-Trent. — AFP

went unbeaten at home in qualifying at Friends Arena and striker Marcus Berg scored eight times in nine matches.

DENMARK vs. IRELAND

Being in the playoffs for a major tournament is nothing new for Ireland. This will be the team's ninth time, and they have lost five of them - including against France ahead of the 2010 World Cup when Thierry Henry clearly handled the ball in the build-up to the crucial goal. The first leg will be in Denmark on Saturday. Ireland will host the second leg on Tuesday.

Ireland has effectively already won one playoff - by beating Wales 1-0 in its final qualifier - and will likely rely on the counterattacking tactics that worked so well in Cardiff. While there are no real stars in the Ireland team, Denmark has a standout in Christian Eriksen one of European soccer's best playmakers over the past few years at Tottenham. He scored eight times from midfield in qualifying. The Danes' 4-0 win over Poland in group play highlights their potential and they are also higher in the FIFA rankings, at No. 19 compared to Ireland's No. 26. The managers - Martin O'Neill and Age Hareide - are former teammates at English club Norwich.

AUSTRALIA vs. HONDURAS

This is the scenario Australia aimed to avoid when it switched from Oceania to the Asian Football Confederation after the 2006 World Cup: A last-ditch intercontinental playoff in the Americas for a spot at soccer's marquee event. Australian players traveled from three continents to assemble in Honduras this week to prepare for Friday's first leg. The return match will be in Australia

on Wednesday. It was a similar scenario when the Australians played Uruguay for a place at the 2006 tournament. Uruguay won 1-0 in Montevideo, and Australia leveled it up with a 1-0 win in Sydney before advancing 4-2 on penalties. It ended a long drought for the Socceroos, who had failed to advance from the last playoff stage in 1986 (against Scotland), in 1994 (against Argentina), in 1998 (against Iran), and in 2002 (against Uruguay). Tim Cahill, the only player still active from that playoff series in 2005 and now Australia's all-time leading scorer, is in doubt because of an ankle injury.

NEW ZEALAND vs. PERU

New Zealand will return to the scene of one of its greatest triumphs when it hosts Peru on Saturday. In 2009, New Zealand beat Bahrain 1-0 in front of a crowd of 35,000 at the Wellington Regional Stadium to qualify for the World Cup for the second time. It had previously qualified in 1982, the same year in which Peru made its last World Cup appearance. The return leg will be in Peru on Wednesday.

Rory Fallon, who scored New Zealand's winning goal in that match eight years ago, has been recalled to the All Whites after a one-year absence. He is currently playing for Dorchester in the seventh tier of English soccer. That win over Bahrain briefly put soccer center-stage in a rugby-mad country and Saturday's match will likely do so again. The match is a sellout. Peru, ranked No. 10, starts as the overwhelming favorite against 122nd-ranked New Zealand but have a significant setback, with striker Paolo Guerrero ruled out after failing a doping test. Guerrero scored six goals in qualifying. —AP

Sports

West Ham boss Moyes has 'point to prove' after poor results

'We've done a contract which suits both parties'

LONDON: West Ham named former Everton and Manchester United boss David Moyes as their new manager yesterday after sacking Slaven Bilic following a string of poor results that left the club mired in the Premier League relegation zone.

The Hammers parted company with Bilic on Monday, two days after a chastening 4-1 loss at home to Liverpool convinced co-chairmen David Sullivan and David Gold that the club needed a change of direction to stop the rot.

West Ham, languishing in 18th position with just two wins in 11 games, are banking on Moyes's experience in the English top flight to lift them out of danger despite his underwhelming recent record in management.

Moyes—who says he has a "point to prove"—has been given an initial six-month contract with a clear brief to pull the club away from relegation trouble and his future will be evaluated at the end of the season.

"We need somebody with experience, knowledge of the Premier League and the players in it, and we believe David is the right man to turn things around and get the best out of the players at the club," said Sullivan. "He is highly regarded and respected within the game, and will bring fresh ideas, organisation and enthusiasm."

Moyes, 54, has been out of management since he resigned from his post at Sunderland at the end of last season after failing to prevent the northeast club being relegated from the Premier League.

He managed Everton for 11 years from 2002 before

leaving the club to replace Alex Ferguson at Manchester United but was dismissed after just 10 months in charge.

Despite his failure at United and a disappointing stint in Spain with Real Sociedad, the Hammers are backing the Scot to help shore up a leaky defence as well as getting the best out of big-money summer signings Marko Arnautovic and Javier Hernandez.

'POINT TO PROVE'

"We've done a contract which suits both parties, we are all comfortable with it," Moyes told Talksport radio. "Let's get the job done and then talk at the end of the year." But he faces a challenge to win round the fans after some supporters viewed his proposed arrival at the London Stadium with scepticism. "Do I have a point to prove? Yes, I think I do,"

Moyes told the club website. "I've managed five clubs since starting out nearly 20 years ago, starting at Preston and then going to Everton. My period at Manchester United is well-documented and I then did something I have always wanted to do by experiencing management abroad, with Real Sociedad."

"It's only been the last job where I feel it wasn't a good move and I didn't enjoy the experience. So I'm hungry to make sure I get things right now."

"The focus here is purely between now and the end of the season. The first thing is to win the next game and build from there, and I'm sure we will be in a much stronger position before long."

“We need somebody with experience, knowledge of the Premier League and the players in it, and we believe David is the right man to turn things around and get the best out of the players at the club,” said Sullivan.

Seeing double as identical twins play for Russia

MOSCOW: Opponents of Russia's national side can be forgiven for confusion as they face two identical players: twin brothers Anton and Alexei Miranchuk. The 22-year-old Miranchuk siblings appeared together in the national squad for the first time last month after manager Stanislav Cherchesov rewarded their solid performances for Russian league leaders Lokomotiv Moscow. "We gave the new players a chance to show their worth in matches with teams that have already qualified for the 2018 World Cup finals," Cherchesov told journalists after friendlies with South Korea and Iran. "(Mario) Fernandes, (Konstantin) Rausch and the Miranchuk twins looked impressive with their club sides this season and we needed to test them in the national squad."

"That helped us to finalise the pool of the candidates into our World Cup squad." The country's football chief Vitaly Mutko hailed the brothers from the southern Krasnodar region as part of a new generation of dedicated players, a much welcome boost after a dreadful Euro 2016 campaign. Players such as the Miranchuks are "highly motivated" and "have a completely different attitude to football", Mutko stressed. "It's a generation of professionals." The twins meanwhile said their invitation to the national side had done wonders for their confidence. "It was incredibly motivating for us when we got the call up to the national squad," Anton Miranchuk, who made his senior Russia debut in October's 4-2 win over South Korea, told AFP.

"I just couldn't put my feelings into words." "Of course it's a great responsibility," his brother Alexei, who earned the first of his 12 international caps in 2015, added. "When you join the national squad, it's a new experience, new feelings and new opportunities. It's cool." The players' mother Yelena Miranchuk said

the family traces its origins back to the Cossacks, independent horsemen forces who guarded Tsarist Russia's borders. She told Russian television she believes this gave her sons their active and uncompromising nature.

The brothers started out training with the Olympus club of their native town of Slavyansk-on-Kuban in their home region. After a couple of years, Spartak Moscow invited the boys to join their football academy.

They came to Moscow with their mother, a trained teacher who got a job at their school's boarding house. "It was non-negotiable that our mum came with us," Anton said. "She's the head of our family—she has always been with us, she has watched and supported us the whole time," Alexei added. "Things might have gone differently without her keeping an eye on us." After the Miranchuk brothers turned 16, Spartak released them for not being physically strong enough, forcing them to join Lokomotiv's academy. Their natural talent soon shone through and they became integral members of Lokomotiv's youth squad, winning three consecutive Russian titles. Alexei then made his debut in the Russian Premier League in 2013 but Anton was made to wait before getting his chance.

Anton was sent on loan to Estonian high-flyers Levadia Tallinn for the 2016 campaign, during which he scored 15 goals in 33 matches. That form abroad earned him a brief cameo alongside his brother for Lokomotiv at the end of the last season, before thrusting him into a regular role this term.

'SPIRITUAL CONNECTION'

But the separation was hard, Anton admitted. "We've been together since we were born. I feel a constant spiritual connection with my brother and I feel I miss him after just a couple of days apart."

"But I don't regret my secondment to Estonia. It was very useful to get regular match practice and experience. It helped me a lot to win a place in Lokomotiv's line-up when I came back." His brother Alexei naturally agreed. "For me it was really hard to play and to progress without my brother," he added. "But now I feel that this parting was for the best. "Now everything has got back to normal and I feel we're both ready to go up to the next level." — AFP



KINGSTON UPON HULL: File photo taken on May 06, 2017 shows Sunderland's Scottish manager David Moyes arriving for the English Premier League football match between Hull City and Sunderland. — AFP

Moyes took training on Tuesday and has almost a fortnight to get to know his new players, with his first match in charge at Watford on November 19. Former West Ham defender Bilic was the fourth

Premier League managerial casualty of the season, the Croatian's exit following those of Frank de Boer (Crystal Palace), Craig Shakespeare (Leicester) and Ronald Koeman (Everton). — AFP



Alexei Miranchuk



Hans Schaefer

Loew mourns loss of 1954 World Cup winner

BERLIN: Hans Schaefer, the last-but one surviving member of the West German team which won the 1954 World Cup, died yesterday, his ex-club Cologne said. The 90-year-old played on the left wing in the final as the Germans fell two goals behind after just eight minutes but fought back to beat Hungary, 3-2, in "the Miracle of Berne".

Schaefer's death means midfielder Horst Eckel, 85, is the last surviving member of that team. Germany's current coach Joachim Loew, who is preparing for Friday's friendly against England in Wembley, mourned the loss. "The news that Hans Schaefer has died makes us all very sad here in the national team. As one of the heroes of Berne, he will never be forgotten," Loew said. In the 1954 final, Zoltan Czibor and Ferenc Puskas, one of football's greatest players, netted goals for Hungary after six and eight minutes. Midfielder Max Morlock pulled a goal back for the Germans in the tenth minute. Right winger Helmut Rahn then wrote himself into German football folklore, equalising before half time and scoring the winner six minutes from time.

"I am very sad and will always remember Hans Schaefer as a great Cologne player and person. #RIP," former Cologne, Arsenal and Germany striker Lukas Podolski wrote on Twitter. — AFP

McKennie, Carter-Vickers may make US soccer debuts

CHICAGO: Midfielders Weston McKennie and Tyler Adams, 17-old forward Josh Sargent, defender Cameron Carter-Vickers and goalkeeper Jesse Gonzalez could make their US national team debuts in a Nov. 14 exhibition at Portugal.

Defender Matt Miazga, midfielder Lynden Gooch and goalkeepers Ethan Horvath and Bill Hamid also are part of a young 21-man roster announced Tuesday by interim coach Dave Sarachan, who took over when Bruce Arena quit last month after the U.S. failed to qualify for next year's World Cup. Half the players are 24 and under.

Christian Pulisic, the Americans' star 19-year-old midfielder, is being given the game off. After missing the World Cup for the first time since 1986, the US likely will

not play a competitive match until the summer of 2019 and has more than five years to prepare for the 2022 World Cup. "Christian has had a very long year," Sarachan said in a statement. "Christian has really pushed the limits mentally and physically. With those things in mind, we felt this was an opportunity for Christian to get a break and recharge."

Forward Jordan Morris is still recovering from a right hamstring injury suffered Sept. 10, forward Bobby Wood is out with a knee problem and winger Paul Arriola is recovering from an unspecified medical procedure. Players were not picked from the four teams remaining in Major League Soccer's playoffs, ruling out Toronto forward Jozy Altidore and midfielder Michael Bradley.

Defender John Brooks returns from a torn thigh muscle suffered Aug. 12 that caused him to miss qualifiers in September and October. The oldest player on the roster is 30-year-old midfielder Alejandro Bedoya. McKennie, 19, made his Bundesliga debut last May with Schalke and has appeared in seven league and two cup matches this season.

Sargent agreed in September to sign a professional contract with Werder Bremen when he turns 18 on Feb. 20. He could become the first player to appear for the

Under-17, Under-20 and national team in the same year.

"He's in good form coming off his time with the U-17s and is someone who will be able to handle the fitness level we're looking for in this camp," Sarachan said. "This camp gives us a chance to give a first look to a young player we think will have a bright future in the national team program."

The 19-year-old Carter-Vickers, a son of former NBA guard Howard Carter, made his Tottenham debut last season and appeared in a pair of FA Cup matches. On loan this season to second-tier Sheffield United, he has one goal in eight matches.

Adams, 18, played with Sargent and Carter-Vickers at this year's Under-20 World Cup and became a regular this season with the New York Red Bulls.

The 22-year-old Gonzalez was on the US roster for this year's CONCACAF Gold Cup but did not appear in a match. A former member of Mexican youth teams, he has become a starter for Dallas. European champion Portugal qualified for next year's World Cup and is using a roster with three players over 30 and two who played against the US during the 2-2 group-stage draw at the 2014 World Cup: goalkeeper Beto and forward Eder. FIFA Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo was left off for the game. — AP

England hit by more withdrawals for Germany, Brazil games

LONDON: Raheem Sterling, Fabian Delph and Jordan Henderson are the latest withdrawals from England's injury-hit squad for friendlies against World Cup holders Germany and five-time winners Brazil, the FA said yesterday.

Gareth Southgate's men kick off their World Cup preparations with back-to-back Wembley matches against the international heavyweight teams over the coming week. Tottenham's Dele Alli, Harry Kane and Harry Winks have already withdrawn from the initial 25-man squad, with England receiving three further setbacks on Tuesday. "Manchester City duo Raheem Sterling and Fabian Delph have returned to their club after being ruled out of England's forthcoming fixtures," a statement from the Football Association read.

"Liverpool's Jordan Henderson will also miss out on the back-to-back games against Germany and Brazil at Wembley Stadium through injury."

Henderson had been due to arrive at St George's Park-England's training base—later in the week after missing Liverpool's win against West Ham with a thigh problem. City winger Sterling is out with a back complaint and Delph-looking for his first England cap since November 2015 — injured his calf towards the end of Sunday's win against Arsenal.

Alli, Kane and Winks have already pulled out with injury issues of their own, with Southgate bringing in Michael Keane and Jake Livermore. More faces will likely be drafted in by the England boss ahead of Friday's friendly against Germany, with the FA announcing "a further squad update will be issued in due course" but Chelsea defender Gary Cahill is set to train yesterday.

England, who play Brazil on November 14, are already missing Adam Lallana, Danny Welbeck, Nathaniel Chalobah, Tom Heaton and Ross Barkley.

Southgate had plumped for a bold squad for the last matches of 2017, with Tammy Abraham, Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Joe Gomez called up for the first time as Daniel Sturridge, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Chris Smalling were overlooked. — AFP

12 Park becomes first rookie number one



13 Rekindling leads Irish sweep at Melbourne Cup



15 Seeing double as identical twins play for Russia



India clinch rain-hit T20 thriller

SCOREBOARD

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, India: Scorecard from the T20 international between India and New Zealand in Thiruvananthapuram yesterday, reduced to eight overs a side because of rain:

India	
R. Sharma c Santner b Southee	8
S. Dhawan c Santner b Southee	8
V. Kohli c Boult b Sodhi	13
S. Iyer c Guptill b Sodhi	6
M. Pandey c de Grandhomme b Boult	17
H. Pandya not out	14
M. Dhoni not out	0
Extras (b 2, w1)	3
Total (8 overs - five wickets)	67
Did not bat: B. Kumar, J. Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Y. Chahal	
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-15, 3-30, 4-48, 5-62	
Bowling: Boult 2-0-13-1, Santner 2-0-16-0, Southee 2-0-13-2, Sodhi 2-0-23-2	
New Zealand	
M. Guptill b Kumar	1
C. Munro c Sharma b Bumrah	7
K. Williamson run out	8
G. Phillips c Shikhar b Kuldeep	11
C. de Grandhomme not out	17
H. Nicholls c Iyer b Bumrah	2
T. Bruce run out	4
M. Santner not out	3
Extras (b4, lb1, w3)	3
total (8 overs - 6 wickets)	61
Did not bat: T. Boult, T. Southee, I. Sodhi	
Fall: 1-8, 2-8, 3-28, 4-28, 5-39, 6-48	
Bowling: Kumar 2-0-18-1, Bumrah 2-0-9-2, Chahal 2-0-8-0, Kuldeep Yadav 1-0-10-1, Pandya 1-0-11-0, India win series 2-1.	

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: India pipped New Zealand by six runs in a rain-truncated Twenty20 thriller to win the three-match series 2-1 in Thiruvananthapuram yesterday.

Put into bat after steady rain had reduced the third and final match to an eight-over shootout, hosts India posted 67-5 at the Greenfield International Stadium. New Zealand wobbled early in their chase of a modest target and eventually managed 61-6 in a contest which stood out for disciplined bowling and some exemplary catching from both sides. Earlier, India managed only seven runs in the first two overs as Trent Boult and Mitchell Santner bowled with tremendous discipline. Tim Southee wrecked the Indian top order in his first over, dismissing openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma off successive deliveries with Santner taking both the catches. Virat Kohli made 13 off six balls before Boult took a catch in the deep off Ish Sodhi (2-23) to send back the India captain. Manish Pandey topscored for India with 17 before falling to a spectacular piece of fielding by Santner.

Pandey had hit Boult towards long-on where a sprinting Santner dived to take the catch but realising momentum was taking him across the rope, the fielder threw the ball to Colin de Grandhomme who was nearby to complete the dismissal. Like their opponents, New Zealand too lost openers Martin Guptill and Colin Munro cheaply and never really got going. Wickets kept tumbling at regular intervals, leaving New Zealand needing 19 runs off the last over from Hardik Pandya but managing only 12.

Jasprit Bumrah (2-9) was the pick of the Indian bowlers while de Grandhomme topscored for New Zealand with 17 not out. — Reuters



CHAMPIONS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Indian cricketers and support staff pose with their trophies after victory in the final Twenty20 international cricket match and the series between India and New Zealand in Thiruvananthapuram. — AFP

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Business

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

18 KFH wins 'Best Consumer Digital Bank in Kuwait 2017' award**21** Al-Sayer and Lexus announce the launch of new NX 300**22** Microsoft 365 Business to supercharge Kuwait's SMEs

TOKYO: In this Nov 5, 2017, file photo, US President Donald Trump (left) and first lady Melania Trump arrive at Yokota Air Base, in Fussa on the outskirts of Tokyo. Some businesses in Asia are bracing for the unexpected as Trump traverses the region and meets with the leaders of major US trading partners. — AP

Asia businesses brace for the unexpected

Trump vows to reshape trading relationship during tour

HONG KONG: Some businesses in Asia are bracing for the unexpected as President Donald Trump traverses the region and meets with the leaders of major US trading partners. Exporters are apprehensive, given Trump's penchant for unpredictability, his vehement dislike for swollen US trade deficits, and his threats to rip up trade deals.

Trump began his tour in Japan, where he vowed to reshape the trading relationship, saying it's "not fair and it's not open." He stopped in South Korea yesterday and will next travel to China, Vietnam and the Philippines, including stops at three regional summits. That allows him plenty of chances to showcase his assertive style and make off-the-cuff remarks that could leave his hosts and adversaries scrambling to react.

Trump's tendency to make impromptu

announcements and his frequent threats to punish trading partners have brought heightened uncertainty to overseas presidential visits that traditionally are meticulously choreographed, said Rick Helfenbein, president of the Washington-based American Apparel & Footwear Association trade group. "We have an unscripted president going into a scripted environment, so you never know what he's going to do," he said.

Trump may announce some big deals by US companies selling to China to help lower the trade deficit, said Jake Parker, vice-president of the US-China Business Council in Beijing, a group seeking fair access to China's market. Or he might opt for a harder line, such as trade investigations that could invite retaliation. "Our companies are frankly concerned about the types of retaliation that would

come along with a more assertive China strategy," Parker said. There are fears any Chinese government retaliation "would be very visible, and would target high profile US brands that are operating in China." "Our companies frankly don't want to be caught in that kind of crossfire," he said.

Export manufacturers already are on "high alert" over possible disruptions to their global supply chains because of stalled talks with Canada and Mexico on revising the North American Free Trade Agreement, Helfenbein said. Trump has blasted NAFTA as a job-killer and wants it revamped or else he may pull out. That's left companies in North America looking for alternative manufacturing locations, Helfenbein said.

"Right now what looks stable to them is Asia," Helfenbein said. "If Asia gets disrupted by this

president's trip then, oh my God. What are these companies going to do? Because that's part of their strategic planning and strategic thinking."

For some manufacturers, like Hong Kong LED-bulb maker Keyart Industries Ltd., there's little to do but wait and see what happens. "It's out of our control," said General Manager Brian Lau. "We're worried but there's nothing we can do about it." He said hopefully the "trade is going to be there" no matter who is president.

Keyart's joint venture plant in southern China's factory heartland of Guangdong province exports to the US and Europe. For electronic and electrical goods makers, moving operations would be difficult because of China's vast and intricate supplier network. "Americans don't really make these lamps, so where are you going to buy them

from?" Lau said. If the US slaps tariffs on Chinese-made goods, "the cost is ultimately going to be put back on customers."

Bigger worries

Other manufacturers shrugged off Trump's threats, saying they have bigger concerns, such as brutal competition from local rivals. "What can he do about it? Business, it recognizes only profit," said Shaun Cai of Ceeport Samaf, a Guangdong toilet maker that exports to the US, Australia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Exchange rates, specifically the dollar's weakness against the Chinese yuan over the past year, are another headache. "When the rate comes down we get less (yuan from dollars) and we're losing money," Cai said. — AP

Reform or risk? Saudi investors try to read the runes

DUBAI/LONDON: Investors hope the sweeping anti-graft probe ensnaring some of Saudi Arabia's top politicians and businessmen is a sign of reform but those holding its bonds worry about instability.

Saudi stocks recovered their losses after the wave of arrests over the weekend, but bonds came under pressure as investors pondered the outlook for the kingdom. Saudi Arabia embarked on an ambitious reform program including fiscal reforms and a massive privatization program 16 months ago in a quest to shift its \$690 billion economy away from dependency on oil and entice investors. King Salman announced late on Saturday the creation of a new anti-corruption committee chaired by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In hours that followed, news emerged that dozens of politicians and a number of senior princes - including billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal - had been detained on corruption charges. "In times of fundamental change it is to be expected that it won't be a smooth ride - it never is," said Roy Scheepe, senior portfolio manager for emerging market debt at NNIP, who holds some Saudi debt. "But the notion that even

countries like Saudi can't go on indefinitely in the old way, but also has to act on diversifying its economy and future revenue sources, is welcome." The purge rattled Saudi stock markets in the first hours of trading on Sunday, as some investors feared that those caught in the crackdown could be asked to dump their assets.

But equities rebounded later in the day, as the government's move was seen as strengthening the crown prince's authority and his ability to push through economic reforms. The main stock index has risen 0.5 percent since Thursday's close. "It is a positive development ... we see it as part of the transformation of Saudi into a more modern economy," said Fabiana Fedeli, head of global fundamental equities at Robeco in the Netherlands, adding that the pull-back had been limited. "At this point in time, one needs to give them the benefit of the doubt that this latest move will also be in the direction (of modernization). However, we need more clarity on what happened." Hasnain Malik, global head of equity research at investment bank Exotix Capital, agreed that the consolidation of power was necessary, at least in the short term. "Further out, economic performance will ultimately determine how the grip on power is loosened," he said.

Jittery bonds

However, bond investors took a more cautious view. Saudi Arabia's dollar-bonds came under pressure as well as the country's debt risk, measured by the cost of insuring against a possible debt default. Yields on the \$6.5 billion dollar-denominated bond maturing in 2046 widened about 8 basis points. Saudi Arabia's five-year credit default swaps widened by only a couple of

points in the early hours of trading, moving to 84 basis points from 82 bps at Friday's close, still far below the 117 bps level reached in July, according to IHS Markit data.

"This is about political instability, not about corruption," said Marcus Chenevix, MENA analyst at TS Lombard, adding the arrest of Prince Alwaleed was "hugely concerning". "What it tells investors is that Saudi politics can't be ignored. And that's worrying because Saudi politics is a black box." Given the lack of detail on the arrests as the crackdown widened on Monday, some fund managers expected no let up for Saudi bonds.

"Spreads are likely to drift wider as investors wait for additional color on the arrests," said Janelle Woodward, president and portfolio manager at Taplin, Canida and Habacht, part of BMO Financial Group, who holds Saudi debt. But for others, such as Carmen Altenkirch, emerging market sovereign analyst at Axa Investment Managers, it was time to look past the current events. "While the young prince's brash approach to politics may sit uncomfortably with those used to a subtler form of politicking, the corruption clampdown is merely the next piece in the puzzle that should ultimately see the 32-year old prince take power when the king abdicates," Altenkirch said in a note to clients. The Saudi riyal also weakened in the forward market, with the 12-month US dollar/riyal forwards quoted as high as 183 points against 129 points last week. The crackdown came almost two weeks after Saudi Arabia hosted a major investment conference in Riyadh, where it announced big new projects and investment partnerships as part of efforts to diversify the economy away from oil. — Reuters

EU finance chiefs thrash out post-Brexit future

BRUSSELS: European Union finance ministers wrangled yesterday over differences in plans to reform the euro common currency in the wake of last year's shock Brexit vote. The ministers were laying the groundwork for a leaders' summit on December 15 that will discuss proposals by French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker.

The 27 EU ministers-minus Britain-discussed three key issues that go to the heart of making the euro more politically and economically unified, so it is more resilient against future crises. They zeroed in on creating a eurozone rainy day fund, simplifying the EU's budgetary discipline rules and finally completing a "banking union" that removes restrictions between lenders across the bloc. "We will try to boil it down so that we can report to the European leaders in December," said Jeroen Dijsselbloem, who heads the Eurogroup of 19 countries that use the single currency, after the

discussion. But Britain was left out in the cold as it is set to leave the EU in 2019 before most of the planned reforms will take effect.

Annual budget?

One of the most complex challenges will be simplifying rules for national budgets, which eurozone governments have to keep under tight control to escape sanctions from Brussels. But if the Europeans agree on the need for reform, they are divided on how to achieve it with France traditionally taking a more easy-going line than Germany, which cherishes a balanced budget.

"Debt will become more and more the issue," said Dijsselbloem, with public debt levels in several countries more than double the EU limit. The question of the eurozone building common spending power, an old idea recently dusted off again by Macron, is also complicated. Paris wants a big budget as a show of European solidarity in the face of financial shocks, whereas Juncker wants to make it small and symbolic-a line favored by the Germans. "We don't need an annual budget for that," said Juncker-ally Klaus Regling, the head of the European Stability Mechanism, the eurozone's current rescue fund, though he said a debate was still needed. Banking union and a system of deposit guarantees to prevent bank runs will also be on the agenda, with the EU keen to finally finish plans that have been on the drawing board since the eurozone debt crisis started. — AFP

Business

KFH wins 'Best Consumer Digital Bank in Kuwait 2017' award

KFH, KFH-Turkey win product innovation awards



Yousef Al-Ruwaieh receiving the award



KFH-Turkey receiving the award



Global Finance awards



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won "Best Consumer Digital Bank in Kuwait 2017" Award from Global Finance Magazine in the Middle East Category. Also, KFH and KFH-Turkey won Product Innovation (Al-Nuwait Deposit), and Product Innovation (New Generation Credit Card) awards respectively in the category of The Innovators 2017 -Islamic Finance. Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh received the bank's awards in London at Global Finance's Best Digital Bank Awards dinner.

KFH was chosen among entries evaluated by a world-class panel of judges at Infosys, a global leader in consulting, technology and outsourcing. Global Finance editors were responsible for the final selection of winners in the First Round. KFH was selected based on the following criteria: strength of strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, success in getting clients to use digital offerings, growth of digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from digital initiatives, and web/mobile site design and functionality.

Joseph D Giarraputo, publisher and editorial

director of Global Finance said "Digital banking is here to stay, and this year's winners illustrate the importance of relentless innovation in products, systems and services. Corporate and retail clients expect transformative new solutions, and this year's winners consistently deliver on those expectations."

KFH offers over 180 e-services online, and takes advantage of social networking sites, where it offered secure banking services for clients using those sites. KFH has recently launched a novel approach of banking services; XTM that allows customers to conduct their transactions and perform many banking services in minutes in a very modern way using advanced tools through visual and audio communication options. The bank launched 'Mobile Wallet

Payment Service' that enables KFH customers to pay for their purchases by simply tapping their smart phones at Point of Sale (POS) terminals equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. KFH launched Visa Checkout service, which enables quick, safe and secure online payment. The bank has launched several other innovative digital banking services. Al-Nuwait deposit is distinguished by its Islamic Wakala structure, where KFH acts as an agent on behalf of the clients to manage their investment activities. In contrast KFH promises the clients with expected profit rates based on different investment periods, noting that the deposit allows clients to receive returns without the need to wait until end of the fiscal year. In addition, clients can withdraw up to 30 percent of the

invested amount without having to cancel the deposit. KFH-Turkey's new generation credit card characterized by its affordability brings a different perspective in the sector. Saglam Card offers holders of this card the option to charge their basic health and education bills and repay them in 5 installments with no extra payment and to determine the number of installments they would choose at their discretion up to 12 installments for each spending of TL 100 or more by card. The holders of the card earn Gold Points corresponding to 50 TL without any card fee if they spend 200 TL or more a month and they repay their credit card debts regularly.

KFH will continuously improve its services and keep abreast with latest banking technology in order to meet the aspiration of its customers while maintaining its pioneering position as a world leading Islamic financial institution.

It is worth noting that Global Finance Magazine is a monthly magazine founded in 1987. It provides a valuable source of data on 192 countries. With vast experience in international financial markets, it helps corporate leaders, bankers and investors chart the course of global business and finance.



Recognition from Global Finance

Australia central bank keeps rates on hold

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank left interest rates at a record low yesterday after mixed signals from the domestic economy in recent weeks. The Reserve Bank slashed rates by 300 basis points since November 2011 to 1.50 percent, but has left them on hold since August last year. Stagnant wage growth and a weak consumer price index continue to be issues preventing the bank from lifting rates. "The low level of interest rates is continuing to support the Australian economy," said Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe.

"Taking account of the available information, the board judged that holding the stance of monetary policy unchanged at this meeting would be consistent with sustainable growth in the economy and achieving the inflation target over time." The board met after conflicting data in recent weeks. On the positive side, the global economy and infrastructure outlook remain positive while rampant house price growth has been slowing in line with a "soft landing". The unemployment rate has also fallen to 5.5 percent. But third quarter inflation data was slightly below expectations and September retail sales came in weak. A pick-up in wage growth also remains elusive. "Wage growth remains low in most countries, as does core inflation," admitted Lowe. —AFP

GCC markets retreat despite a rally in oil prices

KUWAIT: Global equities ended the month of October in the green. The MSCI All Country Index was positive at 2.0 percent. The Nikkei was the largest gainer, hitting new highs after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's election victory. US equities ended on a positive note, with the S&P 500 and Dow Jones closing at 2.2 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively. European equities continued their winning streak, with the Stoxx Europe 600 closing the month up 1.8 percent despite news of Catalonia's declaration of independence. Commodities had mixed performances for the month, with Gold at -0.6 percent and Brent rallying 6.7 percent.

In the US, the US Markit Manufacturing PMI, on a preliminary basis, came in at 54.5, slightly higher than last month's 53.1 while the Markit Services PMI came in slightly lower than expected at 55.3. The labor market continues to be healthy, with Initial Jobless Claims at 233,000, less than market expectations of 235,000. Durable Goods Orders increased by 2.2 percent in September versus 2.0 percent in August. Housing starts fell in September by 4.7 percent from the previous month to 1.1287m, while building permits dropped by 4.5 percent. In retail, sales grew by 1.6 percent in September, slightly less than market expectations of 1.7 percent. Consumer Sentiment was down with a reading of 100.7 in October, slightly below September's 101.1.

UK manufacturing
In the UK, the Markit Manufacturing PMI for October came in at 56.3, slightly higher than last month's reading of 55.9. The Services PMI also came in higher than the previous month's reading at 55.6. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September came in lower than the previous month with 0.3 percent versus 0.6 percent. On a year on year basis, the CPI remained unchanged at a 0.3 percent increase. Retail sales fell by 0.8 percent in September compared to a 0.9 percent increase in August, while October consumer confidence dropped to -10 compared to the previous month's reading of -9.

UK equities ended the month up 1.6 percent, as measured by the FTSE 100. The Eurozone Markit Manufacturing PMI came in at 58.5 for October, slightly

lower than the previous month, while the preliminary reading for the Eurozone Markit Services PMI came in at 54.8 compared to last month's 55.8. Consumer confidence in October remained unchanged from the previous month at -1. The Consumer Price Index on a preliminary basis in October increased 1.4 percent year on year compared to August's increase of 1.5 percent.

NBK CAPITAL

European equities closed up for the month by 1.8 percent as measured by the Stoxx Europe 600. Japan's exports in September increased by 14.1 percent year on year compared to 18.1 percent in August. Meanwhile, imports year on year in September increased by 12 percent compared to the prior

month's increase of 15.2 percent. The Nikkei Manufacturing PMI reading for October indicated continued growth with a reading of 52.8, slightly higher than the previous month's reading of 52.5. Housing starts, year on year for October, fell by 2.9 percent compared to September's drop of 2.0 percent.

Japanese equities

Japanese equities rallied in October, as measured by the Nikkei 225, up 8.1 percent. China's imports, measured in local currency, increased by 19.5 percent in September, on a year on year basis, compared to the previous month's increase of 14.4 percent. Exports also grew during September by 9.0 percent compared to August's 6.9 percent. For the month of September, the Consumer Price Index increased by 0.5 percent compared to the 0.4 percent increase in August. On a year on year basis, the Consumer Price Index reported a 1.6 percent increase, in line with expectations, however lower than the previous month's increase of 1.8 percent.

The MSCI Emerging Market Index was green for the month of October, gaining 3.5 percent. Chinese equities, measured by the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite, also closed in the green 1.3 percent.

The majority of the GCC equity markets closed in the red during October. The MSCI GCC Countries Index was down -2.8 percent. Saudi Arabia's market was the largest loser at -4.8 percent followed by Kuwait and Oman each at -2.5 percent, Qatar at -1.8 percent, and Bahrain at -0.5 percent. Both Dubai and Abu Dhabi closed the month with positive performance: Dubai gained 2.0 percent and Abu Dhabi gained 1.9 percent. Within the MENA region, Egypt's equity market, as measured by the EGX 30 posted a gain of 3.3 percent.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.	
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.655
Indian Rupees	4.692
Pakistani Rupees	2.878
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Nepali Rupees	2.937
Singapore Dollar	223.240
Hongkong Dollar	38.912
Bangladesh Taka	3.686
Philippine Peso	5.919
Thai Baht	9.172
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.014
Qatari Riyal	83.441
Omani Riyal	788.981
Bahraini Dinar	806.700
UAE Dirham	82.714
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	0.000
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.159
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219
Tunisian Dinar	122.420
Jordanian Dinar	428.390
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.024
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.367
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.600

Euro	354.000
Sterling Pound	398.630
Canadian dollar	238.870
Turkish lira	80.320
Swiss Franc	304.360
Australian Dollar	234.080
US Dollar Buying	302.400
GOLD	
20 Gram	260.520
10 Gram	133.180
5 Gram	67.430
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Rate for Transfer	
US Dollar	303.250
Canadian Dollar	238.145
Sterling Pound	397.935
Euro	353.615
Swiss Frank	305.300
Bahrain Dinar	804.850
UAE Dirhams	82.955
Qatari Riyals	83.780
Saudi Riyals	81.725
Jordanian Dinar	429.000
Egyptian Pound	17.222
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Indian Rupees	4.689
Pakistani Rupees	2.876
Bangladesh Taka	3.716
Philippines Peso	5.911
Cyprus pound	18.040

Japanese Yen	3.650	
Syrian Pound	1.590	
Nepalese Rupees	2.935	
Malaysian Ringgit	72.430	
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.110	
Thai Bhat	10.135	
Turkish Lira	78.555	
BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.393722	0.401222
Czech Korune	0.005752	0.017752
Danish Krone	0.043233	0.048233
Euro	0.346546	0.354046
Georgian Lari	0.116276	0.116276
Norwegian Krone	0.033252	0.038452
Romanian Leu	0.059725	0.076575
Russian ruble	0.005198	0.005198
Slovakia	0.009062	0.019062
Swedish Krona	0.032066	0.037066
Swiss Franc	0.297370	0.308370
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.224657	0.236657
New Zealand Dollar	0.203955	0.213455
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.231194	0.242194
US Dollars	0.299500	0.303920
US Dollars Mint	0.300000	0.303920

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003317
Chinese Yuan	0.044325
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036821
Indian Rupee	0.004159
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018
Japanese Yen	0.002578
Korean Won	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067948
Nepalese Rupee	0.003030
Pakistani Rupee	0.002670
Philippine Peso	0.005797
Singapore Dollar	0.217271
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001633
Taiwan	0.009941
Thai Baht	0.008816
Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.798309
Egyptian Pound	0.014259
Iranian Riyal	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207
Jordanian Dinar	0.423604
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022816
Omani Riyal	0.782253
Qatar Riyal	0.079101
Saudi Riyal	0.079873
Syrian Pound	0.001287
Tunisian Dinar	0.117880
Turkish Lira	0.074332
UAE Dirhams	0.081234
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987

Business

Drop in German industrial output masks robust outlook

Economy ministry says industrial sector remains 'lively'

BERLIN: German industrial production fell in September after surging a month earlier, but output still grew by 0.8 percent in the third quarter as a whole and should increase further in the months ahead, the Economy Ministry said. Industrial output fell by 1.6 percent in September after rising by 2.6 in August, the biggest gain in more than six years, data from the Economy Ministry showed yesterday. A Reuters poll of analysts had forecast a drop of 0.8 percent.

A breakdown of the data showed a sharp drop in production of capital goods. But industrial activity remained "very lively" and production rose by 0.8 percent in the third quarter as a whole, the ministry said, adding: "Overall, industrial production should expand further in the coming months." Figures from the ministry on Monday showed industrial orders rose unexpectedly in September, driven by demand from other euro zone countries for capital goods. That suggests the economy will extend its expansion in the

coming months. "Despite today's setback, all ingredients are in place to see a resurgence of industrial activity in the coming months," ING economist Carsten Brzeski said. Despite protracted talks on forming a new German coalition

should continue soon." Despite weeks of exploratory discussions, Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, the pro-business Free Democrats and the Greens remain far apart on a range of issues as they try to form a three-way coalition. Helping the coalition negotiators is the strong economy, which is generating a budget surplus that leaves room to satisfy all sides, to some degree, by paying for both tax cuts and investment in areas such as upgrading infrastructure.

Germany's DIHK Chambers of Industry and Commerce last month raised its growth forecast for Europe's biggest economy to 2.0 percent for this year from its previous estimate of 1.8 percent and sees an even stronger expansion next year. Gross domestic product growth data for the third quarter will be published on Nov 14. Underlining the health of the economy, carmaker BMW yesterday raised its outlook for pretax profit this year, although third-quarter earnings fell on upfront costs for new technologies and models. It is counting on record sales of luxury cars. — Reuters



Strong data signals further output gains

government, Brzeski said, "spending more money in our view remains the easiest-to-agree-on common denominator for any next German government. Therefore, keep your seat belts fastened, the fast ride of the German economy



MUNICH: This file photo taken on March 18, 2014 shows employees of German car maker BMW working on an assembly line for BMW cars at the company's plant in Munich, southern Germany. — AFP

Warba Bank announces winners of Sunbula account monthly draw

KUWAIT: On November 6, 2017, Warba Bank held its monthly Sunbula draw along with 2 more draws related to campaigns launched earlier this year, the first to encourage the use of the bank's advanced online and mobile banking solution, and the second related to the use of the innovative "Express Bill" service. The draw was moderated by representatives of the Kuwait Chamber of Industry and Commerce along with the Warba Bank team.

Sunbula Account monthly draw

As for the monthly Al-Sunbula draw, thirteen winners of



Warba Bank were awarded a total of KD 30,000, distributed as follows: KD 10,000 award went to Sultan Helal Bekheet Alroumi Alajmi, while each of Abdulwahab Abdullah Saeed Almohammad and Ahmad Nayef Musaef Alenezi won KD 5,000. The 10 winners of KD 1,000 are:

Fahad Reja Teamah Alkhalidi, Faisal Mohammad Abdullah Alruwaili, Abdullah H H Alotaibi, Ghayeb Mohamad Shamsheer Omar, Saeb Ebdah Khaled Alhajri, Omar Meshal Jabr Alenezi, Rashed Saad Rashed Alazmi, Khaled Badran Yousef Aldosari, Ahmad Musaed Obaid Almeqrin and Hamad Humoud Mehmed Alotaibi.

Al-Sunbula account was launched by Warba Bank in the beginning of 2016. Due to the high demand from customers and rapid growth, the total value of prizes have increased twice from KD 10,000 originally to reach KD 30,000 in July 2017, and simultaneously increasing the number of monthly winners to 13. Al-Sunbula, both as an account and flexible deposit, has now become the ideal choice for customers who aim to save money, generate financial returns, and hold monthly opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year.

The second draw held was for the Warba Online campaign which was launched to encourage customers to use the bank's advanced online and mobile solution to perform their banking transactions easily and flexibly. Ongoing until November 2017, the campaign is in line with Warba Bank's strategy to enhance its digital infrastructure and support it

with quality Islamic banking services. The winner of the draw was Ahmed Jassem Eissa Alqassar, winning KD 500 through an electronic draw.

The third and last draw encourages the use of "Express Bill" and rewarded five winners with different values of their mobile bills. "Express Bill" is a unique digital service offered by Warba Bank that allows customers to pay their bills through Warba Bank mobile application. Customers also have the option to schedule and automate the payment of their (and their families) monthly bills. The winners were: Mariam Rajes Dghaim Al-Arfani who won 100 percent of her bill value, while Kunath Vanian Candi Srimon, Mohammed Wasni Share' Althufairi, Hamed Ghaleb Abdulhadi Alfadhli and Aliahwadh Oudal Alanzi who won 80 percent, 60 percent, 40 percent and 20 percent repetitively.

From the mentioned draws, the bank revealed a total of 19 winners with quality prizes and will continue to do so on a monthly basis. Warba Bank is committed to high levels of customer satisfaction and strive to be the first choice for Islamic banking, through offering an array of rewarding banking solutions, premium services, and utilizing the latest in technology.

The All New GMC Terrain 2018

Arrived to MSRY Behbehani Showrooms

The All new GMC Terrain 2018 with superb sports performance and luxurious design has finally arrived to the showrooms of Mohammad Saleh & Reza Yousef Behbehani the exclusive distributor of GMC in Kuwait. The completely reinvented GMC Terrain 2018 is equipped with advanced communication and entertainment systems giving you power, comfort and connectivity along the way!

Seven years after its successful launch in the US, global and Arabian Gulf markets, the all new GMC Terrain 2018 is being manufactured in North America. The new version of GMC Terrain Compact SUV is given a fully modern exterior and interior design with two turbo engines that reflect its power and dynamic features.

The new GMC Terrain 2018 has been refined on every level, it has radically changed its features and gained more strength and distinctive appearance, starting from the new front-facing grille and front LED headlights, which are based on a square design curves with C-shaped sides. Those C-shaped are applied on both rear and front lighting giving the driver the highest visibility while driving. GMC Terrain has also received two new front and rear bumpers, as well as a change in its sporty rear roof. The vehicle has modern lines to enhance its appeal, making a lasting first impression and sets a bold tone for the rest of the vehicle's exterior. GMC Terrain Denali will be also provided with heavy silver chrome accents.

The new GMC Terrain 2018 is based on a new 12.7 cm shorter wheelbase, making this new version of Terrain shorter by 8.128 cm from the previous model. However, this didn't stop the GMC designers from creating a bold style, first-class comfort for passengers and plenty of storage areas.

The all-new Terrain's interior features a stan-

dard leather wrapped steering wheel, real aluminum trim and soft-touch materials to enhance your driving experience and maximize comfort. Terrain's infotainment system is designed to be familiar and easy to use. With an available 8-inch diagonal multi-touch screen and Bluetooth technology that is compatible with Apple Car Play and Android Auto, the all-new Terrain keeps you connected to a world of information, communication and entertainment. GMC Terrain SLT and Denali are equipped with luxurious Bose Sound System with 7 speakers and electronic no-touch back-door. GMC Terrain Denali model is also designed with more advanced intuitive driver-assist, cameras and safety technologies that help the driver in parking easily and feel more secure.

Mechanically GMC has worked on entirely new engines for the Terrain 2018, starting with a 4-L, turbocharged 1.5-L, engine generating 170 HP and 275 Newton-meters of torque. The larger 2.0-L, turbocharged 2.0-L, engine is 252 HP and 353 Newton-meters of torque. Both engines are connected to the new 9-speed automatic transmission which features button control instead of the traditional stick, which is usually available in luxury cars. The larger engine can weigh 1.5 tons the same as the previous V6, which means acquiring same power with less fuel consumption.

The New GMC Terrain 2018 comes with a front-wheel drive or four-wheel drive option that provides front-wheel drive shift mode to save fuel consumption. All categories are available with different driving positions to suit all road types from city streets to sandy off-road with road stability control capabilities.

Now you can visit and see the all new GMC Terrain 2018 at the GMC Behbehani Showrooms where sales team will be waiting to explain their new features and techniques.



Business

Euro stocks fall, oil spikes on Saudi tensions

LONDON: Europe's stock markets retreated yesterday on worries over simmering Middle East tensions, which are centered on Saudi Arabia and have catapulted oil prices to two-year peaks.

Wall Street opened higher, building on closing records on Monday, but with little economic news scheduled to provide any firm direction, traders said. Crude jumped higher this week on Saudi Arabia's sweeping crackdown on princes and ministers, with billionaire tycoon Al-Waleed bin Talal arrested on corruption allegations. Oil was boosted further as geopolitical tensions surged between Riyadh and Tehran, sparking fears of a conflict that could disrupt supplies from two major producers.

Brent oil struck \$64.65 per barrel—the highest since June 2015. New York crude hit \$57.69, last seen in July of the same year. Rising oil prices tend to boost the energy

sector and in turn boost world stock markets. However, the lingering geopolitical uncertainty has cast a pall over Europe's equity markets, dealers said.

Earlier gains in Europe and Britain had "unwound ... as the prospect of further tensions in Saudi Arabia unnerves investors," said IG analyst, Chris Beauchamp.

"Initial glee at the steady rise in oil prices has given way to unease about what might be next in this volatile region. A showdown with Iran looks likely, with significant ramifications, and not just for the Middle East."

Asia forges higher

On the upside, Asian markets rose on Tuesday, with Tokyo and Sydney breaking through historic ceilings thanks to strong corporate earnings and a positive global growth outlook. Japan's Nikkei closed at its highest level

since January 1992, and Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 broke above the psychologically important 6,000 points barrier for the first time since the global financial crisis.

The upward trend tracked overnight records on Wall Street, where US stocks hit fresh highs for the second straight day amid a tech-sector mega-merger, buoyant oil prices, solid economic data and a series of strong earnings reports.

Asia investors appear to have shrugged off nervousness over tensions on the Korean peninsula, with US President Donald Trump visiting Seoul.

Trump arrived yesterday for a two-day visit to South Korea, which he had previously accused of appeasing the North. There had been fears that Trump's rhetoric or mere presence close to North Korea would raise tensions with Pyongyang or trigger further weapons tests by the

nuclear-armed regime. But so far there have been no significant developments to upset the markets. A more alarming development for traders in Seoul—where shares slipped 0.2 percent—was the possible renegotiation of the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

Tokyo rally

Japan's rally has been aided by a strong earnings season, with Toyota yesterday the latest major corporate to raise its profit forecast for the year. Japan's number-one carmaker said its net profit rose 13.2 percent to 1.07 trillion yen (\$9.4 billion) for the six months to September, citing a cheaper yen and cost-cutting efforts.

In recent months, crude oil has been on an upward trajectory due to growing global demand as OPEC leads efforts to limit supply. —AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Tuesday 07 November 2017						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing			
Price Index	▼ -176.06	6,143.01	6,319.07			
Weighted Index	▼ -15.28	387.00	402.28			
KSX 15	▼ -43.14	875.00	918.74			
Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last Change
IPG	380	360	200,000	72,400	3	360 ▼ -25.0
NAPESCO	800	780	17,452	13,305	12	800 ▼ -0.0
ENERGYH	33.5	30.0	55,200	1,896	9	31.0 ▼ -1.5
GPI	31.0	28.0	1,452,754	41,605	56	29.0 ▼ -1.1
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89 ▼ -0.0
Oil & Gas			1,725,356	128,967	80	932.00 ▼ -15.70
KFODUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290 ▼ -0.0
BPCO	630	610	122,907	75,866	14	629 ▲ 1.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600 ▼ -0.0
ALQURAIN	325	310	1,003,809	317,037	33	320 ▼ -2.0
Basic Materials			1,126,716	382,903	47	1258.52 ▼ -2.0
KCEM	457	456	20,100	11,446	2	457 ▲ 7.0
CABLE	451	400	224,671	95,530	36	415 ▼ -36.0
SHP	214	173	77,611	15,501	15	211 ▲ 8.0
PCEM	950	900	33,888	30,749	3	900 ▼ -50.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 ▼ -0.0
MRC	72	71	11,700	832	6	71 ▼ -16.9
AGICO	240	240	5,000	1,200	2	240 ▼ -18.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170 ▼ -0.0
NKCBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180 ▼ -0.0
EQUIPMENT	36.8	32.7	1,246,455	42,314	30	33.8 ▼ -1.2
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90 ▼ -0.0
GYPSPUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95 ▼ -0.0
SALBOORH	80	44.9	363,881	16,915	21	53 ▼ -3.0
AGLTY	798	708	5,563,340	4,043,136	313	720 ▼ -33.0
EDU	308	308	923,287	284,372	12	308 ▼ -4.0
CLEANING	51	48.0	20,100	925	5	51 ▲ 8.0
KGL	59	59	10	1	1	59 ▲ 4.8
KPCO	135	134	20,525	2,760	2	134 ▼ -16.9
HUMANSOFT	3,707	3,600	224,363	828,969	57	3,600 ▼ -100.0
NAFAIS	590	500	12,287	8,149	4	590 ▼ -10.0
GFC	75	70	3,464,447	258,714	16	76 ▲ 11.5
SHOOTING	22.0	18.5	580,127	11,817	37	22.0 ▼ -1.0
CGC	480	478	6,350	3,048	4	480 ▼ -15.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86 ▼ -0.0
UFAC	605	605	2,424	1,487	1	605 ▼ -5.0
ALAFOD	361	355	559,362	200,713	24	355 ▼ -10.0
MUBARRAD	72	65	197,051	13,783	18	68 ▲ 8.0
LOGISTICS	53	50	859,172	44,095	39	52 ▼ -1.3
SCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82 ▼ -0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80 ▼ -0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82 ▼ -0.0
QCEM	89	86	228,100	15,083	5	89 ▲ 2.0
RKWC	80	72	64,727	4,967	4	80 ▼ -0.1
SPEC	83	70	11,791	862	22	71 ▼ -9.5
Industrials			14,725,779	5,936,067	679	1680.83 ▼ -28.10
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75 ▼ -0.0
CATTL	251	250	7,000	1,755	2	250 ▼ -1.0
DANAH	72	65	255,730	17,252	15	69 ▼ -1.0
FOOD	1,400	1,250	1,501	1,876	5	1,400 ▼ -120.0
Consumer Goods			284,231	20,884	22	901.45 ▼ -25.10
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100 ▼ -0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175 ▼ -0.0
Health Care			0	0	0	0.00 ▼ -0.00
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,900 ▼ -0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180 ▼ -0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67 ▼ -0.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	23.1 ▼ -0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	299 ▼ -0.0
OUARFUEL	115	103	140,065	15,379	25	113 ▼ -2.0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81 ▼ -0.0
JAZEERA	644	630	15,678	9,923	7	639 ▼ -1.0
SOOR	114	101	92,320	10,137	17	108 ▼ -4.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110 ▼ -0.0
ALRAI	110	110	29,150	3,207	4	110 ▼ -0.0
Jyad	52	49.7	1,932,700	98,295	44	51 ▼ -1.0
Mazzan	802	686	571,081	445,991	44	789 ▼ -16.0
Consumer Services			2,780,999	582,933	141	935.80 ▼ -4.90
ZAIN	466	413	12,397,705	5,410,929	629	434 ▼ -29.0
OORODOO	1,175	1,000	5,343	5,757	18	1,175 ▲ 13.0
AAN	29.0	26.2	1,946,000	53,257	48	26.2 ▼ -1.3
VIVA	770	757	68,535	52,234	48	760 ▼ -14.0
Telecommunications			14,417,583	5,822,177	743	548.19 ▼ -18.60
NBK	731	690	7,947,974	5,638,566	308	700 ▼ -20.0
GBK	241	235	365,563	86,583	25	236 ▼ -4.0
CBK	400	395	50,000	21,975	4	400 ▼ -0.0
ABK	312	308	144,642	44,356	4	312 ▼ -0.0
ALMUTAHED	370	360	190,238	70,050	17	361 ▼ -1.0
KIB	223	199	1,691,150	348,222	136	200 ▼ -18.0
BURG	325	300	1,311,522	402,259	38	310 ▼ -18.0
KFIN	555	490	14,984,443	7,769,409	836	511 ▼ -37.0
BOURBYAN	421	400	714,738	291,905	80	405 ▼ -16.0
AUB	181	183	8,311,551	1,547,946	201	185 ▼ -4.0
ITHMR	32.4	28.2	5,952,014	181,644	103	29.9 ▼ -1.0
WARBANK	223	195	2,791,610	590,156	205	210 ▼ -11.0
Banks			44,460,443	16,993,490	1,737	844.20 ▼ -34.90
KINS	285	250	47,287	11,822	2	285 ▲ 15.0
GINS	640	640	1,000	640	1	640 ▼ -160.0
AJNS	420	415	25,000	10,456	3	415 ▼ -5.0
WINS	66	66	20,053	1,324	3	66 ▼ -2.1
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187 ▼ -0.0
FTI	60	60	100	6	1	60 ▲ 4.0
WETHAQ	37.0	37.0	30,000	1,110	1	37.0 ▼ -3.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355 ▼ -0.0
Insurance			123,440	25,348	11	994.85 ▼ -47.90

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report								
At 02:00 PM Previous Day								
Global Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Dow Jones	23,539.19	23,548.42	9.23	▲	0.04	19.16		
NASDAQ	6,764.44	6,786.44	22.00	▲	0.33	26.07		
S&P 500	2,587.84	2,591.13	3.29	▲	0.13	15.77		
Financial Times	7,562.28	7,551.31	-10.97	▼	-0.15	5.72		
DAX	13,468.79	13,488.09	19.30	▲	0.14	17.48		
CAC 40	5,507.25	5,503.28	-3.97	▼	-0.07	13.18		
Swiss	9,288.78	9,256.62	-32.16	▼	-0.35	12.99		
Nikkei 225	22,548.35	22,937.60	389.25	▲	1.73	20.00		
Topix	1,792.66	1,813.29	20.63	▲	1.15	19.40		
Hang Seng	28,596.80	28,994.34	397.54	▲	1.39	31.79		
Straits Times	3,381.85	3,413.10	31.25	▲	0.92	18.48		
MENA Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait	6,319.07	6,143.01	-176.06	▼	-2.79	9.04		
Saudi Arabia	6,984.87	6,882.31	-102.56	▼	-1.47	-3.13		
Dubai	3,544.08	3,480.70	-63.38	▼	-1.79	0.37		
Abu Dhabi	4,435.21	4,419.62	-15.59	▼	-0.35	-2.45		
Bahrain	1,265.64	1,253.07	-12.57	▼	-0.99	3.70		
Qatar	8,014.71	7,930.78	-83.93	▼	-1.05	-23.21		
Oman	5,079.20	5,078.55	-0.65	▼	-0.01	-12.17		
Lebanon	1,167.50	1,167.50	0.00	-	0.00	-3.73		
Jordan	2,092.25	2,089.75	-2.50	▼	-0.12	-3.60		
Egypt	14,072.92	13,987.30	-85.62	▼	-0.61	14.00		
Morocco	12,451.44	12,480.62	28.98	▲	0.23	7.18		
Tunisia	6,131.16	6,124.12	-7.04	▼	-0.11	11.70		
Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwaiti Dinar		12.2724	3.2862	2.8410	2.4992	3.2872	375.45	4.2918
Saudi Riyal	0.08148		0.2678	0.2315	0.2036	0.2679	30.59	0.3497
US Dollar	0.30430	3.7345		0.8645	0.7605	1.0003	114.25	1.3060
Euro	0.35198	4.3197	1.1567		0.8797	1.1573	132.15	1.5107
Sterling Pound	0.40012	4.9105	1.3149	1.1268		1.3156	150.23	1.7176
Swiss Franc	0.30421	3.7334	0.9997	0.8641	0.7601		114.22	1.3056
Japanese Yen	0.00266	0.0327	0.0088	0.0076	0.0067	0.0088		0.0114
Australian Dollar	0.23300	2.8595	0.7657	0.6619	0.5822	0.7659	87.48	
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar								

Business

Al-Sayer unveils new Lexus NX 300

An amazing drive for every journey



KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons and Lexus announced the launch of the new NX 300 in the Middle East with a sleeker and sporty exterior and sharper handling performance. Since its introduction in 2015, the Lexus NX 300, formerly known as the NX 200t, quickly captured the hearts and minds of admirers with its combination of luxury, fresh, and contemporary design, and enjoyable driving dynamics.

Its sales performance has been stronger than even Lexus anticipated, breaking sales forecasts in all the world markets where it is available. In efforts to sustain this positive momentum and reinforce the NX's strong appeal, Lexus has initiated a package of revisions and improvements, covering exterior and interior styling, safety, and equipment features.

Game-changing luxury crossover

According to Mahmoud Abou-Zahr, Business Director, Lexus Kuwait, "The Kuwait automotive market place is predominantly represented by youth who are expressive in their views as well as extremely vibrant in terms of their choices and lifestyle. They tend to have a stronger association with vehicles offering unique, cool, sporty, agile and enjoyable driving experience. Developed at all stages from the perspective of young, urban and luxury drivers as the Premium Urban Sports Gear SUV to set new standards for future Lexus models, the new NX has been a top player through emotionally appealing to affluent youth."

Takeaki Kato, Chief Engineer of the Lexus NX, said: "For the new NX, we made bold refinements to the design, elevated its performance, and added new features to enhance its comfort and convenience. The new NX still possesses the same elements that have made it popular in the past—a sharp design, everyday's convenience, and driving pleasure that will satisfy all enthusiasts, but the vehicle as a whole has evolved dramatically, as you are bound to see and feel when you first experience it."

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative of Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "We are very excited to announce the launch of the new NX, which comes with a new range of enhancements in design, convenience, and safety, along with an added layer of meaningful luxury to express our customers' unique personality. The new NX with its stylish design and superior driving dynamics reflects the evolving needs and aspirations of luxury customers in the region while shining a light on our vision to create amazing experiences. We are grateful to our customers in the region who are our constant source of inspiration, and we are confident that the new NX will surpass their expectations and enable them to express their individuality."

"The NX embodies 25 years of Lexus research and development having the best-in-class craftsmanship and state-of-the-art technology. This is the reason the NX was launched two years ago in Kuwait as "the birth of a new star" and NX will continue to be a star in its segment," added Mahmoud Abou-Zahr.

The new NX's advanced turbocharged 235-hp, 2.0-liter engine combines fuel efficiency with outstanding power output, generating exhilarating acceleration for sporty driving, together with exceptional fuel economy. The NX is also available with features offering both driver and passengers comfort and convenience such as a mobile phone wireless charger, a dual zone air conditioner, a unique power reclining, a power folding 60:40 split rear seat, in addition to a hands-free power backdoor to name a few.

As with any other Lexus models, safety remains a top priority for the new NX so it will include the brand's innovative Lexus Safety System+, in addition to a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as eight SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability



Control (VSC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), among many others.

Bold new exterior

Lexus strives to build a stronger, more emotional connection with its customers and this reflects in the way it designs and engineers its vehicles. Lexus designers thoroughly enhanced the design essence of the original NX model, which has proved so appealing to car enthusiasts around the world with details that further increase its visual impact. The entire front fascia of the new NX has been refreshed, with the upper portion of the grille and the front bumpers redesigned to fluidly blend into the hood and front doors, resulting in a sleeker overall shape and excellent aerodynamics. The new NX's available AHS-equipped headlamps and triple projectors give the NX's face a sportier aura. Also of note, satin and smoked chrome trim elements have been applied to the grille treatment in addition to new vertical elements added to the grille's inner portion.

"Starting at the spindle grille, the way the front edges connect to the front fenders results in a much bolder expression than before, clearly highlighting the NX's style design architecture," said Shin Kamiura, NX's Exterior Designer, Lexus Design Division. "We have also changed the shape of the lower front bumper to better support the spindle grille, as well as relocating the fog lamps to the corner of the front bumpers, separating them from the ducts. The result is a front fascia with a stronger and more aggressive presence."

The 2018 NX's rear end has received styling touches to help match the sportiness of the front. The lower rear bumper cover now involves elements of the grille's spindle motif and has been broadened to enhance the vehicle's wide stance and low-center-of-gravity look. In addition, the NX's revised taillights have been elongated, and the black garnish has been altered to better emphasize the 'L'-shaped lenses. Also, the new NX features larger chrome-tipped exhaust tips that are integrated into the vehicle's improved bumper cover design and new rear underbody spoiler.

Interior: An authentic driver's environment

Lexus has always been at the forefront of change,

and its customers influence and shape all the innovations it delivers. The interior of the new NX has also been reworked to exude a sportier nature and a more luxurious feel. There is also a focus on improving the ease of use, convenience, and comfort of the equipment features, faithful to Lexus' commitment to the principles of Omotenashi (hospitality).

The first thing you are bound to notice is the large multimedia display on the center dashboard, which has grown from 7 inches to 10.3 inches. Also, the climate control panel in the center console has been dramatically simplified with a number of buttons being replaced by four easy-to-operate toggle switches. These have a high tactile quality with a raised pattern of small metallic Lexus 'L'-shaped motifs. The central analog clock has been made larger, with a clearer face and a more pronounced outer ring. As well as being easier to read, it has a GPS control that automatically adjusts the time as you drive through different time zones.

Nearly all the controls and switches inside the new NX, including the drive mode selector, shift knob, and door handles, now have a metallic satin finish, enhancing the premium look and feel of the cabin. Even the audio knob and window switches feature a metallic coating.

On the center console, the remote touch interface pad has been enlarged and redesigned for easier operation, and the palm rest has been reshaped for maximum wrist comfort. The wireless charger tray has also grown in size to accommodate larger smartphones. In addition, the USB ports have been more optimally positioned in the center console, and their amperage has been increased for faster charging.

Convenience and versatility define the NX 300, which features a world-first power folding 60:40 split/recline rear seat. The reclining angle can be adjusted using switches located on the sides of the rear seat. The rear seat can be folded or returned using switches located on the sides of the rear seat and driver's seat, as well as inside the luggage compartment.

Additionally, the 2018 NX adds the convenience of hands-free power backdoor - a foot-operated system that can be used when the user's hands or arms are full, such as when carrying goods. Placing or kicking

up one of your feet toward a sensor beneath the rear bumper cover opens or closes the electrically-actuated backdoor. The Lexus NX 300 is also available with a Mark Levinson premium surround sound system, which features a 12-channel amplifier to drive 14 ultra-high efficiency speakers that generate outstanding output with concert hall-quality sound. The vehicle's sound system is adopted with Clari-Fi, a compressed digital audio restoration technology that helps play the music as close to its original audio quality by recreating the high-range and low-range sounds, as well as sounds of the natural vocal and stereo feelings that are usually suppressed when saving files in the MP3 format. Moreover, a new surrounding system technology allowing for even more precise turning than in the past that fills the cabin with natural sound. Two USB ports and one AUX mini-jack are available inside the console box.

Superb performance

Powering the NX 300 will be Lexus' powerful and fuel-efficient turbocharged 2.0-liter inline-4 engine. Producing 235 hp at 4800-5,600 rpm with 35.7 kg-m of torque from 1,650-4,000 rpm, the engine features Torque-Demand control logic to calculate required engine torque to deliver a quick response and an exhilarating acceleration feel. The engine is also mated with a super intelligent 6-speed automatic transmission. The Multi-mode Automatic Transmission and G-force Artificial Intelligence (G-AI) system enable more spirited driving by selecting the optimum gear and downshift pattern in response to G-force.

Significant improvements have been made to the vehicle's suspension tuning to enhance ride and handling. The springs, stabilizer bars, and bushings have been retuned for improved turn-in response and steady-state cornering. Also, new shock absorbers improve the quality of the NX's already smooth ride. But the biggest new change to the NX's chassis is the Adaptive Variable Suspension (AVS), which offers a range of up to 650 instantaneous compression and damping adjustments (up from 30) to more precisely control overall handling, stability, and control.

Reflecting Lexus' utmost commitment to passenger safety, the new NX 300, comes equipped with a comprehensive suite of active and passive safety features complemented with the addition of the preventive safety package, Lexus Safety System+, which integrates active safety technologies, such as the Pre-Collision System (PCS), Dynamic Radar Cruise Control System (DRCC), Lane Departure Alert (LDA), and Automatic High Beam (AHB). Apart from the Lexus Safety System+, other safety features are also available, including Blind Spot Monitor (BSM), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA), and Tire Pressure Warning System (TPWS), to name a few.

The NX F Sport

The most athletic NX trim level, the performance-minded F SPORT, will continue to be distinguished by its pronounced mesh grille with jet-black plating and exclusive wheels that feature a bright machined finish with solid black paint.

Inside, it will receive specially textured Naguri aluminum ornamentation, which provides a high sense of elegance and sporty flair. The special white/black seating surface treatment is one of a few new interior color combinations that are exclusive to the F SPORT, as are the separate readouts for turbo boost and G-forces for the Head-Up Display (HUD).

The F SPORT also features Active Sound Control (ASC) to enhance the auditory experience. The engine note volume resonating through the cabin can be adjusted when the driver turns on ASC.



Sleeker, sporty exterior and sharper handling performance



Business

Alghanim Lotus introduces the GT430, the fastest Lotus ever

Fastest ever road-going Lotus tops speed 315 km/h

KUWAIT: Following the stunning debut of the Evora 410, Alghanim Lotus is giving customers who want the ultimate high performance sports car a chance to own one of the 60 globally produced Evora GT430, which epitomizes a purity of engineering that many car manufacturers fail to match.

The new Evora GT430 range now includes two body options and a choice of manual or automatic transmission. Joining the recently announced Evora GT430 is the Evora GT430 Sport, a new member of the family carrying the same phenomenal firepower and sculptured body, without the additional downforce creating aerodynamic elements. Both models are powered by the same 3.5-litre V6 supercharged, charge cooled engine, producing 430hp and 440 Nm of torque (Automatic version: 450 Nm). Without the aerodynamic elements, the Evora GT430 Sport weighs 10kg less at 1248 kg (dry), bringing the power-to-weight ratio to 345hp/tonne and the top speed to 196 mph (315 km/h) making it the fastest Lotus production car ever.

The Evora GT430 is differentiated from the Evora GT430 Sport through the inclusion of motorsport derived aerodynamics provided by a carbon fiber splitter, a large, profiled carbon wing and louvers on top of each front wheel arch which reduce pressure within the front wheel arches together with wider wheels and tires.

With 10 Nm more torque (450 Nm), the automatic version is even quicker, with a 0-60mph time of 3.6 seconds. The six-speed automatic transmission utilizes an optimized gearbox ECU for ultrafast changes, whilst gear selection is made via lightweight aluminum paddles mounted to the steering wheel.

Boasting a high specification, the new Evora GT430 range includes Ohlins ITX two-way adjustable dampers, J-grooved and ventilated brake discs, a Torsen-type limited slip differential (LSD) and an adjustable traction control system as standard options. The launch of the Evora GT430 has already cemented it as a true collector's car. The Evora GT430 Sport gives our customers the option of a less aggressive version, with the same power, but without some of more arresting design and aero elements, adding to the whole range of thoroughbred Lotus cars that are great on the track and supremely capable on the road."

The new Evora GT430 Sport makes full use of carbon



fiber to help hit its low kerb weight. This means that standard components include full carbon front and rear bumpers, a front access panel, a roof panel, rear quarter panels as well as a one-piece louvered tailgate with an integrated spoiler.

The Evora GT430 range also benefits from advanced aerodynamics, including two enlarged carbon fiber front ducts, with integrated air blades, to efficiently move air through the front wheel cavities and reduce turbulence created by the wheels. The curved rear edges of the front wheel arch panels also play a role, channeling air along the side of the car, while sculpted ducts behind each rear wheel vent airflow as quickly as possible from

the wheel arches, balancing downforce. As a result, the Evora GT430 Sport generates up to 100 kg of downforce at 196 mph, or approximately 56 percent more than the Evora Sport 410. The Evora GT430 generates up to 250 kg of downforce at 190 mph.

Once inside, the use of visible weave, carbon composite components continues. These include Lotus' beautifully detailed carbon race seats, new carbon door sills and a new lightweight carbon instrument binnacle cover with a new design of graphic on the instrument panel. The steering wheel, dashboard, door panels, transmission tunnel and center console are all trimmed in a combination of black Alcantara and perforated leather, complemented by contrast twin color stitching,

in red and white, and matt black interior panels. An integrated touchscreen infotainment system can be specified, including iPod connectivity and Bluetooth functionality, satellite navigation and reversing camera.

Every new Lotus Evora GT430 Sport can be personalized. Experience the purity of speed and unique experience of Lotus cars at the Alghanim Lotus showroom located in Shuwaikh Industrial 1, block 1, street 7 next to Xerox and Kromozone on Saturday to Thursday starting from 9 AM until 12:30 PM and 4:30 PM until 8:30 PM.

Car enthusiasts can also be the first to know what is new by following Alghanim Motors on Instagram at @AlghanimLotusKW.

HSBC report

Mid-market firms could unlock billions in revenues by increasing exports

KUWAIT: Mid-market enterprises (MMEs) could take advantage of huge opportunities from international trade, according to Hidden Impact: Unlocking the Growth Potential of Mid-Market Enterprises 2017, a new report recently launched by HSBC. In fact, exports currently account for only 15 percent of MMEs' revenues.

HSBC Commercial Banking, in conjunction with Oxford Economics, explored the views of 1,400 MME senior executives in 14 countries in addition to in-depth economic analysis. The findings reveal more leaders are focusing their growth strategies on domestic markets (18 percent) rather than international expansion (11 percent). Only 3 percent expect global operations will contribute to their business' financial performance in the next three years. This is despite domestic market volatility (55 percent) being their top concern. Regulatory changes (52 percent) and skills shortages (50 percent) were also identified as key concerns that are tempering MME growth appetites.

MMEs are the backbone of the economy, making significant contribution to growth and employment. It is estimated that the 433,000 MME companies across 14 countries covered by this study directly employed 208 million people - equivalent to the population of Brazil - and support \$3.4 trillion in exports. It is estimated that in just two years the direct contribution of MMEs to global GDP increased by 9 percent and the number of jobs they support grew by 3 percent.

Contribution of MMEs to economic growth in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) region have been evident in domestic markets as well as through the cross border expansion of their businesses. Continuous investment in transport connectivity, ports as well as investor-friendly free trade zones constantly increase the opportunities to find new trade partners, and grow export and import lines.

Steven Cranwell, Regional Head of Commercial Banking, HSBC MENAT said: "We have seen a number of MMEs expanding their businesses beyond the GCC in the recent years. Many have done this through diversifying their business lines or acquiring businesses in other markets. In addition, within the region, diversification of non-oil revenue streams is a major priority for governments, coupled with structural reforms. As a result, there have been an increasing number of growth opportunities for domestic and international MMEs across sectors such as tourism, healthcare, construction and infrastructure. These opportunities will only grow as countries successfully progress with their transformation agendas. HSBC is committed to working closely with businesses to help them reap the benefits of international commerce, and just as importantly, raise their profile as major economic contributors to the local economies." Half of all MMEs are estimated to be in China; a further quarter in India but per capita they have a larger profile in countries like Singapore, the UAE, Canada and Germany.

In our sample, the MME sector makes the most important contribution to local employment in United States (20 percent of market sector employment) and the UK (18 percent of market sector employment), while their share of local GDP is highest in the USA, followed by Mexico, the UAE, Australia and Canada.



Steven Cranwell

Microsoft 365 Business to supercharge Kuwait's small and medium-sized enterprises

KUWAIT: Microsoft yesterday introduced Kuwait's fast-growing SME segment to Microsoft 365 Business, a multifaceted solution that ushers them into the modern workplace era by covering all of their productivity, admin and security needs.

Combining Windows 10 Pro and Office 365 with Enterprise Mobility and Security, Microsoft 365 Business is a new solution designed for SMEs bringing together the productivity and collaboration capabilities with device management and security solutions to safeguard business data. SMEs in Kuwait represent 90 percent of the registered companies. According to World Bank, building a vibrant ecosystem for SME development is seen as critical to promoting long-term economic diversification in Kuwait. Moreover, the SME sector is expected to play a leading role in creating jobs for the next generation of Kuwaitis.

"As Kuwait continues taking its ambitious journey towards economic diversification, its small and medium enterprise sector will continue to grow and evolve over time," said Mohammed Arif, Regional Director, Microsoft 365 Business Group, Microsoft Gulf. SMEs in this country have a prime opportunity to capitalise on projected growth, through the digitally transformative power of Microsoft 365 Business. The solution is purpose-built for growing small and medium businesses to help them to empower their people, safeguard their data and simplify IT management, leaving

them with more time and resources to innovate and focus on their core business."

Evolve to the modern workplace

Microsoft 365 Business is an integrated security, management and productivity solution that allows businesses to protect mission-critical operations while empowering employees to be mobile and collaborative. Smooth interaction between Office 365, Windows 10 Pro, and Microsoft's device-management and security tools, creates a truly modern workplace, means employees can work whenever, wherever and however they want. And communication and connectivity tools allow meaningful collaboration in real time. Also added to the offerings is the Microsoft StaffHub, a new application that helps first-line workers manage their work day, allowing business owners and employees to easily create and manage schedules, assign and complete tasks, and communicate with one another.

Safeguard your business

As businesses across the world become increasingly modernised, become more vulnerable to data breaches. A recent global survey reveals 43 percent of cyber-attacks target small businesses, while only 14 percent of small businesses rate their ability to mitigate cyber-risks, vulnerabilities and attacks as "highly effective". The report further reveals that 60 percent of small companies go out of business within six months of a cyber-attack.

Through Microsoft 365 Business, SMEs benefit from best-of-breed malware protection for all their Windows devices, with Windows Defender, App Protection for Office and Mobile Device Management for Windows, protects sensitive data from attacks on employees' Windows, iOS and Android devices. "Small businesses are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of security breaches," said Arif. "They cannot bounce back from downtime or data theft the way a Fortune-500 company can. That is why Microsoft took care to include some of our most



Mohammed Arif

advanced, industry-leading security features in Microsoft 365 Business - so SMEs can concentrate on growth without worrying about the treacherous cyber-threat landscape."

Time and cost savings

In addition to security and productivity, Microsoft 365 Business also offers SMEs many time-saving benefits for IT admin tasks. Through a single console, businesses can quickly set up new employees, configure device security policies, and manage user identity and access, as well as ensure all staff are most up-to-date with versions of Windows 10 and Office. And the single per-user, per-month subscription streamlines costs and simplifies management.

"Microsoft 365 Business was built for our small and mid-size customers that may have limited or no IT resources on staff, but still want best-in-class security, productivity and collaboration capabilities," said Arif. "Microsoft 365 Business works efficiently, always ensuring that systems are secure and up to date, without the need for constant monitoring."

The Paradox of upgrading: Samsung's solution for switching devices

KUWAIT: Upgrading our smartphones is always an exciting process. All too often, our excitement is dampened by the hassle of transferring all our data from one device to the other. Our smartphones are an extension of ourselves; they contain all of the photos, notes, music, contacts, apps, and information that make us who we are. And just as many of us have made the mistake of improperly transferring data between phones, so too have we felt the sinking feeling of realizing a photo or song you had on the last phone didn't make it to the new one.

Samsung's Smart Switch app is designed to make switching between phones as seamless and secure as possible. Not only does it simplify the process of transferring content, it also eliminates one of the most common fears among smartphone upgraders: losing precious memories or data en route to the new device.

Upgrading to a new smartphone can present us with a paradox of sorts: while we gain a new phone which is likely faster, brighter, better equipped, and more capable, we also risk losing some or all of the data that makes those features so valuable. Considering the importance of the information stored on our smartphones, transplanting all our data from an old device to a new one can be a truly daunting task - until now.

Smart Switch provides the peace of mind that so often stands between you and a new smartphone. It ensures that your new Galaxy device will be up and running, with all the same content, in no time.

Not only does Smart Switch provide the security you need to upgrade comfortably, it's also remarkably easy to use. To transfer content between devices, you can use one of three simple methods: transfer content wirelessly via the Smart Switch Mobile app, tether your old and new devices via USB, or utilize Smart Switch's intuitive computer soft-



ware to backup content on a personal computer, then restore it to your new device seamlessly.

Our phones have evolved to become much more than arbitrary communication devices; we make them our own, as unique as we are ourselves. So in upgrading to a new device, we want it to have all of the information that we're already accustomed to, but with the perks of improved hardware, technology, and services.

A new smartphone should be an exciting and enriching experience, but it's often tainted by the hassle and worry of transferring content. For some, the fear of losing valuable data and memories is enough to avoid upgrading altogether - but with Smart Switch, Samsung alleviates this fear and ensures all your cherished digital memories carry over to your new phone, so you can focus on making new ones.

KIB appoints John Erasmus as GM of Human Resources

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it has appointed Anthony John Erasmus as General Manager of the Human Resources Department. In his new role, Erasmus is set to lead the Human Resources team at the Bank, working towards promoting the growth and development of current employees, in addition to attracting the best talents from within the financial sector.

In its statement, KIB praised Erasmus' professional industry acumen, and his illustrious career spanning more than 35 years in the field of human resources. Before joining KIB's Executive Management Team, he held numerous leadership positions at industry-leading financial organizations in the GCC and in Africa. He has also held several managerial and consultancy positions in the area of technological and operational development.

Erasmus holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration Industrial Psychology (Hons) from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and has earned a number of diplomas and certifications from various internationally accredited academic institutes.

KIB concluded its statement by noting that the Bank is proud to welcome Erasmus on board as a key member of its executive management team. This appointment comes as part of KIB's strategy, which focuses on attracting the highest caliber of talent from within the financial sector, in an effort to solidify its position as a leading Islamic financial institution.



John Erasmus

Technology

Alghanim Industries opens new X-cite and Safat Home showroom in Jahra

Jahra Governor, Alghanim Industries Chairman among dignitaries attend event



KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, inaugurated its brand new X-cite and Safat Home showroom in Al-Jahra, Kuwait. The opening was attended by Chairman of Alghanim Industries, Kutayba Y Alghanim, the Governor of Al-Jahra, Fahad Al-Amir, numerous mayors from districts within Al-Jahra, Alghanim Industries executives and other VIP guests.

The new three-level showroom features more than 7000 sq m of retail spaces and is located in Mekhiyal Mall. The complex offers customers both an impressive collection of home furnishings, kitchens, bathrooms and decorative accessories from Safat Home, as well as a wide variety of electronics, gadgets and home appliances from X-cite.

On the occasion of the showroom opening, Chairman of Alghanim Industries, Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim, said: "We're very excited to launch the third X-cite Electronics store and introduce the first Safat Home showroom to Al-Jahra. One of our key values at Alghanim Industries is customer centricity - we place our customers first.

For this reason, we've brought our businesses to our customers, offering the residents of Al-Jahra access to a world-class retail shopping experience, encompassing the best products at the best value."

He went on to say, "We have a long-standing history of being part of Al-Jahra's development story, having opened our first X-cite electronics store for almost two decades ago. Our new one-stop-shop represents our belief in the growth potential of the city. We're dedicated to launching more of our fast-growing portfolio of businesses, in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to the Governor of Al-Jahra, Fahad Al-Amir and the honorable Mayors of the Al-Jahra Governorate, for joining us today and for encouraging our efforts in bringing our businesses to the great city of Al-Jahra. I would also like to thank our customers, which have been and continue to be the root of our success and the source of our pride."

The launch event included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a traditional Ardah dance (the communal male folk



sword song-dance), performed for the guests. Following the performance, the attendees toured the spacious three-floor showroom, and later enjoyed a presentation on the facility in a make-shift diwaniya, tailored to

the occasion. Costa Coffee, which is operated by Alghanim Industries, served their delicious range of warm and cold beverages.

The new Al-Jahra showroom, located in Mekhiyal Mall, is open from 9:30am -

10:00pm daily. Throughout the weekend, a series of events and exclusive deals will be offered to celebrate the showroom opening which include family activities and competitions open to the public.



What's On

Caesars Int'l Travel Co celebrates ONAM 2017



Caesars International Travel Co WLL, the airline management division of Caesars Travel Group, celebrated ONAM in a fabulous way. ONAM is an annual, Kerala's harvest festival with origins in the state of Kerala in India, celebrated with joy and enthusiasm all over the state by people of all communities. With an exotic floral design in the foreground and an array of visual treats, the program started at 1pm. The entrance of the legendary emperor Mahabali marked the start of the program which was followed by a

plethora of ONAM related recreational games and performances. Folk songs, 'Pulikali' (the play of the tigers) and a miniscule of percussion ensemble (Chendamelam) were a few of them.

The multinational staff members adorned themselves in the traditional Kerala attire inculcating a warm example of togetherness, love and brotherhood. The floral carpet, known as 'Onapookkalam' made out of the gathered blossoms with several varieties of flowers of differing tints pinched up into little pieces to design and

decorate patterns on floor was an added attraction, designed by the staff. The most impressive part of ONAM celebration is the grand feast called Onasadya, prepared on Thirunam which was prepared by the renowned chef Chandran Irinjilakkuda, was relished by each and every person there. The program ended with a smile on each face and mirthful memory in each heart to cherish forever. Rajesh Reghunath, Director (Commercial and Marketing) conveyed his felicitation and proposed a vote of thanks to each and every one

for organizing such a gorgeous feast for the eye.

The team has prepared a remarkable video highlight with the glimpses of the entire program in the back score of the renowned trendsetting Malayalam song 'Jimikki Kammal' which is available on YouTube. Caesars International Travel Co represents as GSA for Oman Air, Indigo, Cebu Pacific Air, China Southern Airlines, Kenya Airways, Garuda Indonesia, Malindo Air, Cinnamon Air And Psa For Druk Air, Nepal Airlines.

CCE graduates 2nd class of Executive Mini-MBA certificate program



Group photo of the graduates.

The Center of Continuing Education (CCE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) held a graduation ceremony for the professionals who have completed the Executive Mini-MBA Certificate Program in October 2017. This annual flagship program was launched successfully in November 2016, in collaboration with a management consulting firm, which delivered the program with experts in the fields of business, leadership, and finance.

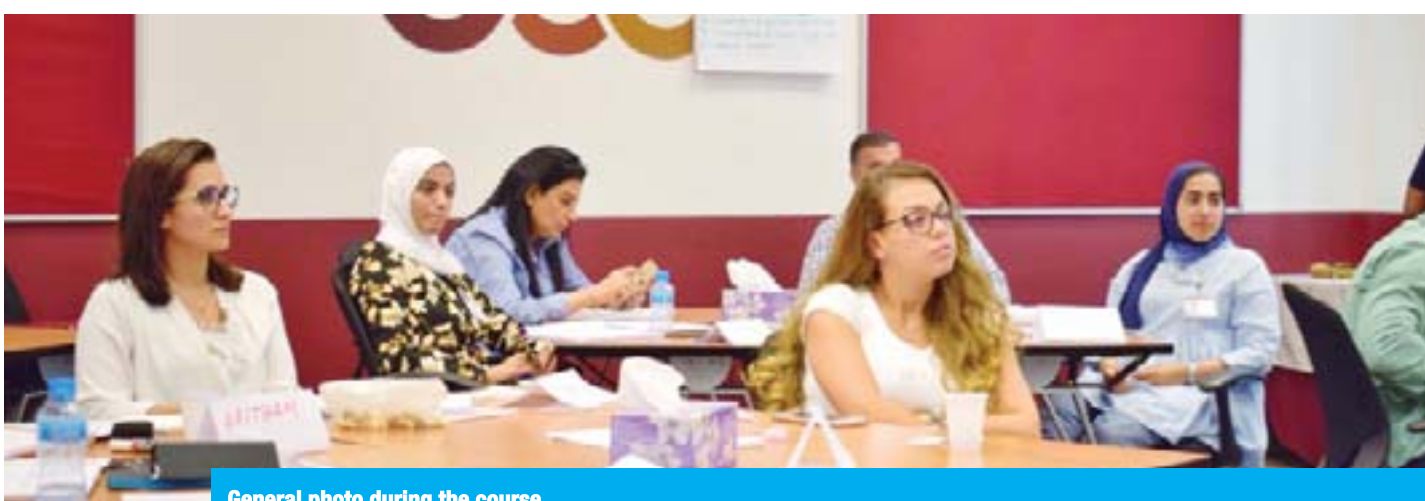
The five-day program offers professionals in the executive and management levels an intensive and comprehensive understanding of key areas within the business environment, such as strategic planning, marketing, and human resources, whereby they gain the business skills offered in a traditional MBA program. "Though a Mini-MBA is not a traditional MBA, you do get solid knowledge during a continuing education program, excellent networking connections, a certificate from an accredited university and more," explained Buthaina Al-Khubaizi, Director of CCE.

The program employs techniques and methodologies that are typically covered in MBA programs, while utilizing the David Kolb Experiential Cycle learning model, which involves heavy emphasis on practice, simulations, role-plays, case studies and videotaping exercises drawn from real work situations. The modules covered in the course were conducted by instructors who are experts in the different business domains.

In partnering with local and international institutions, CCE will launch modular certificate programs in business operations and strategic planning, marketing strategies, and human resources for intermediate and advanced levels in the future.



(From left) Buthaina Al-Khubaizi, Director of CCE, graduated student and program instructor.



General photo during the course.

MMF Kuwait to hold inter-school essay competition

Malayali Media Forum (MMF), Kuwait, the association of expatriates working in the media in Kuwait, will hold an inter-school essay competition for Indian students in Kuwait. The competition, scheduled for Saturday (November 18, 2017), from 10 AM to 12 Noon at the Indian Community School auditorium, Khaitan, for the students of Standard 9, 10, 11 and 12, will be in English language based on a topic on current affairs. The competition is being held as part of MMF's 10th anniversary celebrations.

Aimed at senior school students, the

essay competition seeks to unearth and nurture the finest Indian school talent with brilliance in writing and proficiency in current affairs. The program has been designed with an insight into future, considering the fact that the new idea of text-speak has weaned away the importance of error-free language, a press release here said.

The students who win first, second and third positions will be awarded gold medals and certificates of appreciation during the valedictory ceremony of the MMF's annual conference. All participants will be given certificates of appreciation.

Another Fascinating Event!

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea is pleased to invite you to

KUKKIWON
Taekwondo Demonstration Team

Awesome Martial Arts Demos of The World Famous Kukkiwon Demonstration Team
Origin of Taekwondo in Korea

Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at W6500 Theater of Gulf University for Science & Technology (GUST) in Mishref at 18:30 hrs.

- * Seats are available on a first-come, first served basis
- * We recommend you arrive at least 30 minutes before performance begins
- * Doors close 20 minutes after the performance begins

Hankut Cultural Divaniya
Embassy of the Republic of Korea

TV

AM MOVIES ACTION

ANIMAL PLANET HD

01:20 Flight World War II
02:50 The Huntsman: Winter's War
04:50 Independents' Day
06:30 Momentum
08:10 Being Evel
09:50 The Huntsman: Winter's War
11:45 The Last Rescue
13:35 The Call Up
15:10 Street Fighter
16:55 Shanghai Knights
18:50 The Haunting
20:50 War Of The Worlds
22:45 The Covenant

BBC FIRST

00:25 Mairgret
01:55 New Tricks
02:45 Silent Witness
03:45 Call The Midwife
04:40 Holly City
05:30 Doctors
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Father Brown
07:25 Dickensian
08:10 Holly City
10:10 Father Brown
11:00 New Tricks
11:50 Dickensian
12:40 Call The Midwife
13:35 Holly City
14:30 Father Brown
15:20 Dickensian
16:10 Call The Midwife
17:10 New Tricks
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:00 The Corner
20:00 Poldark
20:55 Cold Feet
21:45 In The Dark
22:40 Agatha Raisin

crime investigation network

00:00 The Murder Of Laci Peterson
01:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
02:00 It Takes A Killer
02:30 It Takes A Killer
03:00 The First 48
04:00 The Murder Of Laci Peterson
05:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
06:00 It Takes A Killer
06:30 It Takes A Killer
07:00 Homicide Hunter
08:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
09:00 It Takes A Killer
09:30 It Takes A Killer
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
15:00 It Takes A Killer
15:30 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
17:00 The First 48
18:00 The First 48
19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
20:00 It Takes A Killer
20:30 It Takes A Killer
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
23:00 My Haunted House

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Dara O Briain - Crowd Ticker
01:00 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
01:22 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Broad City
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Key And Peele
05:05 Tosh.0
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Lip Sync Battle UK
06:50 Lip Sync Battle UK
07:15 Impractical Jokers VII Special - Practically Live!
08:05 Impractical Jokers UK
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Key And Peele
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Lip Sync Battle UK
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Impractical Jokers VII Special - Practically Live!
13:30 Key And Peele
13:55 Impractical Jokers UK
14:20 Disaster Date
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 Impractical Jokers UK
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:35 Impractical Jokers VII Special - Practically Live!
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood

Discovery Family

21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Detroiters
22:00 Tosh.0
22:50 Idiotsitter
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:30 Pick A Puppy
00:55 Pick A Puppy
01:20 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
02:10 World's Scariest
03:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
03:50 Now That's Funny
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Pick A Puppy
05:55 Pick A Puppy
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Pick A Puppy
07:25 Pick A Puppy
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
11:10 How To Build... Everything
11:35 How To Build... Everything
12:00 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
12:25 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
12:50 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
14:30 Pick A Puppy
14:55 Pick A Puppy
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
17:00 How To Build... Everything
17:25 How To Build... Everything
17:50 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
18:15 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Now That's Funny
21:10 How To Build... Everything
21:35 How To Build... Everything
22:00 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
22:25 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
22:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
23:40 Storm Chasers

ID

00:50 Hear No Evil
01:45 Grave Secrets
02:40 Bill Cosby: An American Scandal
03:35 American Monster
04:30 Hear No Evil
05:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
06:20 I Almost Got Away With It
07:10 Betrayed
08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:25 Disappeared
09:15 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
09:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
10:10 Betrayed
11:05 Murder Chose Me
12:00 Disappeared
12:55 Disappeared
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 Betrayed
15:40 Murder Chose Me
16:35 Grave Secrets
17:30 Disappeared
18:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
18:50 I Was Murdered
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It
20:15 Betrayed
21:10 Murder Chose Me
22:05 Evil Stepmothers
23:00 Murder Calls
23:55 Six Degrees Of Murder

Disney HD

00:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 Alex & Co.
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Hank Zipzer
04:45 Alex & Co.
05:10 Alex & Co.
05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binny And The Ghost
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Tangled: The Series
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 The Zhuzhus
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:25 Lolorock
10:50 Lolorock
11:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
12:05 Hank Zipzer
12:30 Alex & Co.
12:55 Alex & Co.
13:20 Lolorock
13:45 Lolorock
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
15:15 K.C. Undercover
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:10 Elena Of Avalor
16:35 Bizaardvark
17:00 Tangled: The Series
17:25 Bizaardvark
17:30 Bunk'd
17:30 K.C. Undercover
17:55 K.C. Undercover
18:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
18:45 Girl Meets World
19:10 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
19:15 Stuck In The Middle
19:40 Best Friends Whenever
20:05 Descendants Wicked World
20:10 Liv And Maddie
20:35 Jessie
21:00 Tangled: The Series
21:25 K.C. Undercover
21:50 K.C. Undercover
21:55 Bizaardvark
22:40 Bunk'd
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks
23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
23:45 Lolorock

Disney Junior

00:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
00:25 Unbungalievable
00:35 Loopdidoo
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:20 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Henry Hugglemonster
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopdidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 Sofia The First
08:30 Puppy Dog Pals
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Doc McStuffins
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 PJ Masks
11:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:00 The Lion Guard
12:30 The Lion Guard
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Sofia The First
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 PJ Masks
15:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 Doc McStuffins
16:00 Puppy Dog Pals
16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:00 Sofia The First
17:30 Doc McStuffins
18:00 PJ Masks
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers

food network

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
01:30 Man Fire Food
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
09:25 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
09:55 Bake With Anna Olson
10:25 Bake With Anna Olson
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Cooking For Real
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
13:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Iron Chef America
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Bakers vs. Fakers
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Street Customs 2008
01:05 Ed Stafford: Left For Dead
01:50 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
02:50 Boy To Man
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Deadliest Catch
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers: Under The Ice
06:45 Street Customs 2008
07:30 Deadliest Catch
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 Auction Kings
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:48 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Ed Stafford: Left For Dead
10:55 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
11:40 Boy To Man
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:48 Extreme Collectors
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Deadliest Catch
14:40 Gold Divers: Under The Ice
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Street Outlaws
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Extreme Collectors
18:20 Auction Kings
18:50 Deadliest Catch
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Strip The City
21:50 Abandoned Engineering
22:40 Breaking Magic
23:05 Breaking Magic
23:30 Fast N' Loud

Disney II

06:00 Disney II
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
07:45 Mech-X4
08:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
08:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Walk The Prank
10:45 Gravity Falls
11:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:25 Two More Eggs
12:30 Phineas And Ferb
12:55 Phineas And Ferb
13:20 Zeke And Luther
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:40 Gravity Falls
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
16:25 Walk The Prank
16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
18:35 Disney II
19:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
19:25 Right Now Kapow
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

HISTORY HD

00:20 Mountain Men
01:10 Forged: Iron & Fire
01:35 Milwaukee Blacksmith
02:00 Mountain Men
02:50 Counting Cars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Mountain Men
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 American Pickers
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 AX Men
11:00 Fifth Gear
11:50 American Pickers
12:40 Counting Cars

03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Hollywood & Football
04:40 Hollywood & Football
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 E! NYC
06:55 E! News
07:10 E! NYC
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
10:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
11:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
17:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
19:00 E! News
20:00 The Platinum Life
21:00 The Platinum Life
22:00 The Platinum Life
23:00 E! News
23:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

00:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
00:30 Doc McStuffins
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 PJ Masks
11:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:00 The Lion Guard
12:30 The Lion Guard
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Sofia The First
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 PJ Masks
15:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 Doc McStuffins
16:00 Puppy Dog Pals
16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:00 Sofia The First
17:30 Doc McStuffins
18:00 PJ Masks
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers

food network

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01:00 Man Fire Food
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17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Iron Chef America
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Bakers vs. Fakers
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

itv CHOICE

00:10 Guess This House
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Doc Martin
04:20 Doc Martin
05:15 Murdoch Mysteries
06:10 Guess This House
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Doc Martin
09:00 Doc Martin
10:00 Murdoch Mysteries
10:55 Guess This House
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Guess This House
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Vera
17:50 Murdoch Mysteries
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Vera
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

itv HD

00:00 How 2 Win
01:00 United Staff Of America
02:00 History's Greatest Blunders
02:30 History's Greatest Blunders
03:00 Serial Killer Earth
03:50 Ancient Aliens
04:40 UFO Files
05:30 How 2 Win
06:20 United Staff Of America
07:10 The Universe
08:00 History's Greatest Blunders
08:30 History's Greatest Blunders
09:00 Serial Killer Earth
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 UFO Files
12:00 How 2 Win
13:00 United Staff Of America
14:00 History's Greatest Blunders
14:30 History's Greatest Blunders
15:00 Serial Killer Earth
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 UFO Files
18:00 The Universe
19:00 United Staff Of America
20:00 History's Greatest Blunders
20:30 History's Greatest Blunders
21:00 Serial Killer Earth
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
23:30 How The States Got Their Shapes

HISTORY HD

00:20 Mountain Men
01:10 Forged: Iron & Fire
01:35 Milwaukee Blacksmith
02:00 Mountain Men
02:50 Counting Cars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Mountain Men
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 American Pickers
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 AX Men
11:00 Fifth Gear
11:50 American Pickers
12:40 Counting Cars

13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Swamp People
15:10 Alone: Lost And Found
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Counting Cars
17:15 Counting Cars
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Alone: Lost And Found
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 Counting Cars
20:35 Counting Cars
21:00 Forged In Fire
21:50 Ultimate Soldier Challenge
22:40 Time Team
23:30 Alone: Lost And Found

NAT GEO people HD

00:45 The Shelbourne
01:10 The Food Files
01:40 Health Secrets Behind Korean Cuisine
02:35 World's Best Beaches
03:30 World India
04:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
04:50 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
05:20 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
05:45 The Food Files
06:15 The Great Food Revolution
07:10 Health Secrets Behind Korean Cuisine
08:05 World's Best Beaches
09:00 World India
09:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
10:20 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
11:15 The Food Files
11:45 The Great Food Revolution
12:40 Survival Of The Fittest
13:35 World's Best Beaches
14:30 World India
15:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
15:50 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
16:20 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
16:45 The Food Files
17:15 The Great Food Revolution
18:10 Rustic Adventures Argentina
18:35 Food School
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce India
19:30 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
20:00 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
20:30 The Food Files
21:00 The Great Food Revolution
22:00 Rustic Adventures Argentina
22:25 Food School
22:55 Survival Of The Fittest
23:50 World's Best Beaches

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Yukon Gold
01:00 Cold Water Gold
02:00 Air Crash Investigation
03:00 Seconds From Disaster
04:00 Yukon Gold
05:00 Sea Patrol
06:00 Incredibly Small World
07:00 Dog Whisperer
08:00 Dog Whisperer
09:00 Sea Patrol
10:00 Positive Energy
11:00 The Next Megaquake
13:00 Incredibly Small World
14:00 Explorer
15:00 The Long Road Home
17:00 Witness
18:00 Desperate Hours
18:30 Desperate Hours
19:00 The Long Road Home
20:50 Witness
21:40 Desperate Hours
22:05 Desperate Hours
22:30 Family Guns
23:20 Explorer

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Game Of Lions
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Cheatah: Fatal Instinct
02:50 Monster Fish
03:45 Wild India Aka Secrets Of Wild India
04:40 Wild 24
05:35 Cheatah: Fatal Instinct
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Wild India Aka Secrets Of Wild India
08:20 Wild 24
09:15 Turf War - Lions And Hippos
10:10 Philly Undercover
11:05 Savage Kingdom
12:00 Incredible Fish
12:55 Lion Battle Zone
13:50 Monster Fish
14:45 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
15:40 Wild 24
16:35 Ultimate Rivals: Cat v. Dog
17:30 Philly Undercover
18:25 Savage Kingdom
19:20 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
20:10 Wild 24
21:00 Ultimate Rivals: Cat v. Dog
21:50 Philly Undercover
22:40 Savage Kingdom
23:30 Incredible Fish

NICK HD

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 The Thundermans
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Hunter Street
15:24 School Of Rock
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig

17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

NICK Jr.

00:16 Shimmer And Shine
00:38 Shimmer And Shine
01:01 Max & Ruby
01:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:45 The Day Henry Met
01:50 The Day Henry Met
01:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:40 Zack & Quack
03:01 Shimmer And Shine
03:23 Nella The Princess Knight
03:35 Paw Patrol
03:58 Little Charmers
04:10 Dora The Explorer
04:22 Dora The Explorer
04:44 Max & Ruby
05:06 The Day Henry Met
05:12 Nella The Princess Knight
05:35 Shimmer And Shine
05:58 Wallykazam!
06:21 Zack & Quack
06:32 The Day Henry Met
06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:00 Rusty Rivets
07:12 Paw Patrol
07:37 Dora The Explorer
08:00 Nella The Princess Knight
08:21 Bubble Guppies
08:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
09:07 Paw Patrol
09:30 Shimmer And Shine
09:53 Nella The Princess Knight
10:04 Nella The Princess Knight
10:15 The Day Henry Met
10:22 Paw Patrol
10:45 Rusty Rivets
11:05 Wallykazam!
11:28 Bubble Guppies
11:52 Team Umizoomi
12:15 Shimmer And Shine
12:39 Shimmer And Shine
13:01 Max & Ruby
13:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:47 The Day Henry Met
13:52 The Day Henry Met
13:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:40 Zack & Quack
15:01 Shimmer And Shine
15:23 Nella The Princess Knight
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NICK HD

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15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig

AM MOVIES HD FAMILY

00:25 Pan
02:20 Step Dogs
03:50 Rugrats Go Wild
05:15 Christmas Trade
07:00 Pan
08:55 Step Dogs
10:25 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
11:55 Rugrats Go Wild
13:20 Robots
14:55 Santa Claws
16:25 The Amazing Wizard Of Paws
18:10 The Borrowers
19:40 Storm Rider
21:25 Robots
23:00 Santa Claws

AM MOVIES HD COMEDY

01:15 Growing Up And Other Lies
02:55 Fatal Instinct
04:35 Dad's Army
06:25 Other Plans
08:00 Christmas Eve
09:45 Dad's Army
11:35 Other Plans
13:10 Absolutely Anything
14:45 Once Upon A Crime
16:30 Ride
18:10 The Duff
20:00 Big Momma's House 2
22:00 The Love Guru
23:35 Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa

AM MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

02:25 Hungry Hearts
04:20 Antwone Fisher
06:30 The Portrait Of A Lady
09:00 Oliver's Deal
10:45 Every Thing Will Be Fine
12:50 Experimenter
14:40 No God No Master
16:25 Alex Of Venice
18:15 To Kill A Mockingbird
20:30 Another Earth
22:10 The Age Of Innocence

AM MOVIES HD KIDS

01:20 Outback
02:55 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success

04:40 Krazy Planet
06:00 Catcher: Cat City 2
07:45 Ratchet And Clank
09:25 Victor And The Secret Of Crocodile Mansion
11:10 Ghosthunters On Ice Trails
12:55 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
14:40 Krazy Planet
16:00 Operation Arctic
17:40 Victor And The Secret Of Crocodile Mansion
19:25 Bunny Tales
20:45 Two Buddies And A Badger
22:00 Operation Arctic
23:40 Ratchet And Clank

AM MOVIES HD

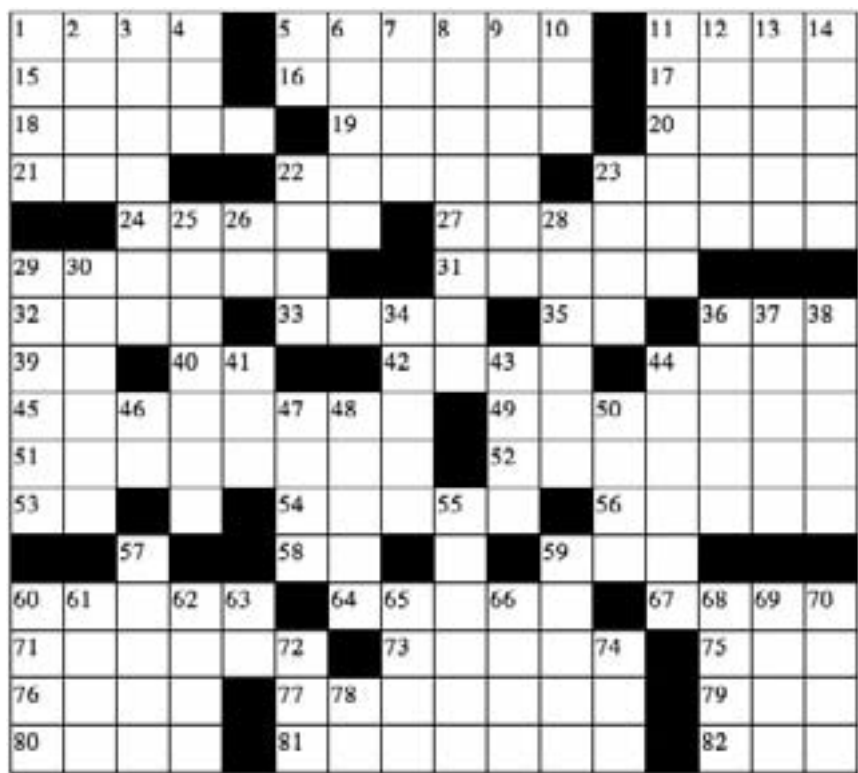
00:00 The Fountain
01:40 Unbroken
04:05 The Lovely Bones
06:30 Chloe And Theo
08:00 Kicking And Screaming
09:40 Max
11:40 Unbroken
14:10 We Bought A Zoo
16:20 Eddie The Eagle
18:15 Our Brand Is Crisis
20:10 Hudson Hawk
22:00 Higher Learning

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 Man v Expert
03:10 Building The Biggest
04:00 Mega Builders
04:48 Mythbusters
05:36 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Food Factory
06:24 Man v Expert
07:12 Junkyard Wars
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Junkyard Wars
09:14 Building The Biggest
10:52 Mega Builders
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 Man v Expert
12:26 Junkyard Wars
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 Building The Biggest
14:50 Mega Builders
15:38 Junkyard Wars
16:26 Man v Expert
17:14 Building The Biggest
18:02 Mega Builders
18:50 Junkyard Wars
19:40 Mythbusters
20:30 American

Stars

CROSSWORD 1756



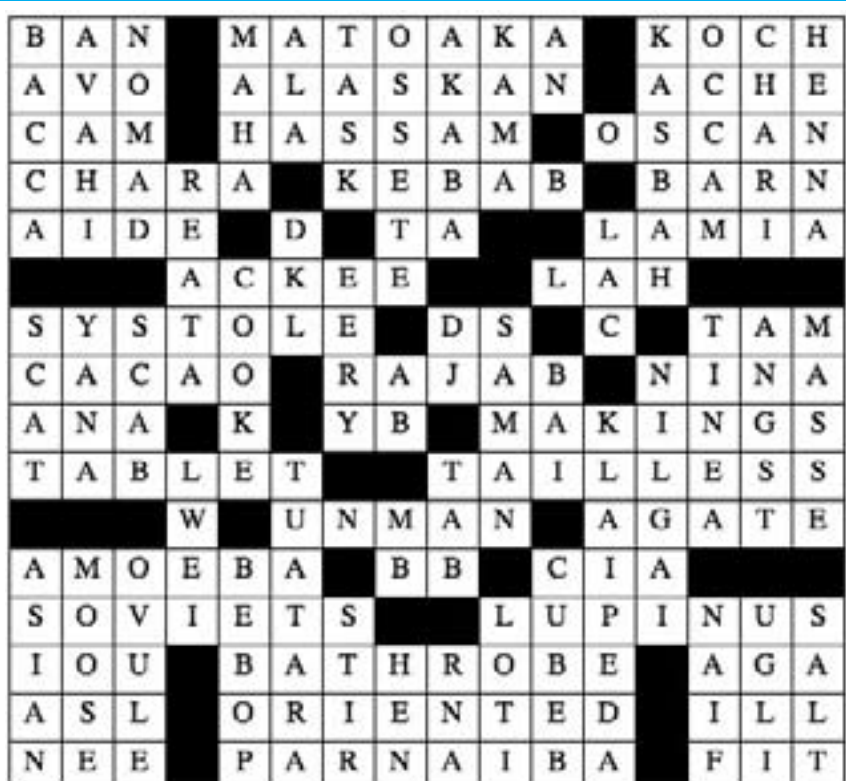
ACROSS

1. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
5. Relating to or characteristic of a tribe.
11. Any small compartment.
15. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
16. Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
17. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
18. Large dark brown North American arboreal carnivorous mammal.
19. Membrane of the young sporophore of various mushrooms extending from the margin of the cap to the stem and is ruptured by growth.
20. Pain that feels hot as if it were on fire.
21. The sign language used in the United States.
24. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
27. Shrubby lichens of the family Uснесеасе having a flattened thallus.
29. A building with a bar that is licensed to sell alcoholic drinks.
31. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
32. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
33. A ballistic missile that is capable of traveling from one continent to another.
35. Unknown god.
39. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
40. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
42. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
45. (botany) Relating to a plant of the family Araceae.
49. Heard or perceptible by the ear.
51. Sturdy annual of Peru.
52. Morning glory.
53. A public promotion of some product or service.
54. Treated with oil.
56. A univalent chemical radical derived from ethylene.
58. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
60. A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
64. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
67. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
71. Soviet physicist who worked on low temperature physics (1908-1968).
73. A variety of leaf bug.
75. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
76. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
77. Dutch philosopher who espoused a pantheistic system (1632-1677).
79. A fluorocarbon with chlorine.
80. A condition requiring relief.
81. Of or pertaining to the adrenal glands or their secretions.
82. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.

DOWN

1. An informal term for a father.
2. (Greek mythology) Greek god of war.
3. Rich Middle Eastern cake made of thin layers of flaky pastry filled with nuts and honey.
4. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
5. A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
6. Being in competition.
7. Made agreeably cold (especially by ice).
8. Elder brother of Krishna.
9. (zoology) Pertaining to alulae.
10. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
11. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
12. (Babylonian) Any of a group of powerful earth spirits or genii.
13. Italian film actress (born in 1934).
14. East Indian tart yellow berrylike fruit.
22. A Loloish language.
23. An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.
25. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
26. A soft yellowish-white trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
28. The way in which someone or something is composed.
30. Very small free-living arachnid that is parasitic on animals or plants.
34. (botany) Especially of leaves.
36. A republic on the west coast of Africa.
37. A narrow street with walls on both sides.
38. An advantageous purchase.
41. The habitation of wild animals.
43. A sudden short attack.
44. A figure of speech that expresses a resemblance between things of different kinds (usually formed with 'like' or 'as').
46. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
47. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
48. Bearded reddish sheep of southern Asia.
50. Any of numerous small pigeons.
55. The expensive white fur of the ermine.
57. An artistic form of nonverbal communication.
59. 1,000 baiza equal 1 riyal-omani.
61. A rapid series of short loud sounds (as might be heard with a stethoscope in some types of respiratory disorders).
62. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
63. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
65. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
66. Extremely robust.
68. Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
69. Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
70. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
72. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
74. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
78. A silver-white metallic element of the platinum group that resembles platinum.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You will be dealing with facts and figures throughout most of this day. Your ability to manage and supervise people plus a built-in sense of responsibility makes you a unique character. There are not many of your caliber out there when it comes to management. This afternoon, although work continues to be hurried, your thoughts may wander to the weekend plans. The home front this evening presents a great opportunity for you to get things accomplished. You could plan a garage sale for this weekend. Home, family and real estate are some of the interests that require a lot of responsibility. If you get serious about these things and think long-term, you come out ahead. Tonight you might discuss plans for the seasonal activities with your companions.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Ambition and achievement can be a tough path to follow. You win reward, recognition and authority through hard work and knowing the score; you may wisely realize that otherwise someone hungrier and in the know will overtake you. Some of the major issues for you now are who owes what, who owns what and who decides what. This could be a time of developing ideas for working out of your home. You have a deep yearning to express your talents and may feel that you are held back. Working in your own home would place you in the role as your own boss. Talk to people who have businesses in their homes; go to conventions where home-based businesses are advertised. Careful—someone you work for or with could be your first customer.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There is a yearning for adventure and far horizons. To roam, to wander and wonder, seeking freedom and experience and to go where no one has gone before. This could be a time of romantic escapades, a universal love that might not be too particular. This may not be the best time to make important decisions that affect your living situation or life circumstances. There are a need for change, a desire to break with outmoded patterns from the past and a longing for the new, the different and the unique. In-depth discussions and probing conversations with co-workers or friends may give you some focus. This afternoon you will find concentration easier—you are at your mental best. Your analytical abilities are at a high point. Tonight is for family.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are valued for your ability to make sensible decisions concerning group issues. Fairness is always an issue when there are so many personalities involved; you seem to do very well in creating a good balance. At the noon break you may find an art store in the area of your work and become entranced over some tools that you could use with your own hobby. Consider a sketchbook to keep your drawings in—you can practice your art most anywhere. Try pencil at first and then you can even consider some classes if you want. Science, philosophy or religion are likely to seem as if they hold the answers for you this evening. Conversations with friends or family will find you dealing with subjects from a philosophical standpoint.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a time for new accomplishments, during which insights and new goals can be made. You discover new ideas and new ways to do and use things. It is almost impossible to make you break away from your new findings. There is also a yearning to travel that may revolve around your discoveries. A community meeting later in the day has been on your mind and there are some issues that you want to address to those that can make a few needed changes. A petition or statistics or a group of people to join you is your project during your lunch break. This evening you will find yourself feeling rather smug at your accomplishments and it is easy for you to relax and have fun with friends or loved ones. Dinner away from home is a treat.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This could be a crazy time when you may feel under a lot of mental pressure. You could be facing some time limits. Because of these time limits, your own work may have to be temporarily set aside. A business decision hinges on financial matters that are not entirely within your control, but will need your thoughts—speak up when you have helpful ideas. There are exciting opportunities as a result of today's transactions. This afternoon a friend's plans change and it affects plans you have made as well. You may decide to enjoy some quiet time this evening at home. If you have thoughts about going somewhere for the winter, it may be wise to write to the chamber of commerce from the area you want to visit.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Travel and intellectual connections are important to you. These activities may come through your work—and because of your interests, you attract intelligent, sophisticated people. You may appear very at ease and loose today. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself expressive and able to communicate well. Your practical insights are preferred in the workplace and you will find that you somehow always have a following of people that either want to learn from you or use your intellect. This would be a wise talent to use in the steps up the corporate ladder. Of course, you could already have your own business. Social involvement this evening may mean a stage show, a new movie or a classy gathering of friends.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

You enjoy working in group or team situations; there are special people in your work with whom you enjoy a friendship. You may be accepted as just the person for a particular job. If you have always been the follower, you may find yourself a leader. As a leader, you could appoint a co-leader to help you plan and coordinate. Radical and inventive ideas hold the key to realizing your ambitions and advancing your status—a shakeup could be in the works. You draw emotional sustenance and a sense of security from friends who give you support. Your relationships and partnerships are very important to you. They are capable of transforming you at the most basic level. A time of real inner growth is encouraged through other people.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

This could be a time when everything around you seems to be in a state of change—your living situation particularly. You may feel that you are forever keeping the peace among family members and this would be a good time to find an evening in the schedule when everyone will be home. Report any difficulties as you see them and ask for help to create a friendlier atmosphere. This may bring an end to the problem or at least ease the problem. Change happens and in time the situation will become nonexistent. Learn about tough love. Working through problems will be successful—patience. You could receive unexpected help or support from someone. It is good you are understanding and can be helpful in the workplace or at home.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are a very forceful speaker and communicate with great enthusiasm. Words just flow out of your mouth and always seem to give rise to an emotional impact that brings the listener to attention. You have no trouble putting your feelings into words. You may, however, have to exercise some control over your tongue when it comes to personal relationships. Partnership issues are important—you will be successful in finding gentle ways to communicate just what you mean; think before you act. Perhaps a unique restaurant this evening will help to bring a difficult day to a peaceful ending. Consider forming plans for the upcoming seasonal activities. Family and winter goals are your areas of concentration now.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Your communication skills are energized this morning. There are plenty of puzzles to work through and that is just like you like it. You know just when to help your client or customer and when to just listen. Concerning relationships, you are entering a phase of emotional directness—one marked by powerful feelings. Emotional beginnings, a fresh start, perhaps the establishment of new habit patterns—make sure they are good ones, because they will set the tone for you for quite some time to come! This evening there is time to enjoy a favorite hobby. Rearranging, organizing and perhaps trading with someone that enjoys the same hobby will be part of this preoccupation. Doing something nice for a loved one makes you feel good about yourself.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a lucky day in many ways. An old debt is paid off and misunderstandings—problems or puzzles—have a way of becoming clear. This is a time of much energy and drive, perfect for starting something or for taking care of business. Emotions or feelings of those around you may be very clear at this time. Mental patterns and communication skills play a major role in your life. They can change things forever—make sure you develop your highest potential in these areas. A neighbor or sibling could undergo some kind of positive transformation and you will make every effort to express your compliments. Rules for decorating throughout your neighborhood can be a bit rigid but be sure to take pictures; you'll be glad you followed protocol.

Wordsearch Puzzle

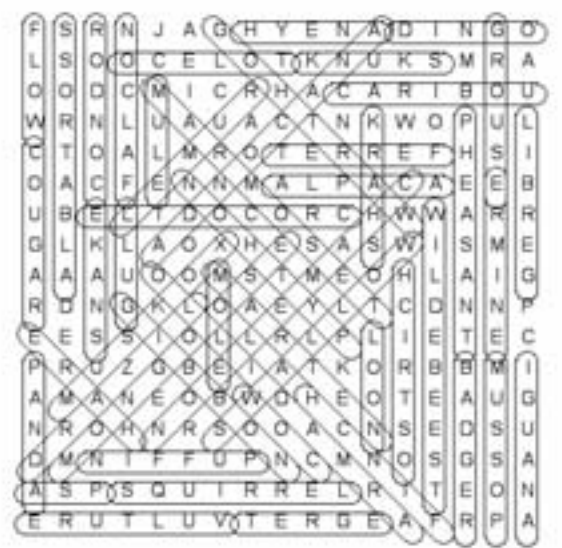
Astronomy

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



- | | | | |
|------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| ANDROMEDA GALAXY | DEEP SPACE | MOON | SOLAR SYSTEM |
| ARPOGEE | ECLIPSE | NEBULA | SOLAR WIND |
| ASTEROID | EQUINOX | ORBIT | SPACE SHUTTLE |
| ASTRONOMER | GALAXIES | PARSEC | SPACECRAFT |
| ATMOSPHERE | GALLILEO | PERIGEE | STARS |
| AURORA | GRAVITY | POLARIS | SUN |
| BINARY STAR | HUBBLE | PROXIMA CENTAURI | SUPERNOVA |
| BLACK HOLE | KEPLER | PULSARS | TELESCOPE |
| CONSTELLATION | LIGHT YEAR | QUASARS | TIDES |
| CORONA | METEOR | RED GIANT | UNIVERSE |
| CRATER | MILKY WAY | SATELLITE | WHITE DWARF |

Animals 3



- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| ALBATROSS | EGRET | LIZARD | PUFFIN |
| ALPACA | ERMINE | LOON | PYTHON |
| ANACONDA | FALCON | MARMOSET | SHARK |
| ARMADILLO | FERRIS | MARTEN | SKUNK |
| ASP | FINCH | MOLE | SNAKE |
| BADGER | GERBIL | MONGOOSE | SQUIRREL |
| CARIBOU | GIBBON | MULE | SWALLOW |
| CHAMELEON | GRIBBOUSE | MUSKOX | VULTURE |
| CONDOR | GULL | OCELOT | WARTHOG |
| COUGAR | HARE | OSTRICH | WILDEBEEST |
| COW | HYENA | PANDA | WOLF |
| CROCODILE | IGUANA | PHEASANT | |
| DINGO | LEMUR | POSSUM | |

The hidden animal is: JAMAICAN WOODPECKER

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Relatively hot and with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear later on.

BY NIGHT: Fair and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for light fog forming and some scattered clouds

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART	07/11/2017 0000 UTC
KUWAIT CITY	34 °C	23 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34 °C	18 °C		
ABDALY	34 °C	20 °C		
BUBYAN	28 °C	18 °C		
JAHRA	34 °C	19 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	30 °C	19 °C		
SALMIYAH	28 °C	25 °C		
AHMADI	30 °C	27 °C		
NUWAISIB	34 °C	19 °C		
WAFRA	33 °C	16 °C		
SALMY	33 °C	16 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	11/08	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear	33 °C	19 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 30 km/h
Thursday	11/09	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for light fog	33 °C	18 °C	SE-VRB	08 - 35 km/h
Friday	11/10	Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas and some high clouds will appear	32 °C	17 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 35 km/h
Saturday	11/11	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear	30 °C	20 °C	NW-N	12 - 38 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:45
Sunrise	06:06
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:36
Sunset	16:58
Isha	18:18

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	34 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	20 %
MAX. Wind	SE 46 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/ 2433141
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

FOR RENT

4 master bedrooms flat
Faiha area (240 sqm)

Tel: 66600625

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Veerapalli Padmaja W/o Venkataraju, holder of Indian Passport No: L1430119 & Civil ID No: 277040604409, has changed my name to Padmaraju Padmaja, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5358)

I, Veerapalli Venkataraju S/o Venkataramaraju, holder of Indian Passport No: K7921359 & Civil ID No: 271062002495, has changed my name to Padmaraju Venkataraju, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5358)

I, Veerapalli Ashwant Simha S/o Venkataraju, holder of Indian Passport No: M4641436 & Civil ID No: 310041401533 has changed my name to Padmaraju Ashwant Simha, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5358)

I, Pathan Asif Khan S/o Pathan Shabeer Khan holder of Indian Passport No. M6714714 & Civil ID No. 286071003846, change my name as Syed Asif, father name Syed Allabakash, for all transaction purposes. (C 5357)

Mitsubishi Gallant fully automatic white 2011 owner driven & maintained immaculate condition. New engine and new tyres. Price KD 1200 - cash. Tel: 99713442 (C 5356)

Chrysler M300C 2011 black 6 cyl full options immaculate condition installments KD 115x24 = KD 2760, plus KD 625 - cash, registered upto 02-02-2018. Tel 65750444. (C 5356)

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is
1889988

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

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 8/11/2017					Departure Flights on Wednesday 8/11/2017				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	KAC 364	Colombo	14:40			
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC 221	Bahrain	14:40			
JZR	539	Cairo	00:55	KAC 304	Mumbai	14:50			
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC 662	Abu Dhabi	14:55			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:00			
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	KNE 684	Madinah	15:05			
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KAC 788	Jeddah	15:10			
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:15			
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	KAC 502	Beirut	15:15			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR 787	Riyadh	15:30			
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC 562	Amman	15:30			
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	OMA 645	Muscat	15:35			
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45			
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ICV 792	Luxembourg	15:45			
FEQ	931	Alexandria	03:15	QTR 1072	Doha	15:55			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC 118	New York	16:00			
KAC	796	Madinah	03:50	RJD 135	Abu Dhabi	16:00			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	SAW 705	Damascus	16:00			
MSR	618	Alexandria	03:50	ABY 127	Sharjah	16:00			
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	SVA 504	Madinah	16:00			
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	WAN 436	Al Najaf	16:10			
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	JZR 779	Jeddah	16:15			
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	JZR 357	Mashhad	16:25			
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	FDB 051	Dubai	16:40			
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	RJA 640	Amman	16:55			
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	KAC 542	Cairo	17:05			
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:15			
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	WAN 954	GYD	17:15			
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30			
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR 777	Jeddah	17:45			
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	UAE 875	Dubai	18:00			
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:20	FDB 063	Dubai	18:10			
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	JZR 177	Dubai	18:15			
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	MSR 620	Cairo	18:30			
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	JZR 483	Istanbul	18:45			
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	QTR 1080	Doha	18:50			
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC 744	Dammam	19:10			
BAW	157	London	07:10	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:20			
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	JZR 125	Bahrain	19:20			
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:25			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:30			
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC 156	Istanbul	19:30			
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC 674	Dubai	19:45			
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	FDB 057	Dubai	19:50			
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC 616	Bahrain	19:55			
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC 104	London	20:00			
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40	KNE 381	Taif	20:10			
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	KAC 166	Rome	20:10			
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	KAC 620	Doha	20:15			
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:15	OMA 647	Muscat	20:20			
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	QTR 1088	Doha	20:45			
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:45			
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	KAC 514	Tehran	20:50			
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:20			
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	ALK 229	Colombo	21:20			
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15	MEA 402	Beirut	21:20			
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	KAC 786	Jeddah	21:25			
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	KAC 172	Frankfurt	21:30			
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	UAE 859	Dubai	21:35			
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:45			
KIS	6032	Mashhad	13:00	KLM 445	Amsterdam	21:50			
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	WAN 116	Bahrain	22:00			
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:20	KAC 564	Amman	22:00			
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	QTR 1082	Doha	22:05			
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	ETD 309	Abu Dhabi	22:15			
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	AIC 975	Chennai/Goa	22:25			
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	SVA 514	Riyadh	22:30			
KAC	692	Muscat	14:15	JZR 241	Amman	22:40			
KAC	618	Doha	14:15	SVA 502	Jeddah	22:45			
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JZR 185	Dubai	23:10			
QTR	1078	Doha	14:20	JAI 574	Mumbai	23:15			
KAC	672	Dubai	14:25	PIA 239	Stalokot	23:40			
KAC	412	Bangkok	14:35	FDB 071	Dubai	23:45			
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:40	MSC 411	Asyut	23:55			

Lifestyle | Features

Weinstein's 'army of spies' to thwart complaints

Harvey Weinstein hired journalists and highly trained ex-spies and military personnel who used fake identities to try to stop accusers from going public with sexual misconduct claims against him, The New Yorker reported Monday. The news came as the Television Academy, which hands out Emmy Awards, was said to have expelled Weinstein "for life," following a similar move by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which gives out the Oscars.

Among the private security agencies hired by Weinstein starting around fall 2016, the magazine said, was Black Cube, which is largely run by former officers of Israeli intelligence agencies, including Mossad. Another

was corporate intelligence giant Kroll. Two Black Cube private eyes met with actress Rose McGowan before she publicly accused Weinstein of raping her to obtain information. One of the investigators secretly recorded at least four meetings with McGowan while pretending to be a women's rights advocate, said the magazine, citing dozens of pages of documents and seven people directly involved in Weinstein's efforts.

The spy used a different fake identity to meet with a journalist while claiming to have an accusation against Weinstein, in order to learn which women were talking to the media. Weinstein and the private eyes also used journalists themselves to extract details from women who



In this file photo, Harvey Weinstein speaks during a press conference for the film 'Woman in Gold' at the 2015 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin. — AP

were making claims against Weinstein. During his year-long effort, Weinstein and his team would collect information on dozens of people, compiling psychological profiles with their personal or sexual histories in order to contradict, discredit or intimidate his targets.

The New Yorker said Weinstein sought the assistance of ex-employees from his movie enterprises to help in his efforts collecting names and placing calls. Investigations also sometimes went through Weinstein's lawyers, according to the magazine. Among them were David Boies, who represented Al Gore in his 2000 presidential election dispute with George W. Bush. The New Yorker

said Boies himself had signed a contract demanding that Black Cube seek to uncover information to stop the publication of a New York Times story about Weinstein's sexual abuse at the same time his firm was also representing the Times in a libel case.

Boies told the magazine "it was a mistake" to have been involved with the investigators. Weinstein's spokeswoman Sallie Hofmeister dismissed the report, saying: "It is a fiction to suggest that any individuals were targeted or suppressed at any time." Neither Hofmeister nor Boies immediately responded to requests for comment.

Television Academy expels Weinstein

Police launched investigations in London, Los Angeles and New York after around 100 women accused Weinstein, once one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, of sexual misconduct ranging from harassment to rape. Meanwhile, industry publication Variety said the Television Academy has voted to permanently expel Weinstein.

"The Academy supports those speaking out against harassment in all forms and stands behind those who have been affected by this issue," it told Variety, adding that it was reviewing the organization's code of conduct. "The unfolding and widespread examples of this horrific behavior are deeply disturbing to the Academy's leadership. We are determined to play a role in protecting all television professionals from predatory harassment, ensuring they are able to practice their craft in a safe environment."—AFP



Justice League must battle film critics as well as villains

Saving Metropolis and Gotham City from the clutches of super-villains might be enough pressure for the average caped crusader but the cast of the forthcoming "Justice League" film also face another equally-terrifying foe: film critics. The film is the latest installment from the DC comics stable of super-heroes - a series which, with the notable exception of this summer's "Wonder Woman", has met with a less than positive critical response and has failed to match the box office of rival Marvel's biggest super-hero offerings.

The film features a host of major DC characters and box office stars including Ben Affleck as Batman, Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Jason Momoa as Aquaman and Ezra Miller as the Flash. Gadot won both critical plaudits and box office success for "Wonder Woman", which was directed by Patty Jenkins, and she is confident that the experience from that film helped her reprise the character in "Justice League". "I had almost no transition from Wonder Woman because I finished Wonder Woman and the next day I went to set to start working on Justice League," she told Reuters.

"I was already in the character and I only had to serve the story and the context of every scene and just you

know be there and serve the director's vision." Momoa was hopeful for the film's prospects, telling Reuters "I really hope that the fans enjoy what Zack (Snyder, the director) and I have done with Aquaman." The film's predecessor, 2016's "Batman Vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice," grossed just over \$870 million at the global box office according to film revenue website Box Office Mojo, but received a 27 percent rating on film review aggregation site Rotten Tomatoes.

Another recent entry in the DC franchise, 2016's "Suicide Squad," opened to an equally poor critical reception, and took around \$745 million at the global box office. While both totals are not insubstantial, they are dwarfed by Marvel's big hits - 2012's "The Avengers" and 2015's "Avengers: Age of Ultron," which took \$1.5 billion and \$1.4 billion respectively. Audiences in 2017, however warmed to "Wonder Woman," which grossed over \$80 million more at the US box office than "Dawn of Justice," as well as proving a hit with critics, garnering a 92 percent Rotten Tomatoes score.—Reuters

Thor's mighty hammer smashes Hollywood's slump

After a dismal October for Hollywood, Disney and Marvel Studio's "Thor: Ragnarok" proved a smashing success over the weekend, pulling in \$122.7 million in North American theaters for a global total of \$306 million, industry figures showed Monday. How big was the film's three-day opening? The latest "Thor" episode, boosted by strong reviews and the self-mocking humor of Chris Hemsworth as the powerful Norse god (with Cate Blanchett as Hela, goddess of death), netted more than seven times last week's take for then-leader, Lionsgate's "Jigsaw."

That movie, which has police investigating a string of horrific murders carried out in the style of supposedly long-dead killer Jigsaw, dropped this weekend to third place at \$6.6 million, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations. In second was "A Bad Moms Christmas," from STX Entertainment, at \$16.8 million. The comedy stars three women-Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell and Kathryn Hahn-whose plans change when their moth-

ers (Christine Baranski, Cheryl Hines and Susan Sarandon) drop in unexpectedly for the holidays.

In fourth position was Lionsgate's "Boo! A Madea Halloween" at \$4.5 million. The light comedy has actor/director Tyler Perry and buddies heading to a campground that-surprise!—turns out to be haunted. In fifth spot was "Geostorm" from Warner Bros., at \$3.2 million. The sci-fi disaster thriller follows Gerard Butler as he struggles to save the world from an apocalyptic storm caused by climate-controlling satellites run amok. Rounding out the top 10 were:

"Happy Death Day" (\$2.7 million)
"Blade Runner: 2049" (\$2.3 million)
"Thank You for Your Service" (\$2.2 million)
"Only the Brave" (\$1.9 million)
"Let There Be Light" (\$1.7 million)—AFP



Sony pulls Spacey movie from Los Angeles film festival

Sony Pictures on Monday withdrew a movie starring Kevin Spacey from a Los Angeles film festival following sexual misconduct allegations against the actor, but said it was going ahead with a planned US movie theater release in December. "All the Money in the World," about the 1973 kidnapping of teenager John Paul Getty III, features Spacey as his grandfather, the late US oil billionaire Jean Paul Getty.

The film was due to have a red carpet world premiere at the American Film Institute's (AFI) annual festival in Los Angeles on Nov 16. "Given the current allegations surrounding one of its actors and out of respect for those impacted, it would be inappropriate to celebrate at a gala at this difficult time. Accordingly, the film will be withdrawn," Sony's TriStar Pictures unit said in an emailed statement. Spacey's representatives did not return a request for comment on Monday regarding Sony's decision. Reuters was unable to independently confirm any of the allegations.

The Sony statement said there were 800 other actors, writers and crew members involved in the movie, and the film would open wide as planned on Dec 22. Spacey apologized last month to actor Anthony Rapp, who accused him of trying to seduce him in 1986 when Rapp was 14. Spacey's representatives later said he was seeking unspecified treatment. CNN reported last week that eight current and former employees of the Netflix TV show "House of Cards," who were not identified, alleged sexual misconduct against Spacey, the TV show's star.

AFI said in a statement that it supported Sony's decision. Netflix said on Friday that it had severed ties with Spacey because of the allegations. It said it would not be involved in further production of "House of Cards" with Spacey. Producer Media Rights Capital said Spacey had been suspended from the political show. Netflix also said it would not release the film "Gore," in which Spacey plays the late US writer Gore Vidal.—Reuters

VIDEO OF US FIRST LADY, TEENS, K-POP STAR GOES VIRAL

A video of first lady Melania Trump smiling at South Korean girls who had burst into screaming when they saw a member of K-pop boy band has been shared widely on social media. The video showed Trump at ease with South Korean teenagers in school uniforms at an event where the first lady gave a speech on the importance of giving girls equal access to sports.

When the girls noticed Choi Min-ho, a member of Shinee, standing next to Trump on a surprise visit, they started to scream and clap, while the first lady watched them with a wide smile. South Korean Twitter users praised the first lady's interaction with the girls and the K-pop star, especially her long-lasting smile.—AP



US first lady Melania Trump and Choi Min-ho, a member of South Korean boy band Shinee, wave to South Korean middle school students in Seoul. — AP



This file photo shows Sony Pictures Entertainment headquarters in Culver City, California. — AP

Detroit Institute of Arts launches gallery for Japanese art

The Detroit Institute of Arts has opened a permanent gallery for Japanese art that pairs traditional and contemporary works. Museum officials say the gallery, which opened Saturday, places objects in their original contexts and spaces, including tea rooms, Buddhist temples and domestic rooms. Digital elements aim to enliven objects or provide additional context, such as a touchscreen table where visitors can handle a 3-D printed tea bowl.

The museum also teamed up with a Tokyo theater to produce a film featuring a Noh performance with a mask similar to one in the Detroit collection. The DIA worked with Natsu Oyobe, University of Michigan curator of Asian art, and received financial support from the Japanese Business Society of Detroit. Workshops, demonstrations and performances were planned for opening weekend.—AP

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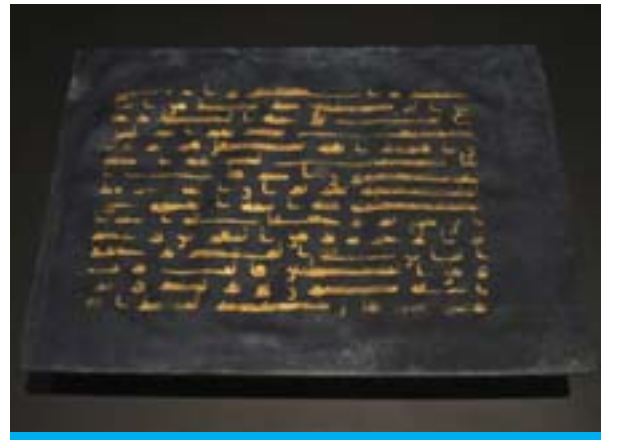
'Monumental Statue with two heads' from Jordan about 6500 BCE.



'Saint Lazare Train Station' by Claude Monet.



'Portrait of a Woman' by Leonardo da Vinci



A page of the 'Blue Quran' from North Africa.



This photo shows the night view of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Five pieces of art you should see at the Louvre Abu Dhabi

As the Louvre Abu Dhabi opens its doors to the public Saturday, here are five pieces of art out of the 620 on display you should look out for that show the breadth of the new museum.

Monumental Statue with Two Heads

This plaster statue, dating to around 6,500 BC and discovered in Ain Ghazal, Jordan, is one of the oldest known in human history. It's among the earliest large-scale representations of human form. The settlement in which it was found, spread across 30 acres along the Zarqa river, was one of the largest known Neolithic settlements in the Near East.

Page of the 'Blue Quran'

The page, from one of the oldest-ever-found Qurans, sits in a darkened room near a Gothic Bible, Buddhist sutras and a Torah from Yemen. It's part of the museum's theme of showing what's universal among peoples of the world. The Blue Quran dates from around 900 and was discovered in North Africa.

Portrait of a Woman, called La Belle Ferronniere

This is one of some 15 pieces of art known to exist today from the Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci. Dating around 1495, the painting is thought to be of Lucrezia Crivelli, a mistress of the Duke of Milan

Ludovico Sforza. The clothes the woman is wearing, her position and the smoothness of the painting all reflect the style of the Renaissance.

The Saint-Lazare Station

This Claude Monet painting from 1877 came during the Industrial Revolution. Monet, known as the father of Impressionism, often painted railway stations, modern life and urban landscapes during this period. His signature brushstrokes and the effects of color can be seen in it.

Fountain of Light

The Louvre Abu Dhabi commissioned this chandelier-inspired installation from Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. The 7-meter piece of art is made of stainless steel and glass. It's inspired by the Tatlin Tower, a utopian project that was meant to be built in Russia in 1919 but never was. — AP



Members of both the Minnesota and the Cuban American Youth Orchestras perform together in the lobby atrium after a concert by the Minnesota Orchestra in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

As Cuba-US ties harden, orchestra keeps building bridge

Question marks again cloud US-Cuban relations, but one element of engagement is moving ahead—a joint youth orchestra, which aims to build both musical and personal connections. In an initiative that emerged after the Minnesota Orchestra's landmark trip to Havana in 2015, four students from Cuba this month traveled to the midwestern city of Minneapolis to study in the inaugural Cuban American Youth Orchestra Academy. The Cubans, who study in Havana but often lack more advanced training and their own instruments, learn under experienced performers in Minnesota—and as people they find common ground. "I believe that music is like an ambassador between the two nations. Personal interests aren't put first; it's just the music," Adriel David Rodriguez Laza, a 21-year-old cellist who was part of the group, told AFP by telephone from Minneapolis.

The Minnesota Orchestra played Havana shortly after then president Barack Obama moved to end a half-century of tension with the communist island. Tensions have crept back up under Obama's successor Donald Trump, who has questioned reconciliation. During the visit, Cuban and US musicians together played Mendelssohn's "Octet." Hoping to make the exchange two-way, the Cuban musicians in turn performed a folk composition from the island.

The musicians from the two countries hope to play together next year as a chamber group before a goal of creating a full-sized Cuban American Youth Orchestra, made up of high school-age students, which would tour in 2019. "We want to find musical phrases together and share musical, emotional feelings together," said Osmo Vanska, the Finnish conductor who is music director of the Minnesota Orchestra. "There is no politics in music. That's one of the great things. We can come together without any negative baggage from history," he said.

Gift of instruments

The four Cuban musicians came together after discovering Puccini on YouTube, creating what they called the Crisantemi Quartet after the opera master's elegiac piece. Rodriguez would play at his university and on a cello on loan from his aunt but never had his own instrument—until now. He and another student—his sister, violist Adriana Deborah Rodriguez Laza—were presented their own instruments after donations collected by Rena Kraut, executive director of the Cuban American Youth Orchestra.

"I was very happy and very moved. I was almost speechless," he said. To buy a cello in Cuba, he said, "you would need months or even years" of salary. To Rodriguez, the prospect of working as a classical musician in Cuba, a country with a rich musical heritage but more identified with jazz, salsa and African-influenced rhythms. "Yes, you can live from music, but not from classical music from more modern Cuban music you play in the streets," he said. "It's difficult being a classical musician in Cuba because it's not what the public wants most," he said. He called the time in Minnesota "magnificent," saying he was able to witness a different experience. "American musicians have another way of seeing music. They have other opportunities," he said.

Different feeling for music

Kraut became aware of the potential for mutual learning when she headed to Havana with the Minnesota Orchestra, the first trip there by a major US classical ensemble in 15 years. The orchestra had practiced a Cuban piece and in one section had to clap out the rhythm. The audience of young people was baffled at the Americans' musical sense. "Every single student stopped and looked at us and they said, like, 'What are they doing?'" Kraut said.—AFP

The guitar maker of Kinshasa: Father of a unique sound

In 2010, a group of Kinshasa street musicians, several of them left paraplegic by childhood polio, caused a sensation in Europe. Calling themselves Staff Benda Bilili, the penurious band wowed audiences with Congolese rumba, combining pounding rhythms with scintillating melodies and solos. As unique as the group's tale of their rise from the streets was their gritty guitar sound—all the work of a modest, self-taught Congolese luthier, Jean-Luther Misoko Nzalayala, who goes by the trade name of Socklo.

Benda Bilili wielded instruments in eccentric shapes and exuberant colors, their frets, bridges and nuts made from scrap metal that had been cut and bent by Socklo's rudimentary tools, producing an exceptional timbre. "It was powerful, bright, full-bodied and yet as raw as an uncooked onion, fizzing with the kind of raunch that many rock guitarists have been searching for in vain since the end of the 1960s," Andy Morgan, a specialist in African music, recorded on his blog.

As a youngster, Socklo wanted to be a football player, but he fell sick with rheumatism, "and that's what pushed me into music". The notion of making a guitar came to Socklo when he was still in secondary school, and wondered if he could reproduce the instrument that he was learning to play. "My first guitar was a joke," he says with a laugh. "If you put on the strings and tried to tune them, the fretboard bent—there was no way you could play it."

The young Socklo studied a while at the Higher Institute of Applied Techniques (ISTA) in Kinshasa where he "did electronica". He went on to sign his guitars "Ir Socklo"—the "Ir" stands for "Ingenieur" (French for engineer) and then launched his career as a luthier in 1978. Over the decades, thousands of instruments have emerged from his workshop in the rundown Lemba district of Kinshasa—a hut built of wood planks, breeze blocks and sheet iron. The floor is littered with wooden debris.

On a makeshift workbench, Socklo employs the simplest of hand tools: a saw, a plane, a few wooden chisels and a hammer and anvil to make frets from pieces of metal. On the wall are portraits of successive Congolese leaders Mobutu Sese Seko (1965-1997), Laurent Kabila (1997-2001) and his son Joseph Kabila (in power since 2001). They share the space

with an ageless poster of Michael Jackson. His hair cropped short and turning white, the 57-year-old Socklo explains that he learned how to make guitars on his own. Nowadays, he is training apprentices as best as he can.

Pragmatist without power

Over the years, Socklo has managed to get a jigsaw and a few other electronic tools, but using them is hard because of Kinshasa's frequent power cuts, so he is pragmatic. "On days when I have power, I do all the work that needs electricity, and when there's no current, I just get on with the rest." Musicians who have tried out Socklo guitars agree that they have a special sound, typically Congolese. For the sound box, the maker uses locally produced plywood, while the fretboard can be made of wenge, a tough tropical wood that can be hard to work.

For a basic acoustic guitar, Socklo makes treble strings from brake cables that he patiently cuts to size. Bass strings come from a machine he invented that spins copper wire. When it comes to electric guitars or electro-acoustic instruments, Socklo buys the pickups, "preferably European ones," as it would be too onerous to make them in his workshop.

Jupiter & Pepe

In all, Socklo believes he has "made and sold more than 10,000 guitars," but the estimate is on the high side, since he also says that he turns out between two and three guitars a week. Moreover, some special orders require work that takes more time. But one thing is certain. At prices varying from \$35 and \$50 for an acoustic guitar or bass and rising to between \$150 and \$200 for an electric or electro-acoustic guitar, Socklo's instruments are affordable even in the dire poverty that is the daily lot of most of the 10 million residents in Kinshasa.

Countless musicians in Democratic Republic of Congo, including Jupiter Bokondji (Okwess International) and Pepe Felly Manuaku, have used guitars made by Socklo or his rival across town, Almaz. In Europe, his reputation has been spread by the likes of Belgian jazz guitarist Philip Catherine. His visitors' book in Kinshasa testifies to a list of clients hailing from Britain, France, the United States and Venezuela. With orders piling up, Socklo has little time left to play music himself. "I used to play the guitar and I made people dance," he says cheerfully, "but today it's my guitars that lead the dance." —AFP



This file photo shows Misoko Nzalayala Jean Luther, alias Ir Socklo, a stringed-instrument maker for 40 years, as he poses with a guitar at his workshop in Kinshasa. — AFP



This undated handout photo provided by South Korea's presidential Blue House in Seoul shows the meal to be served at the state dinner for US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump. — AFP photos



Sauce older than US on Trump's South Korea menu

A special sauce more than a century older than the United States will be on the menu for Donald Trump at his state banquet in Seoul on Tuesday along with a diplomatically tricky prawn. The dinner, at the presidential Blue House compound next to a former royal palace, includes a beef rib dish accompanied by a gravy made with an "exquisite, 360-year-old soy sauce", said a spokesman for Seoul's presidential office. The age implies it was made in 1657, the year the father of the US Declaration of Independence signatory Benjamin Franklin was born.

Fermented food including soy sauce is a staple in South Korean cuisine, with soy sauces made by famous artisans and fermented for decades-or centuries-sold for

tens of thousands of dollars per liter. In one food show in 2012, a group of artisans displayed soy sauce they claimed had been made 450 years ago, with a price tag of 100 million won (\$90,000). Tuesday's menu also includes a grilled sole, known to be Trump's favourite fish. An unnamed official told the South's Yonhap news agency: "The menu contains food that has local, traditional flavour that could also appeal to the taste of the US head of state." But it is a marked contrast to the largely familiar US-style fare the president was offered by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Japan, with whom he has a significantly warmer relationship than with South Korean President Moon Jae-In. Within hours of Trump's arrival in Tokyo, Trump and Abe sat down to cheese-

burgers, accompanied by tomato ketchup, and the centerpiece of the state banquet there was a steak. The Seoul meal also features a prawn that Moon's office said was caught near a disputed island claimed both by the South and Japan.

The Seoul-controlled island off the east coast-called Dokdo in Korea and Takeshima in Japan-is at the heart of a decades-long territorial dispute between the two countries, both of them US allies who are confronted by the threat of nuclear-armed North Korea. And in another diplomatic jab at Tokyo, Moon's office invited Lee Yong-Soo, a former wartime sex slave for Japanese soldiers, to the state dinner.

The plight of so-called "comfort women" is a hugely emotional issue that has also marred ties between Seoul and Tokyo for decades. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said in Tokyo he would not comment on how another country welcomes a VIP. But Suga cast doubt on whether it was a good idea to use a prawn caught near a disputed island at a time when Japan and South Korea should unite to tackle North Korean issues. — AFP

STORY OF HITLER'S RISE WINS FRANCE'S TOP BOOK AWARD

Two books about the Nazis took France's biggest literary prizes on Monday, with Eric Vuillard's story of how German industry and finance backed Adolf Hitler winning the top Prix Goncourt. "L'ordre du jour" (in English "Agenda") had been among the favorites for the Goncourt prize-the most prestigious in the French-speaking world. Vuillard, 49, said he was taken aback on hearing he won for his elegant, 160-page book which charts how the financial support of German industrialists was crucial in Hitler's push for power.

"One is always surprised, sometimes fatally," he told reporters at the Paris restaurant where the winner was announced. Asked whether the book was a warning for our own populist times, the writer said he wanted to set out how the "elites slid into a situation where they compromised themselves". His novelistic account of Hitler's rise, which sticks doggedly to the facts, turns on a secret meeting in February 1933 between Hitler and the heads of Krupp, Siemens, Opel, IG Farben and other major industrial groups where they agreed to bankroll his election campaign.

As they left the room, Hermann Goering laughed, "These elections will be the last for 10 years and maybe for a century." The Renaudot award, often seen as a consolation prize for those not shortlisted for the Goncourt, went to "The Disappearance of Josef Mengele", another book about the Nazis which walked the tightrope of historical fact. Journalist Olivier Guez spent years retracing the secret post-Holocaust life of the SS doctor, notorious as the "Angel of Death" at the Auschwitz concentration camp for his often lethal experiments on prisoners.

Mediocrity of evil

Mengele managed to escape to Argentina and even got a West German passport in his own name in the 1950s so he could return for a holiday in his hometown. "I wanted to understand what is left of a person after they have done that kind of evil," Guez said after he won. "I wanted to know what Mengele's life was like afterwards, whether he had been punished or not. I think in Europe today (with the rise of the far-right) we need to understand the extraordinary mediocrity of evil," he added.

While Vuillard gets only 10 euros for winning the Goncourt, the prize almost guarantees a boost in sales of 450,000 copies or more, placing it instantly among the year's top bestsellers. Although his book was greatly admired, many critics had tipped Veronique Olmi to make history by becoming the second woman writer in a row to win the century-old prize. Her novel, "Bakhita", based on another real-life story of a Sudanese slave girl who became a Catholic saint, is already a bestseller. —AFP



French writer Eric Vuillard holds his novel after being awarded with the Prix Goncourt for 'L'Ordre du Jour' at the restaurant Drouant in Paris. — AFP



In Ecuadorean cave, meals offered in darkness by the blind

On the outskirts of Ecuador's capital, young couples and families venture into a pitch-black cave in search of an unlikely experience: a meal in the dark. Blind waiters guide guests to their tables and deliver tangy fruit juices and appetizing dishes like caramelized vegetables and sweet fried bananas - foods the owner believes can taste even more delightful when diners can't see what they are eating. La Cueva de Rafa, or Rafa's Cave, is the brainchild of Rafael Wild, an Ecuadorean who spent years managing an Italian restaurant in Switzerland.

After returning to Quito, he began building a cave as a pastime and later decided to open a restaurant inside, run by the blind and serving meals in absolute darkness. It's a concept that has already surfaced in European cities including Paris and Barcelona and in the United States. The Quito restaurant is the only dining-in-the-dark establishment in Latin America, aside from occasional pop-up events. Wild said he was inspired by his own childhood in Ecuador, much of which he spent traversing the great outdoors, including nearby caves.

"I liked exploring in the darkness," he said. The restaurant aims to provide jobs for the blind, increase awareness of their daily struggles, and deliver a unique culinary experience. According to the World Health Organization, there are 40 million to 45 million blind people in the world, including about 5 million in Latin America. Diners visiting La Cueva de Rafa first walk through a narrow, dimly lit tunnel.

Once inside, servers ask guests to place a hand on their shoulder in order to guide them through the murky cave toward their tables. Guests move awkwardly through the dark while the waiters - most of whom have been blind since childhood - step firmly ahead. Gabriel Bolanos, a blind analyst at the Ministry of Foreign Commerce who tends tables at La Cueva de Rafa on weekends, presented diners with two options: an a la carte menu featuring items like vegetable lasagna and steak, or a surprise dish.

The surprise dish included a sweet, slightly acidic juice and tortillas made with quinoa and mashed potatoes. At tables, some diners laughed with friends as they

wrestled with the unexpected challenge of putting food on a fork they could not see. For others, the darkness proved unbearable. Fernando Bucheli, an architect, left after five minutes, too nervous to stay any longer in a dining room where cellphones and light-emitting watches are prohibited.

"I felt claustrophobic, disoriented," he said. "The anguish kept getting worse." But Wild, who has long felt a personal connection to the blind, hopes the restaurant will show what life is like for those who cannot see. "Since I already had the cave I decided to use it in a way to help society develop empathy for the blind," he said.

Javier Madera and Gabriela Monroy said that after overcoming their initial anxiety they had a memorable meal, and not just because of the food. In the dark, Madera revealed his feelings for Monroy, telling her for the first time that he loves her. "It was an unforgettable experience," Monroy said.—AP



CHINA FASHION WEEK



Models display creation from the 'Hu Sheguang' collection during China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AFP photos

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