

Established 1961

The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf



Max 32°
Min 16°

www.kuwaittimes.net

4 Court rejects petition against anti-corruption authority



17 A year after cash ban, India's black money market thriving



31 Move over Mickey: Donald Duck reigns in Germany



15 Antetokounmpo magic in vain as Cavs win



On first Mideast trip, Macron urges 'firm' stance on Tehran

Rouhani warns of Iran's 'might' • French, Arab leaders open Louvre Abu Dhabi

Abolish Article 153 group fights for women's empowerment



The Abolish Article 153 team.

KUWAIT: According to article 153 of Kuwait's penal code, if a man catches a female member of his family in an "unsavory sexual (zina) act with a man and kills her or him or both, [it] will be treated as ... a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of three years jail time and/or a fine of 3,000 rupees (KD 14)".

To educate members of the Kuwaiti society of this law and to eradicate it,

the Abolish Article 153 initiative was launched. This year, the advocacy group was awarded the prestigious Chaillot Prize 2016 for Human Rights in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Its founding members are Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh, Amira Behbehani, Lulu M Al-Sabah, Sheikha Al-Nafis and Sundus Hamza. (See Page 3)

ABU DHABI: French President Emmanuel Macron called for vigilance towards Tehran over its ballistic missile program and regional activities, in an interview published yesterday by Emirati daily Al-Itihad. The French leader arrived in the United Arab Emirates yesterday for a two-day visit to inaugurate a new Louvre museum, hold talks on the geopolitical situation with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, before ending his trip in Dubai to attend an economic forum. This is his first visit to the Middle East as head of state.

"It is important to remain firm with Iran over its regional activities and its ballistic program," said Macron. But he cautioned against creating a "new front" in a region already fraught with conflicts, including the war in Yemen, where UAE forces are taking part in a Saudi-led coalition. Escalation would "only heighten tensions and further destabilize the region", Macron said. His visit comes days after Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen fired a ballistic missile at the Saudi capital, sparking a war of words between the regional heavyweights.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin



ABU DHABI: (From left) Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed Al-Nahyan, Moroccan King Mohammed VI, French President Emmanuel Macron, his wife Brigitte, Bahrainis King Hamad Al-Khalifa and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani tour the Louvre Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

Salman accused Iran of delivering missiles to Yemeni rebels in a "direct military aggression" against the kingdom, while Iran's President Hassan Rouhani countered that Riyadh would achieve nothing by threatening "the might of Iran". "More than ever, we need

a region at peace, with responsible regional actors working for the stability of the Middle East," Macron told Al-Itihad.

Macron later took his first walk yesterday night through the galleries of the Louvre Abu

Continued on Page 11

Layari Al Khayyam
Iranian Restaurant

تسبورة
TASSYOURA

BBQ & Music Night

5.90K.D Per Person

OPEN BUFFET

(Salads, Appetizers, Grills, Shawerma & Drinks)

8:00 - 11:30 PM

Thursday 9 November

Home Delivery & Catering

2290 9999

Tassyourakw

Local

Amir receives Moroccan Head of Supreme Council of Accounts

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday Head of the Supreme Council of Accounts in Morocco Driss Jettou and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Acting President of Kuwait Audit Bureau Adel Al-Sar'awi. The visiting Moroccan official later met with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, as well as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Head of the Supreme Council of Accounts in Morocco Driss Jettou. — KUNA

Special Representative to Omani Sultan receives letter from Kuwaiti FM

MUSCAT: Oman Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation and Special Representative to Sultan of Oman Asaad Al-Saeed received a written letter from Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Oman news agency said the letter was delivered during a meeting between Saeed and Kuwait Ambassador to Oman Fahad Al-Mutairi. During the meeting, the two also delved into bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries on various fronts. — KUNA



MUSCAT: Oman Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation and Special Representative to Sultan of Oman Asaad Al-Saeed meets with Kuwait Ambassador to Oman Fahad Al-Mutairi. — KUNA

Embassy hosts 'Italian Week'

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Italian Embassy in Kuwait is holding the second edition of the "Italian Week" (Settimana Italiana) from Nov 11-19, 2017, and held a press conference yesterday to announce the various activities of this event. "The success of the first edition of Italian Week, held in 2016, convinced us to repeat this initiative by turning it into an annual event in order to allow our Kuwaiti friends to expand their knowledge of Italy and its excellences," said Italian

Ambassador to Kuwait Giuseppe Scognamiglio.

"There are always a lot of things that can be discovered about Italy. We have a long history of 8,000 years in culture and food. When you visit Italy, you have the opportunity to visit a thousand countries at the same time," he added. Italian Week includes various activities that will take place at different locations. "The program includes a variety of activities, ranging from music to figurative arts, gastronomy, fashion, technology, the promotion of 'Made by Italy', fitness, wonders of our car industry and many



Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Giuseppe Scognamiglio

others," he said. Scognamiglio also thanked the sponsors of the event.

Fayez Al-Anezi, Public Relations and Media Director of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), said the relationship between KAC and Italy goes back to 1969. "We started operating to Rome in 1969. We consider the Italian Week an important event with many interesting activities, and it deserves to have KAC as its official carrier for the guests of this event," he noted. "We will be offering a five percent discount on the market price of tickets during the event. There are four flights from Kuwait to Rome every week on Airbus 330s, offering 212 seats in three classes - business, first and economy. The relationship between KAC and Italy is very strong, whether with the civil aviation in Italy or the Italian embassy in Kuwait. We wish this event a lot of success," stressed Anezi.

Kuwait affirms full support to Palestinian rights

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait affirmed yesterday its full support toward the struggle of the Palestinian people in order to get their legitimate political rights by establishing their independent State on their territory according to 1967 borders.

The remarks came in a speech by the Permanent Representative of Kuwait in the UN, delivered by First Secretary Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duajj Al-Sabah during the Special Political and Decolonization Committee at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly late Tuesday.

Kuwait also called for the release of Palestinian prisoners and send an international committee to investigate the situation in Israeli jails and to verify Israel's compliance with the provisions of international law in this regard. It deplored the continuance of the illegal and inhuman blockade of the Gaza Strip, which it is another violation by Israel of Security Council resolution 1860 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

Sabah also stressed the need for the international community to carry its responsibilities to compel Israel to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee to stop its violations of international humanitarian law within the occupied territories and commit to peaceful resolution of the implementation of United Nations resolutions. It also pointed to the worsening electricity crisis that continued during the commission's mission and its impact on health infrastructure,



First Secretary Jawaher Al-Sabah

one of the most important key issues that forced hospitals to reduce their services, resulting in limited access to basic care. Sabah also stressed that the actions of the Israeli government are the biggest evidence of its intransigence and its insistence on non-compliance with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy and its lack of credibility in reaching a final and lasting political solution that includes the existence of an independent Palestinian state based on pre-June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. — KUNA

Warba Bank meets KUNA employees

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, the best investment and corporate bank in Kuwait, announced yesterday that it will participate at Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) open day, which started on Sunday, November 5 and concludes today at (KUNA) premises, to introduce its leading products and services and establish a direct communication with current and prospect clients.

Recently, Warba Bank has been active in intensifying its presence in similar events what affirms its commitment to further strengthen direct interaction with customers while listening to their needs and demands.

Over the course of 5 days' event, Warba Bank team will provide an in-depth explanation to KUNA staff about its products, latest quality offerings, and its flexible financing solutions that are designed to suit all needs. The Bank's staff will also brief the audience on Warba Bank distinguished services as well as on latest marketing campaigns launched to guarantee customers unlimited advantages.

It's noteworthy to highlight that Warba Bank ultimate objective, is to exceed customers' expectations



by constantly providing them with up-to-date unique banking services and products which are carefully designed to maintain their satisfaction. With that in

mind, the Bank continues to innovate unparalleled financing solutions that cater to different needs and secure rewarding benefits.

Crown Prince thanks citizens, residents

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah thanked all citizens and residents for their sentiments and assured all about his medical checkups, which results are good and successful.

His Highness the Crown Prince expressed his appreciation to all who asked about his health, thanked Allah the Almighty, and hoped that Allah continues to protect Kuwait and its people, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On Tuesday, His Highness the Amir called His Highness the Crown to inquire about his health and positive results of medical tests he underwent in the United States. His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow His Highness the Crown Prince with good health. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

News in brief

Palestinian President in Kuwait Saturday

KUWAIT: Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub announced yesterday that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas would arrive to Kuwait on Saturday in a state visit in response to an invitation from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Further, Tahboub explained that both leaders would open the International Conference on the Sufferings of Palestinian Children under the Israeli Occupation Violations of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Children, due to be held in Kuwait in the period of November 12-13, 2017. In addition, Tahboub said that president Abbas would address the opening session and hold official bilateral talks with His Highness the Amir.

Army, NATO officials talk

KUWAIT: Officials from the Kuwaiti army and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held a meeting yesterday, discussing issues of mutual interest. In a statement issued by Kuwait army, Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Kanderi said that the meeting was within both sides intentions to coordinate efforts within the military domain. The gathering also focused on ways to boost ties. In addition to Al-Kanderi, the meeting was attended by Kuwait army's Brigadier General Ahmad Al-Khalaf and a number of NATO officials. — KUNA

Failaka excavation agreement signed

KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) signed Tuesday a cooperation agreement with the French Archaeological Mission to carry out archaeological surveying and excavations in Failaka Island. NCCAL's Secretary-General Dr Ali Al-Youha and the Director of the French-Kuwaiti Archaeological Mission Dr Julie Bonneric at NCCAL's headquarters signed the agreement. As per the agreement, the excavation works will concentrate on the sites of Hellenistic castle and Al-Qusor in the Kuwaiti Island. NCCAL's Secretariat-General said in a statement. — KUNA

KRCS, IFRC sign MoU

ISTANBUL: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have signed a MoU to boot bilateral cooperation. KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer signed the MoU with IFRC Secretary General Elhadj As Sy yesterday on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the federation's general Assembly, Antalya, Turkey. The MoU crowns joint efforts both sides had exerted for enhancing bilateral cooperation, Sayer said. It aims to bolster the KRCS's capabilities in training and exchange of expertise in all fields of humanitarian work. After the signing ceremony, Al-Sayer honored the IFRC's senior official for his continued support to the KRCS. Sayer led the Kuwaiti delegation to the meetings of the world's largest humanitarian network. — KUNA

Local

The fight for women's empowerment in Kuwait: An interview with Abolish 153

'We cannot be complacent in allowing practices that disempower women to flourish'

By Nejouad Al-Yagout

KUWAIT: As per the mission statement of Abolish Article 153, the article in question stipulates that if a man catches a female member of his family in an "unsavory sexual (zina) act with a man and kills her or him or both, [it] will be treated as ... a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of three years jail time and/or a fine of 3000 ruppees (KD 14)."

Abolish Article 153 was born to educate members of our society of this law and to eradicate it. This year, the initiative was awarded the prestigious Chaillot Prize 2016 for Human Rights in the Gulf Cooperation Council. The founding members are (in alphabetical order): Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh, Amira Behbehani, Lulu M Al-Sabah, Sheikhha Al-Nafisi and Sundus Hamza.

Here, Dr Alanoud addresses questions on behalf of all the members.

Kuwait Times: What a noble initiative! We were so ignorant of this article prior to the inception of Abolish Article 153. How did you find out about it, first and foremost?

Al-Sharekh: I was conducting research on discrimination in Kuwaiti laws in 2006 - in order to motivate women to become more politically active (following the gaining of full political rights on May 16, 2005) - and was shocked to find that such a law existed in Kuwait.

Raising awareness

KT: The members of Abolish Article 153 have traveled across the globe to seek support and raise awareness of this campaign. Recently, it even reached the United Nations. Do you feel you are any closer to success in eradicating this antiquated law or are more obstacles being presented as you gain recognition?

Al-Sharekh: We are definitely gaining recognition, most importantly in our own parliament, where a bill to abolish article 153 was presented in May. There seems to be a universal movement

to eradicate these laws now, and over the summer, three Arab states abolished the "kidnap and marry law", a Napoleonic throwback similar to 153, and one that we also have as a law in Kuwait. So we are with the tide despite some resistance.

KT: How has our parliament responded?

Al-Sharekh: We have been lobbying for the past three years, and for the most part, our MPs have been sympathetic and willing to help. In this session, it took a group of younger parliamentarians to take a stand against this embarrassing legislation.

KT: Many women are afraid of ruining the reputation of their families. Is there a way to remove the stigma associated with reporting abuse?

Al-Sharekh: I think this will take a twofold approach -



Alanoud Al-Sharekh and Rana Al-Husseini are seen during last year's symposium.



A group picture taken at the first Abolish Article 153 gala dinner, featuring (from left) Sundus Hamza, Sheikhha Al-Nafisi, Alanoud Al-Sharekh, Amira Behbehani, and Lulu Al-Sabah.

first by introducing legislation that deals with domestic violence and sexual harassment, which we currently lack in Kuwait, while simultaneously raising public awareness through campaigns and social outreach programs.

Public assistance

KT: As mentioned on your website, Article 153 "... is in blatant disregard of the constitution, international agreements on human and women's rights and even the Islamic sharia." Though the article is in place, you have given us all hope that it will be eradicated. How can the public assist you in your cause?

Al-Sharekh: By demanding from their elected representatives a change in attitude. We cannot be complacent in allowing social and legal practices that disempower women to flourish. This should be a universal issue and we want the UN to take a definitive stand banning all honor killing legislations. Concerned citizens

around the world can help us lobby for our cause, in order to stop violent legislations and the weak justifications for murdering female kin.

KT: And, finally, you have hosted many progressive workshops including a training session for effective campaigning. In addition, you have used art and poetry to raise awareness for the plight of women. There is also an important symposium on November 14. Can you tell us a little more about this upcoming event?



A picture from last year's symposium.

Al-Sharekh: We believe that advocacy is the way to change policies, and this is of utmost importance when it comes to ending violence against women. When we as voters fail to make these demands on our elected representatives, we allow other repressive voices to set the agenda for us. That's why we chose to make the intersection of advocacy and politics - where ending violence against women is our main

theme for our second annual symposium. We have amazing women speakers from Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Georgia who have made huge difference in the fight against gender-based violence in their own countries. And from Kuwait we have MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei and Dr Ghanim Al-Najjar, who will be highlighting how to overcome local obstacles and instigate positive change.



'Ending violence against women' symposium to be held

'Unjustified fear' in region, says professor

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Center for Gulf Studies (CGS) at the American University of Kuwait organized a lecture titled "The Gulf Crisis: Issues and Prospects" on Tuesday. During the lecture, speaker Dr Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University, shed light on the Gulf crisis and the mediation efforts of Kuwait. The lecture focused on the causes and dynamics of the crisis from diverse angles in the context of new regional geopolitics. He evaluated its impact on the GCC states and particularly on Qatar and its stability.

Ghabra said there is a state of unjustified fear about everything, whether from the media, ideas, expressions or other opinions - a fear that has become apparent in many countries in the recent period. He warned tampering with the changes will lead to more violence. He pointed out that Qatar, according to what happened since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, activated its military rela-



KUWAIT: Dr Shafeeq Ghabra speaks during the lecture. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

tionship with Turkey, which is something new since the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and this cooperation may expand in the future. "Qatar also sought Kuwaiti mediation and waited for what it would produce. It went to Iran to use its airspace and rely on its food exports, as well as Turkish markets to meet the requirements of daily life," Ghabra added. "We have been witnessing a complex scenario and expect new crises, which may benefit Iran or Turkey." He pointed out Kuwait has followed the requirements of moderation derived from balances that have maintained Kuwaiti relations with everyone reasonably.

Foster families on rise in Kuwait

KUWAIT: A growing number of Kuwaiti couples are welcoming parentless children at their homes, providing them with love, care and protection which they are yearning for. "I was living in fear and anxiety, until a loving family adopted me," said Sarah, a 12-year-old adopted girl. "Now, I do not worry about my future, thanks for the support and protection given to me by my new family."

Hamad, a nine-year-old adopted boy, said he did not face any difficulty in getting along with his new family. "On the contrary, I was in panic when they took me to visit my previous orphanage, out of fear that they could leave me again," he said. "I was over the moon when I knew that a family has adopted me and I now have a family, private home and bedroom."

Success stories

The recent years have seen remarkable increase in the number of foster families in Kuwait, thanks to social media. The mass circulation of the success of stories of adoptive families have helped break up stereotypes and raise the awareness about adoption and spurred many families to take the move and welcome forsaken children, supervisor of the adopting families department at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr Khaled Al-Ajmi said. He

cited as examples two adoptive mothers who posted their adoption stories on Instagram accompanied with real-time video clips of the welcomed children. Their stories, which gave a glimpse of the life of an adopted child in new family, have attracted huge audiences and inspired many to start procedures to adopt a child, he said. Ajmi disclosed that the number of adopted children surged to 21 in 2014 compared with 13 only a year earlier. On the adoption process and procedures, Ajmi stated that the family presents official adoption request and after a social work study on the family, the child is giving to them for temporary period.

After that period, social workers pay visits to the adoptive families and keep in touch with the child to make sure they are welcomed and well-treated in their new home before a final approval is given. He made clear that adoptive families do not pay any fees for the whole process, but rather the ministry allocated a monthly financial support to the child.

Be frank

Eman Shaalan, a social worker at an adopting families house, said she usually conducts a survey about the family applying to adopt a child and if it proved acceptable, the family department finishes the legal procedures. She advised adoptive families to be frank with the child from the start and to tell them that they are not their biological parents.

If the family covered that piece of information and the child later discovers it, this could have negative consequences on the child, he cautioned, adding that in some cases, the child even insisted on leaving the adoptive



families and returning to the orphanage.

Treasurer of Kayan society for family care society Anisa Al-Jarrallah said meanwhile that her non-profitable organization is aiming to encourage more families to adopt parentless children and to help integrate them into the society. Kayan also provides the children with social and psychological support and organize a variety of activities to strengthen bonds among adoptive families and to help them exchange their experiences, she said. She noted that her society has launched an awareness campaign themed "Color a Life" to encourage local couples to adopt.

Meanwhile, adoptive mother Zaina Al-Sultan recounted her experience of adoption. She noted her inability to have babies and the overwhelming motherhood feelings promoted her to think about adopting a child. She added that the adopted child desperately needs love and passion from the receiving family. She pointed out that the most difficult time in adoption is the early period or the time of coping with the new family and new home. — KUNA



A general view of the audience.

Kuwait takes part in Asia conference

KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Saeed chaired yesterday Kuwait's delegation participating in the Asia conflict prevention and Peace building conference, which is being held under the auspices of Korea's Foreign Ministry.

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, Chairman of the United Nations Peace-

building Commission Cho Hyun, opened the conference, which is attended by senior officials and experts on issues of peace and stability in Asia. At the opening of the conference, Hyun stressed the importance of efforts by countries to support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to achieve lasting peace and stability in the conflict areas through the political management of the heads of state and UN mechanisms.

Most important pillars of peace building are the peaceful settlement of disputes and the promotion of economic development efforts, he said. He expressed his country's appreciation for Kuwait's participation in this conference at a high level reflecting the depth of the friendly relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Saeed held important meetings on the sideline of the conference with officials from the Korean Foreign Ministry, the most important with the Korean government envoy to the six-party nuclear talks on North Korean nuclear issue.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Bader Al-Awadhi, Advisor in the Department of Asia Affairs Mohammad Al-Hajri, Consoler at the Embassy of Kuwait to the Republic of Korea Nawaf Al-Saeed and the Third Secretary of the Embassy of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of Korea Mohammad Al-Huwaila as well as the Diplomatic Attache of the Department of Asia Farah Al-Fahad participated at the meetings. — KUNA

Local

Court rejects petition against anti-corruption authority

Opposition MPs demand ousting 'crisis' ministers

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The constitutional court, whose rulings are final, yesterday said the law establishing the Anti-Corruption Authority is in line with the constitution and the country's law, rejecting a petition against the authority. The petition was filed by a number of top judges who cited a breach of the constitution by the law establishing the Authority because the legislation allows it oversee the work of judges.

Under the Anti-Corruption law, the authority has the right to investigate suspected cases of corruption against state officials, MPs and even judges a number of whom decided to contest the law. The ruling by Kuwait's top court means that the Anti-Corruption Authority is constitutional and cannot be dissolved by any party. It also means giving the authority added powers to conduct its duties in pursuing corruption cases against senior officials.

Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani welcomed the ruling and wished the head and members of the Anti-Corruption Authority all success in its work with transparency and integrity to safeguard public funds and interests against misuse of power. The liberal National Democratic Alliance (NDA) also welcomed the ruling and urged the Authority to commence its work with full force after the constitu-

tional court ruling. Secretary General of NDA Bashar Al-Sayegh said that a number of corruption cases against former ministers and officials should be investigated as soon as possible to either refer them to court for trial or shelve them for insufficient evidence. He said that the Authority should adopt transparency in its work in order to win the trust and the support of citizens in fighting against corruption.

Opposition MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri called on the prime minister who has been asked to form the new cabinet to oust those ministers who have failed to perform their duties and select statesmen who are capable of shouldering the responsibility towards the country and the people amid prevailing regional conditions. He reiterated the lawmakers' desire to cooperate with the government but will not let

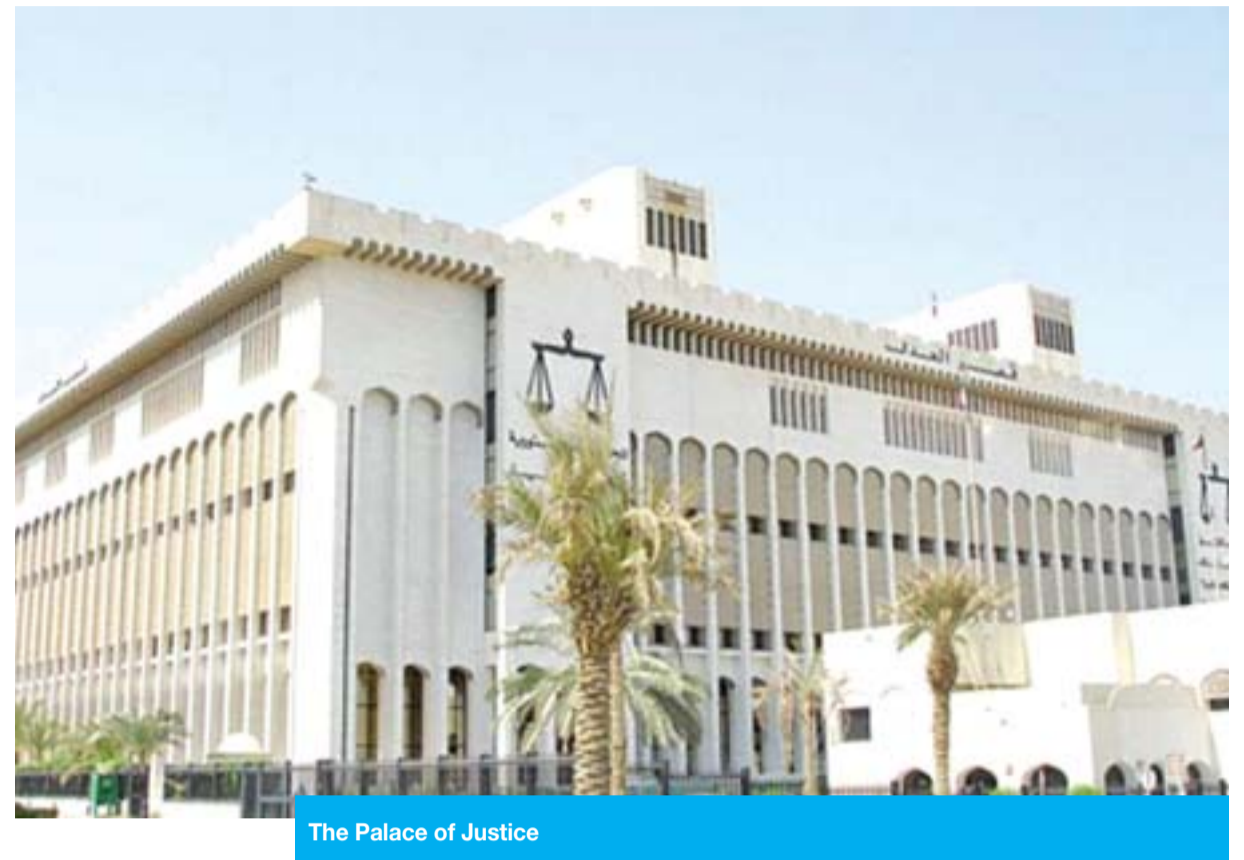
violations pass without accountability. MP Mohammad Hayef said that the call for restraint does not only target lawmakers but also the government, adding that the government is required to leave out ministers who cause political crises if it aims to serve public interests. The government resigned last week after 10 MPs filed a no-confidence motion against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting information minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah following a grilling in the assembly.

violations pass without accountability.

MP Mohammad Hayef said that the call for restraint does not only target lawmakers but also the government, adding that the government is required to leave out ministers who cause political crises if it aims to serve public interests. The government resigned last week after 10 MPs filed a no-confidence motion against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting information minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah following a grilling in the assembly.



Authority entitled to investigate suspected corruption cases



The Palace of Justice

Man presents evidence of supporting wife

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The family court yesterday heard a case during which a citizen managed to refute his wife's accusations that he had not been financially supporting her. The wife demanded a divorce, but to everyone's as well as the court's surprise, the husband asked for a grace period to bring to court evidence of his innocence. He then brought well-classified receipts of each and every dinar he had spent on his wife's clothes, nourishment, travel and recreation. The husband's manner of preparing the evidence and keeping all the bills and classifying them had the entire court and a number of lawyers baffled about the man's motives to do so since day one of his marriage. The wife's case was accordingly rejected.

Increased revenues

The State Audit Bureau's annual report about the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's (MSAL) performance during the fiscal year 2016-2017 showed a remarkable 333.3 percent increase in revenues to KD 8,903,056. The report also noted a wastage of KD 77,000 because the ministry failed to impose Cabinet resolution 637/2001 pertaining to the fees collected from wedding ceremony halls and explained that MSAL had responded to the remark, explaining that the halls were not 'a source of income' and that what is spent on them exceeds what they make.

Food inspection

Well-informed sources said food inspection and control would be subjected to the food and nourishment public authority instead of the municipality, effective from the beginning of December. The sources added that this move would be the final one in transferring the municipality's responsibilities to other bodies. The sources said article 11 of law 112/2013 pertaining to the establishment of the food authority states that it would be responsible for monitoring food manufacturing, storage, sale and transport facilities to make sure they observed hygienic conditions, including meat in slaughterhouses and butcheries and imported food items.

Bidaa Roundabout 30-40 percent complete: Minister

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Al-Mutawa said 30-40 percent of the Bidaa Roundabout bridge project has been completed and that one of the bridge lanes is expected to open by the beginning of 2018. Speaking to reporters during an inspection tour he conducted at the site, Mutawa reminded that the project had

KFSD inspect North Zour Power Plant

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and agencies

KUWAIT: Deputy Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Maj Gen Khalid Fahd and a team from the prevention sector visited the North Zour Power Station Company in Zour to check prevention regulations and firefighting systems.

Campaigns

Farwaniya Public Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department at Kuwait Municipality continued its field campaigns in all areas of the governorate, as a campaign was launched in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh resulting in issuing five roaming vendor citations, and seizing 36 cubic meters of vegetables, used clothes and scrap. Meanwhile 'shift B' also carried out a campaign resulting in issuing 15 roaming vendor citations along with

76 cubic meters of scrap, used clothes and vegetables.

Prostitution

Policemen busted a restaurant and a cafe that was facilitating prostitution for its patrons in cabins, while other customers are sitting around on tables unaware of what was going on. Officers arrested nine expats of both genders after it was proven they were engaged in prostitution. Police found sexual aides and undergarments hidden in certain areas. The arrestees were taken to the residency affairs detectives department for interrogation and legal action for their deportation.

Arrests

Hawally police arrested a citizen wanted by Interpol in Salmiya. Police spotted a speeding car, then when the driver was asked to pull over, he did not, so he was chased and caught. Police found he is a 55-year-old citizen wanted on a KD 500,000 financial case by Interpol. He was sent to concerned authorities. Separately, a non-commissioned officer arrested a citizen sentenced to 15 years in jail who escaped while the sentence was being announced at the end of

28 traffic violations lead to two-month vehicle impoundment

KUWAIT: An informed source at the Interior Ministry said Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Maj Gen Fahd Al-Showai instructed all traffic departments to start targeting all traffic violations mentioned in article 207 and carry out the procedures of administrative action on them. The instructions will not be limited to seatbelts, running the red light and using the phone - rather they are applicable to all violations mentioned in article 207, which number 28.

Meanwhile, Showai chaired a meeting of the organizing committee of the 34th Gulf Traffic Week, which will be held under the slogan "Your Life is a Trust". On the other hand, the traffic department began installation of cameras in all patrol cars to document conversations between police officers and violators, both video and audio. A security source said this technique will safeguard the rights of the traffic officer and the violator, and any complaint will be investigated accordingly.

Vehicles will be impounded for two months if the driver commits any of the following violations:

- 1) If it was driven without license plates, or an illegible one, or if has anything that obstructs it or carries plates not issued by the traffic department.
- 2) If it was driven on the road after suspending its license or removing its plates.
- 3) If it was driven without a title or if its insurance was expired.
- 4) If the driver does not have a license, or a license that does not allow him to drive it, or if it was suspended.
- 5) If it was driven recklessly or in a way that endangers the driver, passengers or others.
- 6) If it was found without brakes while being driven, or if the brakes are with defects.

been delayed and withdrawn from the contractor who initially started it and given to another. He explained that the first contractor had been given three notices prior to withdrawing the project. Mutawa added he also visited the Mangaf bridge and roundabout project to inspect the work progress there.

Mutawa stressed that that the Ministry of Public Works is keen on collecting its dues from various contractors and said that he had instructed all ministry sectors to list all delayed projects and violations so that penal measures could be taken against responsible contractors. He also noted that a director had been already appointed to head the roads authority pending the formation of its board of directors and organizational structure. Responding to a question concerning the new Cabinet formation, Mutawa said this responsibility was in the good hands of His Highness the

Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and that he alone knows the answer to this question.

Landline phone bills

The Ministry of Utilities recently urged all landline telephone subscribers to pay their bills to avoid programmed service disconnection. The ministry explained that a warning would be sent on Sunday, Nov 12, followed by a second one on Nov 19, before disconnecting the service on Nov 26 of subscribers who fail to pay their bills. The ministry explained that the limit at which a line would be automatically listed for programmed disconnection is KD 50 for home lines and KD 100 for commercial ones, in addition to subscribers who had rescheduled their bills to pay in installments and failed to pay any of them, and subscribers who fail to pay the subscription fee for over six months.

Capital Governor visits Kuwait Credit Bank

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Capital Governor Lt Gen Thabit Al-Muhanna visited Kuwait Credit Bank yesterday in Kuwait City along with a delegation of seven regional mayors. Muhanna was received by Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Utilities Affairs Yasser Abul and the Director General of Kuwait Credit Bank Salah Al-Mudhaf. The bank's spokeswoman Habari Khashti said the visit aimed to inform the governor and the mayors about the work mechanism of the bank, the services it provides and the development witnessed in providing services electronically online.

She said Mudhaf accompanied the delegation on an inspection tour of various departments and sections of the bank to learn more about real estate, social and portfolio loans - from the submission of the loan's request, the audit, completing the necessary documents and the engineering disclosure on the coupon or property to transfer the loan to the beneficiary citizen's bank account.

Khashti stressed that the bank's management pays great attention to youth and always seeks to overcome all difficulties and get over the obstacles that stand in their way. He noted they were and are still at the heart of all the plans and strategies set by senior management to support and provide them with expertise to qualify them for the future.

Meanwhile, Mudhaf briefed the delegation during the tour on the qualitative shift made by the bank in recent years, and included significant changes to the bank's transformation into a modern institution that keeps pace with the latest developments in e-government applications. The largest and most extensive electronic linking operation between the bank and relevant institutions and bodies has been completed to save the time and effort of the client.

Mudhaf confirmed that the bank is in the forefront of government institutions that initiated the application of law no. 20 of 2014 on electronic transactions, where the citizen can access services as soon as he signs in with his electronic signature. He explained that the modernization process was not limited to the technical aspect, but included the development of many of the bank's regulations, especially the lending list, in order to facilitate lending procedures and reduce the documentary cycle.

He referred to the project of maintenance and development of the headquarters building that was completed, as well as the development and maintenance of the Granada branch which is currently being implemented in full swing and is due to be launched in 2020. He explained that all these projects are part of the expansion of the bank in order to reach the citizen wherever he is, and also provide more job opportunities to newly-graduated Kuwaiti youth. Muhanna praised the work mechanism of Kuwait Credit Bank, and asked the mayors to take the bank as a great example of development by adopting the latest technology.

SYMPHONY STYLE HOTEL
فندق سيمفوني ستايل الكويت

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are looking for experienced:

- Meetings & Events Operations Manager
- Drivers

Benefits:
Attractive salary. Housing allowance. Three daily meals. Airline ticket. Uniform. Laundry service.

Requirement:

- Valid Kuwaiti driving license (Drivers only).
- Minimum one year experience.
- Transferable residency.
- English language proficiency.

All the nationalities are welcomed. Qualified candidate, kindly visit our human resource office in the hotel from 12:00 to 18:00

SALMIYA, ARABIAN GULF ROAD
2577 0000

Local

AAW joins Horeca 2018 as golden sponsor

KUWAIT: Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa Commercial Company (AAW) announced joining the list of participants and sponsors taking part in Horeca Kuwait 2018 exhibition, where it participates as a golden sponsor. The event is organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref in the period of January 15-17, 2018.



Ali Al-Mutawa

In this regard, AAW CEO Ali Faisal Al-Mutawa said that Horeca plays a major role in linking regional companies with clients and that it opens new channels for the hospitality and food industries business. "Taking part in exhibitions help encourage development projects and youth to start their own businesses in order to eventually diversify sources of national income," he explained.

Further, Mutawa noted that AAW has over 80 years of experience and excellence as a leading retail and distribution company. The company also invests in seven different retail sectors and represent over 100 international brands it introduces to local markets, he added.

Mutawa also pointed out that AAW runs the largest and most complicated distribution operations in Kuwait with a storage capacity of over 250,000 square meters to deliver over 200 products to consumers on a daily basis. "We take pride in being in every single supermarket and every single Kuwaiti home," he said. "We represent some of the world's most important and successful retail brands and we are even the sole distributor of Procter and Gamble products and Roche Pharmaceuticals since 1965." He added that through this year's golden sponsorship, AAW would display the latest in coffee-making devices as well as cafes equipment at the Horeca exhibition.

Moreover, Mutawa said that AAW has a legacy of almost 100 years as it was established in 1918 by Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa, and started with practicing modest commercial activities and importing consumer products such as rice, sugar, tea and fabrics from neighboring countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran.

Zain receives 'Excellence in Talent Management' award

Fifth GCC GOV HR Awards 2017 held in Abu Dhabi

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, received the 'Excellence in Talent Management' award across the GCC region during the GCC GOV HR Awards 2017 held for the fifth consecutive year in Abu Dhabi.

Zain Kuwait's Human Resources Director Nawal Bourisli received the award on behalf of the company during the 2017 awards ceremony held at Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi. The event witnessed the presence and participation of many HR decision makers, leaders, and experts from across the GCC region's public and private sectors, who together participated in a number of discussion panels with various topics related to HR practices.

Zain received the award in recognition of its internal talent management strategy, which closely focuses on contributing to the development of local human resources and talents that are the key element to the further progress of the country. The company is committed to playing an active role in the investment in the national human element, and seeks to provide young and eager Kuwaitis with suitable job opportunities that allow them to apply their practical skills, achieve their potential, and fully develop their capabilities.

Nawal Bourisli participated in a discussion panel during the event, where she showcased Zain's talent management strategy and the company's approach to developing and deploying people's potential. Bourisli also discussed how HR managements should maintain a balance between employees and the company's leadership and management, and how the expectations of the employer might be different from what the employee delivers, which entitles the employer to motivate employees and ensure a conducive working environment for them.

The GOV HR Summit 2017 for the fifth consecutive year has been benchmarked as the region's key human resource event. It brought together brilliant minds and key stakeholders in Human Resources from across the GCC for highlighting best practices, unparalleled networking opportunities, to reinvent the role of HR and prepare organizations to respond to the high-priority business and human capital needs. Leaders across the region have hosted a



ABU DHABI: Zain Kuwait's Human Resources Director Nawal Bourisli receives the award on behalf of the company.

national agenda with the primary objective of economic diversification and building sustainable knowledge based economy with human resources as its backbone.

Zain is keen on participating in developmental

projects and initiatives as part of its Human Resources strategy, which closely focuses on supporting HR fields internally and externally hand in hand with various universities, colleges, and training institutions in and out of Kuwait.

RunKuwait race takes place this Saturday at The Scientific Center

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times conducted the following interview with Dr Elham Hamdan, Medical Director at the Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network; organizers of the RunKuwait marathon which takes place this Saturday at The Scientific Center.



Dr Elham Hamdan

Kuwait Times: When was the RunKuwait initiative founded?

Dr Hamdan: Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) founded the RunKuwait initiative in 2010 to support local community initiatives and since 2013, the RunKuwait dedicated all its efforts for the treatment of children with disabilities at the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC) founded by FSHN. The race is launched this year with a new name, RunKuwait and the essence of our race remains the same but we definitely have an intensified goal of raising awareness and funds for the treatment of children with disabilities who do not have access to appropriate healthcare.

KT: Tell us more about the cause supported by RunKuwait?

Dr Hamdan: The proceeds from the event registra-

tion are channeled through the Children Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center, which was established as part of FSHN due to the community's need of facilities offering multidisciplinary care for children with disability. Last year, we were able to provide free treatment to 20 percent of the children and provide subsidized treatment to 60 percent of the children at the CERC. The CERC unit provides treatment to children with different disabilities including: developmental delays, abnormal skeletal development, sports injuries, traumatic injuries, post-operative rehabilitation and burns, speech issues, language problems, attentional deficits and behavioral issues, psychological concerns, preterm infants and children in need of cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation.

KT: Can interested participants register on the race day?

Dr Hamdan: Our online registration for timed race distances for both the 5km and 10km race distance has closed. However, on the day of the race we are welcoming participants who want to join a fun run or walk for both distances and spend a fun-filled morning with family and friends at the race village. All participants will be receiving their participation medal and gift bags for supporting the initiative and our cause. Participants who had registered online can still collect their race bibs and t-shirts today from The Promenade mall in Hawally, between 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

Kuwait asserts importance of science in addressing mankind challenges

DEAD SEA: His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's envoy, Minister of Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares said Tuesday the World Science Forum 2017 aimed at utilizing science to address challenges facing growth, stability and global peace.

Fares, also Minister of Higher Education, made his statements after Jordanian King Abdullah II's inauguration of the forum, attended by around 3,000 scientists and academics from some 140 countries.

The forum, he added, reflected Jordan's leading role in science. President of the Forum, Princess Sumayya bint Al-Hassan, said participants in the five-day forum sought to address challenges facing human kind. The opening ceremony included a video message from the crew of the International Space Station (ISS), who underlined importance of scientific research for



DEAD SEA: A general view of the audience attending the forum. — KUNA

the service of human beings.

Participants will be discussing energy and water, food security, challenges facing education and digital transformation. On the other hand, Fares visited Kuwait Cultural Office in Amman and got acquaint-

ed with follow-up of affairs of 3,948 students in Jordan. Fares thanked the staff in the Kuwait for their service of students, and said the Cultural office played a great role in cementing educational cooperation with Jordan. — KUNA

WIN HALF KG GOLD EVERY WEEK. SIX WINNERS. SIX WEEKS.*

WIN HALF KG GOLD EVERY WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS

M.P THOMAS Coupon No: 22020

1 FREE GOLD COIN With gold jewellery worth KWD 200

1 RAFFLE COUPON With gold jewellery worth KWD 50

3 FREE GOLD COINS With diamond, uncut, precious stone jewellery worth KWD 200

2 RAFFLE COUPONS With diamond, uncut, precious stone jewellery worth KWD 50

KALYAN JEWELLERS

One lucky customer can win half kg gold every week for six weeks. Don't miss! Offer open from 5th October to 20th November 2017 only.

AL DABBUS STREET, FANAHEEL - 23921533 | OPP. SOUK AL-WATIYA, MALIYA - 22287633 | OPP. FRIDAY MARKET, AL RAI - 24752933
AL SALAM MALL, GROUND FLOOR, SALMIYA - 22251534

117 BRANCHES SPREAD ACROSS INDIA AND MIDDLE EAST | WWW.KALYANJEWELLERS.NET
FOLLOW US ON: [KALYANJEWELLERSMIDDLEEAST](#) | [KALYANJEWELLERS](#)



British government hit by new scandal

Delhi schools shut as toxic smog hits India and Pakistan

Page 9

Page 8



BEIJING: (From left to right) US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, China's President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan pose in the Forbidden City in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

Trump warns 'rogue regime'

US president receives warm welcome in Beijing

BEIJING: US President Donald Trump arrived in China yesterday seeking help to rein in North Korea after warning the North's leader that the nuclear weapons he is developing "are not making you safer, they are putting your regime in grave danger." Trump used some of his toughest language yet against North Korea in a wide-ranging address in Seoul that lodged specific accusations of chilling human rights abuses. He called on countries around the world to isolate Pyongyang by denying it "any form of support, supply or acceptance."

"Do not underestimate us and do not try us," Trump told North Korea as he wrapped up a visit to South Korea with a speech to the National Assembly before heading to Beijing, where he was making his first official visit. Trump painted a dystopian picture of the reclusive North, saying people were suffering in "gulags" and some bribed government officials to work as "slaves" overseas rather than live under the government at home. He offered no evidence to support those accusations.

Trump's return to harsh, uncompromising language came a day after he appeared to dial back the bellicose rhetoric that had fueled fears across east Asia of the risk of military conflict. On Tuesday, Trump had even offered a diplomatic opening to Pyongyang to "make a deal." He went mostly on the attack in yesterday's speech but did promise a "path to a much better future" if North Korea stopped developing ballistic missiles and agreed to "complete, verifiable and total denuclearization" - something Pyongyang has vowed never to do.

"We will not allow American cities to be threatened with destruction. We will not be intimidated," he told South Korean lawmakers. "And we will not let the worst atrocities in history be repeated here, on this ground we fought and died to secure." The North defends its nuclear weapons and

missile programs as a necessary defense against what it says are US plans to invade. The United States, which has 28,500 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean war, denies any such intention. "The world cannot tolerate the menace of a rogue regime that threatens it with nuclear devastation," Trump said, speaking as three US aircraft carrier groups sailed to the Western Pacific for exercises - a rare show of such US naval force in the region.

In Beijing, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping resumed their "bro-mance" struck in April at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, making small talk as they toured the Forbidden City - which was shut down to tourists - with their wives before taking in a Chinese opera performance.

While the sprawling palace complex in the political and cultural heart of Beijing is a regular stop for visiting dignitaries, it is rare for a Chinese leader to act as a personal escort, confirmation of the "state visit-plus" treatment that China had promised for Trump.

Trump has threatened action over China's wide trade surplus with the United States and called on Beijing to do more to rein in ally and neighbor North Korea, but has expressed admiration for Xi and held off on imposing trade measures.

During his two-day visit, Trump will ask China to abide by U.N. resolutions and cut financial links with North

Korea, a senior White House official said on the plane from Seoul. He also plans to discuss with Xi the long-contentious trade imbalance, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said at a ceremony with U.S. business leaders where \$9 billion worth of deals were signed.

Trump believes any talks with North Korea would require it to reduce threats, end provocations and move toward denuclearization, and that no deal can be achieved without denuclearization, the official added.

Trump and Xi were scheduled to hold formal talks on Thursday.

Before leaving for Beijing, Trump cited China as one of the countries that must fully enforce international sanctions against Pyongyang and downgrade diplomatic and commercial ties.

"To those nations that choose to ignore this threat or, worse still, to enable it, the weight of this crisis is on your conscience," he said.

While Trump will try to convince Xi to squeeze North Korea further with steps such as limits on oil exports and financial transactions, it is not clear if Xi, who has just consolidated his power at a Communist Party congress, will agree to do more.

China has repeatedly said its leverage over Pyongyang is exaggerated by the West and that it is already doing all it can to enforce sanctions.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said that China fully and strictly implements U.N. Security Council resolutions on North Korea, but will investigate if there have been any contraventions.

'Grave danger'

During his speech in Seoul, Trump directed his words at North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. "The weapons that you are acquiring are not making you safer, they are putting your regime in grave danger," he said. "Every step you take down this dark path increases the peril you face." However Trump, whose strategy has stressed sanctions and military pressure instead of diplomacy, did not spell out any new approach.

North Korea has made clear it has little interest in negotiations at least until it develops a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the US mainland, something US intelligence officials say it may be just months away from achieving. "North Korea is a country ruled by a cult," Trump said in a speech that was interrupted several times by applause and ended with a standing ovation. He stopped short of repeating the derisive nickname "little Rocket Man" that he has used to describe the young North Korean leader.

Kim, for his part, has called Trump "mentally deranged." The speech came after Trump's attempt to make an unannounced visit to the heavily fortified border separating North and South Korea was aborted when dense fog prevented his helicopter from landing, officials said. A visit to the DMZ, despite his aides' earlier insistence he had no plans to go there, would have had the potential to further inflame tensions with North Korea. Trump and his wife Melania were greeted at Beijing's airport by a military band playing a festive tune and school children jumping up and down and waving American and Chinese flags. — Reuters



Fog frustrates Trump's attempt to visit DMZ

"To those nations that choose to ignore this threat or, worse still, to enable it, the weight of this crisis is on your conscience," he said.

While Trump will try to convince Xi to squeeze North Korea further with steps such as limits on oil exports and financial transactions, it is not clear if Xi, who has just consolidated his power at a Communist Party congress, will agree to do more.

China has repeatedly said its leverage over Pyongyang is exaggerated by the West and that it is already doing all it can to enforce sanctions.

UN clears Qatar in migrant worker abuse probe

GENEVA: The UN's labor agency yesterday closed a probe into the alleged mistreatment of foreign workers in World Cup 2022 host Qatar, praising a reform plan agreed by the emirate. Activists and leading international labor unions had accused Qatar of subjecting migrant workers to slave-like conditions on jobs that included infrastructure projects for FIFA's top tournament. The International Labor Organization in 2014 had opened an inquiry over whether Qatar had violated its obligations under forced labor conventions and failed to set up adequate legal protections for foreign workers.

Qatar has since agreed to a reform package that includes the introduction of a minimum wage, contracts being lodged with the government so they cannot be changed on arrival in Qatar, and employers no longer being able to stop staff from leaving the country. "The transformation of this complaint into a real commitment by the government of Qatar to make positive change on the ground for all workers is a very encouraging development," ILO governing body chair Luc Cortbeec said in a statement. "We celebrate this moment for Qatar and its two million migrant workers," he added.

The International Trade Union Confederation, one of Qatar's fiercest critics which co-authored the 2014 complaint, backed the ILO decision. — AFP

EU and US diverge from Saudi, affirm support for Lebanon

BEIRUT: The European Union yesterday affirmed support for Lebanon following the resignation of Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri, echoing US backing for the Beirut government which Saudi Arabia has accused of declaring war. Statements of support from EU ambassadors to Lebanon and the US State Department on Tuesday struck a sharply different tone to Saudi Arabia, which has lumped Lebanon together with the Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah as parties hostile to it.

Lebanon has been pitched into deep crisis since the Saudi-allied Hariri resigned on Saturday in a speech delivered from Saudi Arabia in which he accused Hezbollah and Iran of sowing strife in the Arab world and cited fear of assassination. The circumstances surrounding Hariri's sudden resignation have given rise to speculation in Lebanon that he had been caught up in a high-level anti-corruption purge in Saudi Arabia, where his family made their fortune, and coerced into resigning.

Saudi Arabia has denied this along with reports that it has put Hariri under house arrest. It says he quit because Hezbollah was calling the shots in the government. The move has pulled Lebanon back to the forefront of a regional struggle between the Sunni monarchy of Saudi Arabia and the Shiite Islamist government of Iran, a rivalry which has also swept through Syria, Iraq, Bahrain and Yemen.

In a statement, the EU ambassadors said they reaffirmed "their strong support for the continued unity, stability, sovereignty, and security of Lebanon and its people". They called "on all sides to pursue constructive dialogue and to build on the work achieved in the last 11 months towards strengthening Lebanon's institutions and preparing parliamentary elections in early 2018, in adherence with the Constitution". On Tuesday, the US State Department said Lebanon was a strong US partner. "The United States strongly supports the legitimate institutions in the Lebanese state," spokeswoman Heather Nauert said.

"We expect all members of the international community to respect fully those institutions and the sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon," she said. The United States classifies Hezbollah as a terrorist group. But it is also a major sponsor of the Lebanese military, which receives support from Britain as well. Lebanon has also received significant Western aid to help it cope with the strain of hosting 1.5 million Syrian refugees, equivalent to around a quarter of the population.

Hezbollah, set up by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in 1982, is the most powerful group in Lebanon, with a guerrilla army that outguns the national military and major sway in government. Neither Hezbollah nor the Lebanese government have responded to accusations made by Saudi Gulf affairs minister Thamer Al-Sabhan that both Lebanon and Hezbollah had declared war on the kingdom. President Michel Aoun, a Hezbollah ally who took office last year, has refused to accept Hariri's resignation, saying he first wants him to return to Lebanon so he can meet him in person to understand the reasons. Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri has said the coalition government led by Hariri still stands. — Reuters



TRIPOLI: A woman walks past a poster bearing a portrait of Saudi Arabia's King Salman above a shop in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli. — AFP

International

In Pakistan, N Korea diplomat's alcohol stash raises suspicions

Diplomat's house burgled by police officers

ISLAMABAD: Neighbors say when three men kicked down the doors and burgled the home of a North Korean diplomat in Islamabad last month, it took them more than three hours to lug out their booty: thousands of bottles of Scotch whisky, beer and French wine. The robbers came prepared. Police and witnesses said they brought three cars and a small truck to plunder Hyon Ki Yong's trove of alcoholic drinks, which is worth more than \$150,000 on the black market in a country where it is illegal for Muslims to consume alcohol.

The police, who recovered much of the stash soon after the Oct 3 burglary, say that the three robbers were police officers and have issued arrest warrants for them and for a member of a well-known bootlegging family. They have also arrested Hyon's housekeeper. Senior police and customs officials say the discovery of such a large amount of liquor has led them to conclude that some North Korean diplomats are involved in selling alcohol either to make money for themselves or to provide funds for the cash-starved regime in Pyongyang. The North Korean government is facing increasingly tough United Nations-backed economic sanctions because of its nuclear weapons and missile development programs. "This North Korean was involved in liquor selling," said a senior police official in Islamabad who is familiar with the investigation, in reference to Hyon. The officer said North Korean diplomats in Pakistan had been doing this for years, though he didn't provide direct evidence of such sales.

Reuters could not independently verify that Hyon had been selling alcohol. A diplomat from the North Korean embassy declined

to comment on Hyon's case, or the wider allegations about alcohol sales. "It has been discussed between the embassy and MOFA (Pakistan's ministry of foreign affairs)," said the diplomat, who put the phone down before identifying himself. He did not respond to subsequent calls. Reuters was unable to reach Hyon for comment. The investigating police officer, Ishfaq Hussain, said that the housekeeper, Boota Masih, had "confessed" to his role in the crime and had provided all the details.

Masih is in custody and he could not be reached for comment. Reuters couldn't determine if he has a lawyer. One of the officers being sought by police, Malik Asif, told Reuters when contacted by phone that he denies being involved in the burglary. He said he is currently in hiding. He said he had

no doubt that North Koreans were involved in the alcohol smuggling business. "They have been doing this business for a long time," he added.

Pressure from embassies

Some foreign diplomats in Islamabad have long-held suspicions that North Korean diplomats in Pakistan are involved in bootlegging. They say they believe Pakistan has turned a blind eye to bootlegging by North Koreans, perhaps out of courtesy to the historic ties between the two countries. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Pakistani scientist lionized as the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, in 2004 said he had sold nuclear secrets to North Korea.

Pakistan denies being lax in policing such behavior by North Korean diplomats. "No such activity has ever been, or shall ever be tolerated," foreign ministry spokesman Mohammad Faisal said. When asked about this particular case, Faisal said: "Pakistan is actively investigating the case and any indiscretion, if proven, will be punished as per national and international laws." Pakistan has also always denied helping North Korea with its nuclear program.

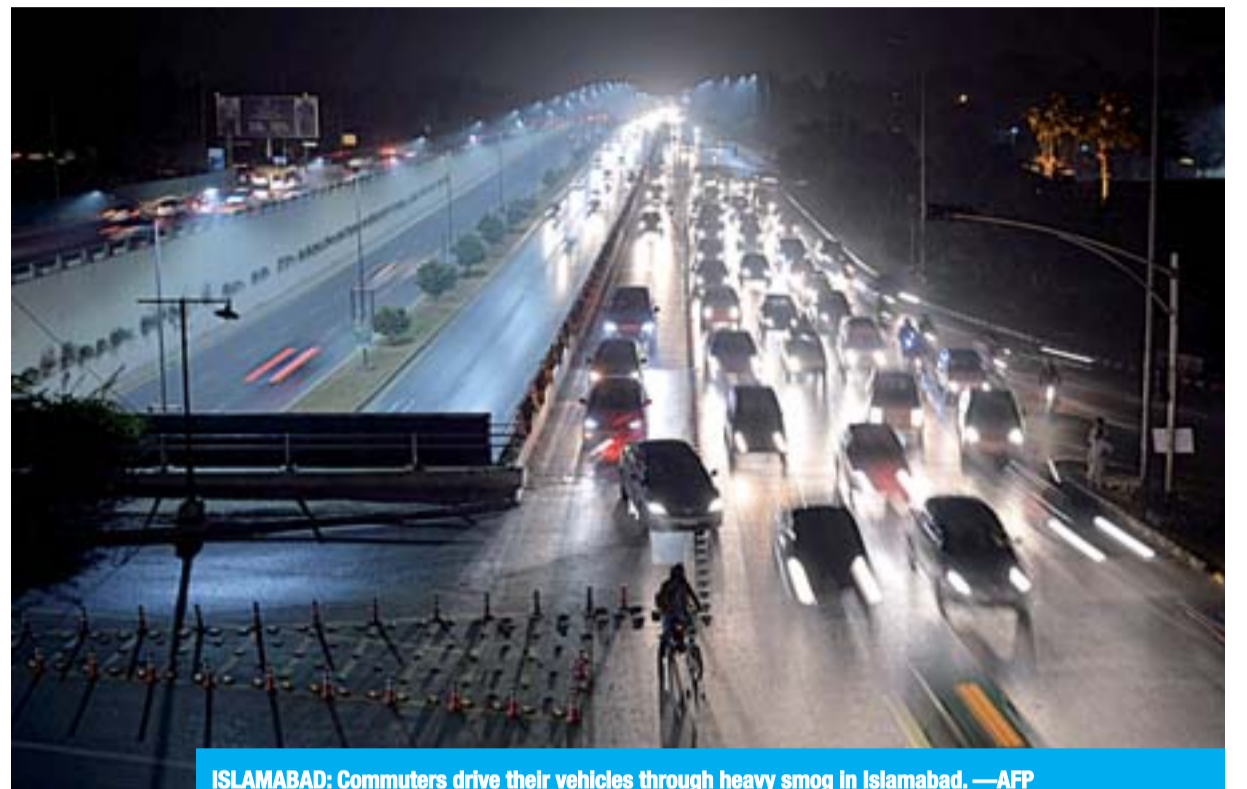
This summer, the US embassy in Islamabad along with South Korean and Japanese counterparts lodged a complaint with Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the size of the North Korean mission in Pakistan, because they wanted to reduce its ability to raise funds for Pyongyang by reselling imported alcohol, according to diplomatic sources in Islamabad and Seoul. The Japanese and South Koreans had been making such requests for

Whisky, wine, and beer worth over \$150,000 stolen in raid



more than a year, according to a source in Seoul. A Japanese foreign ministry source has denied knowledge of the demarche. The source in Seoul estimates North Korea has 12-14 diplomats in Pakistan, split between Islamabad and Karachi, prompting some diplomats to wonder why Pyongyang needs so many representatives when - according to Pakistan central bank data - its official trade with Pakistan has ceased since August 2016. Washington has been tightening the diplomatic and economic noose around North Korea, seeking to cut its foreign sources of funding amid fears the world's most isolated regime is on the cusp of developing intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to American shores.

The US Embassy in Pakistan declined to comment.



ISLAMABAD: Commuters drive their vehicles through heavy smog in Islamabad. —AFP

Japan's foreign ministry declined to comment. The South Korean foreign ministry said: "Our government is closely monitoring any movement concerning illegal activities of North Korea but we cannot officially confirm this case." Pakistan's foreign ministry didn't respond to questions about the pressure it faced from other nations over the size of North Korea's mission.

'Angry and upset'

When Hyon discovered the robbery on Oct 4 after returning to Islamabad from a trip to China, the diplomat rushed to the nearby police station to report the crime. "He was angry and upset," said Hussain, the police officer who interviewed Hyon in Islamabad's Kohsar police station. "And very worried." Hyon told the police the robbers had fled with 1,200 bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky, 200 cases of wine, 60 cartons of beer, dozens of bottles of tequila, two diamonds and \$3,000 in cash, according to a police document reviewed by Reuters. On the black market, the whisky alone is worth \$80 per bottle, or a total \$96,000.

Hyon and the North Korean embassy told police the alco-

hol was imported legally and presented documents to back up its case. Police declined to make the documents available. A week after the robbery, North Korea's ambassador to Pakistan met the foreign ministry's chief of protocol and requested Hyon's missing items be returned, according to a Pakistani foreign ministry document seen by Reuters. It is unclear whether Hyon, who would have diplomatic immunity, is himself under investigation. Documents reviewed by Reuters showing four separate alcohol import orders by North Korea's embassy between March-December 2016 paint a picture of a mission importing alcoholic drinks that would be far above any reasonable personal needs of its diplomats. During the nine-month period, the embassy imported 10,542 bottles of French Bordeaux wine through Truebell, a United Arab Emirates-based company. The four orders, billed by Truebell at \$72,867, also included a total of 17,322 cans of Heineken and Carlsberg beer, as well as 646 bottles of champagne. A person who answered the phone on Truebell's Sharjah, UAE number told Reuters that the company no longer has any dealing with North Korea, but did not elaborate, and would not answer any more questions. —Reuters

Reform and royal rivalry: Milestones in Prince's ascent

RIYADH: A crackdown on corruption ordered by Saudi Arabia's crown prince caps a frenetic 2-1/2 years in which he has tried to remodel a conservative kingdom ruled by cautious elderly men into a modern state no longer dependent on oil. Following are the main challenges Prince Mohammed bin Salman has tackled since his father King Salman Bin Abdulaziz made him defense minister of the world's largest oil producer in January 2015 and then deputy crown prince the following April.

Royal politics

Prince Mohammed capped his rapid rise to power in June this year by replacing his elder cousin Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, widely known as MbN, as crown prince. A source close to King Salman said MbN's dismissal was "in the higher interests of the state" because he was incapacitated by morphine and cocaine addiction, a legacy of an assassination attempt that left shrapnel in his body.

Anti-corruption campaign

Prince Mohammed, 32, tightened his grip on power with the start of the anti-corruption campaign at the weekend, purging the kingdom's political and business elite. Among those arrested were 11 princes. Many Saudis welcomed the moves as an assault on the endemic theft of public funds by the powerful. US President Donald Trump said those arrested had been "milking" their country for years" but some Western officials expressed unease about the possible reaction in Riyadh's opaque tribal and royal politics.

Yemen

Prince Mohammed launched a military campaign in neighboring Yemen in March 2015. A Saudi-led coalition, acting on an invitation from the internationally-recognized government, has targeted the Iran-aligned Houthi movement in a war which has killed more than 10,000 people. The war is closely identified with the prince in his role as defense minister. His image once adorned war propaganda but is rarely associated with the war now although he has said it must continue to quash Iranian influence. Even before the conflict, Yemen was the poorest country on the Arabian peninsula and now 7 million people there are facing famine and a cholera epidemic. The coalition denies it blocks commercial shipments of food, medicine and fuel.

Qatar

Prince Mohammed has helped lead a diplomatic campaign to isolate Qatar, saying Riyadh's erstwhile ally backs terrorism and cosies up to Iran. Qatar rejects the accusations and says it is being punished for straying from its neighbors' backing for authoritarian rulers. The campaign has driven a deep breach into an alliance of Gulf Arab countries that Washington regards as essential to its influence in the region. Qatar had incensed Riyadh by cheering Arab Spring uprisings against some autocratic Arab rulers.

Confrontation with Iran

Saudi Arabia's rivalry with Iran, its competitor for influence in the Middle East, has deepened as King Salman and Prince Mohammed worked to build a Sunni coalition against Tehran and its allies in the Arab world. In May, as deputy crown prince, Prince Mohammed used unusually provocative language to rule out dialogue with revolutionary Shiite Muslim theocracy Iran, which he said was trying to interfere in Arab lands and dominate the Muslim world. —Reuters

Poland revives debate over German war reparations

WARSAW: The question of whether Germany owes Poland war reparations - an issue recently revived by Warsaw - is a complex entanglement of historical, ethical, diplomatic and economic factors. Here are the key elements.

Loss and destruction

Nazi Germany attacked Poland on

September 1, 1939, marking the beginning of World War II, which did not end in Europe until May 8, 1945. More than six million Poles died during the war, or over one in five citizens. Nearly half of them were Jewish, according to a government analysis published in 1947. Sixty-five percent of Poland's factories, two-thirds of all bridges, 84 percent of rail infrastructure and 30 percent of homes were destroyed, according to the document.

More than 40 percent of the country's cultural property such as paintings, sculpture and books was destroyed or stolen. Eighty-four percent of central Warsaw was demolished. The analysis pegged Poland's losses at nearly \$50 billion (42 billion euros) in 1939 currency. At the war's end, Poland lost almost half of its eastern territory to the Soviet Union and gained a smaller chunk of land

to its west that had belonged to Germany. More than five million Germans were chased out. Poland then remained under Soviet control from 1945 to 1989.

Reparations

In 1945, the Allies decided that Germany would be required to pay \$20 billion in reparations to the victim countries. Half of it was destined for the USSR, which appropriated things like cultural property, buildings and factory goods in the German area under its con-

trol as payment. The USSR was then required to give 15 percent of the total sum to Poland. After Germany split into two states, the German Democratic Republic in the east recognized in 1950 the new German-Polish border along the rivers Oder and Neisse. On August 22, 1953, the USSR relinquished its reparations to the German Democratic Republic. Poland followed suit the next day. Some experts have noted that these declarations were not confirmed by any document. —AFP

JOB VACANCIES FOR KUWAITI NATIONALS ONLY

Ref. SKPP01 Project Engineer

- B.S. Engineering graduate in Civil or Mechanical or Electrical/Instrumentation
- 4 years total minimum work experience
- 2 years total minimum work experience in Oil & Gas Industry
- 2 years total minimum work experience in related designation/specialty

Ref. SKPP02 Discipline Engineers

- B.S. Engineering graduate in Electrical or Civil/Structural or Mechanical
- 4 years total minimum work experience
- 2 years total minimum work experience in Oil & Gas Industry
- 2 years total minimum work experience in related designation/specialty

Ref. SKPP03 Land Surveyor (Level2)

- Diploma in Civil Engineering
- 4 years total minimum work experience
- 2 years total minimum work experience in Oil & Gas Industry
- 2 years total minimum work experience in related designation/specialty

Ref. SKPP04 Construction Supervisors

- Diploma in Civil or Mechanical or Electrical/Instrumentation Engineering
- 10 years total minimum work experience
- 5 years total minimum work experience in Oil & Gas Industry
- 5 years total minimum work experience in related designation/specialty

Ref. SKPP05 Planning Engineer

- B.S. Engineering graduate
- 4 years total minimum work experience
- 2 years total minimum work experience in Oil & Gas Industry
- 2 years total minimum work experience in related designation/specialty

Qualified and interested applicants may send CV/Resume to careers.kuwait2017@gmail.com or send to FAX number 22251826. Subject line must be the position or job reference code being applied for. Submission must be 15 days from today.

minimax

Minimax Company

sends its condolences on the loss of the Director General of Kuwait Fire Fighting company

Mr. Ali Abd Al-Razak Al-Saleh Al-Mutawaa

We hope paradise will be his dwell by Allah,s mercy , and ask Allah the mighty to overstep his sins.

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

International

Catalan strike severs road links as secessionist leaders regroup

Leaders face uphill task to regain political momentum

BARCELONA: A general strike called by pro-independence campaigners in Catalonia severed transport links yesterday, as leaders of its secessionist movement sought to regain political momentum after failing to agree a joint ticket to contest an election. Protesters shut down roads, causing huge tailbacks into Barcelona, and some public transport ran minimum services in response to calls for action by two civic groups—whose heads were imprisoned last month on sedition charges—and a labor union.

People stood across dozens of major highways in the region waving placards and chanting “freedom for political prisoners”, TV and video images showed, while minor scuffles were reported on social media as police attempted to move protesters. While many smaller stores left their shutters closed, most larger shops and businesses in the region appeared to be open as normal. An uphill task awaited the political heavyweights of the independence campaign, whose parties jointly ran Catalonia for the last two years until Madrid sacked the region's government in response to its independence push.

Deposed Catalan president Carles Puigdemont's centre-right PDeCAT and the leftist ERC of former regional vice president Oriol Junqueras had until midnight on Tuesday to agree a new pact, but they failed to meet that deadline, meaning they will contest the Dec. 21 vote as separate parties. The central government in Madrid called the election last month after assuming control of Catalonia following its parliament's unilateral independence declaration. Puigdemont is in self-imposed exile in Belgium, while Junqueras is in custody on charges of sedition, rebellion and misuse of public funds.



Travel chaos as Catalans demand leaders' release

hoping for massive participation in the election... and, after that, we'll return to normality,” he said in the Madrid parliament building yesterday.

An opinion poll released on Sunday by Barcelona-based newspaper La Vanguardia showed Junqueras' ERC could garner between 45 and 46 seats in Catalonia's 135-strong regional assembly while Puigdemont's PdeCat would win just 14 or 15. In order to reach the 68-seat threshold for a majority, they would then have to form a parliamentary alliance with anti-cap-

'Juncker won't meet me'

Puigdemont, who faces the same charges and is the subject of an extradition request from Madrid, had ambitions to garner support for his independence campaign in the heartland of the European Union. But that hope has fallen flat, and in an interview published yesterday he renewed criticism of the bloc's executive. “(EU Commission President Jean-Claude) Juncker welcomes mayors, governors ... but he doesn't want to meet me,” Puigdemont told Belgian Daily De Standaard. “I've always been a convinced European ... But the people who are running the EU now, are wrecking Europe ... The gap between the Europe of the people and the official Europe is increasing.”

Catalonia's secessionist push has plunged Spain into its worst political crisis in four decades, triggered a business exodus and reopened old wounds from the country's civil war in the 1930s. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who has been unwavering in his opposition to any form of independence for Catalonia, said he hoped next month's election would usher in “a period of calm” and business as usual for the region. “I'm



BARCELONA: Protesters block train tracks at the Sants Station in Barcelona during a strike called by a pro-independence union in Catalonia yesterday. —AFP

italist CUP, ERC and PDeCAT could still reach an agreement after the vote, but by standing together they could have held more seats, polls and projections from the 2015 election results showed.

Economy Minister Luis de Guindos told a banking conference in Madrid he hoped the election would revive the Catalan success story “during which it has enjoyed great economic and cultural prosperity together with a high level of self-governance.” For some

Catalans who ignored yesterday's strike—called by the CSC union and supported by civic groups Asambleia Nacional Catalana (ANC) and Omnium Cultural — that moment is already overdue. “Why should I strike, nobody is going to raise my salary. In this world we have to work and not argue so much,” Jose Luis, a construction worker, told Reuters TV as he walked through Barcelona on his way to work. “The politicians should work more and stop their silliness.” —Reuters

News in brief

US tourist falls to death

YANGON: A 20-year-old American tourist fell to her death while trying to view the sunset from a 20-foot pagoda in Myanmar's ancient former capital of Bagan, the government said yesterday. The traveler, identified as Cassandra Braun, “accidentally fell from the Bagan pagoda...while looking for the sunset at 4:30 pm on November 7,” said the Home Affairs ministry. She died on the way to hospital in Mandalay, the statement said. Myanmar has tried in vain to keep tourists from scaling Bagan's temples to watch sunsets fall over its vast plain of more than 2,000 Buddhist monuments. In 2016 authorities tried to restrict the daily ritual to five main temples, citing the need to preserve the temples and protect tourists' safety. But travelers continue to scamper up many of Bagan's smaller structures, including the 20-foot Wuttanathaw pagoda from which Braun fell. Bagan is among Myanmar's most venerated religious sites and a top attraction for its growing tourism industry.

EU joint defense pact

BERLIN: At least 20 members of the European Union will sign up to a new defense pact next week, heavily promoted by France and Germany, to fund and develop joint military hardware in a show of unity following Britain's decision to quit the bloc. After years of spending cutbacks in Europe and a heavy reliance on the United States through the NATO alliance, France and Germany hope the accord, to be signed on Nov 13 in Brussels, will tie nations into tighter defense collaboration covering troops and weapons. The Permanent Structured Cooperation, or PESCO, could be the biggest leap in EU defense policy in decades and may go some way to matching the bloc's economic and trade prowess with a more powerful military. But differences remain between Paris and Berlin over what countries legally bound by the pact should do, EU diplomats said.

'Recognize third gender'

KARLSRUHE: Germany's top court yesterday ordered parliament to recognize a “third gender” from birth, potentially making it the first European country to offer intersex people the option of identifying as something other than male or female. The ruling, hailed as “historic” by Germany's Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, marks a major shake-up for gender policies in Europe's biggest economy just a month after same-sex marriage was legalized. Current regulations on civil status are discriminatory against intersex people, the Federal Constitutional Court said, noting that the sexual identity of an individual is protected as a basic right. Legislators must by the end of 2018 pass a new regulation to offer a third gender option in birth registers, the court added, ruling in favor of an appeal brought by an intersex person. In the meantime, courts and state authorities should no longer compel intersex people to choose between identifying as male or female, said the top court.

Democratic election sweep is a lousy gift for President Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump suffered a triple defeat as Democrats won high-profile state and mayoral elections to underscore his unpopularity on Wednesday's first anniversary of his dramatic election win. The Tuesday night results amounted to a sweeping repudiation of what critics have called Trump's politics of division, and a test of his influence ahead of electoral battles looming on the state and national level. The most damaging defeat was in Virginia, a state bordering Washington seen as a bellwether for national politics with the country gearing up for 2018 congressional elections and the next presidential contest in 2020.

The Virginia governor's race had all the makings of a nail-biter, but in the end, Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam trounced his Republican rival Ed Gillespie by an unexpectedly wide nine percentage points in the southern battleground state. In New Jersey, Democrat Phil Murphy reclaimed the governorship with a victory of about 13 percentage points over his rival following eight years of Republican Governor Chris Christie, a onetime ally of Trump. And in New York, progressive Mayor Bill de Blasio rode a wave of hometown distaste for Trump to cruise to re-election in America's most populous city.

Murphy and Northam painted their wins as rejections of the polarization that to a large extent characterized Trump's 2016 campaign and much of his first year in the White House. “Tonight, New Jersey sent an unmistakable message to the entire nation: we are better than this,” Murphy declared. The results mark a revival of political fortunes for the Democratic Party, which had failed to win a number of previous special elections in several states this year triggering concern about how to counter Trump's influence in US politics. “This is a referendum on American values,” Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said on CNN, speaking of the Tuesday night sweep.

In a statement, the Committee said it had won not just in Virginia and New Jersey but “up and down the ticket across the country” by maintaining or flipping mayoral and state house seats in six other states. In Virginia, Democrat Danica Roem, 33, made history by becoming the state's, and possibly the nation's, first openly transgender state legislative delegate. A victory for Gillespie would have served to validate Trump's aggressive style, and form a blueprint for how main-

British government hit by new scandal

LONDON: Britain's aid minister faced the sack over unauthorized meetings in Israel, as she became the latest cabinet member caught up in a whirlwind of scandals rocking Prime Minister Theresa May's government. May summoned International Development Secretary Priti Patel back from a trip to Africa to explain her talks with Israeli politicians, in which she reportedly raised the possibility of Britain diverting aid to the Israeli army.

Patel had apologized on Monday for holding 12 separate meetings—including with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—during a family holiday to Israel in August, without notifying the Foreign Office or Downing Street in advance. After a public reprimand from the prime minister, Patel left London on Tuesday on a three-day trip to Uganda, but a government source told AFP she was returning home yesterday at May's request.

If she is sacked, Patel would become the second cabinet minister in a week to leave May's government, after Michael Fallon quit as defense secretary on November 1 following allegations of sexual harassment. Britain is facing



VIRGINIA: Gov-elect Ralph Northam (right) and Lt Gov-elect Justin Fairfax greet supporters at an election night rally in Fairfax, Virginia. Northam defeated Republican candidate Ed Gillespie. —AFP

stream Republicans can embrace Trump issues without necessarily embracing the controversial man himself.

Now they might be forced to rewrite their playbooks. In his typically combative style, Trump swiftly sought to distance himself from Gillespie, who did not campaign with the president in Virginia. “Ed Gillespie worked hard but did not embrace me or what I stand for,” Trump wrote in a scathing tweet from South Korea, where he is in the midst of a tour through Asia.

'Bloodbath'

The president insisted that with the US economy doing well, “we will continue to win.” But some analysts said the results suggest a Democratic wave might be on the horizon. Virginia was a “bloodbath” for Republicans, Michael McDonald of the University of Florida said. Even though Gillespie aired ads that fueled a debate on race, guns, illegal immigration and the fate of Confederate statues, his attempt

its biggest peacetime challenge in Brexit, but May has struggled to keep her ministers in line since losing her parliamentary majority in a snap June election. Months of public divisions over the negotiations with the EU have in recent days given way to scandals over foreign affairs and sexual abuse.

May's deputy Damian Green is being investigated for groping a journalist in 2014 — which he denies—while a similar probe is underway into the behavior of junior trade minister Mark Garnier towards his secretary. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has meanwhile been accused of jeopardizing the case of a British woman jailed in Iran, after appearing to suggest she was training journalists at the time—something her family strongly denies. May put off a mooted reshuffle after her election setback, but some MPs have called on her to act to assert her power over a government that looks increasingly adrift.

Funding to Golan Heights

On Monday, Patel revealed details of her meetings in Israel, which included with NGOs and businesses, and said they were arranged by Lord Stuart Polak, the honorary president of lobbying group Conservative Friends of Israel. But it emerged late Tuesday there had been another two unauthorized meetings in September, with Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan in London and senior foreign ministry official Yuval Rotem in New York. “I don't under-

stand what more she needs to do to be sacked,” one unnamed minister told the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

During her meetings, Patel discussed the possibility of British aid being used to support medical assistance for Syrian refugees arriving in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Downing Street said. Reports suggest however that she did not explain to May that this involved supplying funding to the Israeli army, which has facilitated the treatment of more than 3,100 wounded refugees in Israeli hospitals since 2013. Britain views the Golan Heights as occupied territory and a minister told MPs on Tuesday that funding the Israeli Defense Forces there was “not appropriate”. In a further development yesterday, Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported that Patel visited a military field hospital in the Golan Heights as a guest of the government. Patel's ministry declined to comment on the report.

Breach of ministerial code

Patel was a leading campaigner for Britain to leave the European Union in last year's referendum, and is a prominent figure in May's cabinet. The daughter of Ugandan Indians, the 45-year-old has been an MP since 2010, and is widely believed to have ambitions on Downing Street. On Monday, she apologized that her “enthusiasm to engage in this way could be misread, and how meetings were set up and reported in a way which did not accord with the usual procedures”. —AFP

International

Kosovo's battered women trapped in vicious cycle in 'black hole' of Europe

Marriage descended into a nightmare of abuse

PRISTINA: The way she tells it, she was a familiar face at the police station in southern Kosovo where she often sought sanctuary from her violent husband. She was in her early 20s when the marriage descended into a nightmare of abuse. Among other torture, he taunted her with a pistol which she took to the police, fearing for her life. "The policeman who dealt with me happened to be my husband's friend," said the woman, now 31, who could not be identified for legal reasons. "He told me that if I were his wife, I wouldn't have been able to bring the gun because he would have killed me first."

In the end, it was she who killed her husband. She cut his throat with a razor and is now serving 12 years for murder. The woman is one of 17 female inmates jailed at the Lipjan Correctional Centre for Women and Minors just south of Pristina for murder - six of whom were convicted for killing their partners, some after years of abuse. Another woman, 24, was jailed for 13 years for murder. She said she shot her husband after he started attacking their little girl.

"I didn't want to kill him .. I just wanted to scare him," said the woman, one of several inmates interviewed in the jail after prison authorities allowed access for interviews and to their records on the condition the women were not named. Concerns are growing among lawyers and rights activists that victims of domestic violence in Kosovo are often at the mercy of a justice system that fails to protect them, with Kosovo cut off from key instruments of European justice.



Domestic violence on the rise in Kosovo amid concerns

Equality estimates up to 90 percent of domestic violence cases go unreported. A survey in 2015 by the Kosova Women's Network, an umbrella group of women's rights organizations, found 68 percent of women had suffered domestic violence in their lifetime and more than 20 percent of male and female respondents thought it was sometimes acceptable for a husband to beat his wife. Campaigners for women's rights said a key problem was the double standards toward violent crime by men and women that shape the priorities of overburdened police, prosecutors and judges - and the lack of European justice to address this.

For Kosovo, which declared independence from Serbia in 2008, is unique in not having access to key instruments of European justice due to its unresolved political status. It is not recognized by some nations including Serbia, Russia and China. "We call it the black hole of Europe," said Hilmi Jashari, Kosovo's independent ombudsman. "Kosovo is actually the only country where citizens can't go to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg."

Kosovo has been unable to join the Council of Europe, which upholds civil and political rights across 47 member states. The court in Strasbourg, France, is the council's arbiter. Kosovo's constitution states that its laws should be interpreted in line with rulings by the European Court. But rights activists and legal experts say since Strasbourg has no power to impose penalties on Kosovo, the constitution rarely affects decisions made on the ground, such as how police and prosecutors act on domestic abuse and whether judges issue restraining orders.

Women in poverty

"Kosovo doesn't have the capacity to address domestic violence - neither to protect people from it nor to investigate it," said Tahire Haxholli, head of the Kosovo police unit that deals with domestic violence and child



KOSOVSKA MITROVICA: Kosovo Serbs arrive to visit the graves of their relatives at a cemetery in the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica during All Souls' Day. —AFP

abuse. "It's a matter of government. There must be a solid budget to help Kosovo police do their job well." The justice ministry did not respond to requests for comment. Fatmire Haliti, a lawyer for the Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, said a law giving the president discretionary powers to grant parole should be used to counter overly harsh sentences for battered women driven to violence.

Since 2010, Kosovo's Law on Pardon has benefitted 86 men and five women convicted of various crimes. "When you look into the women's profiles, you see the domestic abuse they suffered, the horrible circumstances they were forced to live in, and the motives behind their criminal deeds," Haliti said. Two high-profile cases underlined the state's failure to protect women from prolonged abuse and ignited debate. In 2011, Diana Kastrati,

a 27-year-old university student from Pristina, sought a restraining order after her husband repeatedly threatened her. A judge denied her request.

Three weeks later, her husband shot her and fled. He is thought to be living in Spain, lawyers for Kastrati's family say, but as Kosovo is not a member of Interpol, it has no bilateral extradition agreement with Spain to get him back. Meanwhile, Zejnepe Bytyqi Berisha, 39, from a village near the southern town of Suhareka, endured 16 years of violence at the hands of her husband, Nebi Bytyqi. Her reports to the police went unheeded and in October 2015 he stabbed her to death. Nebi Bytyqi was charged with aggravated murder which carries a maximum jail sentence of life but he got 12 years. An appeal this August saw the appeals court increase this to 17 years. —Reuters

Delhi schools shut as toxic smog hits India and Pakistan

NEW DELHI: Delhi authorities ordered all schools to shut yesterday after choking smog descended on north India and Pakistan, with pollution levels in the city 40 times the World Health Organization's safe limit. Levels of PM 2.5, the microscopic particles that are the most damaging to health, reached more than 1,000 micrograms per cubic meter in the Indian capital yesterday, according to US embassy measurements.

That is 40 times the World Health Organization safe maximum of 25 over a 24-hour period, and 100 times its upper limit for long-term exposure. With Indian doctors warning of a public health emergency, the Delhi government ordered all schools in the city to close until Sunday - citing the threat to the health of an estimated five million students in the capital. Dr Arvind Kumar said the smog had made the city "unfit for human habitation".

"The kind of toxin levels out there, you are affecting your brain, your heart, your lungs, every part of your body and it is causing irreparable damage," said Kumar, chairman of the Centre for Chest Surgery at the Sri Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi. Pollution regularly spikes in the region before the onset of winter as farmers set light to their fields to burn the post-harvest crop stubble - a practice that remains widespread despite an official ban. Cooler air also traps pollutants from local industry, coal-fired power plants and vehicles near the ground and prevents them dispersing into the atmosphere, a phenomenon known as inversion.

A report in the Lancet medical journal last month said pollution had claimed as many as 2.5 million lives in India in 2015, the highest in the world. In Pakistan's second largest city Lahore, flights were cancelled, school times pushed back and hospitals overwhelmed with patients. At Lahore's Mayo Hospital, elderly patients donning oxygen masks and lying on stretchers crammed the corridors awaiting treatment. Their numbers have quadrupled in recent days, with patients flocking to the facility due to eye problems, respiratory infections and asthma, said Dr Irshad Hussain.



NEW DELHI: Indian schoolchildren cover their faces as they walk to school amid heavy smog in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP

'Borderless' problem

No official air quality data was available but the informal PakAirQuality network, which publishes hourly air reports on Twitter, said the concentration of PM 2.5 in the city's air reached 757. Pakistan's Punjab province of which Lahore is the capital pushed back opening times for schools to 9:00 am to shield children from the worst of the early-morning smog and shut down 180 factories.

Authorities in Delhi have closed power plants temporarily and experimented with taking some cars off the road since 2014, when it was named the world's most polluted major city in a WHO survey. But Delhi's efforts have so far had little effect. "We knew it was coming, yet nothing was done to avoid a repeat," said Prarthana Borah, India director of the charity Clean Air Asia. "Unless air pollution is made a priority by the national government nothing will work. It is not about a particular geographic area. This is problem is borderless and affects us all."

With dense smog shrouding the roads, many pedestrians and bikers wore masks or covered their mouths

with handkerchiefs and scarves. But there were warnings of even worse to come if changing weather conditions brought more smoke from neighboring farming areas into Delhi. Firecrackers set off to celebrate last month's Diwali festival of lights in the city added to the toxic mix created by pollution from diesel engines, coal-fired power plants and industrial emissions. The problem is further exacerbated by farmers who burn crop stubble after the harvest in northern India, a practice that remains commonplace despite an official ban.

On Tuesday the Environment Pollution Authority, which was set up by the Supreme Court to tackle the issue, ordered the closure of dust-spewing brick kilns and an increase in parking fees to encourage the use of public transport. "In terms of air pollution, things are expected to get much worse in the coming days," said Bhure Lal, head of the Environment Pollution Authority (EPA), in a statement late Tuesday. The EPA, set up by the Supreme Court to tackle the issue, ordered the closure of dust-spewing brick kilns and an increase in parking fees to encourage the use of public transport. —AFP

Lifeline trails restored to quake-hit villages

LAPA: As the dust settled from Nepal's massive earthquake, a fresh humanitarian crisis was just beginning: supply lines to remote communities had been destroyed, and villagers were starving. Without these trails used by porters and mules to ferry in goods, more than one million people living in isolated villages in central Nepal were desperately short on food. What staples did manage to creep along these damaged lifelines to local markets quickly skyrocketed in price.

"The cost of those items once they get there

becomes prohibitive, especially nutritious food," said Pippa Bradford, head of the World Food Program in Nepal, of the areas worst-hit by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in April 2015. In the months following the disaster, food supplies to these remote areas, already so limited before that many children suffered from stunting, all but dried up. Mules couldn't travel on the damaged paths, meaning all goods had to be carried precariously on the backs of porters. Journeys that took one or two days doubled.

"(The trail) was scary, with big crevices, and it looked like it might slip away at any moment," said Rochit Tamang, 24, a porter from the remote Ruby Valley just 30 kilometers east of the quake epicenter. The WFP declared more than 1.1 million Nepalis "severely food insecure" - one step below famine - immediately following the earthquake, and supplies were shuttled in by helicopter to alleviate the crisis. But as global disaster efforts shifted from emergency response to reconstruction, the choppers stopped, leaving these villages in the foothills of the Himalayas to fend for themselves. "Even if

people had some money, if they don't have a trail, they can't access the market," said Pushpa Shrestha, an engineer with WFP in Nepal.

'Not fit for walking'

Two years on, these vital trails are all but restored in Nepal's four worst-hit districts through a \$6 million project funded by British aid. Goods are slowly trickling back into communities. Long mule trains laden with sacks of rice, lentils and sugar snake up steep slopes to the villages, vying for space with porters carrying everything from basics to live chickens in large whicker baskets on their backs.

"It was bad and not too fit for walking before. Now it is easy to walk. There are more mules and they are able to bring more goods," said mule owner Jitpa Tamang, who transports goods between hamlets in the Ruby Valley in Dhading district. Food prices have stabilized as the journey time has reduced. It's far from perfect though, with residents in Lapa-a village in Dhading two days walk from the road - complaining that mules owners operate like a cartel

and fix prices. In mountainous Nepal, home to eight of the world's highest peaks, around 2.6 million people - 9 percent of the population - live in villages only accessible on foot, according to the United Nations.

The rugged terrain and extreme temperatures mean that communities are only able to farm the land for half the year, relying on food stocks through the winter. In the quake-hit districts, food stocks were destroyed in the 2015 disaster and remain perilously low after two years of erratic rain, said Shrestha of WFP. "The local crop production in places like the northern belt of Dhading is not sufficient to ensure food security year round, so any kind of natural disaster like drought or hailstorm they become vulnerable," he said.

In the Lapa Valley, food prices fluctuate throughout the year, said Bam Tamang who owns a shop in Borang village, a two-hour walk from the road. "The mules and porters mostly stop for three months of monsoon, so we have to pay extra transportation cost in the off season. —AFP

News in brief

Radicalization in Marawi

MANILA: There is a large risk of further radicalization in the southern Philippines if there is unhappiness with the reconstruction of bombed-out Marawi city, where the government has declared victory over Islamic State group-aligned militants who laid siege to the city, a terrorism expert said yesterday. Sidney Jones, director of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, also warned that children and younger siblings of slain militants may emerge as a new generation of fighters. He told journalists in Manila that reconstruction of the city is key, and that a new militant movement with a more Islamist stance could develop and challenge the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, an older rebel group that has signed a peace deal with the government. The military ended its offensive in Marawi on Oct 23 after quelling the insurrection and sending a few remaining gunmen into hiding. More than 900 militants, 165 troops and policemen and 47 civilians were killed in the five months of fighting.

'Put down smartphones'

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis took snap-happy bishops, priests and pilgrims to task yesterday, telling them mass was a time for prayer, not an opportunity to whip out camera phones. "At a certain point the priest leading the ceremony says 'lift up our hearts'. He doesn't say 'lift up our mobile phones to take photographs'," he chastised those gathered in Saint Peter's square for his weekly audience. "It's so sad when I'm celebrating mass here or inside the basilica and I see lots of phones held up - not just by the faithful, but also by priests and bishops! Please!" The 80-year old Argentine pontiff is no stranger to the world of social media, boasting over 14 million followers on his English-language Twitter account alone, and often posing for selfies with enthusiastic young pilgrims.

Mirage jets grounded

TAIPEI: Taiwan's air force said yesterday it has grounded all its Mirage jets as it searched for a pilot who went missing while conducting a training mission in one of the French-made fighters. The single-seat Mirage-2000 flown by Captain Ho Tzu-yu disappeared from the radar at 6:43pm on Tuesday off the northeast coast of the island, 34 minutes after taking off, according to the air force. Authorities dispatched 17 military planes as well as 10 naval and coastguard vessels to conduct a search but there has so far been no sighting of the missing plane, it said. "We hope Ho can be safely rescued soon," said Lieutenant General Chang Che-ping, the air force's deputy chief.

Gunmen kill 11 traders

JOS: Gunmen have killed at least 11 traders in central Nigeria, police said yesterday, in the latest violence in the region, which has been hit by decades of ethnic and sectarian strife. The traders were returning from a rural market in the Riyom district of Plateau state when they were ambushed by "unknown assailants" on Tuesday, said police spokesman Tyopev Tema. "Eleven people who were returning from a weekly village market in Makera village were shot dead at about 7:30 pm yesterday", he said. Four other traders were injured in the attack, which happened some 30 kilometers south of the state capital, Jos, he added. An investigation has been launched to establish the motive for the attack and to identify the victims, who are believed to be from the Fulani ethnic group.

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Catalan leader's farmhouse pact to make last stand in Brussels

Twenty-four hours after Spain removed him from power, Catalonia's leader had resolved to leave the country and take his independence campaign to the heart of the European Union, but first he needed to tie off an important loose end. Carles Puigdemont's secessionist alliance was threatening to unravel, with the region's biggest grass-roots independence organization unhappy about his plan. So he called a meeting of political allies on the eve of his departure for Brussels, according to three sources with first-hand knowledge of the events.

In the rural hamlet of Vilahur, near Puigdemont's home town, he and seven others, including the deputy chief of the grass-roots Catalan National Assembly (ANC), met over dinner at a farmhouse in the expectation Puigdemont and others present would be arrested for rebellion within hours, one source said. Puigdemont told the group he was not running away from a fight, as ANC officials feared it would be perceived, and that he would use Brussels, home to the EU parliament and commission, as a stage to continue to speak out against Spain's crackdown on the independence movement, the source added.

After adjourning for the night, the group resumed the next morning at the farmhouse and agreed to back his plan. Crucially, that plan also included a commitment to contest snap regional elections called by Madrid for Dec. 21 rather than boycott them as the ANC first envisaged. On reaching agreement, Puigdemont told them he was prepared to "spend 30 years in prison" for the cause and the others embraced him in what the source described as an emotional farewell. ANC deputy leader Agusti Alcobero was among them. The account of the meeting reveals how the independence movement's leadership managed to overcome deep-rooted internal divisions and agree a rough game plan for the weeks ahead. While the two main pro-independence parties finally chose on Tuesday to contest the elections under their own brand rather than a joint ticket, their manifestos will be coordinated and they are still expected to join forces after the vote. An opinion poll this week showed that pro-independence parties would win the largest share of the vote, though a majority was not assured and question marks remain over Puigdemont's leadership of the pro-independence cause. Puigdemont could not be reached for comment.

Wrong-footed

At the time of the Vilahur talks, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy seemed to hold the upper hand. He had surprised the secessionists by calling elections much sooner than they had expected, according to sources close to Puigdemont. A disparate collection of parties whose only common thread is independence, Puigdemont's coalition had been bickering over what some saw as his timid tactics. Some had even been talking of boycotting the election, which could have spelled the end of the movement. "He was wrong-footed by Rajoy's tough response," said an ally of Puigdemont.

When Rajoy dropped his election bombshell, Puigdemont was still celebrating the regional assembly's vote earlier that day to declare Catalonia a republic. The Catalan leader had to move quickly to secure consensus for the Brussels plan and, more importantly, for his unwieldy coalition to contest the elections, which had been called by a nation they no longer considered themselves to be a part of. In Puigdemont's first meeting late on Oct 27, in Barcelona's regional parliament building, the coalition decided that only a few ministers would go with him to Brussels and the rest would stay and defend themselves against any prosecution for sedition, said sources briefed on that meeting.

Afterwards, he drove to Girona, the town he had run as mayor. In a courtyard of a government building, he filmed a message calling for non-violent opposition to Rajoy's takeover of the region. It was televised by Catalan public broadcaster TV3 which called him "president". Later, he lunched with his wife and two friends at a local wine bar and walked with them to Girona's Plaça de la Independència (Independence Square) where he posed for photos while applauding onlookers shouted "Long Live Catalonia". Despite the defiant scene, the day was not going well for the newly declared Catalan republic. Rajoy was receiving backing from world powers including France, Germany and the United States. Spanish authorities were already taking over Catalan government offices.

The Flemish connection

However, Puigdemont got some news that appeared to justify his Brussels strategy just as he and four of his ex-ministers were making their way there. Belgium's migration minister, Theo Francken, said that if Puigdemont were to seek political asylum in Belgium, it would be "not unrealistic" to grant it. Belgium is one of few EU states where EU citizens can request asylum. Francken belongs to Flemish nationalist party N-VA, which is supportive of Catalan self-determination. He said no asylum request had yet been made but events were "moving fast".

Puigdemont was meanwhile in a friend's car heading for Marseilles, southern France, where he would board a flight to Brussels. To elude Spanish police, someone drove his official car in a different direction. Since arriving in Brussels, Puigdemont and the four ex-ministers who accompanied him there have been slapped with European arrest warrants for rebellion and sedition, crimes carrying up to 30 years in jail. Back in Spain, eight other ex-ministers have been jailed pending an investigation and potential trial for rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds. Puigdemont has not sought asylum but is at liberty in Belgium pending a hearing on extradition, which his lawyer has said he will oppose. —Reuters



Modern slavery at Britain's car washes

Tricked into washing cars in London for 12 hours a day without pay and treated like a slave, Bogdan quit after a week - hoping to find a better job after his move to Britain from Romania. His hopes were short-lived. That night, three men visited the room he had rented from the car wash owners and ordered him to open a string of bank accounts using fake identity documents. "They raised their voices, and were aggressive," the 31-year-old told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, declining to give his real name out of fear of retribution by his enslavers. "I was very scared, and emotional, so I accepted it."

Thousands of workers in hand car washes across Britain are believed to be modern slaves - mostly men lured from Eastern European countries such as Albania and Bulgaria with promises of paid work, housing and better job opportunities in the future. Yet many end up trapped in debt bondage, forced to live and work in squalid and unsafe conditions, stripped of their documents and subjected to threats, abuse and violence. Some slaves, such as Bogdan, are coerced to commit crimes - afraid for their lives and for their families if they refuse. At least 13,000 people across the country are estimated by the government to be living in modern slavery but police say that the true figure is likely to be in the tens of thousands. While forced labor is rife among Britain's building sites, nail bars, factories and farms, car wash slavery is rocketing with unregulated sites sprouting up rapidly nationwide, according to the country's anti-slavery agency and chief.

Police are ramping up investigations but say the crime is tough to crack with 20,000 car washes believed to be flouting laws, most victims too scared to speak out, and the increasingly cash-squeezed British public hunting for ever cheaper services. "This is modern slavery on an industrial scale," said Lysbeth Ford of the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), Britain's anti-slavery body. "The government and the police are not yet aware of the extent of car wash slavery." "It has exploded because workers are being underpaid or not paid at all - creating an environment ripe for exploitation."

Hives of crime

In several London car washes visited by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, many employees were not wearing pro-

tection clothing while most were unwilling to talk about their pay or living conditions, and pointed to their bosses when questioned further. While such workers are in plain sight - not hidden away like slaves in brothels, houses, and cannabis farms - their fear and reluctance to speak out makes it difficult to identify and help victims, said global anti-trafficking charity Hope for Justice.

"When you visit a car wash and ask workers about their situation, they parrot the same rehearsed line about being paid the minimum wage and not working more than 40 hours each week," said Lauren Batty, who works for the group in northern England. When police suspect slavery at a car wash, they seek out all possible intelligence - from analysis of its

200 at the end of last year, according to the latest police figures. While the crime is ever-evolving in Britain, the 2015 Modern Slavery Act gave police new powers to restrict the movements and actions of suspected traffickers before and during operations, and imposed the threat of life imprisonment for slave masters. Such measures are crucial to combat slavery and other crimes in car washes, where various offences - from drug trafficking to benefit fraud - often intersect, the police's Parkinson said. "These are cash businesses, easy to run and hide criminality - ideal for exploiting people while generating high turnover."

Public power

The public also have a role to play - by refusing to use car washes offering rock-bottom prices and reporting possible cases of exploitation and signs of slavery - campaigners say. Many London car washes provide a full valet for £30 (\$40), compared to £100 (\$130) just a few years ago. Yet the death of a Romanian worker in 2015 - electrocuted in the shower of the derelict London flat owned by his boss - was a "wake-up call" about the harsh reality, and dangers, facing many car wash staff, said Britain's anti-slavery tsar, Kevin Hyland. "Car washes have operated with impunity and popped up rapidly as they have gone unchallenged for so long," he said. "But this is in the public eye... we all need to do more."

And data from a British anti-slavery helpline, run by the charity Unseen, suggests the public are playing their part. Of 112 cases of potential car wash slavery recorded between October 2016 and August this year and referred on to the authorities and charities - involving about 700 possible victims - two-thirds were reported by the public, Unseen said. "It is so important to get the public understanding what they are looking at," said Justine Currell, executive director of Unseen. "If it appears too good to be true, it probably is."

But for most slaves in Britain, the idea of relying on anyone - whether police or public - is fanciful and risky. While Bogdan is now free, having escaped his enslavers and gone to the police in 2015 after they got drunk one night and left the fake identity documents lying around, he recalled how fear and uncertainty trapped him in slavery for weeks on end. —Reuters

Police are ramping up investigations



finances to covert surveillance - before raiding a site in the hope of persuading workers to come forward, or securing a victimless prosecution.

If officers fail to get victims on board, and quickly, they often disappear and end up being re-trafficked, said detective sergeant Dan Parkinson of the police's anti-slavery unit. "It's hard to get victims to engage," he said. "They may have negative perceptions of the police, or fear deportation. Many people don't even consider themselves victims because £1 (\$1.30) an hour is better than earning nothing at home."

About a tenth of 400 live police operations tackling slavery in Britain involve car washes, up from 5 percent of nearly

Traffickers prey on lost Rohingya children in camps

The end of the cyclone season comes as a relief to most Rohingya in Bangladesh's Kutupalong refugee camp. But not Noor Alom, who had been searching for his six-year-old daughter for two days. Fatima left their home, which sits near three putrid latrines, to play on a nearby hillside - and never came back. "Nobody has any news about her," Alom told the Thomson Reuters Foundation after another exasperating search in the blistering heat, his wife rocking on the floor beside him. "I am so worried that someone has sold her and taken her to another place," he said. "People told me that it occurs here."

His fears are not misplaced. The United Nations says trafficking networks already exist in southern Bangladesh's sprawling camps, which have been overwhelmed by the arrival of more than 600,000 Rohingya fleeing Myanmar over the last two months. It says killings, arson and rape of Rohingya Muslims by troops and ethnic Rakhine Buddhist mobs since Aug. 25, in response to coordinated Rohingya insurgent attacks on security posts, amount to a campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Six out of ten of the new arrivals in the Bangladesh camps are children, providing a fertile hunting ground for traffickers looking for young girls to recruit as maids. Thousands of children have, at some point, been separated from their families amid the chaos. "It is a major, major risk," said Jean Lieby, head of child protection at the UN children's agency (UNICEF) in Bangladesh.

"Young girls might enter into this type of trafficking and then end up in one of the big cities."

Kidnappers

Nazir Ahmed, a Rohingya refugee in the camp, set up an information center two months ago, which he said has already reunited some 1,800 lost children with their parents. Despite its important title, the center's only equipment is a wooden table and a megaphone. But, from the moment the sun rises, it is inundated with people looking for their loved ones. "For the Rohingya who have just come here, this place is new," said Ahmed. "If they go far from their house, they can easily get lost."

On the morning the Thomson Reuters Foundation visited, two toddlers sat beside Ahmed, staring with terror at the wall of bodies in front of them. "We are telling all brothers of the Rohingya, two children have been found and now they are with us," Ahmed announced over the megaphone, to the amusement of one child. "If these children are yours, you can take them," he said, describing their red and yellow T-shirts, and how one had no pants on while the other had a toy in his hand. "If they belong to your relative, you can inform them that they are here."

Ahmed does not disclose the children's names to protect them from potential traffickers. To claim a child, a parent must correctly recite their name and the child must confirm that the adult is their mother or father. Ahmed is only too aware of the threat of human trafficking in Kutupalong. Only a day earlier, an unfamiliar man tried to snatch a child sitting on a footpath. He was swiftly attacked by the child's relative who was buying food from a nearby shop. "We are telling all the people that there are kidnappers here, so be careful with your children," Ahmed said. —Reuters

Malawi child brides pushed into sex work

When Memory Chitsulo was still in school in Malawi she married a man a decade older. But her husband soon left for South Africa, abandoning her with a baby. Desperate for money, the teenager turned to sex work. Charities in the southern African country say child brides are increasingly being pushed into prostitution as growing numbers of early marriages break down. "My parents died in a bus accident when I was 14. I got married since no one could take care of me. But he immediately left for South Africa as he couldn't find work here," said Chitsulo. "He stopped calling after two years. It's been 10 years now," added the mother-of-two, now 25, who works from a brothel in Luchenza in southern Malawi.

Although child marriage is illegal, nearly half of girls in Malawi are wed before their eighteenth birthday and 9 percent before they turn 15, according to the UN children's agency UNICEF. But charities say many child marriages have collapsed as poverty and unemployment drive tens of thousands of young Malawian men to seek work in South Africa.

"Many girls don't survive early marriages, either because they face abuse and violence by their older partners, or because they are abandoned by men who go to South Africa," said Forbes Msiska, executive director of Badilika, a charity supporting vulnerable girls with vocational training. "I've talked to some young women who

were left by their husbands who went to South Africa, but they don't receive any financial support from their men. They said they ended up prostituting in order to survive and support their children."

Maxwell Matewele, executive director of the charity Eye of the Child, said there had been a visible increase in the number of children forced into prostitution. He said most girls were aged 14 to 18 years, but that he had come across some as young as nine. Matewele called for the government to do more to address the root causes of child prostitution and for tougher legislation. The government said it was aware of an increase in the number of young sex workers in the country, but could not say whether the breakdown in child marriages was a factor.

Rural brothel

A few years ago it was highly unusual to see sex workers outside Malawi's cities, but they are increasingly pitching up in rural settlements as competition in urban areas drives them to find new clients. Many work from drinking joints which have proliferated across Malawi. In Namisasi, a quiet and unremarkable trading settlement in southern Malawi, villagers were astonished last year when eight sex workers arrived with their babies and set up business.

Joyce Masamba, a 27-year-old mother-of-three, works out of a pub seeping up to three clients a day - mostly local businessmen. She earns about 1,000 Malawi kwachas (\$1.40) a client. "I was forced out of school to marry when I was 15," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation outside the noisy bar where she works. "I gave birth the same year but the man, who was 10 years older, started going out with other women. When I confronted him, he left me and the baby. Sex work was the only option I had to care for the baby and myself." —Reuters



A Kashmiri vendor selling walnuts waits for customers on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar yesterday. — AFP

On first Mideast trip, Macron urges 'firm'...

Continued from Page 1

Dhabi, a decade after his country signed an over \$1.2 billion agreement to share the name and some of the artworks of the world-famous museum. Macron and his wife, Brigitte, walked up to the museum with Prince Mohammed bin Zayed and Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum. Both Emirati rulers smiled and greeted the couple, an Emirati honor guard standing at ready nearby.

With architect Jean Nouvel at his side, Macron entered the first gallery of the museum. Nouvel pointed out the skylight within it, which mirrors the Louvre Pyramid and are similar to others through the museum. The floor beneath them bore the outline of the United Arab Emirates, with different world cities named on it in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi and English. They then looked at a two-headed Neolithic statue from Jordan, one of the oldest known in human history. They later joined other Arab leaders at an event to inaugurate the building.

Macron toured the 12-gallery museum - the first to carry the famed Louvre brand outside France - shortly after touching down in Abu Dhabi, along with the heads of state of Morocco and Afghanistan. The museum design conjures up the image of an Arab medina as seen through the eyes of a contemporary cinematographer. A silver-toned dome with perforated arabesque patterns appears to float over the white galleries, creating what Nouvel describes as a "rain of light". To reach the ground, each ray of light must cross eight layers of perforations, creating a constantly shifting pattern that mimics the shadows cast by palm trees or the roof of a traditional Arab market.

Macron hailed the museum as a "decisive turning point" in ties with the UAE in the interview with Al-Itihad. Macron also told the daily there was no immediate

alternative to the Iranian nuclear deal long lambasted by US President Donald Trump - which curbs Iran's nuclear program. On North Korea, he said: "Here is a state where the absence of an international legal framework has allowed it to develop nuclear capabilities. We must not repeat that mistake."

Tehran has hit back against the increasingly fierce rhetoric from Riyadh with strong words of its own, troubling international oil markets. "You know the might and place of the Islamic republic. People more powerful than you have been unable to do anything against the Iranian people," Rouhani said at a cabinet meeting in remarks aimed at Saudi leaders. "The United States and their allies have mobilized all their capabilities against us and achieved nothing."

Rouhani referred to the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88, in which revolutionary Iran successfully resisted an invasion by Saddam Hussein's regime supported by Gulf Arab and Western governments. Rouhani reiterated that Iran wanted a peaceful settlement of the conflict between the rebels and the Saudi-backed Yemeni government, and of other wars around the region that have placed it at loggerheads with Riyadh. "We want the welfare and development of Yemen, Iraq and Syria, and of Saudi Arabia too. There are no other paths forward than friendship, brotherhood and mutual assistance," he said. "If you think that Iran is not your friend and that the United States and the Zionist regime (Israel) are, you are making a strategic and analytical error."

Trump has taken a much tougher line against Iran than his predecessor Barack Obama, emboldening Saudi Arabia and its allies. Trump's administration was quick to express support for the kingdom's claims that Iran has supplied missiles to the rebels. US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley accused Iran of supplying a missile to Houthi rebels that was fired into Saudi Arabia in July.

The White House called for a UN inquiry into the origins of the rebels' ballistic capabilities that on Saturday saw them fire a missile more than 800 km to near Riyadh international airport where it was intercepted and destroyed by Saudi air defenses. "These missile systems



ABU DHABI: French President Emmanuel Macron speaks with officials as he visits the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum during its inauguration yesterday. — AFP

were not present in Yemen before the conflict, and we call upon the United Nations to conduct a thorough examination of evidence that the Iranian regime is perpetuating the war in Yemen to advance its regional ambitions," it said. "Houthi missile attacks against Saudi Arabia, enabled by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, threaten regional security and undermine UN efforts to negotiate an end to the conflict."

Rouhani asked what alternative the rebels had in the face of the devastating bombing campaign waged against them by the Saudi-led coalition since March 2015. "You... constantly bomb the Yemenis... but when for once they fire back, you say it's unjust. What are the Yemeni people supposed to do?" he asked.

The Iranian president suggested that the tougher foreign policy line from the Saudi crown prince might be a reflection of the internal upheaval he triggered by ordering the arrest of dozens of princes, ministers and a tycoon last weekend. "If Saudi Arabia is experiencing domestic problems, it needs to settle them and not to try to create problems for the other peoples of the region and speak out against them," he said. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted a call yesterday for a peaceful solution to be found over Yemen, not "new crises by bombings, threats". "There's no crisis that diplomacy can't resolve. We proved that once," Zarif wrote of the nuclear deal Iran reached with world powers in 2015. — Agencies

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

GRAND SALE
It's shopping time!

94 الان
دك 990
119 قبل
دك 990

109 الان
دك 990
149 قبل
دك 990

149 الان
دك 990
189 قبل
دك 990

Skyworth
My Wonderful Life
LED-55E2000
LED

55"
Full HD 1080p

HDMI USB DVB Digital Sign High Definition Surround Sound

Skyworth
My Wonderful Life
LED-55E5600
4K ULTRAHD SMART TV

55"

HDMI USB DVB Digital Sign High Definition Surround Sound

Skyworth
My Wonderful Life
LED-49E2A12G
LED

49"
Full HD 1080p

HDMI USB DVB Digital Sign High Definition Surround Sound

best بست
AL-YOUSIFI اليوسيفي

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Kuwait 3 (Souq Sharq) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khaldon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Procurement Specialist
 VIVA – Kuwait Telecom
 Company K.L.L
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for analyzing and evaluating requisition forms, as assigned to ensure purchases meet requirements of the defined VIVA procurement procedures, coordinating with the legal team to execute vendor contracts etc.

Apply Now [JB3736965](#)

Secretary
 American Mattress
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for everyday internal and external correspondences which includes various Govt ministries, Banks etc in Arabic & English, receiving visitors and official guests and direct them to the appropriate authorities, and maintaining efficient filing system etc.

Apply Now [JB3742046](#)

Executive Chef
 Salad Creations
 Kuwait

You are responsible for planning and directing food preparation and culinary activities, modifying menus or create new ones that meet quality standards, estimating food requirements and food/labor costs, supervising kitchen staff's activities, arranging for equipment purchases and repairs etc.

Apply Now [JB3742070](#)

Graphic Designer
 Babnimnim Design Studio
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for developing graphics and layouts for architectural & product illustrations, logos, concepts, packaging, and websites, in charge of in-house development of graphic identity and website for the company etc.

Apply Now [JB3742179](#)

HR Generalist
 Wazzan Educational Services
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for assisting with planning and coordinating events within the company, communicating regularly with employees and with the upper management to implement and create effective work policies, administrative hiring duties like creating job postings, interviewing, recruiting and training etc.

Apply Now [JB742228](#)

Clerk - Chargeback & Fraud Monitoring
 Commercial Bank of Kuwait
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for acting as the point person for all on-us and off-us disputed transactions and fraud reported cases, performing this job successfully, an individual must be able to complete each essential duty satisfactorily etc.

Apply Now [JB3741890](#)

Marketing Assistant
 American Mattress
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for introducing and managing creative marketing campaigns and sales promotions, conducting market surveys and collecting intelligence data to ensure the Company maintains a competitive edge in the market, developing market penetration strategies to increase the Company's market share, performance growth etc.

Apply Now [JB3741939](#)

Clerk - Chargeback & Fraud Monitoring
 Commercial Bank of Kuwait
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for acting as the point person for all on-us and off-us disputed transactions and fraud reported cases, performing this job successfully, an individual must be able to complete each essential duty satisfactorily etc.

Apply Now [JB3741890](#)

Site Engineer
 Al Kuhaimi Metal Industries
 Ltd. KSA

You will be responsible for implementing an appropriate and effective project or program; defining and implementing criteria for control of the project, coordinating and directing end-user input throughout the project lifecycle, appraising options and submitting them to the client for approval, coordinating the value management strategy etc.

Apply Now [JB3740845](#)

Head of Internal Audit
 Islamic Development Bank
 KSA

You will be responsible for implementing its vision and mission by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes etc.

Apply Now [JB3741061](#)

Engineer
 International Coalition Combating
 Violent Extremism
 KSA

You will be responsible for improving and protecting the organization environment by Planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of building structures and infrastructure. Providing leadership, coordination and management of the processes and functions to support effective operations etc.

Apply Now [JB3741065](#)

Head of Internal Audit
 Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
 KSA

You will be responsible for implementing and maintaining servers for IT services and systems, ERP administration, linux and windows servers' administration, ensuring technology is accessible, controllable, and available with current hardware and software etc.

Apply Now [JB3741061](#)

Sales Executive- Distribution
 NStyle International
 UAE

You will be responsible for identifying business opportunities by identifying prospects and evaluating their position in the industry; researching and analyzing sales options, maintaining relationships with clients by providing support, information, and guidance; researching and recommending new opportunities; recommending profit and service improvements etc.

Apply Now [JB3741085](#)

Occupational Therapist (Western national)
 Black Pearl Consult
 UAE

You will be responsible for Meets the patient's goals and needs and provides quality care by assessing and interpreting evaluations and test results; determining occupational therapy treatment plans in consultation with physicians or by prescription etc.

Apply Now [JB3741113](#)

Internal Auditor
 Al Tamimi Investments
 UAE

You will be responsible for updating Risk Control Matrix (RCM) and risk based audit program for each area of audit, execution of internal audit plan, performing internal audit field-work following the planned audit programme and approach, delivery of quality work in line with Internal auditing Standard.

Apply Now [JB3741202](#)

Audit, Risk and Fraud Specialist
 Black Pearl Consult
 UAE

You will be responsible for auditing investment transactions, fund transfers and settlement instructions in accordance with established policies and procedures demonstrating adequate knowledge regarding settlement and instruction types, market and custodian practices, legal issues, settlement risks, SSIs and transitions; demonstrates awareness of best practices in settlement related matters etc.

Apply Now [JB3741236](#)

MEP Engineer
 Global Contracting
 Qatar

You will be responsible for having a deep knowledge in Design & Execution, experience in MEP projects and especially in firefighting projects for commercial and industrial sectors. Supervising the project tendering function, bidding on commercial construction projects etc.

Apply Now [JB3741140](#)

Draftsman
 Al Mana
 Qatar

You will be responsible for drafting, forecasting, scheduling and preparing project submittals, operating autocad, computer-aided drafting equipment or conventional drafting station to produce designs, working drawings, charts, forms and records etc.

Apply Now [JB3742062](#)

Payroll Clerk
 College of the North Atlantic
 Qatar

You will be responsible for processing the bi-weekly payroll for all local hire employees, as well as calculating per-diems for Canadian hires and other allowances for all employees, in charge of activating new employees' salaries (getting complete documents required, filing, creating new records in the system, checking Bank accounts, etc.)

Apply Now [JB3742157](#)

Deputy Project Director
 Louis Berger
 Qatar

You will be responsible for determining client's needs and provide them our recruitment solutions, conducting minimum of 2 physical meetings per day, meeting with new clients and increase our customer reach, giving online demonstrations to clients in order to handle objections and convince customers to buy etc.

Apply Now [JB3742187](#)

Sports

Messi keen to avoid Spain in World Cup

BUENOS AIRES: Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi says the worst possible draw for his Argentina side at next year's World Cup would be Spain in the first round. "The worst that could happen to us would be to draw Spain at the group stages," Messi told TyC Sports yesterday from Moscow where Argentina play Russia in a friendly on Saturday. "I would prefer to avoid them, they'd be tough opponents." In the interview with the Argentinian television station, Messi named Brazil, Germany and France alongside Spain as favourites to take the World Cup crown in Russia. "I think that at the moment, they're the strongest teams who give the best impressions, those who are playing best, with the best individuals." Messi also broached Argentina's last-gasp qualification for the World Cup finals, which the Barcelona star sealed with a hat-trick in a rare 3-1 away victory over Ecuador.—AFP



England and Germany to wear poppies in friendly

LONDON: England and Germany's players will wear black armbands bearing commemorative poppy motifs in Friday's friendly at Wembley, the Football Association announced yesterday. It comes after world governing body FIFA backed down in its row with British football authorities over the wearing of poppies, which are worn to remember Britain's war dead. Friday's match falls the day before the 99th anniversary of the Armistice signed by Britain and Germany at the end of World War I. "Remembering and commemorating the men and women who have served this country is ingrained in our nation," said FA chief executive Martin Glenn in a press release. "Many have made the ultimate sacrifice and we will be honouring them, both on and off the pitch, for our match against Germany. "I would like to thank the DFB (German Football Federation) for also agreeing to wear the poppy for the match, in a show of solidarity and unity at this important time."—AFP

Boateng out of England clash, Kroos doubtful

BERLIN: Germany will be without World Cup-winning defender Jerome Boateng for Friday's friendly against England at Wembley. The German camp confirmed yesterday that the Bayern Munich star is struggling with a muscular injury and will sit out the international in London. However, the 29-year-old will stay with the squad for the friendly against France next Tuesday in Cologne. Germany's Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos is doubtful to face the Three Lions. He is suffering from a gastrointestinal infection, which has also affected reserve goalkeeper Kevin Trapp, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain. Mats Hummels, Boateng's centre-back partner at Bayern, also sat out Wednesday's training session in Berlin with a knock, but is expected to face England. The match at Wembley is the first of four friendlies against top-class opposition for the Germans, who host France on Tuesday then play Spain and Brazil at home next March to prepare for the 2018 World Cup.—AFP



Tributes pour in after former MLB pitcher Halladay dies in plane crash

The sport was mourning loss of a 'well-respected figure'

LOS ANGELES: Former Major League Baseball pitcher Roy Halladay died Tuesday after the plane he was piloting crashed in the Gulf of Mexico, triggering an outpouring of tributes to the popular ex-Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia Phillies star.

The 40-year-old two-time Cy Young winner, who retired four years ago, was the only person on board the single-engine ICON A5 plane, the Pasco County Sheriff's Department confirmed. Halladay's body was recovered after the plane was found in shallow water off the Florida coast, authorities said. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

Major League Baseball Commissioner Robert Manfred said the sport was mourning the loss of a "well-respected figure and fierce competitor." "All of us at baseball are shocked and deeply saddened by the tragic passing of former Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay," Manfred said in a statement.

"On behalf of Major League Baseball I extend my deepest condolences to his family, including his wife, Brandy, and two sons, Ryan and Braden, his friends and countless fans," Manfred added.

The Phillies issued a statement of condolence soon after news of the crash emerged. "We are numb over the very tragic news about Roy Halladay's untimely death," the Phillies said. "There are no words to describe the sadness that the entire Phillies family is feeling over the loss of one of the most respected

human beings to ever play the game." Halladay played for the Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia in a 16-year career which included a perfect game in 2010 and a no-hitter in the playoffs the same year.

'THE PLAYERS' PLAYER'

He was selected for the All-Star team on eight occasions but never managed to win a World Series. Tributes to Halladay also came from former teammates and stars from across baseball. Former Blue Jays center fielder Vernon Wells described Halladay as an all-time great. "I had a front row seat to watch his greatness. RIP Doc," Wells wrote on Twitter, referring to Halladay by his affectionate nickname. Former Phillies infielder Michael Young added: "Devastating. One of my favorite teammates ever. The blueprint for what a competitor looks like, RIP

Roy Halladay. Heartbroken for his family." The Houston Astros 2017 World Series-winning pitcher Dallas Keuchel said simply: "Rest In Peace Doc Halladay. One of the best to ever do it. You will be missed." Astros team-mate Justin Verlander said simply: "Shocked and saddened...gone way too soon. One of the best ever."

Los Angeles Dodgers reliever Brandon McCarthy said Halladay was widely revered amongst his fellow professionals. "Roy Halladay was your favorite player's favorite player," McCarthy wrote on Twitter.

He's also awaiting trial on separate criminal sexual conduct charges and has been sued by more than 125 women alleging abuse. Nassar has pleaded not guilty to the assault charges. The US women have won the last two team titles at the Olympics, as well as the last four all around golds.

Perry doesn't have a gymnastics background, but the mother of two said her top priority is in line with the governing body's renewed emphasis on the protection of more than 150,000 members - the vast majority children - at 3,500 clubs in the country.

David Benck, chairman of the seven-person search committee, said Perry was approved by a unanimous vote. "Everybody wanted us to find the best leader we could possibly find, someone that could bring increased transparency and leadership and team building skills to the organization to really try and take the organization, from the grass roots all the way to the board, take it forward and rebuild the trust in the entire company," Benck said.

Perry takes over one of the Olympic movement's most high-profile programs, one that captured 105 Olympic or world championship medals since Penny began his tenure in 2005. American women have become a dominant force over the last 13 years. Simone Biles produced a record run at the 2016 Rio Olympics,

winning four gold medals to go along with a bronze.

USA Gymnastics launched an independent review of its policies in the wake of the allegations against Nassar in the summer of 2016, following reporting by the Indianapolis Star that highlighted chronic mishandling of abuse allegations against coaches and staff at member clubs across the country.

In June, the board adopted the new USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy that replaced the previous policy. Key updates include mandatory reporting, defining six types of misconduct, setting standards to prohibit grooming behavior, prevent inappropriate interaction and establishing accountability.

In July, the organization hired Toby Stark, a child welfare advocate, as its director of Safe Sport. Part of Stark's mandate is educating members on rules, educational programs and reporting. The federation also adopted several recommendations by Deborah Daniels, a former federal prosecutor who oversaw the review.

Two-time Olympic medalist McKayla Maroney and 2000 Olympic bronze medalist Jamie Dantzscher have discussed alleged abuse by Nassar. Dantzscher and six-time Olympic medalist Aly Raisman have called for sweeping changes in leadership, including the removal of the chairman of the board

to be awarded Player of the Match as SA fell two wickets short of an outright victory on Tuesday.

Another big score in the third round could force his father 'Boof' out of the room when selectors discuss the squad for the first Ashes test in Brisbane starting Nov. 23. Even as the 25-year-old pressed his claims, Victoria batsman Glenn Maxwell, probably the strongest candidate for the middle order position, was fighting his own battle to win favour, scoring 64 after managing 60 in the first innings. Dismissed cheaply twice in the opening defeat to Queensland, all-rounder Maxwell's twin half-centuries may go some way to easing doubts about his consistency. Maxwell struck a fine century when batting number six in Ranchi against India in March but has failed to reach 50 in seven test innings since.

Few others, barring 23-test Shaun Marsh, who hit a 91 for Western Australia (WA) against a test-quality New South Wales (NSW) attack, have raised their hand for an Ashes spot. Marsh's state team mate and younger brother Mitchell has managed only 46 runs so far in the Shield, the fast-bowling all-rounder failing twice against NSW.



PHILADELPHIA: In this Aug 8, 2014, file photo, former Philadelphia Phillies' Roy Halladay acknowledges the crowd before a baseball game against the New York Mets, in Philadelphia. — AP

"A true ace and a wonderful person. Heartbroken for those who knew him best." Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco meanwhile said Halladay was a passionate aviator. In an interview last March, Halladay had revealed he had logged around 800 hours of flying time. "I

know there are people in his family that fly," Nocco told a news conference. "That's where he got it from. He loved to fly. He talked about flying. He talked about refurbishing planes. He grew up doing it. "He talked about baseball and they talked about flying." —AFP

US Gymnastics hires Kerry Perry after sex abuse scandal

NEW YORK: USA Gymnastics is reaching outside the sport in an effort to move forward after a sex abuse scandal. The organization hired Kerry Perry as its new president and CEO on Tuesday. She was the vice president of business development at Learfield Communications. Perry will officially start on Dec. 1.

"My focus is going to be creating an environment of empowerment where all have a strong voice and we are dedicated every single day on athlete safety," Perry said. She replaces Steve Penny, who resigned in March after 12 years on the job following criticism over the way USA Gymnastics handled sexual abuse claims. USA Gymnastics has been rocked by accusations of sexual misconduct against Larry Nassar, the former national team doctor from 1996-2015. Nassar is in jail in Michigan awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to possession of child pornography.

Son of 'Boof' has Maxwell looking over his shoulder

MELBOURNE: Ashes auditions for Australia's vacant number six spot have seen a number of leading candidates fluff their lines in the domestic Sheffield Shield but Jake Lehmann's strong form could force an awkward decision at the selectors table where his father sits. Lehmann, the son of Australia coach Darren, has been closely watched since emerging with a trio of first class centuries in the 2015/16 season, and has built a respectable first class average of 44.95 from 29 matches with South Australia (SA). He struck his sixth first-class century with a first-innings 103 against Victoria and backed that up with a 93



Kerry Perry

Paul Parilla.

Perry declined to get into specifics about the future of the current leadership, saying only "I have confidence in our leadership and staff." She says her concern is helping restore faith in the organization. "I want all the moms and dads to know that when they drop their children off at a USA Gymnastics gym or club, that they have the confidence knowing we're doing everything at every level of the organization to ensure that their children are safe so they can thrive in a sport that so many of us love," she said.—AP

Parker, Joshua keen to fight next, says NZr's promoter

WELLINGTON: Britain's Anthony Joshua and New Zealander Joseph Parker are keen to fight each other in a heavyweight title clash early next year but the finances have to be right for both boxers, Parker's promoter said yesterday.

Joshua holds the IBF, WBA and IBO heavyweight titles, while Parker holds the WBO crown. American Deontay Wilder holds the WBC title.

"Eddie Hearn and I have exchanged emails," David Higgins told reporters in Auckland about talks with Joshua's promoter. "My message was Joe would fight Joshua next and Hearn's message was that Joshua would fight Parker next.

"It's now a question of the deal and money." Higgins said if they were able to agree to a fight it would probably be next March or April. He added he had also been in talks with Wilder's camp. The American knocked out Bernane Stiverne in New York last Saturday and then accused Joshua of 'dodging' a showdown.

"They have put a figure on the table. It wasn't enough," Higgins said. "If they put the right amount of money on the table we will go to America to fight Wilder."

British media have reported that Joshua had indicated he would like to fight Wilder by the middle of 2018. Parker's trainer, Kevin Barry, said he was keen to get the 25-year-old in the ring as soon as possible against the Briton.

Joshua defeated late replacement Carlos Takam in Cardiff last month and Barry said the France-based Cameroonian had exposed the Briton's weaknesses before the 10th-round stoppage.

"That Joshua fight puts everything into perspective now," Barry said. "Takam had done no sparring. He tested Joshua right to the end. We saw how gassed Joshua was. "We all saw that Joshua could not hurt Takam. That showed me that he is very beatable. He can't knock you out with one punch. He is very robotic.

"I think the guy is there for the taking and I want us to get in front of him before someone else beats him." If the Joshua bout did not come off then Parker could fight unbeaten Australian Lucas Browne instead, Higgins said.

"We have been in talks for a few weeks with his promoters," Higgins added. "There is no deal. We have loosely agreed terms and principles ... and it is possible if we decide it is the best option." —Reuters

Sports

Shore scores OT winner, Kings beat Ducks 4-3 in thriller

Gallagher, Benn lift Canadiens over Golden Knights

ANAHEIM: Nick Shore scored in overtime, and Jonathan Quick had 33 saves as the Los Angeles Kings defeated the Anaheim Ducks 4-3 on Tuesday night. Shore's winner, which came at 3:51 of the extra period, was his second goal of the season. He looked goal-tender Ryan Miller off with Dustin Brown charging down the slot and scored on a rising wrist shot. Los Angeles killed five penalties, including a five-minute major, and scored one power-play goal in the game to win the special-teams battle. The Kings also had two apparent goals disallowed in the third period. Brown and Anze Kopitar each had a goal and an assist in the win. Anaheim's Rickard Rakell also notched a goal and an assist.

CANADIENS 3, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2

Brendan Gallagher, Jordie Benn and Max Pacioretty scored as Montreal defeated Vegas. Charlie Lindgren made 29 saves in improving to 5-0-0 in five NHL starts for Montreal, which won its third straight game. Maxime Lagace stopped 25 shots for the Golden Knights in a matchup of rookie goaltenders.

PREDATORS 3, BLUE JACKETS 1

Calle Jarnkrok scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period, and Nashville extended its winning streak to three games with a victory over Columbus. Jarnkrok's second goal of the season came with 5:35 remaining when a rebound on a shot by Miikka Salomaki found his stick in front of the net. He sent the puck over the outstretched leg of Blue Jackets goaltender Joonas Korpisalo for the game-winner. Matt Irwin scored the Predators' first goal in the opening period and Viktor Arvidsson added an empty-netter with 15.1 seconds remaining. Salomaki had two assists for Nashville. Pierre-Luc Dubois scored the tying goal at 4:37 of the third period for the Blue Jackets.



for the Coyotes.

BLUES 3, DEVILS 1

Vladimir Tarasenko and Brayden Schenn had a goal and two assists apiece, Jaden Schwartz scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and Jake Allen made 21 saves as St. Louis beat New Jersey for the eighth consecutive time. Allen, who surrendered only Blake Coleman's first-period goal, is undefeated in six career starts against the Devils, allowing seven goals total. The Western Conference-leading Blues won for the sixth time in their last seven games overall. The Devils are winless in their last three, with two regulation losses sandwiching a shootout defeat.

HURRICANES 3, PANTHERS 1

Derek Ryan scored a third-period tiebreaking goal as Carolina halted a four-game winless streak by defeating Florida. Brock McGinn also scored for the Hurricanes, who won for only the second time in six home games (2-2-2). Justin Williams added an empty-net goal. Roland McKeown notched two assists for his first NHL points. Vincent Trocheck scored his team-leading seventh goal for the Panthers, who are winless in five consecutive games (0-3-2).

SABRES 3, CAPITALS 1

Benoit Pouliot scored 3:22 into the third period to lead Buffalo over Washington. Evander Kane had two goals for the Sabres, who had lost three of their previous four games. Robin Lehner made 24 saves. Alex Ovechkin scored for the Capitals, who had a three-game winning streak come to a close.

OILERS 2, ISLANDERS 1 (OT)

Connor McDavid scored 38 seconds into overtime as Edmonton edged New York. Leon Draisaitl, who assisted on McDavid's winner, scored the tying goal at 4:37 of the third period for the Oilers. Thomas Greiss recorded 23 saves.

CANUCKS 5, FLAMES 3

Bo Horvat and Henrik Sedin scored 38 seconds apart early in the third period to lift Vancouver over Calgary. Sam Gagner, Thomas Vanek and Derek Dorsett also scored for the Canucks. Dougie Hamilton, Johnny Gaudreau and Micheal Ferland replied for the Flames. —Reuters



ANAHEIM: Los Angeles Kings defenseman Drew Doughty, left, and Anaheim Ducks left wing Nick Ritchie reach for the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game, in Anaheim, Calif. — AP

NHL results/standings

Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 3 (OT); Vancouver 5, Calgary 3; Montreal 3, Las Vegas 2; Buffalo 3, Washington 1; St. Louis 3, New Jersey 1; Edmonton 2, NY Islanders 1 (OT); Pittsburgh 3, Arizona 1; Carolina 3, Florida 1; Nashville 3, Columbus 1.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
St. Louis	12	3	1	53	37	25	Tampa Bay	11	2	2	59	42	24
Winnipeg	8	3	3	46	40	19	Toronto	9	7	0	61	58	18
Nashville	8	5	2	40	42	18	Ottawa	6	3	5	51	47	17
Colorado	8	6	0	48	47	16	Detroit	8	7	1	45	43	17
Dallas	8	7	0	42	43	16	Boston	6	4	3	39	40	15
Chicago	7	6	2	43	36	16	Montreal	7	8	1	44	57	15
Minnesota	5	6	2	40	40	12	Buffalo	5	8	2	38	54	12
							Florida	4	8	2	48	59	10
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division							
Los Angeles	11	2	2	52	34	24	Pittsburgh	9	6	2	45	59	20
Las Vegas	9	5	1	52	44	19	New Jersey	9	4	1	50	45	19
Vancouver	8	5	2	42	37	18	Columbus	9	6	1	52	46	19
San Jose	8	5	0	36	30	16	NY Islanders	8	5	2	55	48	18
Calgary	8	7	0	38	43	16	Washington	8	7	1	47	51	17
Anaheim	6	6	3	43	47	15	Philadelphia	7	6	2	47	43	16
Edmonton	5	8	1	32	44	11	NY Rangers	7	7	2	52	55	16
Arizona	2	13	2	42	68	6	Carolina	5	5	3	35	38	13

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

Red Wings stuck in muck between great and bad teams in NHL

DETROIT: The Detroit Red Wings have been fading from elite status in the NHL for nearly a decade. A new arena also isn't going to fix their problems. In fact, the franchise's glorious past seems to have a haunting effect in and around Detroit's dressing room at Little Caesars Arena. There are empty locker stalls honoring former greats such as Gordie Howe, Nicklas Lidstrom and Terry Sawchuk. And when the players leave their dressing room and turn right, likenesses of Scotty Bowman and Steve Yzerman loom as a reminder of the good old days for a franchise that won four of its 11 Stanley Cups from 1997 to 2008.

Detroit didn't make the playoffs last season for the first time since 1990. If the postseason started today, the franchise would have its season end in the regular season in consecutive years for the first time since 1979-83, when fans in the Motor City referred to them as the Dead Wings and cars were given away to draw fans into the stands.

The Red Wings are not an awful team now. They've showed that by winning four of five games for the second time this season, stretches of success sandwiched around a six-game losing streak.

In some ways, they're like a lot of teams in the league. They don't seem to have a shot to contend for a championship, but they're not bad enough to be among the worst and have a shot at one of the best players in the draft. They have a lot of players who belong in the league, but none of them are stars that can carry the team. "It's hard to separate yourself from other teams over the course of a game, or a season, because of competitive balance," Detroit general manager Ken Holland said. "The cap system is designed for parity. You're not going to beat the system. A large majority of the teams are at .500, or just above or below. We're in that group, and it's going to be a photo finish to the end to make the playoffs."

Jonathan Ericsson was a young player toward the end of Detroit's glory years, and laments how much the team's culture has changed over the last decade. The defenseman played in 22 playoff games in 2009, when the Red Wings were a win away from repeating as Stanley Cup champions, and hasn't been on another long playoff run since. "We used to play with desperation and we were so dialed in with our preparations with an older and experienced team," Ericsson said. "We just knew we could turn around games and win. That feeling, especially last year, wasn't there. And, it's tough to get that feeling back." —AP

Daly and May set to wing it for England

LONDON: Elliot Daly and Jonny May are both set for a quicker than expected return to Test duty after the wings were named Tuesday in a 26-man squad for England's November international opener against Argentina this weekend.

England coach Eddie Jones will cut that squad to a matchday 23 on Thursday, some 48 hours before his side face the Pumas at Twickenham.

Daly damaged knee ligaments while on European Champions Cup duty with Wasps last month, an injury that was thought would see him miss both the Argentina match and the second of England's three November Tests, against Australia on November 18.

May meanwhile suffered a minor hamstring problem during England's training camp in Portugal last week but he too could be involved against Argentina. Wasps captain and England lock Joe Launchbury said club colleague Daly's fondness for dozing off may have aided his recovery. "I think he is a quick

healer. He sleeps a lot. He seems to sleep most hours of the day—maybe that has helped him!" Launchbury said.

Jones's initial 26-man squad selection suggests that come Saturday he could have Anthony Watson on one wing, and Daly on the other, with Mike Brown completing the back three in his usual fullback position and May providing cover on the bench.

If any of the wings suffer fresh fitness problems, Bath's Semesa Rokoduguni is also available. All the British and Irish Lions included in Jones's original training squad have been retained for the Argentina match.

The Australian coach had indicated that those players who helped the combined side to a 1-1 series draw against world champions New Zealand might be rested at some stage this November.

But he's unlikely to leave out key men for England's showpiece clash with the Wallabies, with the November finale against Samoa shaping up as the match where Jones may give some senior players a breather. With Jones needing to drop three players to make a 23, one from May or Rokoduguni appears in line to make way with Alex Lozowski and Henry Slade vying for the role of back-up playmaker. In the pack, it looks as if Tom Curry and Sam Underhill are in direct competition for the openside flanker berth. —AFP



Elliot Daly



Canada and Kuwait to hold friendly hockey tournament

KUWAIT: The Embassy of Canada, in partnership with the Kuwait Winter Games Club, will hold a friendly hockey tournament between the Kuwait National Team and Kuwait's Canadian community. The tournament, beginning at 6 pm on Sunday, November 12th at the Al Sour Street ice rink, is open to the general public on a first come, first seated basis. Hockey's immense popularity

throughout the world truly symbolizes Canada's national identity and unique northern culture.

First played as an organized sport on March 3, 1875 at Montreal's Victoria Skating Rink, hockey has grown into a major international professional and Olympic winter sport, watched and enjoyed by countless millions.

Thanks to the efforts of the Kuwait Winter Games Club, Kuwaitis too have embraced hockey. Over 600 Kuwaitis currently play the sport and the association arranges many hockey training camps as part of its annual program. Kuwait also participates nationally in varied programs and tournaments with the International Hockey Federation. The recent creation of a women's team is further evidence of the sport's growing popularity in Kuwait. Please come and join us this Sunday for an exciting and fun-filled evening!

Sports

Football's aristocrats Italy WCup record in real danger

Four berths up for grabs in Europe

PARIS: The last burst of qualifying matches for the 2018 World Cup allows some nations a chance to dream, but for football aristocrats Italy, the next few days are a potential nightmare.

The last nine places in Russia will be settled in seven frantic days starting today. There are four berths up for grabs in Europe, where the eight best runners-up in the nine groups have been paired in home-and-away play-offs. There are two long-distance play-offs as New Zealand face Peru and Australia play Honduras.

In Europe, Italy, Greece, Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland are all seeded and play the second leg at home.

PROUD RECORD IN PERIL

For Italy and veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon that might not be such an advantage against Sweden. The Azzurri drew at home with both Spain and Macedonia in its group. The play-off puts Italy's proud record of World Cup participation in danger. The Azzurri are tied with Germany for most appearances by a European nation, 18. But Germany have already made sure of a 19th berth. Italy are also the only one of the eight previous winners not yet sure of their place in this World Cup. Italy's defence needs to beware of Sweden, the top scorer among the eight playoff teams, with 26 goals in 10 games.

Switzerland collected 27 points in its 10 group games, more than five of the nations that won their groups. Yet it came second on goal difference to Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal.

"They're obviously the seeded team, so the pressure's more on them than us," Northern Ireland forward Jamie Ward said. "We're always great as the underdogs, so I think it was a bit of a bonus us not being seeded."

The encounter between Greece and Croatia pairs

two nations that specialise in winning playoffs. If Greece win, they will become the first European team to reach three successive World Cups through play-offs. Croatia have won all four of their qualifying play-offs for major tournaments.

Croatia have the star names with Luka Modric, Ivan Rakitic, Mario Mandzukic and Ivan Perisic, but Greece are seeded and home advantage could prove even greater as the two countries have agreed to ban away fans from the matches.

The Republic of Ireland, which takes on Denmark, have a chequered history with playoffs. This is their eighth overall, a European record. They have won three and lost four, including the notorious game in France in 2009 when Thierry Henry's handball set up the extra-time goal that eliminated the Irish.

"When there's been big questions put to the players, they've come up with the answers," Irish assistant manager Roy Keane said. The Danish danger man is Tottenham's Christian Eriksen who has scored in each of his last six appearances for his nation.

"Denmark have a lot of skilful players, good options going forward and Eriksen is a really big player for them," Keane said.

SHOWDOWN FOR MOROCCO

In Africa, Nigeria and Egypt have booked their tickets but three of the five group winners are still to be decided. In Group A, Tunisia are almost there. They lead Congo by three points and face last-place Libya at home. The Carthage Eagles could even qualify if they lose and Congo beat Guinea in Kinshasa, provided both games are low-scoring and decided by just one goal.

Group C is finely balanced. Morocco travel to Abidjan for a game that will decide who qualifies. Ivory Coast have home advantage but Morocco have a one-point edge in the table and will qualify with a draw.



FLORENCE: Italy's Daniele de Rossi attends a press conference ahead of Friday's World Cup play-off soccer match against Sweden, at the Coverciano training center, near Florence, Italy, yesterday. —AP

“We’re always great as the underdogs”

Bayern must bring in new blood to stay on top: ewandowski

WARSAW: Bayern Munich must make sure they bring in top players every season to stay competitive and ease the pressure on an ageing squad, Poland captain Robert Lewandowski said on Tuesday. Lewandowski, with the national team for friendlies against Uruguay on Friday and Mexico on Monday, also told Reuters in an interview that Bayern's first-choice players need back up.

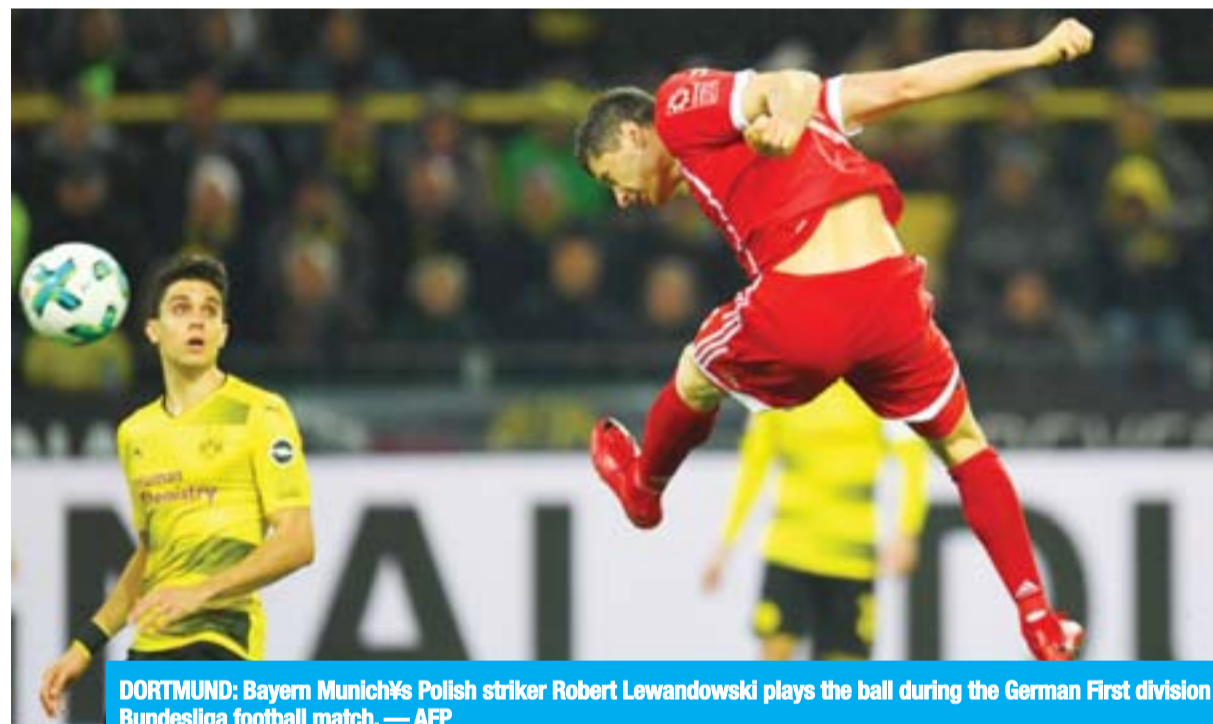
"We shouldn't delude ourselves. Each club needs to get a top player every two or three years to refresh the team, to bring some new blood, new quality," he said.

After a stuttering start to the season, Bayern sacked their Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti and brought back 72-year-old Jupp Heynckes for his third spell in charge and the move has worked. Since Heynckes returned on Oct. 14, the club have won their seven matches in all competitions, reclaiming top spot in the Bundesliga after falling behind RB Leipzig and Borussia Dortmund.

They have also reached the last 16 of the Champions league. "At this point we really have a good team, but it is known that players are getting older," added Lewandowski. "We are succeeding (in replacing them) today, because we have a young Josh Kimmich, who is really good at his new position and shows that a young player can be a replacement for such an experienced and wonderful one as Philipp Lahm."

The 22-year-old Kimmich, who was a central midfielder, has replaced retired former Germany captain Lahm as Bayern's starting right back and has become an integral player in that position for club and country in just a few seasons.

However, Lewandowski feels his recent injury prob-



DORTMUND: Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski plays the ball during the German First division Bundesliga football match. — AFP

lem may have been down to having to play too much without adequate cover at Bayern to give him the rest his body needs.

The 29-year-old came off after scoring just before halftime in the home win over Leipzig in the Bundesliga on Oct. 28 with a muscle problem he feels may have been prevented. "I had a minor injury. At the same time, injuries to other players who could not play at all meant I did not have an opportunity to rest or play for a shorter time," he said.

"Sometimes even playing 20-30 minutes less in a game or just missing a game means everything comes back to normality. Maybe my injury was due to the fact

"We need a team that will go to war and every player to be ready to give 200 percent," said Ivory Coast manager Marc Wilmots. In Group D, Senegal lead by two points and play South Africa home and away, needing two points to be absolutely sure. Senegal's likely progress has been delayed because their defeat in South Africa last November was scrubbed out. That match was decided by a bizarre penalty which led to a life ban for the referee, Joseph Lamptey.

The four teams competing for the two remaining places will have to go the extra kilometre. Australia,

who have already squeezed through one tense play-off against Syria, take on Honduras who edged the United States to finish fourth in their region. The first leg is in San Pedro Sula, then the teams must cross the Pacific for the second leg, nearly 14,000 kilometres away in Sydney. New Zealand, which won the 11-nation Oceania group, and Peru which finished fifth in the South American group, will be flying the other way. Their first leg is in Wellington, the second, in Lima late next Wednesday, will bring the long qualifying process to a close. —AFP

Final 3 African World Cup slots to be settled

CAPE TOWN: Senegal and Tunisia are on the brink of qualification for next year's World Cup finals but the tussle between the Ivory Coast and Morocco is set for a dramatic finale in Abidjan at the weekend.

Egypt and Nigeria have already claimed two of the five African slots for the tournament in Russia and the final set of qualifiers being played over the next week will determine the other three.

Senegal could be the first through on Friday if they win away against South Africa to guarantee top spot in Group D. The match in Polokwane is a replay of last year's 2-1 win for South Africa at the same venue, which FIFA later found had its outcome manipulated by the Ghanaian referee Joseph Lamptey, who has since been handed a life ban.

It means Senegal and South Africa play each other twice in the space of four days with a return encounter next Tuesday in Dakar. Senegal, who need two points to secure a World Cup berth, have been boosted by Sadio Mane's recovery from a hamstring injury suffered in their last qualifier in October.

"I'm happy to be back, because it was not easy to recover. I was hurt, but I worked hard to return. I'm ready," the Liverpool player told reporters.

Bottom placed South Africa could yet come from behind and snatch top place if they win both matches. However, their preparations have been hampered by injury to goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune and the decision of Dutch-based midfielder Thulani Serero not to travel because he was not guaranteed a starting berth.

A solitary point at home for Tunisia on Saturday, when they host bottom placed Libya, will see them qualify for the finals for the first time since 2006, finishing ahead of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Group A. — Reuters

Burnley's Cork gets first England call

LONDON: Burnley midfielder Jack Cork was called up to the England squad for the first time on Tuesday ahead of the upcoming friendlies with Germany and Brazil after yet more withdrawals from Gareth Southgate's squad.

Cork, formerly of Swansea and Southampton, was summoned by England manager Southgate after Raheem Sterling, Fabian Delph and Jordan Henderson became the latest withdrawals from the squad for the back-to-back Wembley matches.

"The arrival of Cork means Gareth Southgate will continue his preparations at St. George's Park with a 22-man squad," said a Football Association statement.

Tottenham's Dele Alli, Harry Kane and Harry Winks had 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," the FA said in an earlier statement.

"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. One consolation for England is that Chelsea defender Gary Cahill trained on Tuesday after undergoing a fitness assessment with the Premier League champions following last weekend's 1-0 win over Manchester



BURNLEY: File photo shows Burnley's English midfielder Jack Cork (C) fouls Newcastle United's Scottish midfielder Matt Ritchie during the English Premier League football match. — AFP

United, England, who play world champions Germany on Friday and then Brazil on November 14, were already without

Adam Lallana, Danny Welbeck, Nathaniel Chalobah, Tom Heaton and Ross Barkley. —AFP

Returning stars to boost Liverpool, says Mignolet

LONDON: Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet says the return of key players Sadio Mane, Philippe Coutinho and Adam Lallana will give the club a lift as they recover from a shaky spell in the Premier League.

Mane played more most of Sunday's 4-1 win over West Ham, his first appearance in a month after a hamstring injury, while Lallana is due to play a behind-closed-doors friendly next week as he steps up his preparation for his first game of the season after a thigh problem.

Coutinho has joined up with the Brazil squad, despite an adductor problem forcing him to miss the club's last three matches and Mignolet is looking forward to seeing the trio all out on the pitch together again. "I think we've been a bit unfortunate with the injuries and the suspensions," he told Liverpoolfc.com. "If you have three of those kind of players injured at the same time then it's obviously a tough thing to deal with, but at the same time the squad's stayed calm underneath it." —AFP

13 Tributes pour in after former MLB pitcher Halladay dies in plane crash



14 Shore scores OT winner, Kings beat Ducks 4-3 in thriller



15 Bayern must bring in new blood to stay on top: Lewandowski



WASHINGTON: Dallas Mavericks forward Harrison Barnes (40) goes to the basket past Washington Wizards center Marcin Gortat (13), of Poland, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, in Washington. — AP

Mavericks stop 6-game slide with win

Evans, Conley help Grizzlies hold off Trail Blazers

WASHINGTON: Harrison Barnes scored 31 points as the Dallas Mavericks, owners of the NBA's worst record, upset the Washington Wizards 113-99 on Tuesday night. Dennis Smith Jr. had 22 points and Wesley Matthews 14 for the Mavericks, who had lost six games in a row and were winless in five previous road games. John Wall had 23 points and 14 assists for the Wizards in his return to the lineup. Wall sat out Washington's 107-96 win at Toronto on Sunday after injuring his left shoulder Friday in a home loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Bradley Beal also scored 23 points for the Wizards, who have lost three straight road games and are 2-5 since their 3-0 start.

SPURS 120, CLIPPERS 107
LaMarcus Aldridge scored 25 points and Danny Green added a season-high 24 as San Antonio won its third straight. San Antonio scored a season-high 40 points in the third quarter, 26 of which came in the final six minutes. Austin Rivers scored a season-high 24 points to lead the Clippers, who have lost five of their past six games after starting the season with four wins.

KNICKS 118, HORNETS 113
Kristaps Porzingis scored 28 points and Doug McDermott added a season-high 20 as New York won for the sixth time in seven games. For the second consecutive game, the Knicks waged a furious late rally, as the Hornets led by as many as 15 points and by 13 with 1:07 left in the third quarter. Dwight Howard, Kemba Walker and Malik Monk each had 21 points to lead Charlotte, which lost a third straight game.

Monk each had 21 points to lead Charlotte, which lost a third straight game.

RAPTORS 119, BULLS 114
Jonas Valanciunas had 21 points and 10 rebounds, DeMar DeRozan added 24 points, and Toronto held on to defeat Chicago. The Raptors led by as many as 23 points before the Bulls trimmed the deficit to three in the final minute on a basket by Bobby Portis. DeMar DeRozan hit a jumper to increase the margin to five. Portis, playing in his first game of the season after being suspended for eight games for punching teammate Nikola Mirotic during practice on Oct. 17, had 21 points and 13 rebounds off the bench.

CAVALIERS 124, BUCKS 119
Kevin Love scored a season-high 32 points and J.R. Smith had a season-high 20 points while hitting five 3-pointers to lead Cleveland's win. Smith passed Rashard Lewis (1,787 3-pointers) for 14th on the NBA's career list. LeBron James had 30 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Cavaliers, who had lost five of their previous six games. Giannis Antetokounmpo, the NBA's top

scorer, had 40 points and nine rebounds. He has scored at least 28 in nine of Milwaukee's 10 games. Bucks forward Khris Middleton contributed 20 points and 11 assists.

PELICANS 117, PACERS 112
Anthony Davis scored 37 points, DeMarcus Cousins added 32, and New Orleans extended its winning streak to three, all on the road. Davis and Cousins each had a key basket in the final 1:10. The Pacers, who have lost three in a row, got 21 points and 12 rebounds from Myles Turner. Indiana had beaten New Orleans seven consecutive times.

NUGGETS 112, NETS 104
Nikola Jokic scored a career-high 41 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead Denver past Brooklyn. Jokic was aggressive throughout. He was 16 of 25 from the field in 31 minutes and had two blocks and two steals. Tyler Zeller had a season-high 21 points off the bench for the Nets, who lost for the fifth time in six games.

76ERS 104, JAZZ 97
Philadelphia won in Utah for the first time since 2005 and snapped a nine-game overall losing streak in the

series against the Jazz. Dario Saric scored 25 points on a career-high five 3-pointers and added 10 rebounds to help the 76ers. Ben Simmons piled up 16 points, 12 rebounds, six assists, three blocks and three steals. Rodney Hood had 19 points for Utah, which lost its third straight game and second in a row at home. Rudy Gobert added 16 points, 15 rebounds and three blocks.

GRIZZLIES 98, TRAIL BLAZERS 97
Tyreke Evans came off the bench to score 21 points, and Mike Conley had all 20 of his points in the second half as Memphis held off Portland. CJ McCollum bombed in a season-high 36 points for the Trail Blazers, but he missed a 15-foot jumper with seven seconds left that would have put Portland ahead. Conley was 0 of 7 from the field in the first half before taking a lead role for the Grizzlies. Portland guard Damian Lillard ran his consecutive free-throw streak to 50 by going 4 of 4.

KINGS 94, THUNDER 86
Zach Randolph scored all 18 of his points in the second half, and Sacramento overcame a horrific start to end its six-game losing streak and hand Oklahoma City its third straight loss. Buddy Hield tallied a game-high 21 points for Sacramento, which won at home for the first time in four tries this season. Russell Westbrook scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Oklahoma City, but the Thunder could not hold on after building a 25-8 lead late in the first quarter. —Reuters



Jokic scores career-high 41 points

Federer to face Zverev in ATP Tour Finals

LONDON: Six-times champion Roger Federer was paired in the same group as German debutant Alexander Zverev for next week's ATP Tour Finals when the draw was made in host city London yesterday. World number one Rafael Nadal, who is hoping to recover from a knee injury to play in the season-ending showpiece, heads the other group and will face Belgian David Goffin, Bulgarian debutant Grigor Dimitrov and Austrian Dominic Thiem.

Also in the Pete Sampras group with Federer is Croatian Marin Cilic, the man he beat in this year's Wimbledon final, and American Jack Sock who crept into the tournament after winning the Paris Masters.

Zverev, 20, has taken men's tennis by storm this year, rocketing up to number three in the world rankings after winning five titles, including two Masters 1000 events. "It's an honour to play there in London, it's my first time and hopefully not my last," Zverev said in Milan where he took part in an exhibition match at the Next Gen Finals, having dropped out to concentrate on London. "I will try to prepare myself as well as I can and try to win many matches there." He is one of three first-timers with Dimitrov finally qualifying after being long-predicted to become a regular member of the men's elite. Sock is the first American to qualify since Mardy Fish did so in 2011.

Goffin has qualified for the first time also, although last year he played a match as an alternate. The draw,

which took place on BBC Radio, was delayed because Boris Becker, who Nadal's group is named after, was held up by traffic on his way to the studio.

Several big names are missing this year through injury including 2016 winner Andy Murray, four-times London winner Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka.

The draw (world ranking in parentheses):
Pete Sampras Group
Roger Federer - Switzerland (2)
Alexander Zverev - Germany (3)
Marin Cilic - Croatia (5)
Jack Sock - U.S. (9)

Boris Becker Group
Rafael Nadal - Spain (1)
Dominic Thiem - Austria (4)
Grigor Dimitrov - Bulgaria (6)
David Goffin - Belgium (8). — Reuters



Alexander Zverev

Business

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

18 KDIPA renews MoU with Oxford Business Group**19** Kuwait inflation slips to a multi-year low of 0.5%**22** HUAWEI Mate 10 Series takes ME and Africa region by storm

CAIRO: This file picture shows advertising billboards in Cairo for "WE" a new mobile service from Egypt's state-owned company Telecom Egypt. In a country with more mobile phone subscriptions than residents, Egypt's only fixed-line operator is hoping to get in on the action with its new mobile service, WE. — AFP

Egypt mobile firm to cash in on thriving sector

Established players fear state operator could enjoy 'unfair privileges'

CAIRO: As Egypt's mobile operators thrive, state-owned Telecom Egypt is entering the market in an effort to boost state revenues. In a country with more mobile phone subscriptions than residents, Egypt's only fixed-line operator is hoping to get in on the action with its new mobile service, WE.

But some established players say they fear the state-owned firm, which already owns 45 percent of top existing operator Vodafone Egypt, will enjoy unfair advantages. Egypt, with around 96 million residents, had nearly 100 million mobile subscriptions in 2016, according to a July report by the National Telecom Regulatory Authority.

That compares with fewer than 10 million subscriptions for land lines and DSL phone line-based internet services. As the mobile sector booms, Telecom Egypt's entry into the market aims to introduce competition, the NTRA said in a report.

That could upgrade "the quality of services provided... at more affordable prices", it said, adding that it hoped to boost state revenues and create new jobs. Within a month of its September launch, WE has

attracted a million customers. But its polished advertisements may not be the only reason for its success. It entered the sector at an opportune time, the same month as the official launch of 4G mobile internet services, repeatedly delayed by the government.

Also in September, the NTRA announced it would enforce a 30 percent increase in prices for mobile services—from which Telecom Egypt's offering would be exempt. While the price hike was sudden, it met repeated demands by Vodafone, Orange, and Etisalat, which have objected to being forced to freeze prices despite 30 percent inflation as the Egyptian pound dived against the dollar following its flotation in November 2016.

Temporary privileges

But some fear Telecom Egypt's exemption from the

hike may be part of a broader pattern of unfair privileges. Orange Egypt has invested some 15 billion pounds (around 730 million euros, \$850 million) in its 4G services.

"It is a big responsibility for the government to ensure that competition regulations are implemented in an equitable manner," said Jean-Marc Harion, Orange Egypt's chief executive officer.

Such rules "have not always been respected in the field of telecoms," he said. But Telecom Egypt says its entry into the mobile market was inevitable and should not be surprising in the age of smart phones. "It's a matter of life and death," said CEO Ahmed El Beheiry.

"Over time people will give up on fixed internet and move to the mobile."

Critics have argued that Telecom Egypt's ownership

of 45 percent of Vodafone Egypt constitutes a conflict of interest. But Beheiry denied any government favoritism towards his firm, adding that its rivals are anything but "weak, small players". "There is no more difficult terrain than this in which we are entering," he said. Telecom Egypt argues that its countrywide landline and DSL coverage is a major asset. But analyst Ahmed Adel of the investment bank Beltone Financial said the firm's landline monopoly constitutes "a big challenge because of the number of complaints over the quality of these fixed services".

Telecom Egypt currently relies on Etisalat Misr's mobile network as it develops its own. The company will eventually have to show "its ability to acquire a market share in the absence of any operational advantage," he added. Mostafa Abdel-Wahed, regulator NTRA's executive chairman, did not respond to repeated requests for an interview. In an emailed response to questions, the NTRA said "the entry of the fourth mobile operator helps to increase competition between companies to benefit the citizens in terms of quality of services and prices". It added that it "treats all companies equally without distinction". — AFP

“It's a matter of life and death”

A year after cash ban, India's black money market is thriving

NEW DELHI: When India declared most bank notes unusable a year ago in an effort to flush out tax cheats, one steel manufacturer was so spooked he resolved to do business by the book in future.

But 12 months on from the shock move, the industrialist says he has gone back to cash under the table at the insistence of his buyers—undermining government claims that the bold scheme has cleaned up India's graft-ridden economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision last November to withdraw India's high-value rupee bills was intended to root out a culture of tax evasion so widespread it had become the norm.

His Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had won the 2014 election on a promise to root out corruption, which had led to popular disillusionment with the previous government. But the move wrought havoc on businesses in Asia's third-largest economy, causing growth to slump to levels not seen since Modi was elected.

Now, as businesses from streetside stalls to wholesalers rekindle their love affair with cash, Modi is coming under pressure to explain whether the most controversial policy of his tenure was worth the economic pain. The steel producer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said his efforts to keep business above board backfired when his buyers insisted on paying cash and keeping their payments off the books. "They said, 'we have cash at home, and if you want to be paid, we can pay you in cash immediately, but we cannot arrange a bank payment,'" he told AFP.



GUWAHATI: This file photo shows an Indian bank employee counting old 500 and 1000 rupee notes in Guwahati, the capital city of the north-eastern state of Assam. — AFP

'How business is done'

The government had hoped the surprise move, which meant high-value notes could not be spent and instead had to be banked, would encourage a switch to traceable digital payments in a country where just three percent had been paying taxes. Modi personally championed credit and debit cards in the aftermath of demonetization, beaming down from billboards encouraging Indians to embark on a digital revolution.

But sales from plastic have declined 13 percent from highs in December 2016, when new cash notes remained scarce. Mobile banking figures for August, the latest data available, showed \$16 billion in transactions—a 20 percent drop compared with November. — AFP

Saudis seek to ease investor concerns after royal purge

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has sought to allay fears among investors after an anti-corruption purge that swept up a host of business and political titans, with concerns mounting that the arrests could trigger political instability. Billionaire tycoon Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, dubbed Saudi Arabia's Warren Buffett, was among dozens of high-profile figures arrested or sacked at the weekend, in the biggest purge of the kingdom's elite in its modern history.

Authorities have frozen the bank accounts of the accused and warned that assets related to the corruption cases—potentially worth billions of

dollars—would be seized as state property, as the government appears set to widen the crackdown. The purge triggered uncertainty among businesses that could lead to capital flight or derail reforms, experts say, at a time when the kingdom is seeking to attract badly needed investments to offset a protracted oil slump.

The central bank stepped in this week to soothe those concerns, insisting that the targets were errant individuals and not entire corporations—not even those with ties to the arrested businessmen. "Corporate businesses remain unaffected. It is business as usual for both banks and corporates," the central bank said. The Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), whose former chief Amr Dabbagh was reportedly among those arrested, sought to drum up support for the anti-corruption drive, saying it would create "a fair and level playing field for all investors".

"This is a clear sign that the kingdom is ready to protect... investments from legally reprehensible actions," the investment authority said. — AFP

KT special interview

DHL Express broadens its market share in Kuwait

Kuwait's courier market volume is growing: Official

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: DHL Express Kuwait, a leading express logistics provider, has broadened its market share in Kuwait with a customer-centric strategy and innovative services and solutions. Speaking to Kuwait Times in an interview, Kuwait Country Manager Amr Tantawy gave a snapshot of DHL Express' operations in Kuwait and explained how the courier firm has emerged as the 'provider of choice' for customers.

Tantawy joined DHL 20 years ago and has held various positions across the MENA region and South East Europe. He has been in Kuwait for three years as country manager. Some excerpts:

Kuwait Times: DHL is now about 48 years old. It is a huge company in the service-based industry in the region. What are its goals for the coming year? How will DHL grow/develop in the region? What are the key aspects of DHL's regional strategy for 2018?

Tantawy: DHL Kuwait is expanding its operational facility and infrastructure capabilities to accommodate current growth. Since the past 3-5 years, DHL MENA has a very big focus in this region and a lot of investments were made to expand the network of DHL in the Middle East, especially of gateways in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Qatar and Egypt. Our strategy is that we want to maintain the quality of DHL services and expand our operations by serving new areas and introducing new products. We are looking to leverage the global B2C e-commerce market for cross-border shipments, which is expected to grow.

KT: What is your view of the Kuwait market? How has it grown/changed in the last few years and what do you envision for the coming year in terms of growth or changes?

Tantawy: Kuwait is considered as one of the top five countries for DHL in the Middle East & North Africa along with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Morocco and Egypt. Since DHL Express Kuwait began operations in 1979, it has been the logistics leader in the country and has a dedicated flight network, which runs seven days a week between Kuwait and DHL's regional hub in Bahrain. We have more than 240 staff working for DHL in Kuwait.

DHL Express is the market leader with the highest market share. We have achieved this growth despite mounting competition. Kuwait's courier market volume is growing despite the changes that happened in the market. B2C is growing and changing Kuwait day by day. Online shopping has grown significantly in the last three years.

KT: What is the biggest challenge DHL faces in Kuwait and the region?

Tantawy: Timing is the biggest challenge. The Kuwaiti market is challenging because you always have to be on top in terms of services. You have to be right the first time when you provide services, where customer satisfaction is our top priority. Our plane arrives at 5 in the morning and we only have four hours for delivery, before 9 am. We always look to improve our services because the market is growing. And we want to grow along with the market.

KT: How do regulations, government bureaucracy and other factors affect DHL's business operations?

Tantawy: There is a big trust between the authorities and officials in Kuwait - they understand the type and the nature of DHL's work. We get a lot of support from officials to clear shipments. We are achieving 97.5 percent of shipment delivery to customers within the agreed time, which could not be achieved without the help of the custom authority's people. This approach helps us strengthen the customer's trust and form a strategic relationship. Our plan is to work closely on a daily basis with officials to speed up the process of shipments.

KT: The Gulf is one of the fastest rising markets in the e-commerce sector that is expected to amount to around \$20 billion by 2020 - how will DHL Express take advantage of the growing e-commerce sector in the Gulf?

Tantawy: E-commerce is booming not only in the GCC but worldwide. But at DHL Express MENA we constantly seizing the opportunities of Digitalization and finding new business models to ensure customer satisfaction. DHL does not only provide e-commerce customers with the last mile delivery, but we also integrate our services to their platform in order to ensure great customer experience. We have dedicated qualified teams to help our customers with the e-commerce integration systems. Many of our customers have already gone digital and started transitioning to their e-commerce platform and as a logistics partner we are always one step ahead ensuring that their services will not be impacted by this transition. We at DHL Express have been ready for the digitalization era, and will keep with our motto of Excellence Simply Delivered. In addition we have launched a signature product called DHL Easy Shop catering to individuals who want to shop online. It



DHL Express Kuwait's Country Manager Amr Tantawy during the interview. —Joseph Shagra

gives you the option to shop from the US UK Germany & Hong Kong. You can buy from many stores, consolidate your purchases and bring them in together. The products will be delivered to your doorstep without any hassle.

When an online retailer doesn't ship to your country, simply use DHL Easy Shop. Register for free and instantly get your own unique international mailbox address to use with online retailers. You can then buy your favorite brands and get them delivered right to your doorstep, taking advantage of sales, promotions and currency exchange rates - customs fees are lower and you pay for only one shipment. As soon as you open your account, you'll be able to take advantage of the great deals offered by many online retailers and have access to exclusive products from around the world.

Moody's cuts Nigeria's debt rating on slow reforms

NEW YORK: Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday cut the rating on Nigeria's government debt, saying the country has been slow to address its heavy dependence on oil.

The agency downgraded the debt rating to B2 from B1, citing the failure to find ways to expand the government's revenue base. "The authorities' efforts to address the key structural weakness exposed by the oil price shock by broadening the non-oil revenue base have so far proven largely unsuccessful," the agency said in a statement.

Despite recent improvements in oil prices, the lack of reform leaves the country's finances "exposed to further economic or financial shocks, with interest payments very high relative to revenues and deficits elevated despite cuts in capital spending."

Nigeria depends on oil for 70 percent of state revenues and 90 percent of export earnings. The west African country slipped into recession for the first time in more than two decades in August 2016, returning to growth only this September.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday presented a record 8.6 trillion naira (\$24 billion, 20.8 billion euros) budget he said will support the country's economic recovery.

Buhari said the spending was a 16 percent increase over 2017, and was based on an estimated oil production of 2.3 million barrels per day at an estimate a price of \$45 dollars a barrel-more than \$15 per barrel less than the current price for the main international contract.

Moody's projects a general government budget deficit of 3.6 percent of GDP in 2017, down from 4.7 percent in 2016. In 2018, the deficit is expected to decline only slightly to 3.2 percent. The agency said debt service is taking up an increasingly large share of the government's resources. —AFP

KDIPA renews MoU with Oxford Business Group

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) has renewed its memorandum of understanding (MoU) with OBG as a primary partner for the publishing firm's forthcoming report on the country. Under the MoU, the authority - a longstanding partner of the group - will facilitate OBG's research and interviews with high-ranking officials and private sector leaders for The Report: Kuwait 2018.

Kuwait's bid to attract more international companies to the country by overhauling its economic laws will be analyzed in a report by the global publishing firm Oxford Business Group (OBG). The Report: Kuwait 2018 will shine a spotlight on the country's huge project pipeline, while analyzing the part that a new public-private partnership (PPP) framework and efforts to reduce bureaucratic procedures are playing in boosting investor interest.

Sheikh Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of KDIPA, said efforts to increase the role of the private sector in the economy and create job opportunities for future generations of Kuwaiti nationals continues to yield results.

"Kuwait's push to expand the non-oil sector as part of the country's long-term economic roadmap, Vision 2035, is gaining place, as can be seen by the increased focus on knowledge-led activity and innovation," he said. "I look forward to supporting Oxford Business Group's research into these and the many other developments taking place across the country's evolving economy, which I hope will be of significant interest to investors."

The publication will also explore the sectors of the economy that are both ripe for growth and supporting the government's diversification efforts, such as IT, education, healthcare and downstream activities. In addition, The Report: Kuwait 2018 will track the growing number of firms that are taking advantage of the 100 percent foreign ownership and majority share rules now in place, while considering the impact that the reforms have had on the local economy.



KUWAIT: Director General of KDIPA Sheikh Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and OBG's Country Director Jennifer Poole during the signing of the MoU.

OBG's Country Director Jennifer Poole said she was delighted to be teaming up once again with KDIPA, adding that the authority's in-depth knowledge and understanding of Kuwait's investment landscape had helped to give the group's coverage an edge over the years.

"Investor interest in Kuwait is rising, with industry players across the sectors keen to discover more about the country's openings, which range from megaprojects to research opportunities in ICT," she said. "The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority plays a pivotal part in raising the country's profile on the international stage and providing foreign firms eyeing the country with the information they need on key issues, such as ownership rules. I'm thrilled that both our team and readers will once again benefit from its experts' valuable input." The Report: Kuwait 2018 will be a vital guide to the many facets of the country, including its macroeconomics, infrastructure, banking and other sectoral developments. The publication will contain a detailed, sector-by-sector guide for investors, alongside contributions from leading personalities. The report will be available in print and online.

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	Selling Rate
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

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.393889	0.401389
Czech Korune	0.005750	0.017750
Danish Krone	0.043196	0.048196
Euro	0.346334	0.353834
Georgian Lari	0.115390	0.115390
Norwegian Krone	0.033101	0.038301
Romanian Leu	0.059043	0.075893
Russian ruble	0.005109	0.005109
Slovakia	0.009062	0.019062
Swedish Krona	0.032086	0.037086
Swiss Franc	0.297294	0.308294

Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.223779
New Zealand Dollar	0.203319

America	
Canadian Dollar	0.232224
US Dollars	0.299500
US Dollars Mnt	0.300000
US Dollars Mnt	0.303920

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003317
Chinese Yuan	0.044325
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036815
Indian Rupee	0.004143
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018
Japanese Yen	0.002581
Korean Won	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067948
Nepalese Rupee	0.003030
Pakistani Rupee	0.002663
Philippine Peso	0.005790
Singapore Dollar	0.217165
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001648
Taiwan	0.009930
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	0.000151
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	0.073493
UAE Dirhams	0.081234
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987

Business

NBK Economic Report

Kuwait inflation slips to a multi-year low of 0.5%

Deflationary housing costs compounded

KUWAIT: Consumer price inflation slipped to a multi-year low of 0.5 percent in September, as deflationary housing costs were compounded by the fading impact of last year's fuel price hikes. Inflation excluding housing rent and food costs, dipped from 4.2 percent y/y in August to 2.4 percent y/y in September, highlighting the impact of fuel price hikes imposed in September 2016. Meanwhile, there have been some upward inflationary pressures from retail goods and services excluding housing services.

The annual average inflation rate for 2017 is likely to ease to 1.5 percent, from the 3.5 percent annual average recorded in 2016. While there are some upward pressures from the retail goods segment and some services, these pressures are likely to be offset by continued softness in housing rent and food.

Housing inflation saw a slight uptick in 3Q17, likely on the back of hikes in electricity and water tariffs in the apartment sector. Costs in housing services - mostly comprised of housing rents and updated quarterly - remained in deflationary territory but fell at a slower pace of 1.8 percent y/y in 3Q17, versus the multi-year low of 2.3 percent recorded in the previous quarter. Indeed, on a quarterly basis, housing cost was up by 0.6 percent, its first rise in a year. However, housing inflation is still expected to remain fairly subdued in the forthcoming months, amid continued softness in housing rents.

Local food price inflation remained weak in tandem

with softer inflation in global food prices. Inflation in local food prices came in flat in September as global food price inflation remained weak. According to the Commodity Research Bureau, inflation in international food prices slipped back into contraction. This weakness is likely to limit any significant increases in local food costs in at least the near-to-medium term.

Inflation in the retail sector saw some upward momentum in September, thanks to continued improvement in consumer demand and a weaker dinar. Inflation in the three major retail goods related components rose to or close to multi-month highs, thanks to healthier gains in consumer demand and a depreciation in the local currency. The weaker dollar has weighed on the dinar's trade-weighted index, which is currently down 3.3 percent year-to-date. Given that most retail goods are imported, the weaker currency has pushed up costs in the sector.

Inflation in services excluding housing services took a slight dip in September on the back of a downward correction in inflation in transportation costs. Despite the downward pressures from transportation prices, inflation in services excluding housing services remained supported by continued gains in inflation in the restaurants & hotels and the recreation & culture segments. Inflation in restaurants & hotels rose from 2.6 percent y/y in August to a multi-month high of 3.0 percent y/y in September, while inflation in recreation & culture accelerated from 4.2 percent y/y to a multi-year high of 5.4 percent y/y, during the same period.



Impact of last year's fuel price hike fades

KIB sponsors John Maxwell Leadership Forum

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its sponsorship of the John Maxwell Leadership Forum, which was organized by a certified international instructor from the John Maxwell organization, Basma Ghareeb.

The forum primarily focused on showcasing valuable lessons gained by John Maxwell over his 40 years of successful leadership. Additionally, it addressed the topic of developing key skills required to lead others and self-leadership, which is a form of leadership that John Maxwell believes is crucial and rewarding - albeit difficult to achieve.

On his part, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "We have always believed in the importance of developing our human capital, as the continued success of any organization relies heavily on its people. For that reason, KIB continues to invest in the long-term development of its staff by participating in first-rate training courses and programs. Through these



rewarding opportunities, our staff is able to hone their existing skills, and acquire new paramount skills, such as leadership."

Najia added that KIB continuously strives to boost its staff's professional skills, and focuses on building effective leadership skills within its organization. Through KIB's commitment to developing its human capital, its employees are given the necessary tools to enable them to become future leaders and occupy

Table: Consumer price inflation

(% change)	Year-on-year		Annual average	
	Aug-17	Sep-17	2015	2016
Food & beverages	-0.2	0.0	3.0	1.7
Tobacco & cigarettes	2.1	2.1	5.6	0.3
Clothing & footwear	1.6	1.9	0.3	0.8
Housing services*	-2.3	-1.8	6.1	6.1
Furnishings & household maintenance	3.5	3.7	3.7	2.3
Healthcare	-0.7	0.4	1.7	1.2
Transportation	15.4	1.7	0.9	4.1
Communication	-1.3	-0.1	0.6	2.0
Recreation & culture	4.2	5.4	-0.3	-1.8
Education	3.6	1.9	4.8	3.6
Restaurants & hotels	2.6	3.0	6.3	6.9
Other goods & services	2.1	2.8	2.4	0.8
Core**	1.4	0.6	3.8	3.9
Durable goods	4.3	0.9	2.4	2.5
Semi-durable goods	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.1
Non-durable goods	2.5	3.6	0.0	0.4
Services	-0.4	-0.2	5.4	4.9
Services ex-housing	3.6	3.3	3.9	2.4
General index	1.2	0.5	3.7	3.5

Source: Central Statistical Bureau, NBK estimates

Germany's 'wise men' see risks as economy swells

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Germany's council of economic experts yesterday sharply lifted growth forecasts for 2017 and 2018, but warned that an incoming government has much to do to future-proof the economy. Europe's largest economy should expand by 2.0 percent this year and 2.2 percent in 2018, the five so-called "wise men"-who number one woman among them-predicted in a 460-page report.

That was a substantial upgrade from their March forecast of 1.4-percent growth this year and 1.6 percent next year. "The German economy is in a powerful upturn," they wrote, so much so that it could be in danger of "overheating", or growing at a pace faster than it will be able to maintain for the long term.

But strong growth for now offers plenty of options for an incoming government to modernize Europe's powerhouse, they added. Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives are locked in talks with the liberal Free Democrats and the ecologist Greens to forge an untested three-way coalition following elections in September.

The economists advised leaders to reduce public debt, dismantle or lower some taxes, especially for the middle classes, and create an "innovation-friendly" environment for the digital economy.

A "solidarity surcharge" introduced to help pay for German reunification after 1990 should be abolished, they argued, backing a pet cause for the liberals. They also warned that "one can already identify a shortage of skilled workers in some areas," a risk that will grow as



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (left), Christoph Schmidt (right), chairman of the German Council of Economic Experts on the country's economic development, and council member Lars Feld (center) arrive for a handing over ceremony of the council's annual report 2017/2018 yesterday in Berlin. —AFP

Germany's baby-boomer generation heads for retirement in the coming years. Politicians can partly fend off the problem by making it easier to combine work and family life, improving education and training and making it easier for companies to hire people from abroad with urgently-needed skills, the experts said.

"Different parties each see the advice in their own way," Chancellor Angela Merkel said as she accepted her copy of the report from its authors in Berlin. Implementing the experts' counsel "isn't always as simple politically as it is obvious economically... we have to find the right balance" between growth-friendly tax cuts and fiscal prudence, she said.

Defy Trump, cushion Brexit

Beyond Germany's borders, the report called for leaders to "decisively confront" protectionism in international trade that has taken centre stage since the US election of Donald Trump. "Exhausting the remaining potential of liberalising trade could bring further increases in prosperity," the experts argued, urging Washington and Brussels to

resume stalled talks for a transatlantic trade deal known as TTIP.

Within the European Union, "momentum from France's President [Emmanuel] Macron can give the federal government a tailwind to drive integration forward together," the report said.

The authors argued leaders should reform rules designed to steady member states' finances and buttress the bloc's internal market, especially with new initiatives for an EU-wide level playing field in the banking sector and capital markets. The experts still hope Britain's departure from the EU can be stopped, but pressed for an agreement "that would minimize damage for both sides" if it goes ahead.

"Negotiating such a deal would likely take longer than the two years provided for in Article 50" of the EU treaty, they noted, suggesting a "one-off extension" of the deadline to ease talks. Nevertheless, the EU's so-called "four freedoms"-of movement of capital, people, goods and services-are "essential", they added, ruling out "cherry-picking" from London. —AFP

high-level positions within an organization. KIB is dedicated to sponsoring and supporting a diverse number of activities and community-based initiatives, particularly those that aim at improving skills and capabilities of its staff.

The Bank considers its human capital as a key driver of its success and development as an organization; thereby supporting its long-term strategic vision of becoming the "Islamic Bank of Choice" in Kuwait.

AUB makes a customers' dream come true with KD 250,000 grand prize

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, yesterday. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 is Hajjiah Mohammad Boursli. 25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Noufah Sagher Mouhsen, Fatemah Yaseen Al-Mutairi, Abdulwali Basha Khan, Khozema Kutubuddin, Salwa Abdulrazzaq rzouqi, Adnan Salem Al Roomi, Imed Housseine Argoubi, Maitham Ali Mohammed, Jihad Bader Salamah, Jassim Yousef Al Kandari, Nazanin Saadoun Farhani, Naser Abbas Khaleel, Nasher Faleh Al-Ajmi, Hassan Soud Dawood, Hazem Mahmoud Mohammed, Mohamed Rashid Khalifa, Mohamed Jaafar Mohamed, Aziza Yusuf Asadalla, Shubbar Mohsen Sharaf, Maitham Jameel Hassan, Abdulla Radhi Hameed, Juma Ali Zuhair Sadeq Abbas Abdulwahab, Fatima Moh'd Abbas and Hisham Yousif Ali.

Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions.

Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year."

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw.

They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.

Peak oil? Majors aren't buying into the threat from renewables

HOUSTON/LONDON: Two decades ago, BP set out to transcend oil, adopting a sunburst logo to convey its plans to pour \$8 billion over a decade into renewable technologies, even promising to power its gas stations with the sun.

That transformation - marketed as "Beyond Petroleum" - led to manufacturing solar panels in Australia, Spain and the United States and erecting wind farms in the United States and the Netherlands. Today, BP might be more aptly branded "Back to Petroleum" after exiting or scaling back its renewable energy investments. Lower-cost Chinese components upended its solar panel business, which the firm shed in 2011. A year later, BP tried to sell its US wind power business but couldn't get a buyer.

"We made very big bets in the past," BP Chief Executive Bob Dudley told Reuters in an interview. "A lot of those didn't work. We're not sure yet what will be commercially acceptable."

The costly lesson of the biggest foray yet by an oil major into renewable energy was not lost on rival firms. Even as governments and environmentalists forecast a peak in oil demand within a generation - and China and India say they may eventually ban gasoline and diesel vehicles - leaders of the world's biggest oil firms are not buying the argument that their traditional business faces any imminent threat. — Reuters

For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea

Grand opportunity for having good value for our offer. Total of 22 villas

<p>Duplex & Triplex Villas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms +Big Salon + Separate pool All Master Bathrooms is Marble 	<p>Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas</p>
--	---

6 9 9 9 6 9 9 2
 6 6 8 0 4 2 2 2

Business

Banking stocks, dollar hit by US doubts

LONDON: Banking stocks dropped and the dollar slipped yesterday as doubts over tax cuts and bond market moves hurt profitability and raised questions over the longevity of the current expansion in the United States.

The dollar edged lower against a basket of currencies, hurt by a media report that suggested the implementation of a centrepiece corporate tax cut under discussion in US tax reforms plans could be delayed.

sions and problems ... If the story is true that they're considering a delay of one year to the corporate tax cut, those big differences will need to be sorted," he said.

Francois Savary, chief investment officer at wealth manager Prime Partners, said the doubts over the tax issue reinforce the case for some consolidation in the market, which has been fully priced for good news.

potentially cutting into the profits of banks, which borrow money at short-term interest rates in order to lend it out at longer terms.

Such a move can also imply that investors are expecting a slowdown. European bonds were also snared by this yield curve flattening phenomenon, with yields on long-term German bonds falling to two-month lows yesterday.

Analysts believe that a flattening yield curve at a time when the Federal Reserve is hiking rates is a sign that investors are concerned over the sustainability of economic growth and inflation in the world's biggest economy.

In the European session, the two main banking indices suffered the most, the eurozone index falling 0.7 percent and the Europe-wide banking equivalent dropping 0.6 percent, dragging an index of pan-European stocks lower 0.3 percent.

Earlier, Asian shares swung out another decade peak as data showed China's demand for imports remained buoyant, pushing the MSCI world equity index to a fresh high. Beijing reported imports in October rose 17.2 percent from a year earlier, beating forecasts of 16 percent.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Table with 4 columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing. Includes Price index, Weighted Index, and KXS 15.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like IPO, NAFESCO, ENERGYH.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like KFCUJ, BPCC, ALKOUT.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like KCEM, CABLE, SHP.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like EQUIPMENT, NCCI, GYPSUM.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like SALBOORH, AGLTY, EDU.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like CLEANING, KGL, KPCP.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like HUMANSOFT, NAFAS, GFC.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like SHOOTING, CGC, MTCC.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like UFAC, ALAFAC, MUBARRAD.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like LOGISTICS, SCEM, GCEM.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like DIC, FCEM, RKWC.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like SPEC, Industrials, PAPCO.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like CATT, DANAH, FOOD.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like Consumer Goods, ATC, YIACO.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like Health Care, KCIN, KHOT.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like SULTAN, CABLETV, IFAHR.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like OILFUEL, MUNTAZAHAT, JAZEERA.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like SOOR, FUTUREKID, ALRAI.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like Jyad, Maznan, Consumer Services.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like ZAIN, OORIDOO, AAN.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like VIVA, Telecommunications, NBK.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like GBK, CBK, ASK.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like ALMUTAHED, KIB, BURG.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like KFIN, BOURSIAN, ALIB.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like ITHMR, WARBARANK, Banks.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like KINS, GINS, AINS.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like WINS, KUWAITRE, FTI.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like WETHAQ, BKWIT, Insurance.

Table with 7 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Lists various stocks like Parallel Market.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Dow Jones, NASDAQ, etc.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists MENA Stock Indices like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Global Currencies Exchange Rate.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists MENA Currencies Exchange Rate.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Global Interest Rates.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Global Bond Yields.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Commodities.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Global Interest Rates.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Global Bond Yields.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Commodities.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Global Bond Yields.

Table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Lists Commodities.

Business

AAOIFI conference discusses key hurdles to Islamic finance

KFH participates in the event as main sponsor



Isa Duwaishan with some AAOIFI participants.



Shadi Zahran with some AAOIFI participants.

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House Group (KFH-Group) participated in the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) conference as a main sponsor. The conference was held in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the 5th and 6th of November 2017.

The conference was convened in partnership with the World Bank and under the sponsorship of the Central Bank of Bahrain. It brought together several global financial industry experts to address key issues

supporting and hindering growth in the Islamic finance sector and the development of the Islamic financial services.

Discussions centered on progress being made in standardization and harmonization of international Islamic financial practices, a key precursor to the effective globalization of the industry and the adoption of Islamic financial instruments and practices worldwide.

KFH is a long standing sponsor of the event and

other industry initiatives geared at supporting development and excellence in the Islamic financial services.

As KFH is a leading Islamic financial institution and one which has taken Islamic banking, finance and investing to global markets, it is supporting this annual conference dedicated to strengthening the prospects and performance of Islamic finance industry. KFH has long taken a pioneering role in the development of Islamic finance and fully supporting the work of AAOIFI in seeing Islamic instruments and capital mar-

kets further unify and expand.

The conference hosted a number of training sessions including those to become an AAOIFI Certified Sharia Advisers and Auditors.

KFH Delegation included Board member Noor Abed, Group Chief Financial Officer Shadi Zahran, and Executive Manager Group Sharia Control and Advisory Isa Duwaishan, Assistant Manager Research and Fatwa, Abdulrahman Almatooq and a number of executives from KFH-Bahrain and the Group banks.

Al-Sayer exhibits Camry 1 million KM for 'Lift A Car' activity at Scientific Center

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons (MNSS), a subsidiary of Al-Sayer Holding has exhibited a Camry that has clocked 1 million km. The display comes as part of their partnership with Scientific Center, a subsidiary of Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science for "lift a car" activity.

Ibrahim Al-Fouzan Business Director at MNSS Toyota Group Service Division said "The partnership with Scientific Center, a futuristic landmark in Kuwait is important for us, to appreciate their efforts towards developing unique facilities for entertaining education lovers. Al Sayer representing Toyota brand in Kuwait also acknowledges Scientific Center's mission aimed at simplicity of science and promotion of environment awareness across all ages in an entertaining interactive atmosphere.

1 million KM - Unstoppable

Al-Sayer's special Camry model year 1999 that is exhibited at the Scientific Center is in excellent condition even after clocking 1 million KM. Commenting on its remarkable quality the previous user of this Camry said "I used to drive this Camry for around 400 kilometers every single day. Performance has never been an issue, Camry has always exceeded my



expectation. Toyota Genuine Service and Parts is the reason behind excellent condition of the Camry engine. Service maintenance was done timely at Toyota Service Centers including oil and filter change in every 5000 kilometers and major service jobs in every 20000 kilometers, fitted always with Genuine Spare Parts from Toyota.

No 1 Sedan worldwide

Powered by its solid performance Camry is the most preferred sedan and a world leader in its class since it was launched 25 years ago in the GCC markets.

Incorporating Toyota's traditional development philosophy of Quality, Durability and Reliability, the current Generation of Camry highly compliments the new design direction

that has led Toyota to develop cars with dynamic and exciting exterior designs while increasing the "Waku-Doki" fun to drive quotient. This has also resulted in a quantum jump in customer satisfaction while giving customers the peace of mind of Toyota ownership.

Toyota Camry blends an evolution of the car's values - such as comfort, efficiency, reliability and safety.

Lift-a-car

The interesting scientific activity with Camry encourages visitors to lift a car by their own by trying different ropes. The activity reveals a brilliant fact that two times the distance equals half the effort, making it possible to lift the car just by pulling the rope at the other end of the lever.

New editions of Tahoe now available at Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms

KUWAIT: Chevrolet Alghanim launched the unrivaled 2017 Tahoe in limited editions: the Executive Edition Tahoe and the Special Edition Tahoe, both boasting edgy and sleek designs that complement the strong performance of the Tahoe.

Available at all Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms for customers to get to know the new editions and benefit from the great offer where customers can purchase it without any change in price and get a cashback of KD 1,000 on Tahoe.

Executive Edition - Prestige and Status

Recognized by its own badge, Tahoe Executive Edition comes with the all new-Sequential LED headlamps, new LED tail lamps and a chrome package covering different sides on the body of the car including the front grille. The Executive Edition is sure to resonate with business executives where status and prestige is a must.

Special Edition - Powerful & Bold

The Special Edition comes with additions that are sure to entice the youth including the all new-Sequential LED headlamps, all-black wheels, new LED tail lamps, painted front grille for a stronger look, and Chevrolet's Special Edition badge to reflect the bold personality of the youth in a brand new suite.

The Executive and Special Editions of the Tahoe each come with a series of upgrades and exclusive features to meet the needs of drivers. Both editions benefit from the powerful features of the Tahoe which comes with the best in class standard features such as a 5.3L V8 engine generating horsepower of 355 HP, the strongest in its class, and best-in-class fuel consumption at an average of 10.2 km per liter.

The Tahoe is also equipped with advanced standard features that enhance its performance and entertainment aspects, including remote keyless entry, seating adjustments in six configurations, 18-inch alu-



minum wheels, MyLink infotainment system with Apple CarPlay, in addition to many safety features that include the front and rear parking assist, and a rear-view camera.

New owners of the Tahoe Executive or Special Edition will benefit as well from the Chevrolet Complete Care Program, which provides many additional services to enrich their experience with Chevrolet Alghanim.

Chevrolet Complete Care Program

Customers who purchase a Chevrolet will benefit from the Chevrolet Complete Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Complete Care Program is an exceptional customer service based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

Customers can take advantage of the limited offer to own the car of their dreams by visiting any of Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms at the following locations: Al-Rai (Safat Alghanim), Shuwaikh, Sharq, Fahahel and Ahmadi.

Alex Cruz announces £4.5bn investment to make a 'British Airways for everyone'

KUWAIT: British Airways' chief executive Alex Cruz pledged that the airline's new £4.5 billion investment program would improve the flying experience for all customers - including those in the Middle East. Having completed 85 years of successful operations across the region, Cruz's commitment comes as British Airways prepares to roll out its new Club World product enhancements across the Middle East in 2018.

Reaffirming British Airways as a premium airline committed to customer choice, Cruz outlined the unprecedented competitive pressure the company faced and voiced his determination to create a stronger national carrier to benefit customers and remain at the forefront of world aviation.

Speaking at the World Travel Market in London, Cruz said his strategy at British Airways was designed to enable increased investment for customers and wider availability of affordable fares.

He announced that the £4.5bn investment over the next five years would include:

- 72 new aircraft, including four new types for the airline: the Airbus A350, the Boeing 787-10 and the neo (new engine option) variant of the Airbus A320 and 321;
- New interiors for 128 aircraft in the existing fleet;
- At-seat power for customers in all cabins;
- Upgraded catering for economy customers on long-haul;
- Roll-out of fast wifi in all cabins on short-haul and long-haul.

Stressing his desire to shape a "British Airways for everyone", he said the airline would continue to offer more low fares, so it could take on all types of airline competitor. And it would keep extending its route network to destinations customers want-

ed. "We want to be the airline of choice for everyone. Every customer matters - short-haul or long-haul, economy or premium. So, we must have an offer that is attractive to everyone," he said.

To coincide with the speech, the airline announced a new route for next summer from Heathrow to Figari in Corsica. British Airways will be flying 264 routes next summer - a rise of 17 per cent in two years. With 11 destinations across nine countries in its Middle East network, the airline offers excellent onward connections from regional gateways to Europe and North America via London Heathrow.

He also highlighted £200m of additional investment in Club World cabins, following a £400 million injection unveiled last year. He described customer feedback on recent improvements in catering and bedding as "fantastic" and identified New York JFK, Rome and Aberdeen for major lounge refurbishments in 2018. Mr Cruz told his audience that British Airways was facing "a combination of competitive forces more challenging than at any point in our history" with the growth of low-cost long haul airlines, the continuing expansion of low-cost short-haul, the premium offerings of the Gulf carriers and the financial revitalization of US transatlantic operators.

"As a national flag carrier, we are not granted some special immunity from the way the industry has changed," he said.

"Incumbency does not grant any privilege. We have no divine right to flourish, and we don't ask for one."

He added: "I am passionate about setting British Airways on the right path to deliver for our customers and fulfil our potential. If we continue to embrace change while staying true to our values, there is no limit to what we can achieve."



Technology

HUAWEI Mate 10 Series takes ME and Africa region by storm

More faster mobile experience with Kirin AI processor

DUBAI: Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) has unveiled the world's most powerful AI flagship smartphones - the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series in the Middle East & Africa region. Heralding a new decade of smartphone development, the new HUAWEI Mate 10, HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro and PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate 10 devices are set to deliver the ultimate intelligent experience for regional consumers by providing more comprehensive mobile intelligence through Mobile AI.

The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series goes beyond smart, using the AI application ecosystem to make the smartphone so intelligent with personalized AI applications that it completely changes smart applications and delivers a faster, stronger and seamless smartphone experience to users. Built with the world's first AI processor for smartphones, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series predicts its most efficient mode, optimizing performance to keep the phone in prime condition and deliver all-round greater efficiency, with more power, at higher speeds.

Commenting on the launch of the flagship HUAWEI Mate 10 Series devices in the region, Mr. Gene Jiao, President of Huawei CBG, Middle East & Africa said: "Tech-savvy consumers in the Middle East and Africa have a huge appetite for innovative technology that offers increasingly intelligent and seamless solutions for their busy lives. The use of AI in the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series allows us to break through boundaries and usher in an era of smartphones that transform human-to-machine interaction and further expand their capabilities. With boosted performance, speed, power, and infinitely faster connectivity and download speeds, this premium device series delivers the ultimate user experience, and heralds a new decade of smartphone development."



Most powerful AI flagship smartphones

Dubai Font
Huawei CBG has partnered with The Executive Council of Dubai to be one of the first smartphone companies to introduce Dubai Font to their users. The Mate 10 Series is the first smartphone series by Huawei that has Dubai Font embedded into it. Dubai Font has been designed for more than 180 countries and in 23 languages integrating Arabic and Latin typefaces.

Intelligent Speed
Powered by the Kirin 970, Huawei's new smartphone System-on-a-Chip (SoC) which combines an 8-core CPU, a new generation 12-core GPU, and a dedicated Neural Processing Unit (NPU) to power AI computing, the HUAWEI Mate Series offers a significantly faster intelligent experience for consumers across the region. Most importantly, the performance of the Kirin 970 NPU is unparalleled with 25 times that of a CPU (Central Processing Unit) and with 50 times the efficiency of a CPU.

Providing the world's fastest 4.5G experience, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series smartphones only require a few seconds to load and play 4K online. The devices are also the world's first smartphone with Dual 4G SIM



support enabling each SIM to make calls and browse simultaneously.

Intelligent Camera

In partnership with Leica, the renowned camera maker, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series is the first Intelligent Photography smartphone that turns every shot into a perfect memory. The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series features a new Leica SUMMILUX-H camera with f/1.6 aperture to capture more light for low-light photography. Powered by Kirin 970's dual ISP and Snapshot with AI Motion Detection, users can capture wonderful moments of children running or playing sports. AI-powered Real-Time

Scene and Object Recognition with Real-Time Auto Settings allows the camera to automatically adjust and chooses settings to help users capture better photographs in a range of different environments.

The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series captures detailed AI-powered Bokeh Effect for a more natural and detailed transition between the background and subject and the AI-powered Digital Zoom of up to six to 10x brings far-off text into clearer focus and helps captures greater detail.

Intelligent Power

The advanced AI-powered Battery Management technology used in Huawei's Mate 10 Series allows for full day use with the 4000mAh battery with smart power-saving technology, as well as smarter power management technology to personalize system settings, optimize background applications and push notifications for each user, maximizing power efficiency and increasing battery life.

Powered with HUAWEI SuperCharge technology, the HUAWEI Mate 10 Series devices support 4.5V/5A low-voltage fast charging. A 10-minute charge powers the battery to 20 percent, while a 30-minute charge powers the battery to 58 percent. The battery remains at a low temperature during fast charging to ensure safety.

The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series features the world's first TV Safety Certified HUAWEI SuperCharge technology, the strictest certification of its kind in the world. Safety



certification is based on the entire charging system including the charger, cables, IC, and battery for end-to-end charging safety.

As beautiful and sleek as it is powerful, the 3D Glass Body of the HUAWEI Mate Series devices - made of glass front and back, and beautifully curved on all four sides - makes the devices feel ultra-premium in the hand with a thin, futuristic design and comfortable grip. Available in three beautiful colours, the Mate 10 Pro

comes in Titanium Gray, Midnight Blue and Mocha Brown and the Mate 10 is available in Black, Mocha Brown and Champagne Gold.

The Huawei Mate 10 is available for purchase at the Huawei brand store located on level 2 at The Dubai Mall in Downtown Dubai and across leading retailers and come with an initial 6 months screen damage warranty service offer available at all Huawei Service centers across the UAE.

NASA contracts Uber to build flying taxi air control software

LISBON: Uber has struck a deal with NASA to develop software for managing "flying taxi" routes in the air along the lines of ride-hailing services it has pioneered on the ground, the company said yesterday. And in this case, it's working hard to stay on regulators' good side.

Uber said it was the first formal services contract by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) covering low-altitude airspace rather than outer space. NASA has used such contracts to develop rockets since the late 1950s. Chief Product Officer Jeff Holden also said Uber would begin testing four-passenger, 200-miles-per-hour (322-km-per-hour) flying taxi services across Los Angeles in 2020, its second test market after Dallas/Fort Worth.

Holden is set to reveal the company's latest air taxi plans at Web Summit, an annual internet conference taking place in Lisbon this week. "There is a reality that Uber has grown up a lot as a company," Holden said in an interview ahead of his speech. "We are now a major company on the world stage and you can't do things the same way where you are a large-scale, global company that you can do when you are a small, scrappy startup."

Uber has faced endless regulatory and legal battles around the world since it launched its ride-hailing services earlier this decade, including a recent showdown in London, where it is battling to retain its license after having been stripped of it by city regulators over safety concerns.

The company is looking to speed development of a new industry of electric, on-demand, urban air taxis, Holden said, which customers could order up via smartphone in ways that parallel the ground-based taxi alternatives it has popularized while expanding into more than 600 cities since 2011.

The company plans to introduce paid, intra-city flying taxi services from 2023 and is working closely with aviation regulators in the United States and Europe to win regulatory approvals toward that end, a senior Uber executive told Reuters.

"We are very much embracing the regulatory bodies and starting very early in discussions about this and getting everyone aligned with the vision," he said of Uber's plans to introduce what he called "ride-sharing in the sky." Earlier this year, Uber hired NASA veterans Mark Moore and Tom Prevot to run, respectively, its aircraft vehicle design team and its air traffic management software program. —Reuters

The all new-Renault Koleos - whatever your quest

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co. (AABC), the authorized dealer for Renault vehicles in the state of Kuwait is proud to share the success of its extended SUV model range - the latest, redesigned and restyled All New Koleos in the Kuwait market. The much-awaited addition to Renault's product line-up bears all the hallmarks of a charismatic SUV echoing an unseen alliance of power and refinement.

With such an extensive redevelopment, the vehicle has been raised to another level in terms of power, performance and design.

The all new Koleos is finely tuned with the Middle Eastern requirements with a local product range specifically designed that has undergone extensive road testing in real-world conditions over several million kilometers during its course of development.

Its comprehensive redesign is well documented with the new model distinct at just first glance. In keeping with Renault's design strategy the new Koleos exterior echoes robustness and a taste for adventure all that is expected of a D-segment SUV.

Its taut, muscular and powerful features amplifies the athletic exterior design with door protective moldings, large diameter two-tone alloy wheels, alloy roof rails, shark antenna, fender chrome lines and silver front skid.

Its four wheel drive technology, all-terrain ability, engine and transmission line-up has been tailored to meet the needs and expectations of the market. The 2.5-litre petrol engine is also an atmospheric, four-cylinder, power is 170hp (126kW) at 6,000rpm, with peak torque of 233Nm at 4,000rpm.

The all new Koleos highlights Renault's know-how: a refined, comfort-

able interior with seats including technology and design amongst the very best in its category, class-leading cabin space, including 289mm of rear knee room, 8.7" touchscreen tablet with R-LINK 2 multimedia & navigation system. New KOLEOS delivers a blend of robust SUV codes as well as the refinement and features associated with large sedan cars.

New KOLEOS future drivers will be seduced by the Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) such as Easy Park Assist and Blind Spot Warning. Besides, many other equipment that will make each journey unforgettable.

As a result, New KOLEOS is instantly recognizable as a top-of-the-range Renault, thanks notably to its front-end design that incorporates a prominent Renault logo set at the center of a broad chrome grille.

The taut bonnet lines contribute to powerful design, an impression that is heightened by the presence of several chrome embellishments, including strips that run from the head lights along the full length of the wings to visually lengthen the front end and exude an impression of dynamism and elegance.

Without a doubt, the all-new Koleos inherits the best of the Renault brand and brings with it unparalleled package with a refined and high quality exterior design, increase performance and a classy interior, a comprehensive and advanced safety features combined with an environmental performance on par with the best in its game.

Now you can book the all new Renault Koleos starting from KD 5,999 only and comes with a 10 year warranty or 500,000 Km in addition to free registration and third party insurance.



Health

Mammals gave up night life only after dino doom: Study

Most mammals possess adaptations to survive in dark environments

PARIS: The earliest mammals were night creatures which only emerged from the cover of darkness after the demise of the daytime-dominating dinosaurs, researchers said yesterday. This would explain why relatively few mammals follow a daytime-active or "diurnal" lifestyle today, and why most that do still have eyes and ears more suitable for living by night. "Most mammals today are nocturnal and possess adaptations to survive in dark environments," study co-author Roi Maor of the Tel Aviv University said.

"Monkeys and apes (including humans) are the only diurnal mammals that have evolved eyes that are similar to the other diurnal animals like birds or reptiles. Other diurnal mammals have not developed such profound adaptations," Maor and a team provide evidence for a long-standing theory that tens of millions of years of evading dinosaurs caused a nocturnal "bottleneck" in the evolution of mammals—the group of warm-blooded, milk-producing creatures that includes our own species. Because they hid out in darkness for so long, possibly to avoid competition with dinos for food or territory, or being eaten by them, mammals today are not quite on par with fish, reptiles and birds when it comes to daytime vision.

Mammals, apart from primates, lack a part of the eye known as the fovea, which many fish, reptiles and birds have and is replete with photoreceptor "cone" cells for seeing color in high light. Instead, they tend to have more "rod" cells, which can pick up scant light in dim conditions, but provide relatively low resolution. Modern-day mammals which are active mostly by day—including types

of squirrel, tree-shrews, some antelope and many carnivores—also still tend to have a keen sense of smell and acute hearing, attributes required for living in the dark.

Primates first

Maor and a team analyzed the lifestyles of 2,415 living mammal species, and used computer algorithms to reconstruct the likely behavior of their ancestors, and their ancestors before them—going back to the very beginning of mammals. The earliest mammal ancestor emerged between 220 million and 160 million years ago, evolving from a reptilian forebear. And it was probably nocturnal, according to the study published in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution*. Dinosaurs, on the other hand, were likely day-dwellers seeking out sunlight to warm their bodies like reptiles today.

Mammals remained nocturnal throughout the Mesozoic period

The data revealed that mammals remained nocturnal throughout the Mesozoic period, which ended about 66 million years ago when a massive calamity, possibly an asteroid strike, wiped out the dinos and about three-quarters of life on Earth. Mammals, then mainly small, scurrying animals, survived, and flourished. Most stayed nocturnal, some embraced the daytime, and others—including cats, elephants and cows—are today a bit of both.

Primate ancestors were among the first mammals to become strictly diurnal possibly as long as 52 million years ago — the researchers found. This explains why our primate family is better adapted to the sunlit way of life—we've had more time to evolve and adapt. The rea-



GAUELOUPE: Photo shows one of the two manatees (Kai or Junior) in a natural pool at the accommodation centre of Blachon for manatees in Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin in Guadeloupe. —AFP

son for the shift from night to day is not clear, said Maor, but may have included a "reduced risk of predation" to early mammals. The study, while showing a

strong correlation between the death of dinos and the daytime emergence of mammals, cannot conclude that one led to the other. —AFP

Walking beaches, volunteers amass data on dead seabirds

OCEAN SHORES: Barbara Patton scans the expansive beach on Washington's outer coast looking for telltale signs of dead seabirds: a feather sticking straight up, dark colors in the sand, unusual seaweed clumps that could mask a carcass. Minutes into the nearly mile-long walk near her Ocean Shores home, she and her husband, Mike, encounter the first of three birds they'll find that morning. Experience tells them it's a common murre. But the retired volunteers work through a protocol to identify the species: Eyes gone. Breast eaten. Feet pliable. They measure the wing, bill and other body parts, and photograph the bird, front and back.

All of that information is entered into a massive database kept by the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team, or COASST. The long-running citizen monitoring program at the University of Washington tracks dead seabirds as an indicator of the coastal environment's health. "The data that the participants collect is

invaluable," said Julia Parrish, associate dean of the university's college of environment and head of the program. "We can't get it remotely, with satellites, with drones."

Lately, the data has pointed to bigger and more frequent seabird die-offs. "It's causing us to step back and say, 'Whoa, what's going on here?'" Parrish said. "For four years running, we've had unusual mortality events of marine birds from California to the Arctic Circle." Seabirds spend most of their time feeding and living out at sea, coming to land to breed or nest. But more birds are dying and dying close to shore, Parrish said. Researchers think warmer-than-usual ocean temperatures shook up the ecosystem, favoring warmer species and redistributing the seabirds' food.

COASST volunteers are helping search for clues and identify die-offs faster. In 2014, when Cassin's auklets, a small diving seabird with blue feet, began washing ashore by the thousands along the U.S. West Coast, citizen scientists patrolling their stretch of beaches were among the first to notice it. Patton recalls counting a few dozen dead birds in one walk. Under the program, hundreds of volunteers comb stretches of beach from Mendocino, California, to Kotzebue, Alaska, each month looking for carcasses that have washed ashore. Since 1998, they've recorded nearly 76,000 dead birds.

Combined with other large-scale data from satellites and other surveys, Parrish said,



WASHINGTON: Susan Kloeppel (left) and Bob Witt carry dead birds toward the waterline after collecting information on the animals. —AP

it can provide high-quality data over a geographic scale not attainable any other way. The data is used to track seasonal, short-term and long-term changes in seabirds, revealing patterns about where and when certain species die. There are seasonal peaks, after breeding seasons when exhausted parents and chicks wash ashore or when seasonal migratory birds get stranded. The data amassed has also been used by other scientists and resource managers to monitor bird health and other research.

Kristine Bovy, associate anthropology professor at the University of Rhode Island, used the modern bird data to help evaluate how indigenous people in the Pacific Northwest may have scavenged to

find bones and other natural resources on the coast hundreds of years ago. "It helped us to be able to test our ideas in the past about whether people may be scavenging bird carcasses from the beach," she said. Parrish said there can be skepticism about citizen science.

She designed the bird surveying program years ago so information collected could be independently verified - by photographs, measurements and other paper records. On a recent clear day not far from where the Pattons collected their carcasses, Jeanne Finke, Susan Kloeppel and Bob Witt fan out across the beach. Brown pelicans and seagulls soar above crashing waves. —AP

Chinese icebreaker steams for Antarctica in polar power play

BEIJING: The Chinese ice-breaker Xuelong steamed south from Shanghai yesterday bound for Antarctica, where it will establish China's newest base as Beijing strives to become a polar power. China is a latecomer in the race for pole position but its interest in Antarctica has grown along with its economic might. The new station will be the fifth Chinese foothold on the frozen continent, more than some nations which got there earlier.

China is ploughing money into polar exploration and research as other countries like the United States pull back under funding constraints and a glut of other global priorities. An international treaty suspends all territorial claims to Antarctica, essentially setting it aside as a scientific preserve. That "provides a precious opportunity to quickly develop China's polar bases", Qin Weijia, director of the China Arctic and Antarctic Administration, said at an annual meeting on the poles last month.

China has rapidly built up activities on the continent, building new bases and commissioning polar-capable ships and aircraft. Officials say it intends to become a "polar power." "The fact that China has coined this new term and has made it an important part of their foreign policy shows the level of ambition and forward thinking that China has," said Anne-Marie Brady, a Global Fellow at the Wilson Center. —AFP

CLINIC
PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
مؤيد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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

What's On

KNES celebrates Halloween 2017



Kuwait National English School held its annual Halloween day with great success and enthusiasm. The pupils from Preschool through Early Years, Primary and Secondary, all participated by dressing as characters from books or stories or even scary traditional Halloween costumes. Halloween is an exceptionally fun day at school and allows all the children to develop the creative and imaginative parts of their personalities. At KNES

we focus on the cognitive, social and physical development of our pupils but this can only be achieved by a holistic approach to ensure each pupil has a sense of self-worth and is always developing their imagination and creative sides. A special day like Halloween provides an opportunity to enhance the atmosphere of the learning environment and helps to ensure the classroom is enriching and engaging. Thanks to all our parents for their support!

Sir Syed bicentenary celebration organized by AMOUBA - Kuwait

Sir Syed's birth anniversary (October 17th, 1817) in the Aligarh community is more popularly known as the 'Sir Syed Day'. He established the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh in 1877, which later became the University in the year 1920. Taking it as an opportunity, the AMOUBA - Kuwait celebrated the Bicentenary of Sir Syed, by discussing the great works done by him and the scope of widening the mission and vision of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, as he would have wanted it to be, on 2nd November 2017 at Hilton Kuwait.

Distinguished invited speakers devoted their talks with great enthusiasm. The list of speakers on this occasion included persons associated with Aligarh Muslim University like Prof Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and the Special Guest Dr Yusuf Syed Hassan Zalala, Professor at Faculty of Statistics Kuwait University and Former Minister Commerce and industry Kuwait. There was galaxy of other distinguished members of public life, academicians, and administrators, social activists from India and Kuwait who actively participated in this function. To name a few, Khalid Hamdan Al-Saif, Deputy Chairman and CEO NAPESCO, Mirza Umair Beg, Senior Scientist, KISR, Aijaz Ahmed Sarfraz MD-Sahara Air-conditioned, Syed Mohammad Ashraf, Manager Contract Arabi Energetch, Abdullah Thakur, CEO Al-Dhow Capital Holding, M Malik- MD Al-Khulaib International.

The program started with Tilawat-e-Quran and National Anthem of India and Kuwait followed by presenting of Bouquet to the Chief



Guests Prof Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and the Special Guest Dr Yusuf Syed Hassan Zalala, Professor at Faculty of Statistics Kuwait University and Former Minister Commerce and industry Kuwait, as a token of love and respect. Program Convener, Kashif Syed. Welcome address Khurram Saeed, The President of AMOUBA briefly highlighted the works and achievements of AMOUBA. He emphasized on the fact that we need to take Sir Syed's mission forward by concentrating on innovation, research, building knowledge-based AMOUBA aims and objectives and taking the reputation of the country to new heights. He also discussed active participation of AMOUBA towards Muslim education and helping students from weaker sections of our community to achieve their goals and fulfill their dreams, besides completion of AMOUBA project of adopting school in Aligarh.

Session started with the speech of Prof Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor AMU. Dr Yusuf Syed Hassan Zalala delivered a remarkable address dealing with the special features of the character and contributions of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan towards modern education. In his address he highlighted the importance of modern education and the need of more universities like Aligarh Muslim University for educational and cultural devel-

opment of any nation. He talked about the works of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan which brought the Aligarh Muslim University into existence. He expressed the serious concern of the scientists, engineers and all well-wisher of our nation on dwindling standard of higher education of Muslims. He congratulated that AMOUBA- Kuwait alumnus as well.

The second session culminated into a Prize Giving Ceremony in which some meritorious Children of Alumni and other winners in competitions organized by AMOUBA Kuwait who have secured very high positions in various events. The Prizes were given out by Prof Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor AMU. This was followed by the much-awaited program of the night- the musical event. The performance was given by great musician Johnny Foster- the voice of AMU Tarana. Johnny Foster and his team started off by reciting of his self-composed Nazm on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Ghazals of various poets. As per the tradition followed in all the functions of the Aligarh Muslim University, the AMOUBA-Kuwait Bicentenary Celebration of Sir Syed ended with AMU Tarana followed by the National Anthem. AMU Tarana is considered one of the best anthems written for any educational institution. Aslam Parvaiz, Vice-President AMOUBA thanks the guest. The guests then proceeded towards the dinner.

address the audience followed by the most anticipated performance of Kadhprasangam "Aneesya" with his team in presence of the eminent personalities from various organizations and enthusiastic audience of Kuwait.

"Kala(Art) Kuwait-Sambasivan Award" was instituted in memory of eminent 'Katha Prasangam' artist late V. Sambasivan. The award comprises Rs 25,000 and citation. Dr. Vasanthakumar Sambasivan has been selected unanimously for his outstanding contribution to Kadhprasanga realm.

There will also be more varieties of cultural activities like, Music concert (Ganamela) by leading singers from Kuwait, Classical and Traditional dance performance, Cultural activities and Mimics Parade by other distinctive artists to entertain the audience. We have also scheduled to release a Multi Color Souvenir to make it more colorful to the event. Kala(Art) Kuwait President Mr. Samkuttu Thomas, General Secretary Mr. Sunil Kumar., Program General Convener Mr. Siva Kumar sought the wholehearted cooperation and support from public and Medias to make the unique event as a great success.



There will be a mass offered for the soul of Xavier Moraes on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at St Therese of the Child Jesus Church in Salmiya at 6.30 pm.

Tom McCarthy's 'Winning Teams Workshop' launched in Kuwait

LAUNCH Strategic Marketing and Business Consulting have announced hosting Tom McCarthy's Winning Teams Workshop on December 17th and 18th, 2017 in Kuwait. The workshop will be taught live-in-person by Tom McCarthy himself, one of the best coaches for executive leadership development in the world. Attendees will learn the secrets to leading winning teams, and become one of the top 10% of all leaders consistently leading teams. The 2-day, highly interactive live workshop provides leaders the psychology, knowledge and skills required to build winning teams and become outstanding leaders, based on an experiential learning model.

Khalid Al-Zanki, Founder & CEO of LAUNCH said: "We are pleased to host Tom McCarthy in Kuwait for the 13th time due to his exceptional seminars and his extraordinary ability in igniting performance specially in leadership. I work with Tom McCarthy all the time in developing the content and outcomes of customized seminars for Kuwait. We are keen on developing an outstanding leadership programs in Kuwait and address these gaps through a series of seminars, workshops, trainings and coaching." In the workshop, Tom teaches how to apply the principles of

leadership to create an elite, highly motivated team that achieves its outcomes no matter what the odds may be. Enrolled leaders in the workshop will be immersed into situations in which they will have to make decisions and apply leadership principles. They will be in a group of outstanding people who are all committed to being the best leaders they can be.

Learning outcomes of the workshop include: how to create a one-page leadership plan; establish a powerful team identity; shift team to preferred culture; live the core values; formulate energizing goals & objectives; master the top-grading system; hire "a" players at every position; develop "a" players at every position; redeploy "c" and "d" players; guide team through stages of team building; increase team cohesiveness; master your emotional intelligence; influence your team's emotional intelligence; increase team member engagement; implement effective meeting structure and cadence; use powerful communication strategies; apply effective coaching strategies; delegate effectively; create a culture of transformation and improvement; increase organizational and individual effectiveness; implement the prune and focus strategy; focus on constant innovation; and much more.

Canada-Kuwait Friendship hockey tournament



2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation as a nation. To honor this historic milestone, the Embassy of Canada to the State of Kuwait invites you to attend an evening of Canada's national sport and favorite pastime - Hockey! The Embassy of Canada, in partnership with the Kuwait Winter Games Club, will hold a friendship hockey tournament between the Kuwait National Team and Kuwait's Canadian community. The tournament, beginning at 6pm Sunday November 12th at the AlSour Street ice rink, is open to the general public on a first come, first seated basis.

Hockey's immense popularity throughout the world truly symbolizes Canada's national identity and unique northern culture. First played as an organized sport on March 3, 1875 at

Montreal's Victoria Skating Rink, hockey has grown into a major international professional and Olympic winter sport, watched and enjoyed by countless millions. Thanks to the efforts of the Kuwait Winter Games Club, Kuwaitis too have embraced hockey. Over 600 Kuwaitis currently play the sport and the Association arranges many hockey training camps as part of its annual program. Kuwait also participates nationally in varied programs and tournaments with the International Hockey Federation. The recent creation of a women's team is further evidence of the sport's growing popularity in Kuwait. Please come and join us this Sunday for an exciting and fun-filled evening!

Kala(Art) Kuwait to hold Keraleeyam 2017

Kala(Art) Kuwait, a leading Progressive Art and Socio Cultural Organization among the Indian Community in Kuwait has scheduled to conduct its variety entertainment program titled as "Keraleeyam 2017" on Friday, 10th November 2017 @ 04:00 PM at Indian Community School, Khaithan. The core attraction of this event is the handing over ceremony of the prestigious "Kala(Art) Kuwait - Sambasivan Award" for the year 2016 to the legend of Kadhprasanga Art, Dr. Vasanthakumar Sambasivan for his outstanding contribution to "Kadhprasanga" realm. Dr. Vasanthakumar Sambasivan will then

TV



00:25 Rush The Call Up
02:30 The Last Rescue
04:05 War Of The Worlds
06:00 Street Fighter

20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagel



00:30 Pick A Puppy
00:55 Pick A Puppy
01:20 How To Build... Everything



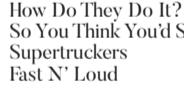
00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Treeshore Masters
02:40 Bad Dog
03:35 Going Ape



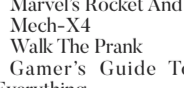
00:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
00:25 Unbungalievable
00:35 Loopedidoo
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster



00:20 Street Outlaws
01:05 Abandoned Engineering
01:50 Breaking Magic
02:58 Breaking Magic



00:10 Guess This House
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street



00:00 How 2 Win
01:00 United Stuff Of America
02:00 History's Greatest Blunders

01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian



00:00 Chopped
01:00 Bakers vs. Fakers
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



00:10 Guess This House
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street



00:00 How 2 Win
01:00 United Stuff Of America
02:00 History's Greatest Blunders



00:20 Mountain Men
01:10 Ultimate Soldier Challenge
02:00 Mountain Men
02:50 Counting Cars

11:00 Fifth Gear
11:50 American Pickers
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars



00:45 Rustic Adventures Argentina
01:10 Route Awakening
01:40 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea



00:10 Taboo
01:00 Witness
02:00 Desperate Hours
03:00 Desperate Hours



00:20 Lion Battle Zone
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Cat Fight
02:50 Safari Brothers

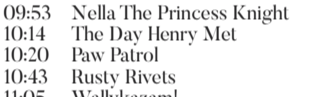


00:15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Sanjay And Craig

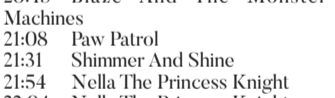
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion



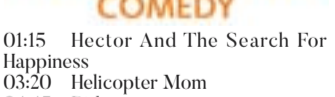
00:44 Shimmer And Shine
00:58 Shimmer And Shine
01:30 Max & Ruby
01:23 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom



00:10 Taboo
01:00 Witness
02:00 Desperate Hours
03:00 Desperate Hours



00:20 Lion Battle Zone
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Cat Fight
02:50 Safari Brothers



00:30 The Borrowers
02:00 Storm Rider
03:45 The Amazing Wizard Of Paws

20:10 A Few Good Men
22:35 Sunday, Bloody Sunday



01:20 Ghosthunters On Icy Trails
03:05 Bunny Tales
04:25 Operation Arctic
06:05 Victor And The Secret Of Crocodile Mansion



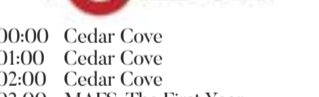
00:10 He Got Game
02:30 Our Brand Is Crisis
04:20 Max



00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 American Titans



01:45 The Machinist
03:30 Hollywoodland
05:35 Terri
07:15 The Alamo



00:00 Cedar Cove
01:00 Cedar Cove
02:00 Cedar Cove
03:00 MAFS: The First Year



01:15 Hector And The Search For Happiness
03:20 Helicopter Mom
04:45 Ride



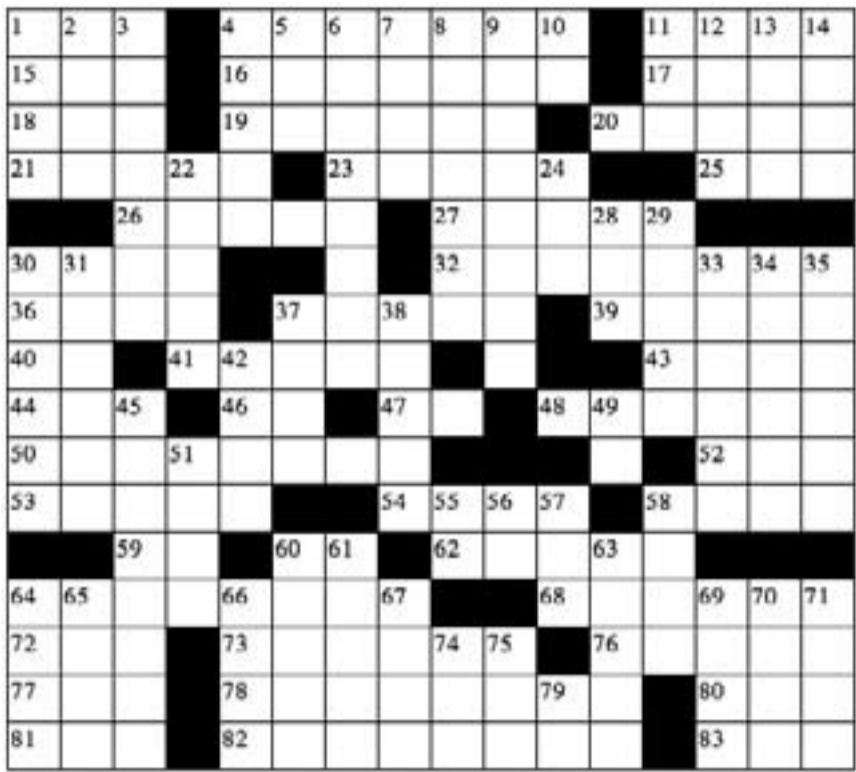
00:30 Stop-Loss
02:30 To Kill A Mockingbird
04:45 Experimentor



00:42 Say Yes To The Dress UK
01:05 Botched Up Bodies
01:50 Bizarre ER

Stars

CROSSWORD 1757



ACROSS

1. The airforce of Great Britain.
4. The dry, dusty pulp that remains after juice is extracted from sugar cane or similar plants.
11. An informal term for a father.
15. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
16. A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
17. Toward the mouth or oral region.
18. Water frozen in the solid state.
19. A city in southwestern Switzerland at the western end of Lake Geneva.
20. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
21. 100 thebe equal 1 pula.
23. Wheelwork consisting of a connected set of rotating gears by which force is transmitted or motion or torque is changed.
25. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
26. Income (at invoice values) received for goods and services over some given period of time.
27. Used by northerners of Confederate soldiers.
30. A disorderly outburst or tumult.
32. A family of birds of the suborder Oscines.
36. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
39. Occurring or done each day.
40. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
41. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
43. The back side of the neck.
44. A member of a people living in southern Benin and Togo and southeastern Ghana.
46. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
47. 1/1000 gram.
48. A place of worship that has its own altar.
50. Of or pertaining to or characteristic of Nepal or its people or language or culture.
52. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
53. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
54. Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
59. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
62. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
64. Freetail bats.
68. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
72. Make amends for.
73. The mountain peak that Noah's ark landed on as the waters of the great flood receded.
76. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
77. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
78. Professional care for the hands and fingernails v 1.
80. Resonance of protons to radiation in a magnetic field.
81. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
82. The academic world.
83. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.

DOWN

1. An investment trust that owns and manages a pool of commercial properties and mortgages and other real estate assets.
2. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
3. Any of several plants of the genus Freesia valued for their one-sided clusters of usually fragrant yellow or white or pink tubular flowers.
4. Glazed yeast-raised doughnut-shaped roll with hard crust.
5. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
6. A criminal who is a member of gang.
7. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
8. A sponge cake baked in a ring mold.
9. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
10. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
11. Chiefly perennial grasses of cool temperate regions.
12. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
13. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
14. The sixth month of the civil year.
22. Of or relating to or containing barium.
24. The compass point that is one point east of due south.
28. Either extremity of something that has length.
29. A woody climbing usually tropical plant.
31. No longer frozen solid.
33. Garment consisting of a folded cloth drawn up between the legs and fastened at the waist.
34. A town in northern Michigan on an arm of Lake Huron.
35. A small hole (usually round and finished around the edges) in cloth or leather for the passage of a cord.
37. A large bundle bound for storage or transport.
38. Given or having a specified name.
42. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
45. Thin epithelial membrane lining the ventricles of the brain and the spinal cord canal.
49. A gray tetravalent metallic element that resembles zirconium chemically and is found in zirconium minerals.
51. Type genus of the Amidae.
55. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
56. Before noon.
57. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
58. A small cake leavened with yeast.
60. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
61. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
63. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
65. A French abbot.
66. Avatar of Vishnu.
67. Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
69. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
70. Young sheep.
71. A rounded thickly curled hairdo.
74. (informal) Of the highest quality.
75. An enlarged and muscular saclike organ of the alimentary canal.
79. A state in New England.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Events may make it easy for you to be original, have breakthroughs and find new solutions to old problems. Independence, originality and eccentricity are to the forefront. You have a burning zeal for humanitarian goals and what is best for a group or a community. With little patience for red tape and superficialities, you insist on getting right to the heart of any question. You enjoy your own life situation and feel especially kind towards a neighbor or friend. Someone may compliment you on your tastes or belongings as you visit with friends in your home later today. At this time of year there are always opportunities to talk about tradition. You may find that you have been invited to several parties and may be asked to help in the planning stages of one or two.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Career decisions are straightforward. You make your way through ideas, concepts and your ability to express them to others. You will make career gains by your ability to sense quality and choose accordingly. Helping those who cannot help themselves—and accepting such help if you need it—is an essential lesson now. There is a mentor to be found if you need one and you may have the opportunity to play such a role for someone else. You may find yourself more than a little eager to acquire items. Your current appreciation for just about everything may lead you to overspend this afternoon. Talk to a friend this evening and make plans to exercise together throughout the winter. This is a great way to channel tensions into some physical energy.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The work you do and the way you take care of your health are important keys to your best potentials now, in many respects. There is a need for focus and careful analysis in these areas of your life. Set up systems and schedules and stick to them! You may experience dissatisfaction with what you have or find around you. Perhaps it is time to weed out the unessential or find help to complete long projects that have become tedious or boring. These things that you get rid of create a space for new and more fascinating things to enjoy. Friends this afternoon bring a give-and-take opportunity into your life. You give and crave to be appreciated for your gifts. This evening brings about a creative and even romantic phase—a time of fond memories.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in projects and in other aspects of your life. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work out to the most positive. This is a great time to get things accomplished. Environmental contaminants connected with your work can be a problem and you may be successful in convincing higher-ups of needed changes. You may encourage co-workers to join with you regarding a cleanup project in your work environment. There are rewards! Others appreciate your attention to better working conditions. You may eventually see a domino effect with other businesses around your city where this cleanup is concerned. You enjoy visiting with friends this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may have to excuse yourself from some of the interactions with co-workers in order to get your work accomplished this day. You may feel like talking a bit more than usual, happily becoming lost in conversation. It is certainly a day for thinking and ideas. There will be an urge to communicate more than usual. With your determination to become more attentive to your work, much can be accomplished. Later today there will be an opportunity to exchange information and become more involved with neighbors or siblings. Others may find you especially witty and eccentric this evening. You may have insights or breakthroughs in regard to your own living situation. You are ready for big changes and you proceed with little steps.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your good eye-hand coordination and a sustained effort make almost any task run well. You may feel like relieving some of this intensity with exercising or just getting out and about during the noon hour today. You may even enjoy a bit of exercise with a few of your co-worker friends. You work hard and a break to refresh your energy is important. This is a period of great mental activity and heightened communication with others. Intellectualism and the exchange of ideas have special appeal. You tend to be creative and original in your work and career, managing to bring new ideas and spontaneity to bear. A round table discussion is important and productive this afternoon. You enjoy the company of a pet this evening and one of you learns a new trick.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You bring a lot of mental skills and understanding to whatever you do and could help others take a more independent approach to their life or career. Some of your friends and even co-workers may seek you out for your psychological insight and understanding. Today may be one of those days where you seem to be spending more time in giving guidance to others than you are in achieving results from your work. You may find yourself in overtime or taking a bit of work home with you this afternoon. Your inner resources and emotions may also be accentuated this evening when a young person presents you with some interesting challenges. You expect good will and effort from everyone that seeks your guidance and you receive positive results.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

There is a more dynamic and outgoing quality to your lifestyle now. Besting others in the heat of competition and taking on a leadership role means more to you now than in the past. Financial gain is the bright prospect looming before you now, as you focus on how much things really mean to you. There may be a tendency to emphasize the material too much, which could lead to the feeling that the things you own, own instead. This can be an expansive, creative and even a romantic phase, a time you will look back on with pride and fondness. What a great time this is to reflect and understand your own situation—just how you feel about your place in the world. Someone from your past is on your mind. He or she may be thinking about you as well.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Things are happening and your career or path depends on your own ambition and drive, which are strong now. This is the time to get ahead by taking action. Good fortune and plain old luck surround you. You easily make correct decisions and you find the right path to move forward where career and success are concerned. Life's problems seem manageable. On the home front you will be the center of attention as you may have unexpected company. You enjoy entertaining others and can always find some type of refreshment to serve when necessary. There will be an opportunity to trade information and enjoy conversations about curious things. This can be an expansive, creative period—a time you will look back on with fondness.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are feeling good and everything in the workplace seems to just fall into place. Your communication skills seem fine-tuned. You are perceptive and sensitive to the needs of others and you are in a good position to teach, guide or just enjoy the special personalities of the people around you. Your mind is ever on communication, how you present yourself and come across with others. It is easy for you to express yourself in a crowd—you are talented. Others could seek you out for your psychological insight and understanding. You have an ability to find the real breakthroughs and to spot new trends. You work in areas that are at the very fringe of technology. The word is accomplishment—if there is a job, you can do it.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a very lucky day for making plans. You feel successful. Subjects such as law, politics, education, travel and religion are some of the areas where emotionally charged issues could be discussed. Good suggestions from a guide or older person may be helpful—listen carefully. This is also a time of strong desire—perfect for starting something new or taking care of business. A business partnership that used to work to your advantage now seems less in keeping with your plans for the future and it is time for changes to be made. A change of atmosphere after work may help you gain focus on this change and may call for bouncing a basketball around for a while. This or some similar activity is a great way to get rid of stress after a busy workday.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your ideas and thoughts may run counter to accepted values; your own or those of others. You may find yourself in a disapproving mood at times. Decisions made now may have to be rethought later. You could find yourself tense. This is a great time to reflect and understand your own situation, just how you feel about the direction in which you are moving and perhaps some changes that may be needed. There could be an opportunity to rise above your own limitations. You will find that when you remove any emotional issues, you make clear and wise choices. You have an open invitation at this time to have special time with someone you love. A relaxed evening with music can provide opportunities for you to loosen up.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Astronomy 2

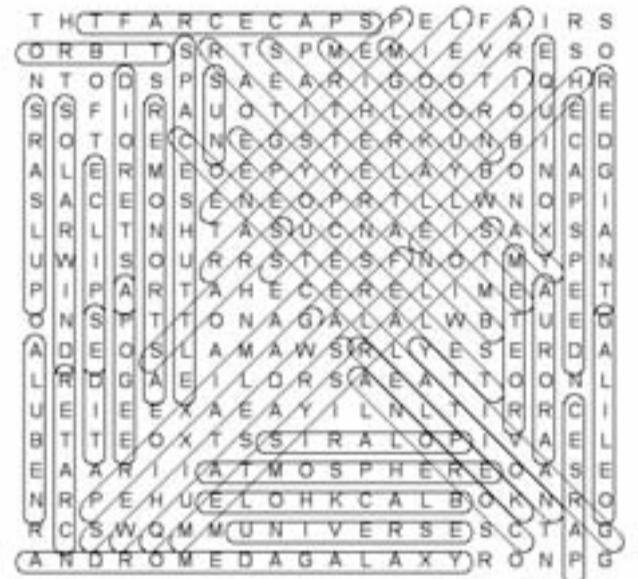
Find and circle all of the Astronomy related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- ASTRONOMY
- AXIS
- CELESTIAL
- CHAOS
- COMET
- COSMOS
- DEBRIS
- EMISSION
- ENERGY
- EXPLORATION
- EXTRATERRESTRIAL
- FIREBALL
- FLARES
- FUSION
- GALACTIC
- GALAXY
- GRAVITATIONAL
- HYDROGEN
- INTERSTELLAR
- LIGHT
- LUMINOUSITY
- LUNAR
- MAGNETIC
- MATTER
- METEORITE
- NEWTON
- NOVA
- OZONE
- PARALLAX
- PHOTOSPHERE
- PLANET
- PLASMA
- PROTON
- RADIATION
- REVOLVE
- RING
- ROCKET
- ROTATE
- SPACE
- SUNSPOTS
- SYZGY

Yesterday's Solution

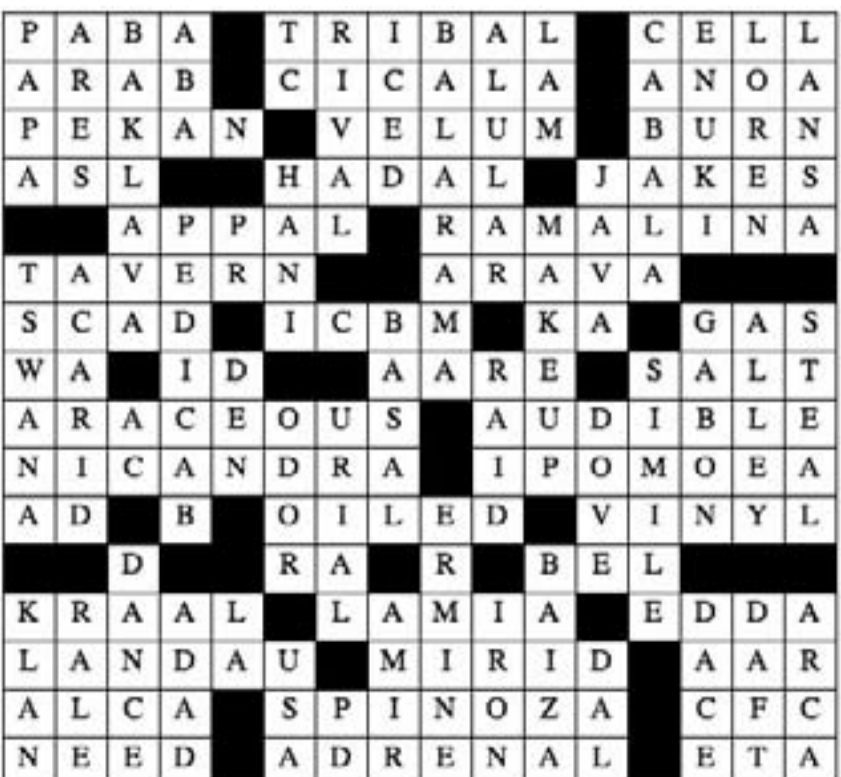
Astronomy



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

Hidden sentence: THE FIRST PERSON TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON WAS NEIL ARMSTRONG

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Lifestyle | Gossip

Beyonce raised \$27,500 at a charity auction

The chart-topping singer donated the signed item - which features in the video to the song from her 2016 album 'Lemonade' - to a Heritage Auction that benefits the Lung Transplant Project, a non-profit organization that provides support to lung transplant recipients. The hat features a wide brim and a black ribbon, as well as her signature alongside the words: "All my Love (sic)" Initially, the item was expected to sell for less than \$2,000, but several bidders became involved with the auction, which meant that the hat ultimately sold for an eye-watering \$27,500. Elsewhere at the same auction, Pharrell donated two pairs of Adidas Originals and they sold for a combined sum of \$11,375, having originally been expected to sell for around \$1,000. One of the pairs featured a hot pink colour and alongside the 'Happy' hit-maker's signature, Pharrell wrote: "Let the universe in. Please don't make excuse (sic)" On the same pair of eye-catching sneakers, he also said: "We are nothing without GOD. The universe is one. (sic)" Meanwhile, Beyonce's mother, Tina Knowles Lawson, recently revealed that her daughter's twins are "very different". The 36-year-old beauty and her husband Jay Z welcomed daughter Rumi and son Sir into the world in June and their proud grandmother adores being around the "cute" youngsters. Tina - whose daughter also has five-year-old daughter Blue Ivy with Jay - said: "They're doing great. They are absolutely beautiful and so much fun. I mean, I haven't ever been around twins, but it's so cute, I can hardly take it. "Yes, [it's crazy] ... it's just really, really different with two babies. I mean, a boy and a girl. Very different personalities."



West adopts hands-on approach on new family home

The 'Famous' rapper and his reality TV star wife Kim Kardashian West - who have 23-month-old son Saint and daughter North, four, together - recently sold their home in Bel-Air for as much as \$17.8 million. But the duo are waiting for their new home in the Californian city to be completed, with the grounds of their estate said to still be unsafe for their children. As a result, Kanye has taken it upon himself to oversee the ambitious construction project, which has been years in the planning. And according to TMZ, Kanye and his family are now hopeful they will soon be able to move into the property. Kanye, 40, and Kim both suffered a torrid year in 2016, with the rap star having to cancel part of his Life of Pablo tour after he was committed to a hospital with hallucinations and paranoia. Kim, on the other hand, was robbed at gunpoint in Paris by five thieves who were dressed as police officers. And so when the high-profile couple celebrated their third wedding anniversary in May this year, they decided to take a low-key holiday in Japan. The brunette beauty previously explained: "I surprised him with a trip to Japan, a place that he loves to go to get away and get inspiration. "It was great for me because I've never been and we had always talked about how we really wanted to go together."



David Beckham 'worried' about Brooklyn moving to university

The 18-year-old photographer - who is the son of the retired soccer star and fashion designer Victoria Beckham - travelled to the Big Apple earlier this year to begin his studies at Parsons School of Design, and David has now confessed to fretting over his eldest son leaving their family home in London. The 42-year-old star - who also has Romeo, 15, Cruz, 12, and Harper, six, with his wife - said: "When you have children - young children and older children going to university in America - you are of course concerned and worried." What's more, David admitted to being nervous about how the current political climate will impact his children. Looking to the future, David told the Evening Standard newspaper: "What are their lives going to be like? That's my main concern." Victoria, 43, previously revealed she hadn't been able to stop crying since her son left for America. In September, the singer-turned-designer said: "I'm still crying, Brooklyn's moved to New York, he's 18, and I haven't stopped crying. I miss him so much, so much." Meanwhile, Brooklyn previously admitted he had already attracted a few "fangirls" on his university campus. The teenage heartthrob - who is dating actress Chloe Grace Moretz - revealed he'd quickly developed a team of female admirers after making the switch from London to New York. Brooklyn shared: "I like people from school but there are a few fangirls in the school ... Sometimes, I have to be like, 'I'm going to be with you for like, four years, so chill.' "I mean, it's gotten better. They understand and they respect it, but it's just at the beginning, it's such a shock to them, so it's fine."

Matt Le Blanc used to dye his hair on 'Friends'

The 50-year-old actor has admitted he noticed the signs of ageing during the second season of the popular American sitcom, which last aired in 2004, but he was keen to color his locks to avoid grey hairs from showing through. Speaking on 'The Late Late Show with James Corden', the star - who was known for playing the role of Joey Tribbiani in the NBC program - he said: "I started getting grey hair on the sides, and they started dying it. "Finally, I said to the hair guy, 'You know, I was in the supermarket the other day, and they have this stuff called Just for Men, it [takes] five minutes. Is it the same stuff? Because it takes you two hours and can I do it with this stuff, five minutes at my house.'" "[The hairstylist replied] 'It's the same stuff.'" Matt decided to try out the hair product, but suffered a slight mishap as his ears ended up being tinted black. He explained: "Cut to me in the shower, shampooing and the next day my ears are all black." But Matt decided to ditch the beauty product to embrace being a silver fox. Asked why he stopped dying his hair, he simply said: "I couldn't be bothered anymore." Meanwhile, Matt has revealed he is ready to enter early retirement now he has reached the milestone, because he would love nothing more than to sit back and not do a "f***ing thing". Speaking previously, he said: "I would love that. I would like to retire earlier than later, because I think I would like to do not a f***ing thing. That's what I would like to do. Just nothing. Nothing! Zero. "On a typical day, you would sleep as long as you want ... or get up early, if you want. It's just not having to go somewhere, or someone else telling you what you have to do. Maybe you go to the gym, or not go to the gym. Maybe you have nine cups of coffee, or none."



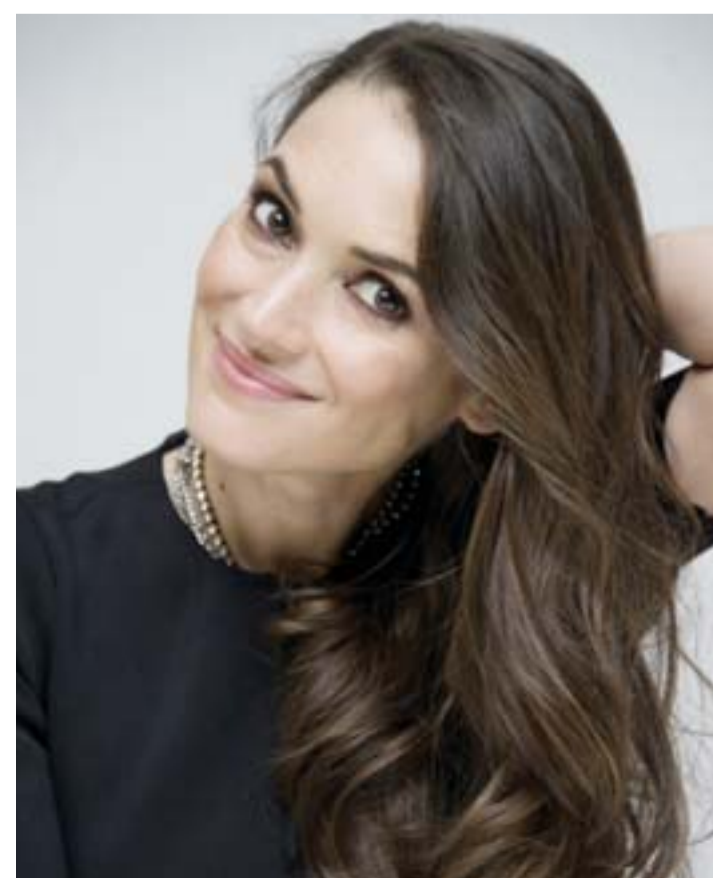
Conrad cut her hair because she lacks time



The 31-year-old style icon has recently chopped her blonde locks in favor of a long bob hairstyle, which the 'The Hills' alumni decided to do because she doesn't have enough hours in a day to spend taming her tresses, especially after giving birth to her son Liam in July this year. Speaking to PEOPLE about her makeover, the blonde-haired beauty - who is married to William Tell - said: "Yeah, I just cut it off. Honestly, it's more of a time saver. I have to blow dry my hair while my son is napping and it doesn't always last that long so less hair is less time. I don't have time for a lot of hair." And Lauren recruited the help of hairstylist Kristin Ess to carry out the beauty overhaul when she invited the style expert to her home to cut her hair. She continued: "Kristin is so sweet. She's been coming to my house for appointments just because it's hard for me to get out and I just asked her to cut it all off. "Kristin doesn't do mom cuts. She cuts moms' hair. But I don't think she wants me to call any haircut she does a mom cut." The fashion designer - who boasts a string of brands including LC Lauren Conrad and Paper Crown - previously vowed never to hack off her hair again, which is why her spouse was puzzled when she underwent the transformation, although she can't remember making the promise. Asked why she opted for the look, even though she insisted she wouldn't have a cropped do again, Lauren said: "I'm sure I said that. William [Tell] said that, too. He said, 'Why are you cutting your hair? You said you weren't going to do it again.' I was like 'I did?'"

Ed Westwick investigated over an allegation of rape

The former 'Gossip Girl' actor was accused of sexually assaulting Kristina Cohen at his home three years ago in a Facebook post by the actress earlier this week, and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) have confirmed she has also submitted a formal complaint to them. They said: "Cohen came into the Hollywood police station to file a police report for sexual assault. Suspect is named as Ed Westwick. The investigation is ongoing." The 30-year-old actor has denied the allegation and insisted he "doesn't know" Kristina. He tweeted: "I do not know this woman. I have never forced myself in any manner, on any woman. I certainly have never committed rape." The 'Earthwalkers' actress claimed in her online account that the incident took place when she and an unnamed producer she was dating visited the British actor's apartment, where he suggested they had sex. When they refused, she was urged to take a nap while Ed and the producer tried to "smooth things over". She continued: "I went and laid down in the guest room where I eventually fell asleep. I was woken up abruptly by Ed on top of me, his fingers entering my body. I told him to stop, but he was strong... "I was paralyzed, terrified. I couldn't speak, I could no longer move." And Kristina claimed her "nightmare" didn't end there because her then-boyfriend blamed her for what had allegedly happened and warned her it would end her career if she spoke out. She wrote: "The producer put the blame on me, telling me I was an active participant. Telling me that I can't say anything because Ed will have people come after me, destroy me, and that I could forget about an acting career. "Saying there's no way I can go around saying Ed 'raped' me and that I don't want to be 'that girl.'" — Bangshowbiz



Ryder was beaten up for wearing 'boys' clothes

The 46-year-old actress was attacked so badly by school bullies for her masculine look, she had to have stitches, but claimed she was the one punished over the incident. She said: "I was wearing an old Salvation Army shop boy's suit. "As I went to the bathroom I heard people saying, 'Hey, f***t', They slammed my head into a locker. I fell to the ground and they started to kick the s**t out of me. I had to have stitches." "The school kicked me out, not the bullies." But the 'Stranger Things' star had the satisfaction of being able to tell her tormentor to "go f**k yourself" when she asked for her autograph years later. In a recently-resurfaced extract from Nigel Goodall's book 'Winona Ryder: The Biography', she continued: "Years later, I went into a coffee shop and I ran into one of the girls who'd kicked me and she said, 'Winona, Winona, can I have your autograph?' "And I said, 'Do you remember me? Remember in seventh grade you beat up that kid?' "She said, 'Kind of.' And I said, 'That was me. Go f**k yourself.' " Winona recently admitted she doesn't really understand social media and had to get her 13-year-old 'Stranger Things' co-star Millie Bobby Brown to teach her to use Snapchat. She said: "Millie teases me. I'm like the old grandma. 'Snack chat? Give me a piece of that!' I'm like the confused older person [on the set]." And the 'Beetlejuice' star admits she's glad she started out as a young actress without the pressures of social media, as she doesn't know how young girls such as Millie keep up with the "massive exposure".

Film Review

'Murder on the Orient Express' is a lavish romp



Kenneth Branagh's "Murder on the Orient Express" is a visual feast, bursting with movie stars, glamour and production value so high, you might just exit the theater experiencing some time-warp whiplash. Certainly no studio would make a straightforward, classical whodunit with a budget the size of a modest superhero pic (and no superheroes to speak of) nowadays, you think. What year is this anyway? But against all odds and logic, here we have, in the waning days of 2017, a perfectly decent adaptation of Agatha Christie's 1934 novel with the likes of Michelle Pfeiffer, Penelope Cruz, Johnny Depp, Judi Dench and Branagh himself lighting up the big screen and chewing the decadent scenery like old-fashioned stars.

Branagh plays the lead, Hercule Poirot, a dandy Belgian detective with a gloriously over-the-top mustache who can only see the world as it should be. Imperfections, he says, stand out, whether it's two soft-boiled eggs that are of different sizes or, you know, the kind of incongruities that make it immediately obvious to him who has committed a crime. This is all laid out quite neatly in a lively opening sequence at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem where he theatrically solves a theft in front of a crowd of locals on the verge of rioting.

Chance brings him aboard the Orient Express, which should really have its own credit in the film, where he meets an odd group of strangers - a sultry widow (Pfeiffer), a secretive governess (Daisy Ridley), the doctor whom she pretends to not know (Leslie

Odom Jr.), a gangster-like art dealer (Depp), his valet (Derek Jacobi) and his bookkeeper (Josh Gad), a princess (Dench) and her maid (Olivia Coleman), a religious zealot (Cruz), a volatile dancer (Sergei Polunin) and his sick wife (Lucy Boynton), a German professor (Willem Dafoe) and a count (Manuel Garcia-Rulfo). And then one of them dies - there's at least a chance someone reading doesn't yet know who

structured pastry and a good turn-of-phrase from Charles Dickens but can't seem to comprehend moral ambiguity in the slightest.

Unfortunately, the movie loses its steam right when the intrigue is supposed to be taking over. The discovery process isn't nearly as fun or engaging as it should be, and despite the energetic start, the film becomes a bit of a slog waiting for the big answer (for those who already know it, either from the source material, Sidney Lumet's 1974 film or any of the other adaptations, this might be even more tedious).

Branagh certainly steals scenes as Poirot, but the director might have taken some more time to ensure that all of his characters were given as loving a treatment as his own, or the setting, which is truly quite splendid to behold and even makes up for some of the deficiencies of the storytelling. As odd as it might sound, it is somewhat refreshing to sit in a theater and watch a grand scale production that's not set in space or predetermined by the pages in a comic book. Then it goes and mucks it all up by leaving the door conspicuously open for a sequel.

"Murder on the Orient Express," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "for violence and thematic elements." Running time: 114 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. — AP



A perfectly decent adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel

- and everyone remaining becomes a suspect. Got all that? Don't worry. It's more than a little overwhelming to keep track of who's who in this bunch and quite a few get the short shrift. But it's still fun enough to see Depp hamming it up with a thick New York accent, Pfeiffer vamping around the train's hallways and Branagh careening between giddy parody and self-seriousness as a man who delights in a well-con-

Disney ends LA Times ban after widespread backlash



The Walt Disney Co. on Tuesday lifted its ban of Los Angeles Times reporters and critics from its press screenings after a widespread backlash prompted several media outlets to announce their own boycotts of Disney movies. In a statement Tuesday, Disney said it was restoring access to the newspaper after "productive discussions with the newly installed leadership" at the Los Angeles Times. Disney had barred the Times from its screenings after the paper published a two-part investigative series on the company's business dealings in Anaheim, California, where Disneyland is.

The ban's withdrawal Tuesday ended an unusual clash between Hollywood's arguably most powerful studio and the media outlets that regularly write about its movies. "The Los Angeles Times has covered the Walt Disney Company since its founding, here in Los Angeles, in 1923," the newspaper said in a statement. "We look forward to reporting on Disney well into the future."

Disney's punitive measures against the Times led to many outlets refusing advance coverage of the studio's films, including The New York Times, the Boston Globe and The A.V. Club. Four prominent film critics groups announced Tuesday that they would bar Disney films from receiving awards consideration. The Los Angeles Film Critics Association, the New York Film Critics Circle, the Boston Society of Film Critics and the National Society of Film Critics all said that wouldn't consider Disney films for their year-end awards. The critics groups noted that it was "admittedly extraordinary" to "take any action that might penalize film artists for decisions beyond their control."

"But Disney brought forth this action when it chose to punish The Times' journalists rather than express its disagreement with a business story via ongoing public discussion," the statement continued. "Disney's response should gravely concern all who believe in the importance of a free press,

artists included." The New York Times said in a statement Tuesday that it wouldn't attend preview screenings of Disney films while the LA Times can't, saying Disney's move is a "dangerous precedent and not at all in the public interest."

Disney on Friday said that the Times series in September detailing what it characterized as a complicated and increasingly tense relationship between Anaheim and the company showed "a complete disregard for basic journalistic standards." It added that the Times published a "biased and inaccurate series, wholly driven by a political agenda." Daniel Miller, the Times reporter who wrote the series, tweeted that "Disney never asked for a correction." With the ban concluded, critics said they would return to business as usual. Disney's upcoming films are the Pixar release "Coco" and "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." "See you guys at the Coco screening," wrote New York Times critic AO Scott. — AP



In this Nov 1, 2012 file photo, hosts Brad Paisley, left, and Carrie Underwood appear at the 46th Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville.

CARRIE UNDERWOOD, PAISLEY CELEBRATING A DECADE AS CMA HOSTS

Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood are celebrating their 10-year anniversary - as hosts of the Country Music Association Awards. The duo has hosted the show consecutively since 2008, and they return Wednesday for the 2017 CMA Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee. While Underwood and Paisley plan to tell jokes, watch performances and hand out awards, they also want to honor the 58 people who were killed at a country music festival in Las Vegas last month.

"We can't ignore that, but at the same time, I think it's our job to use this as something that's uplifting. This show can be a combination of entertainment and therapy to some degree, and it feels like we're going to do our best to honor those we've lost and also sing this music at the top of our lungs," Paisley said. Jason Aldean was performing at the Route 91 Harvest Festival on Oct. 1 when a gunman fired on the crowd from a hotel room. Nearly 500 people were injured.

Underwood said country music wants to pay tribute to the victims and their families. "You just want to be respectful and do it right. They're a part of our country music family and we want the families to know that we care a lot," she said. Underwood will wear several hats during the show as host, performer and nominee. Last year she ended Miranda Lambert's six-year streak as female vocalist of the year. Both singers are nominated for the award this year, along with Reba McEntire, Maren Morris and Kelsea Ballerini.

Big night of stars

Nominees for the show's top prize, entertainer of the year, include Luke Bryan, Chris Stapleton, Keith Urban, Eric

Church and last year's winner, Garth Brooks. Stapleton, Urban, Church, Thomas Rhett and Dierks Bentley are up for male vocalist of the year. Sam Hunt's "Body Like a Back Road," which set a record for the most weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot country songs chart with 34, is nominated for single of the year and song of the year, a songwriter's award. In the latter category, Hunt will compete with Taylor Swift, who wrote Little Big Town's No. 1 hit "Better Man."

Little Big Town is among the country stars set to perform during the three-hour show. Others include Brooks, Stapleton, Bryan, Lambert, Thomas Rhett and pop singer Pink.

The night will feature a number of collaborative performances, including Faith Hill and Tim McGraw, Ballerini and McEntire, Maren Morris and Niall Horan of One Direction, Paisley and Kane Brown, and Bentley and Rascal Flatts. Underwood said she's most excited to see Alan Jackson, the artist she first saw live.

"I love it when legendary artists like him perform on the CMAs. I think in our world today and even in country music, it's kind of like ... 'Who's new? Who's hot? Who can we get for the show?' And it's nice when you can have somebody that can go up there and show us how it's all done," she said. But Paisley said Underwood will have the night's brightest performance.

"I'm telling you if that's not the No. 1 most-talked about thing the next day then I will be as wrong as I've ever been," he said. Urban will kick off the CMA Awards, airing live on ABC at 8 p.m. Eastern, with a performance featuring Church, Lady Antebellum and Darius Rucker. Brothers Osborne, Jon Pardi and Old Dominion will also perform. — AP



In this Nov 6, 2013 file photo, hosts Brad Paisley, left, and Carrie Underwood appear at the 47th Annual CMA Awards in Nashville. — AP photos



Iron Maiden singer writes about bullying, cancer and flying

Bruce Dickinson used to think that writing an autobiography should come at the end of his career. A bout with throat cancer changed his mind. After his recovery, the Iron Maiden frontman began writing his life story, filling up a stack of legal pads in longhand. Now the fruit of his labor has led to the recently released, "What Does This Button Do?"

The 59-year old rocker recalls turning down an offer to do a book 10 years ago, saying "I'm not

really done yet." After being diagnosed with cancer, "I thought there's an outside possibility I might be done sooner than I intended." In the book, Dickinson covers the rise of Iron Maiden, his love of fencing, his difficult upbringing, the creation of albums and becoming a licensed airline pilot. He ends the book with his victory over cancer.

"When I got all clear of that, then the question got revisited, and I went, 'You know what, this is a

really good end point for a book.' Not that I'm planning on going anywhere else and checking out, but this is kind of the beginning of the rest of my life," Dickinson said.

And while Dickinson conveniently excludes the dirt on his personal relationships and barely touches on band politics, he does reveal some personal demons, especially in a passage that chronicles being bullied as a child. Those bad experiences at boarding

school had a lasting effect on him. "A really nasty bullying experience, whatever, it never leaves you," he says. "It leaves a permanent mark on your insides and that manifests in different people in different ways. With me, it makes me very angry. I get really cross, you know. If I see somebody else being bullied, it makes me really angry. So it's a bit like Hulk. You don't want to see me when I'm angry." — AP

Oscar is a cat of the world but he doesn't like flying



Oscar the cat pokes his head out from his pet carrier travel bag on his way to John F Kennedy International Airport. — AP photos



Oscar the cat sits in his carry on travel bag after arriving at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.



Tali Arbel, right, arrives at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport with her cat Oscar.

By Tali Arbel, AP contributor

Oscar is a cat of the world. He has his own Instagram account, @Oskibabi, along with high-tech toys like a remote-controlled centipede. But there's one aspect of modern life Oscar doesn't like: flying. Rather than leave Oscar home in New York while I spent 10 days in Phoenix, I decided to take him with me. It's not that unusual. Over 500,000 animals a year fly on US airlines as cargo, and it's common now to see dogs in the cabin, too.

But Oscar appeared to be terrified. On two nonstop flights, he curled up in a ball for hours on end, damp to the touch. (Cats mainly sweat through their paws, but veterinarian Brian Collins explained to me that sweat could be profuse enough to wind up on his fur. Or maybe it was my sweat.) The experience was, however, the closest we'll probably ever come to having celebrity status, at least in terms of the positive attention we got from airport and airline workers. Their unexpected sweetness tempered the stress of traveling with a pet. I've never encountered such friendly TSA agents. Flight attendants didn't snap at me to put my seat in the right position before departure. Instead, they cooed at me - or, rather, at the gray-brown tab-

by in my lap. It still wasn't fun for either of us. And it cost me hundreds of dollars.

Before the flight

Airlines have different pet policies. American had me reserve a spot for Oscar in the cabin after I booked, then pay the extra fee at the airport. JetBlue charged the pet fee when I booked my ticket. Airlines limit how many pets can be in the cabin, so it's best to reserve a place fast.

Taking Oscar cost an additional \$225. I also had to pay almost \$50 more to check my luggage, because Oscar counted as my carry-on item. I didn't need any paperwork from the vet, because Oscar wasn't traveling internationally or as cargo in the plane's hold. Check before you go, as policies differ by airline. You need an airline-compliant carrier that fits under the seat, which is easy to find. More investments: pee pads (\$10), a collapsible water bowl (about \$10), a harness and leash (\$27). I also brought his favorite toys and treats along. It was only after our trips that I found out airlines are not allowed to charge fees for "emotional support" animals. Turns out it's not that complicated to document one's need to travel with an emotional support animal. Not that I'm suggesting anyone would ever do it just to avoid the fees.



Tali Arbel checks on Oscar the cat.

Getting through security is an ordeal. Animals need to come out of their carriers, which go through the X-ray machines. This is no big deal for dogs. They are accustomed to leashes and can walk through the human scanners with their owners. Cats are different. I had nightmares of a spooked Oscar escaping my arms and tearing through the bright, noisy halls

of JFK, never to return.

Instead, I walked through the scanner without him while an agent took him in his carrier to a private room next to the security checkpoint. Then I stayed with him in the room, where he hunched on a metal table behind a closed door, while the carrier was scanned before being returned to me. All airports have private screen-

ing areas that pets can be taken to, though they may not be separate rooms, said TSA spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein.

A harness and leash make for a good backup; I didn't find them necessary. Airports have family bathrooms, so I took advantage of that private room to lay out a pee pad for him and offer him water. Many airports also have pet relief rooms or areas with water, fake grass and even fire hydrant props. Cats might be rattled, though, by the presence of dogs. I worried about how Oscar would adjust to the cabin air pressure while the plane took off and landed, but he didn't make a peep. "I've never had any sort of animal suffer consequences," said Collins, a lecturer at Cornell University's veterinary school. "They seem to tolerate it quite well."

Some owners give their pets sedatives to fly, but I chose not to. I held his carrier on my lap, except for the takeoff and landing, and petted him throughout the flight, which may have helped. He didn't meow or yowl, and a few hours in, he even pawed at a string and accepted the treats I was anxiously thrusting at him. Still, I don't plan to fly with him again unless I'm moving or it's an emergency. Curiosity didn't kill this cat's owner, but it did leave me sweaty, stressed and poorer. — AP

Trump mocked during New York fundraiser by top comedians



Conan O'Brien speaks onstage during the 11th Annual Stand Up for Heroes Event presented by The New York Comedy Festival and The Bob Woodruff Foundation at the Theater at Madison Square Garden. — AFP

Some top comedians - including John Oliver, Jon Stewart, Trevor Noah and Conan O'Brien - helped raise money for military veterans Tuesday night at a raucous event at Madison Square Garden in which many of the best barbs were hurled at the current commander in chief. "It's a strange time to be in love with America right now. Some would offer you are not at your finest. Falling in love with America right now is like falling in love with a girl who's throwing up all over herself," Oliver said. "You hold her hair back and say, 'Let it all out. You just made a mistake, that's all.'"

The annual Stand Up for Heroes event is co-presented by the Bob Woodruff Foundation and the New York Comedy Festival. It kicks off the festival and raises money for the Woodruff foundation, which funds programs for injured veterans and their families. The foundation is named for the ABC news anchor injured in Iraq in 2006 and has raised some \$40 million.

The front rows of the theater at Madison Square Garden were reserved for veterans from all branches - some badly injured - and seats were also set aside for new cadets. While Lee Woodruff, Bob's wife, pleaded for everyone to "set aside politics," there wasn't much love lost onstage for President Donald Trump. The audience mostly took it in stride.

Stewart marveled at the fact that 10-15 percent of Barack Obama supporters voted for Trump. "How do you even get there?" he asked. "It's like a guy who's like, 'I didn't work out with my girlfriend so now I'm going out with a toaster.'" Noah admitted he was conflicted. "On the one hand, I do wake up terrified most days that he's president of the most powerful nation in the world. But, on the other hand, I must admit I wake up every day knowing he's going to make me laugh." O'Brien compared Trump to the backside of an orange cat.

The comedians didn't spend all their time bashing Trump. On a rainy night in New York, O'Brien also mocked Los Angeles residents who can't handle drizzle. Oliver told an embarrassing story of when he ran a race in school and Noah said he hoped never to die in a drive-by. "I want you to park. Is that too much to ask?"

Two other comedians avoided Trump entirely. Hasan Minhaj did a bit on Disney princesses and John Mulaney had fun with grade school assemblies and the fact that machines now try to make sure we humans aren't robots online. The Red Hot Chili Peppers played an electric set that included the songs "Can't Stop," "Dark Necessities," "Snow (Hey Oh)," "By the Way" and "Hey." Leslie Odom Jr. of "Hamilton" fame, sang the national anthem. — AP



A laboratory technician walks away from mobile lab in Government Day Secondary School Muduru, a rural district of Katsina state. — AFP photos



A student attends a class at the Government Day Secondary School Muduru.

HUNTING AFRICA'S EINSTEIN WITH A LAB ON WHEELS

A dozen other students look on as Umar Amadu uses a glass pipette to draw a solution from a conical flask as part of a chemistry experiment. It could be a scene from any school laboratory around the world, but until two months ago Amadu and his fellow students had no access to any science equipment.

Science subjects at his rural secondary school outside the city of Katsina in northern Nigeria were taught using theory only. But now they have all the kit they need to put theory into practice, thanks to a mobile science lab that tours selected state schools. "It's an exciting experience. We were being taught only the theoretical aspect of science subjects," Amadu, who wants to be a doctor, told AFP. "But with this project we now have a better understanding of what we are taught."

Teacher shortage

The "Science on Wheels" project is the brainchild of international development charity Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and is supported by the consumer goods company PZ Cussons. A truck equipped with laboratory equipment tours the state, allowing 7,500 students and 15 schools to conduct practical lessons. It also aims to haul Nigeria up the rankings for the quality of its science and math teaching, after a World Economic Forum study ranked the country a lowly 131st out of 139.

The Katsina state government pays for the driver and fuel to take the truck to each school twice a week. Katsina-the home state of President Muhammadu Buhari-was the first in mainly Muslim northern Nigeria to introduce so-called Western subjects in education in the 1940s. But since then the sector has suffered from years of neglect and under-investment. Now, it has a substantial share of the more than 10 million out-of-school children in the north.

About 16 billion naira (\$45 million, 38 million euros) was allocated to education from Katsina's 140.2-billion-naira budget this year. According to state governor Aminu Bello Masari, the state has a deficit of 13,000 teachers, as there are currently just 5,200 for its 432 secondary schools. Only 123 of those schools have science labs. The state government has tried to address the teacher shortage by re-employing retired teachers and even deploying civil ser-



Two students sit on the floor as they revise their books at the Government Day Secondary School Muduru.

vants to classrooms to help out. It has also tried to attract university graduates from the more educationally prosperous south, with postings to Katsina part of their mandatory one-year national service.

'Drop in the ocean'

For the "Science on Wheels" project, VSO said it had to take on 60 science and math teachers to go to the 15 selected schools. Amadu's school, the Government Day Secondary School (GDSS) in Muduru, has 734 pupils but had only one teacher for its 157 science students. School principal Sagir Ladan said the mobile science project has allowed it to take on three more and helped overcome lack of funding for infrastructure and laboratory supplies.

Poor funding is obvious from the classrooms at the school, most of which have no furniture, with students sitting on the floor or perching on broken window sills instead of desks. VSO's country director in Nigeria, Lucia Balonwu, said the charity's project was a small step towards overall improvements. "The challenges are enormous and our effort is like a drop in the ocean, which we hope will make an impact on the quality of education in Katsina state," she added.

African Einstein?

Governor Masari said it would take at least three years to assess the impact of the mobile science lab project, based on exam results of participating students. But GDSS Muduru chemistry teacher Oduigwe Chidera said there was already "a marked improvement" in the students' motivation and practical comprehension. "Right now they have the confidence of conducting the practicals by themselves unlike before," he said.

VSO is monitoring the Katsina scheme with a view to rolling it out across Africa, where many countries face similar challenges with basic facilities and equipment. It wants to inspire young science students to be the "Albert Einsteins of tomorrow," referring to the Nobel-winning physicist who developed the theory of relativity.

"This is the stepping stone for a pan-African science revolution," Balonwu said as students busied themselves with practicals.

"Despite there being over 400 winners since 1901 of the Nobel Prize for physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, an indigenous Sub-Saharan African is yet to win a Nobel Prize in one of these scientific fields," she said. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features



A likeness of Donald Duck appears on the spines of comic books.



A display made up of hundreds of covers of Donald Duck pocket books.

Move over Mickey

Donald Duck reigns supreme in Germany

Mickey Mouse may be Disney's top star in most parts of the world, but in Germany Donald Duck is king. More than 50 years after the cartoon featuring the hot-tempered duck arrived in the land of Goethe, it remains one of the bestselling comic titles at the newsstands. Generations of children grew up with the so-called Lustiges Taschenbuch (which translates as Funny Paperback) featuring the cantankerous Donald and family-including his rich but miserly uncle, Scrooge McDuck, who swims in gold coins, and his three mischievous nephews, Huey, Dewey and Louie.

Many adults are still hooked, and are known as Donaldists. These hardcore fans gather regularly to pore over and dissect the latest comic together, noting inconsistencies in the colorful drawings between editions or to ask probing questions about the solar system in Donald's world. "We Donaldists assume that Duckburg really exists, and we ask ourselves questions on all kinds of details from the adventures of the Duck family, which for us are not made-up stories but factual reports," said Alexander Poth, 46. "All discrepancies in these reports are examined scientifically by our members, and the results are published in our trade magazine, 'The Donaldist', and presented and discussed at our annual congress," added Poth, who encountered his first Lustiges Taschenbuch (LTB) at age two. Poth is a member of the group D.O.N.A.L.D (the German Organisation of non-commercial members of Donaldism), which organizes the annual conference. Not bad for a duck from across the pond, which landed in Germany at a time when the country viewed



An employee stands behind a cashier desk in front of a backdrop made up of hundreds of covers of Donald Duck pocket books, called "Lustiges Taschenbuch" in German.

American comic imports suspiciously as potential corrupters of youth.

Teaching Donald to quack

Even Erika Fuchs, the woman credited with popularizing Donald in Germany, was horrified when first tasked by her editor with translating the cartoon. But she took on the job, and changed Carl Barks's fictional city of Duckburg forever. Rather than a straight translation of the cartoons, Fuchs set them in the southern

German region of Upper Franconia, complete with typical Bavarian farmhouses and bakeries.

She gave the ducks German names and Germanic manners of speaking—the elderly Scrooge (known as Dagobert in German) is the pedantic duck who knows every single German verb conjugation, while Donald swings between angry tirades and the poetic verses of Schiller and Goethe. Fuchs "taught Donald to quack"—in German at least, said the Museum for Comic and Speech Art, also known as Erika Fuchs



Volumes of Donald Duck pocket books, called "Lustiges Taschenbuch" in German, and featuring Disney comics, are displayed at a temporary shop set up in Berlin to mark the 50th anniversary of the comic book. — AFP photos

House, in Bavaria. At a time when magazine sales are floundering, newsstands still devote several shelves to the comic, including the latest copies, special editions and older editions. Christian Behr, sales director at publisher Egmont Ehapa, said five million copies of LTBS are sold annually, or an average of around 420,000 a month.

The 500th edition was published this week. And around half of the readers are over 16. "Those in the age group of over 25 make up our core readership. This group also includes our faithful collectors," said Behr.

So engrained is Donald's world in the German psyche that "Duckburg stays stable" (Entenhausen bleibt stabil) counts among punk band Die Toten Hosen's numbers. Bernd Dolle-Weinkauff, an expert on graphic novels at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, noted that the handy paperback format of the comic, plus the wide range of Disney cartoons proved a lasting winning formula. But the Germans' obsession with the duck cannot be explained away by marketing, he said. "It's not a question of marketing but perhaps a question of a particular kind of mentality in Germany. That should be investigated," he said.

German mentality?

"In contrast to Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck is the forever unlucky ducky. He's a loser, but also someone who never gives up," said Dolle-Weinkauff. "People are keen to see how he always manages to solve his problems, and what crazy ideas he comes up with."

In fact, Donald is "exactly the opposite" of the "foreign conceptions of the German mentality—of these Prussian officials, soldiers, disciplined people who are always orderly," noted the professor.

"So this stereotype of Germany stands corrected here. I think that needs to be acknowledged. Because he (Donald) won't be so well-liked. In any case, Germans view themselves differently," he said Poth, who has a collection of more than 700 LTBS, agreed that Donald's often ruffled feathers draw readers. "He's not perfect and that's what makes him so likeable for us, and we often laugh about ourselves when we laugh about Donald Duck," he said. "Mickey often comes across as the know-it-all. And that's just not popular in life as it makes people envious," Poth added. "We feel better next to Donald, because we simply come out better than when we're put next to Mickey." — AFP



High school student Mariana Alves, 19, former patient of digital dependence therapeutic group "Delete", is pictured at her home in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP photos

Brazil's tech junkies seek healing at digital detox clinic

Like many young people, 29-year-old student LL loves his cell phone. So much so, in fact, that his studies, his work and even his personal relationships have suffered, and his phone eventually became a way to avoid people in the real world. That was when he realized he needed help. LL, who like other patients interviewed by AFP asked that their full names not be used, suffers from a form of digital dependency known as "nomophobia," a neologism derived from the term "no-mobile-phone phobia."

It is a condition with real psychological, social and physical consequences and is on the rise in Brazil, home to the fourth largest number of internet users in the world. In September, the student started on a course of treatment in the Delete Institute, the first in Brazil to offer free digital detox to online addicts. Set up in the psychology department of Rio de Janeiro's Federal University in 2013 by psychologist Anna Lucia King, the Delete center has already treated 800 people suffering various types of dependency on digital technology.

The profiles vary, from adolescents who spend hours playing video games on their computers, to adults who have lost a spouse over their addiction, or who were fired from jobs for spending too much time on Facebook or WhatsApp. Newly enrolled patients undergo an evaluation by a multi-disciplinary team and

answer questions to establish the source of their dependency. Afterwards, a psychologist evaluates whether there is any sort of clinical disorder present, such as anxiety, panic attacks, social phobias or obsessive compulsive disorder. Afterwards, they are classified into one of three possible categories: conscientious user, abusive user or dependent, and offered treatment sessions tailored to individual needs and the gravity of the case.

Group therapy and exercises

The aim of the treatment is not to demonize technology but to allow addicts to use it in a



Patients from therapeutic group on digital dependence "Delete" show their cellphones inside a clinic in Rio de Janeiro.

healthier manner. In weekly group sessions they discuss their experiences. They also are given exercises—like trying to read a book or watch a movie without looking at a cellphone—and taught good practices—known as digital etiquette. The goal is to help a person go from an abusive user to a conscientious one. Some disorders may need to be treated medication.

As well as causing emotional problems, nomophobia can inflict physical suffering on an addict. The center's physiotherapist, Mariana King Padua, explained that prolonged use of cellphones, and the angle of the users head when staring at a handheld screen, can put so much pressure on the neck that it causes injuries. "The neck muscles are not adapted to this kind of workload," she said.

Heavy usage of technology does not necessarily make a person an addict: that only happens when their use becomes exaggerated. "Abusive behavior occurs when the virtual world starts to impinge on the real one, that's when people lose control. It's a fine line," said Eduardo Guedes, Delete's specialized digital media researcher. The ubiquity of online technology and the penetration of the internet into everyday modern life can often blind people to their own addiction. Many times, it is the people around an addict who seek help for them. — AFP



Visitors stand in front of Roman-era items during a press preview at the London Mithraeum, Bloomberg SPACE, at the new Bloomberg headquarters in central London. — AFP

ROMAN TEMPLE RESTORED DEEP UNDER LONDON

A Roman temple has been restored to its original site seven meters below the City of London, using sound, lights and misty haze to bring the ruin back to life. Built in the third century, the London Mithraeum was discovered by chance in 1954 on a World War II bomb site. It became an instant public sensation, with up to 30,000 people per day queuing to see it.

The temple to the god Mithras was dismantled and reassembled 100 meters away from its original location so the public could see it when post-war rebuilding on the site was complete. But now the ruins have been moved back and restored, deep beneath Bloomberg's vast new European headquarters by the Bank of England.

"London is a Roman city, yet there are few traces of its distant past that people can experience first-hand," said Sophie Jackson, the project's lead archaeological consultant. The reconstruction puts the temple back in

place, as it looked at the end of the 1954 excavation. "This really was one of the most important discoveries in London, if not in Britain, in the 20th century," said Jackson, from the Museum of London Archaeology team. The site is darkly lit and an audio soundscape reveals some of the noises and Latin chatter that visitors to the temple might have heard as Mithras cult members indulged in feasting, drinking and sacrificing. Sheets of light from above, slicing through the misty haze, complete the temple walls.

Mystery cult

Mithras was a Roman deity often represented killing a bull, though it is widely believed the figure was derived from a Persian sun god. His cult was all male, and the Mithraeum was a place for members to bond. The temple was built next to the River Walbrook, a now submerged stream running through the City of London. The seam of damp earth helped preserve a wealth of artifacts. Before the new Bloomberg HQ was built, a six-month dig uncovered the largest assemblage of Roman archeology ever excavated in London. The dig turned up more than 15,000 objects including jewelry, shoes, animal bones and pottery, and brooches that shed light on where Roman Londoners came from, what they ate and how they lived. It also unearthed a wooden tablet from January 8, 57 AD—the earliest dated handwritten document from Britain. Free to visit, the London Mithraeum opens to the public on Tuesday. — AFP

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017



A woman looks at paintings at the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum during a media tour on November 6, 2017 prior to the official opening of the museum on Saadiyat Island in the Emirati capital yesterday. More than a decade in the making, the Louvre Abu Dhabi opens its doors this week, bringing the famed name to the Arab world for the first time. — AFP

Story of Louis Vuitton: As travel evolved, so did our luggage

As travel changed, so did luggage. That's the story told by an elaborate exhibition about Louis Vuitton, the luxury luggage and fashion brand. The exhibition, free to visit and on display in Lower Manhattan through Jan 7, is called "Volez, Voguez, Voyagez," which means fly, sail, travel. It showcases the company's history, products and craftsmanship, demonstrating how designs changed with the evolution of travel. Luggage was designed first for transport by wagon, then for travel by sea, on trains, in cars and planes.

Trunks and bags are shown behind glass like works of art in a series of museum-like galleries. Lids open to reveal intricate compartments as if they were the contents of treasure chests. Included are cases and carriers designed for everything from toiletries to hats, from picnics to art supplies. Trunks with small drawers protected fragile objects; standing trunks had roll-out wardrobe racks so clothes could be hung, not folded. A plane is on display, along with a boat. There's even a room where human artisans show how they cut leather and snip threads for luggage tags and handles, living proof of the craftsmanship behind the brand.

The company's history begins with Louis Vuitton himself. He started a trunk-making business in Paris in 1854 after leaving his village in eastern France and working for a box-

maker. His designs were strong but light, distinguished by patterned motifs. The luggage has been a favorite of the rich and famous going back to Napoleon's wife Empress Eugenie, with later clients ranging from artist Henri Matisse to banker JP Morgan. John Wanamaker began to sell Vuitton luggage in his American department stores after meeting Louis' son at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. The brand remains a favorite today among celebs from the worlds of fashion and Hollywood.

Company's history begins with Louis Vuitton himself



Shopping season

The exhibition's timing coincides with the holiday shopping season, and the location is in New York's financial district. But most visitors will likely lack the means to buy Vuitton products, which can run in the thousands of dollars. Still, attention-getting temporary displays like this are becoming a standard way for brands to tell their story. "Many of these brands pop something up, draw a big audience, get some publicity, get reporters to talk about it," said Larry Chiagouris, professor of marketing at Pace University's Lubin School of Business. "You don't need to be there 12 months a year. You just need to establish a little publicity and move on." Chiagouris says this type of showcase can also be far more effective than a traditional ad campaign. "Ads are very fleeting and don't generate the kind of independent interac-



Visitors view a 1906 trunk, displayed as part of the "Volez, Voguez, Voyagez," Louis Vuitton exhibit, in the former American Stock Exchange building, in New York Financial District. — AP photos

tion with a brand the way an exhibit would," he said. A show like this "takes something that has almost become wallpaper and suddenly puts it into your current mindset and consciousness." Exhibitions also give designers the space and flexibility to fine-tune their message. In this case, the subdued, museum-like atmosphere creates a "mood that reflects the brand, somewhat elegant and somewhat understated," he said.

Pace University's Manhattan campus is near the exhibition site, and Chiagouris said his students have been buzzing about the Vuitton show. They're working on a competition among business schools to come up with a campaign for Ocean Spray, the cranberry brand, and the concept of telling a company's story this way, through history, products and workmanship, resonated with them. "It's an interactive experience not because of electronics or pressing a button," he said, but because "you get a sense of the identity of the brand." — AP



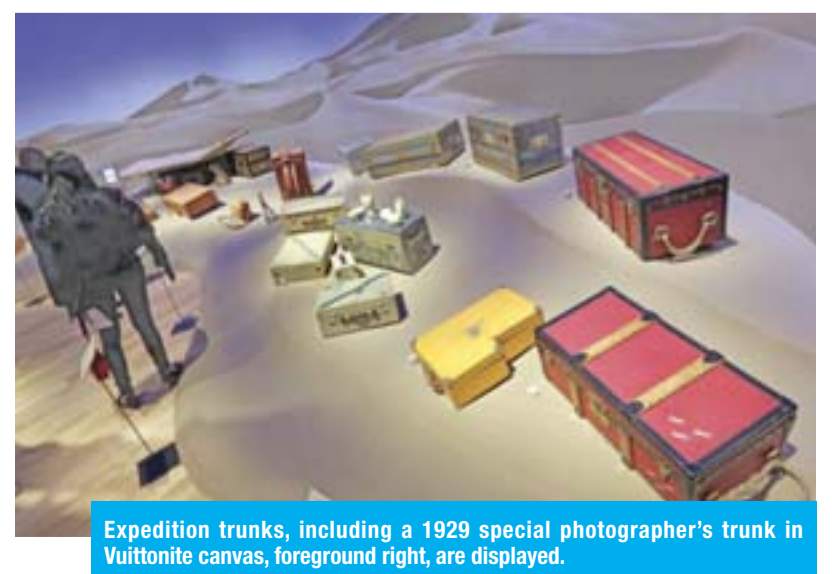
Items from the "Writing" section, including a 1930 Stokowski Desk Trunk, center, and 1932 Ideal Library Trunk, lower right are displayed.



People visit the "The Invention of Travel - Aviation" section of the exhibit.



A 1903 Ideal Trunk in Natural Cowhide, foreground right, are displayed.



Expedition trunks, including a 1929 special photographer's trunk in Vuittonite canvas, foreground right, are displayed.