

3 Youth stabs father to death in Jahra



20 Chinese consumers spend billions in shopping binge



29 US comedian Louis C K admits sexual misconduct



16 'Karate kick' Evra leaves club, banned until June 30



Militants attack Bahrain oil pipeline, opening new front

Manama links 'terrorist act' to Iran • Saudi Arabia tightens security

DUBAI: An explosion ripped through a pipeline belonging to Bahrain's state-run oil company and sent flames shooting up into the night sky, with government officials yesterday blaming the blast on an attack by militants guided by Iran. No one was injured in the explosion late Friday night near the Shiite village of Buri and no militant group immediately claimed the blast. However, it potentially opens a new front in the low-level insurgency plaguing Bahrain since its 2011 Arab Spring protests.

The explosion damaged cars and nearby buildings, forcing firefighters to evacuate those close to the flames in Buri, just outside of the capital, Manama. Authorities later extinguished the blaze on the pipeline belonging to the state-run Bahrain Petroleum Co, which closed the flow of oil to the stricken pipeline. Bahrain's interior minister, Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa, said in a statement that the blast was "the latest example of a terrorist act performed by terrorists in direct contact with, and under instruction from, Iran". He did not say what caused the explosion, nor did he name any suspects.

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa later tweeted that the explosion had targeted a pipeline running between the island nation and neighboring Saudi Arabia, which provides financial and security support to the kingdom. This "is a dangerous Iranian escalation aimed at terrorizing citizens and damaging the world's oil industry," the minister tweeted. Iran had no immediate comment yesterday, though it long has denied being behind Bahrain's militant groups.

Bahrain produced some 64,000 barrels of crude oil a day in 2016, far lower than the other oil-producing nations of the Arabian Gulf, according to the US Energy Information Administration. It has faced increasing financial pressure in recent years. Bahrain relies on the Abu Safa oilfield for the majority of its oil. It shares the field with Saudi Arabia. Oil to Bahrain is transported via the 55 km A-B pipeline which has a capacity of 230,000 barrels per day (bpd). A new 350,000-barrels per day oil pipeline between the two countries will be completed next year and will serve the planned expansion of Bahrain's refinery capacity. Arabian Light crude oil will flow from Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq plant via the 115-km new pipeline, 73 km of which will run overland and the rest under the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia's energy ministry said pumping to Bahrain had been suspended and the kingdom was stepping up security precautions at its own facilities.

Continued on Page 11



Bahraini Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa talks with a member of the emergency services during his visit to the scene of an explosion yesterday. — AP

Socialism finds comrades among US millennials

WASHINGTON: While working as an electrician Lee Carter received a literal shock, through one hand and across the chest, that jolted him into politics and turned him on to what was a dirty word in America for nearly a century: Socialism. His struggle to obtain compensation for the workplace injury inspired him to run for office, and this week Carter ousted a top Republican incumbent to nab a spot in Virginia's House of Delegates, becoming one of over a dozen unabashed socialists newly elected to US state and municipal seats one year after Donald Trump took the White House.

The 31-year-old former Marine is part of a growing cadre of Americans, particularly millennials, pledging their allegiance to the Democratic Socialists of America, the nation's fastest growing leftist group that was originally founded in 1982 as a foothold for Marxists. Riding the wave of democratic socialist Bernie Sanders's spirited White House bid against primary rival Hillary Clinton, the organization is helping propel socialism out of the shadows.

In the years prior to the Sanders campaign, the DSA's number of card-carrying members hovered around 6,500 - and has nearly quintupled since 2016's presidential race to more than 30,000. Its median age has dropped from about 60 to 35, according to organizers, some of whom have playfully referred to the surge among youth as a "socialist baby boom".

Dismayed by Trump's rise to power Jacquelyn Smith in January joined the DSA, which has chapters in nearly every US state. And at just 22 years old, she managed Carter's victorious campaign. Organizing as a DSA member means "I am challenging the root of the problem and not the symptoms," she told AFP, speaking at a recent convention of the organization's local Washington branch. "I focus a lot less on challenging Trump and a lot more on challenging why he got there in the first place," she said, citing forces including economic inequality and white supremacist movements.

Today Smith said millennials - a generation that grew up during the 2008 financial crisis - are eager for socialism, to "embrace the ideology and really fight with it publicly." Under her management DSA members spent months canvassing for Carter in Virginia's 50th district, about an hour's drive west of the nation's capital, knocking on more than 9,000 doors in the final four days. Those grassroots efforts helped propel Carter, who ran as a socialist on the Democratic party ticket, to an upset nine-point victory against one of Virginia's most powerful state Republicans.

Despite their current momentum far-left groups like the DSA remain on the fringes of American politics, working within a two-party system that leaves little space for outsiders.

Continued on Page 11

Trump believes Putin's election meddling denials

DANANG, Vietnam: Donald Trump said yesterday he believes Vladimir Putin is being sincere when he denies meddling in the election that propelled the US president to power, adding that the Russian leader felt "very insulted" by the allegations. Trump, whose key former aides are under a US investigation for alleged collaboration with the Kremlin, said he repeatedly asked Putin about the claims during their chats at the APEC summit in the Vietnamese resort of Danang.

"He (Putin) said he didn't meddle. I asked him again," Trump told reporters on Air Force One as he flew to Hanoi for a state visit. "You can only ask so many times... He said he absolutely did not meddle in our election," Trump said, adding he felt Putin seemed "very insulted" by the persistent accusations which

was "not a good thing for our country". "I really believe that when he tells me that, he means it," added Trump, who is marking one year since his shock election victory.

In May, US intelligence chiefs told Congress that they agreed with their analysts' conclusion that Russia had meddled in the election. The US president's latest comments suggest he accepts Russia's staunch denials that the Kremlin played no part in helping him get to the White House - allegations that continue to dog Trump's administration.

Putin also addressed the allegations yesterday after his meeting with Trump, describing them as a US "domestic political struggle". "I think these are some sort of fantasies," he told reporters in Danang. Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and an associate are under house arrest on charges unrelated to the election which were brought by special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating the allegations that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia.

Revelations by Facebook and Twitter that Russian-sponsored fake news flooded US social media during the election run-up have further deepened



DANANG, Vietnam: US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin as they pose for a group photo ahead of the APEC Summit leaders' gala dinner on Friday. — AFP

scrutiny on ties between the nations. Trump and Putin met three times on the margins of the APEC summit, sharing warm handshakes and brief words. The pair appeared to have struck a chummy

tone, with Trump describing a "very good feeling" after the talks, and Putin remarking on the "well-mannered" former reality TV star.

Continued on Page 11

Lebanon asks Saudi Arabia for explanation on premier's absence

BEIRUT: Lebanon's president urged Saudi Arabia yesterday to explain why Saad Hariri had not returned to Beirut since his surprise resignation as prime minister a week ago. Hariri announced on Nov 4 in a televised statement from Riyadh that he would be stepping down from the post, sending shockwaves through Lebanese politics. The premier has yet to return to Lebanon and rumors have swirled that he is being held in Saudi Arabia against his will.

President Michel Aoun yesterday called on the kingdom "that is linked to us through deep brotherly and friendly relations to clarify the reasons that have prevented the return of PM Hariri to Lebanon to be among his people and supporters". "The obscurity surrounding the condition of PM Saad Hariri since his resignation a week ago means that all positions and actions declared by him or attributed to him do not reflect the truth," Aoun added. "They are instead a result of the ambiguous and obscure conditions (under which) PM Hariri is living in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Aoun yesterday spoke by phone to French President Emmanuel Macron on the "latest developments" around Hariri's resignation, Lebanon's presidency said in a statement. Aoun has yet to formally accept Hariri's resignation and has criticized the circumstances surrounding it as "unacceptable".

Continued on Page 11



BEIRUT: A woman and her daughter pass by a poster of outgoing Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri yesterday. — AP

A decade in making, Louvre Abu Dhabi opens to the public

ABU DHABI: The Louvre Abu Dhabi opened its doors to the public yesterday, drawing thousands of visitors as cosmopolitan as the United Arab Emirates itself, a symbol of the Gulf nation's ambitions on the global stage. Light streamed down from the vast domed ceiling, the open-air museum reminiscent of a traditional Arabic marketplace. Online tickets sold out and hundreds more stood in line yesterday morning for the chance to see the works of the likes of Pablo Picasso and Rodin. Inside, Emirati teenagers in flowing black robes snapped selfies next to a towering oil painting of

Napoleon Bonaparte.

Hundreds of Asian, European and Arab expatriates dressed in stylish attire roamed through the vast museum alongside Emirati couples in traditional Arabic dress. "I'm so excited to see what's in the Louvre. I don't know how to pronounce it," giggled Rachel Aquino, a Filipina nurse living in Abu Dhabi. "LOOV," her friend Ruby Fullon, a fellow nurse from the Philippines, pronounced. Down the palatial rear steps of the open-air structure, Alex Viera and Marcelo de Paula from Brazil snapped photos on a platform jutting out over the sea, with traditional dhow wooden ships moored in the background. "I've been to the Louvre in Paris three times... I think it's very nice to see it here in a modern context," said Viera.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to bear the Louvre name outside France, presents around 600 pieces and has been billed as "the first universal museum in the Arab world". Under the 30-year agreement,



ABU DHABI: Emirati women stand in front of a series of nine panels by American painter Cy Twombly at the Louvre Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AP

France provides expertise, loans works of art and organizes temporary exhibitions - in return for one billion euros (\$1.16 billion).

Continued on Page 11

Local

Crown Prince arrives in Rome



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is welcomed as he arrives in the Italian capital Rome yesterday. — KUNA

ROME: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah arrived in the Italian capital Rome on a private visit yesterday. His Highness the Crown Prince was received at the airport by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Consul in Milan and North Italy Abdelnaser Bukhdour and other embassy staff.

His Highness the Crown Prince arrived to Rome from the United States, where he departed from late on Friday, concluding a visit during which he underwent successful medical checkups. He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and staff of the Kuwaiti Embassy. — KUNA

Kuwait played key role in lifting Sudan sanctions: Envoy



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to the State of Kuwait Mohiuddin Salem speaks during the press conference. — KUNA

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to the State of Kuwait Mohiuddin Salem said that his country has launched a new stage after the United States lifted a myriad of economic sanctions imposed on Sudan.

"Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad played a prominent role in lifting those sanctions," Salem said during a press conference held on Thursday at his residence on the occasion of the Kuwait-Sudan Economic Forum and the Sudanese Products Exhibition, which is organized under the slogan "Towards a developed economic partnership." He further stressed that the volume of Kuwaiti investments in Sudan exceeded \$7 billion, considering that they are real investments targeting vital sectors in Sudan that benefit both the countries.

He also highlighted the Sudanese government's implementation of a number of institutional reform programs, especially economic policies, which allow the private sector to contribute to the promotion of foreign direct investments. He added that the lifting of economic sanctions has led to Sudan's openness to international nations and the government's efforts to reintegrate the Sudanese financial and banking system into the international system to improve the business environment in a way that enhances opportunities for new economic partnerships, especially among private sector institutions at local, regional and international levels.

Capital movement

After the lifting of the economic sanctions, the capital movement has become more vibrant, the ambassador said. He added that the forum will present successful foreign and national investment experiences as an opportunity for businessmen in both countries to establish investment partnerships and trade deals that benefit both countries, especially with the existence of investment projects ready to be presented at the forum to the public and private sectors or the partnership between them. He pointed out that the forum will be held tomorrow and Thursday in the presence of Sudanese Minister of Investment Mubarak Al-Mahdi and Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Chairman Ali Al-Ghanem.

Salem pointed towards the participation of more than 40 Sudanese businessmen in the forum, as well as a group of major Sudanese companies working in the field of investment and trade, in addition to the official institutions concerned with investment policies and new banking policies. Climate, investment opportunities and trade in vital sectors, especially agriculture, livestock, industry, oil, mining, infrastructure, services and tourism are topics that will also be featured.

Seriousness to cooperate

On the US-Sudanese relations, Salem referred to "the seriousness of the Sudanese and American sides to cooperate. The past two weeks witnessed the visit of several American companies to Sudan to explore more areas of joint cooperation." He highlighted a number of promising areas for investors in Sudan, mining, oil and gas. The economic adviser at the Sudanese embassy to Kuwait Faisal Jumaa said that the size of Kuwaiti investments in Sudan is large, and most of the Kuwaiti companies remained in Sudan during the sanctions period, explaining that the first loans and assistance provided to Sudan were from Kuwait in 1960. He revealed a conference to be held in Khartoum-Sudan in December to bring together Arab funds specialized in development and lending to examine a comprehensive study on Arab food security prepared in cooperation between the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and one Advisory Biographies within the first Arab economic summit held in Kuwait in 2009.

Kuwait hosts conference on suffering of Palestinian children

Conference reflects Kuwait's value, says diplomat

KUWAIT: Kuwait hosts today a conference on the suffering of the Palestinian children amid violations by Israel, the occupation power, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with broad high profile Arab participation. The Arab Council of Ministers of Social Affairs and Labor will hold their 37th session on the sidelines of the two-day event. Kuwait will preside over the ministerial meeting.

The conference's four sessions will address reality of the Palestinian children under International Law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the role of the society and civil organizations for boosting the rights of the Palestinian children; the deteriorating educational, health and psychological conditions of the Palestinian children detained in Israel's prisons; and the legal protection of the Palestinian children under the Israeli occupation, and setting mechanisms to activate it. Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmad Abnul-Gheit will attend the conference, together with the Arab ministers of social affairs and labor, and representatives of government agencies concerned about childhood.

The event is held thanks to joint efforts of Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and the Arab League's Secretariat, and will be attended by Arab and international prominent advocates of child rights.

Major goal

The major goal of the conference is to shed light on the points of weakness and the obstacles that do not allow the creation and promoting of a better reality for the Palestinian children, as well as designing the necessary mechanisms to bridge that gap through partnerships with experts and the relevant Arab organizations. Kuwait has been well known with its firm stance in support of the Palestinian people, as well as working hard to help them recover their rights and self-determination, Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Dr Abdullah Almaatouq said. The country has been, and still is, a pioneer in providing all forms of humanitarian support to the "Palestinian brothers" and backing their cause on the international scene, he added.

Today's conference that aims to alleviate the

suffering of the Palestinian children constitutes a new initiative to be added to many others in Kuwait's copious humanitarian record and relief campaigns through history to back the Palestinian cause, with Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque at the core of this, Almaatouq noted. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has always reaffirmed Kuwait's unwavering stance in support of the Palestinian cause and people, stressing the necessity of enforcing the international resolutions to commit Israel to bring to a halt its aggressive policies and flagrant violations of the relevant international laws, he said. Almaatouq lauded the honorable act of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem at the recent 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly. Ghanem exposed the Israeli practices and violations against the Palestinian people, which run contrary to international laws and norms, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Neither the Kuwaiti official nor the popular agencies have spared the least effort to help the Palestinian people, the IICO chairman said.

The Kuwaiti relief societies have placed Palestine as a top priority on their charity programs, including the IICO which encourages humanitarian initiatives to lessen the suffering of the Palestinian people and provide their basic needs. The IICO has launched a solidarity campaign with Palestinians in Al-Quds supporting programs to protect sanctities and heritage, and in the meantime, including development and production programs, Almaatouq said.

'Ewaa' project

In addition, the organization has also launched the 'Ewaa' (shelter) project to rebuild homes damaged in Gaza and Jerusalem, for more dignified living conditions for the Palestinian families. According to the IICO chief, health and medical projects in the Palestinian territories have been a priority on the organization's agenda.

The Kuwait specialized hospital for Diagnostic Radiology in Gaza is a major project serving more than 250,000 people. There is also the cancer center in Nablus. The IICO has provided several

clinics and health centers with modern medical equipment and medications. The IICO's support has also been extended to mosques, schools and universities, water desalination and land reclamation. Moreover, it has established a fund for Palestinian community development with \$1.200 million. Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Al-Jarallah had announced at the opening of the 148th Session of the Arab League Council on September 12 that Kuwait would host an international conference on the suffering of Palestinian children amid the Israeli violations of their rights.

Positive outcomes

Meanwhile, Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tabboub said Kuwait is keen to make positive outcomes through hosting the 'Suffering of the Palestinian Child' conference. Kuwait constantly aims to achieve effective positive results through the events it hosts, reflecting the country's significant status and value on regional and international levels, Tabboub said. "We realize Palestine's importance and value inside the Kuwaiti people's hearts in general, and to the Kuwaiti government in particular," he said, hoping the conference produces high-level results.

The Kuwaiti government performs its duties to the fullest through careful preparations and arrangements of every conference the country hosts, said the Palestinian diplomat. There are workers in ministries of social affairs and labor, foreign, and Amiri Diwan who work around the clock to contribute to the conference's success and efforts toward attaining best results, said Tabboub. Meanwhile, he said that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' visit to Kuwait is part of answering the invitation of the 'Humanitarian Leader' His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to inaugurate the two-day conference. — KUNA



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tabboub

Palestinian leader arrives in Kuwait



KUWAIT: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, accompanied by an official delegation, arrives in Kuwait yesterday on an official visit, where he will hold talks with HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Palestinian leader was received by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA



Conference part of Kuwait's supportive legacy

KUWAIT: The international conference on the suffering of Palestinian children, which will be hosted by Kuwait today and tomorrow, is part of the Kuwaiti continuous supportive legacy towards the Palestinian cause. Long before the 1948 Palestinian exodus, Kuwaitis have been supporting Palestinians against occupiers. In 1936, the first committee supporting the Palestinian people was established by Kuwaitis who gathered donations for Palestine. Beyond 1948, Kuwaitis have opened their country to receive Palestinians after they were exiled from their homeland by Jewish elements that formed the Zionist state of Israel.

Int'l stance

Kuwait's international stance on the Palestinian cause was very visible and in 1963 then Foreign Minister and current Amir of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said that Palestinians have the right to return to their own lands. In 1964, Kuwait had donated a sum of one million Sterling Pound in support of the second Arab summit's resolution that called for the formation of a free Palestinian army.

Kuwait renewed its international stance on the issue when again His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, then Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called on Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestinian lands.

The Gulf country was a key supporter of the

first Palestinian intifada in 1987, allowing Palestinians in Kuwait to open funds and gather donations for their cause. In 1996, Kuwait provided a sum of \$25 million was provided to autonomous Palestinian regions.

Kuwait repeated the act, donating \$25 million in 1999 to the Palestinian national authority. The same year saw a \$1.5 million Kuwaiti donation to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In 2000, Kuwait's late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah donated \$150 million to support the Palestinian Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa intifada. In December of the same year, Kuwait called on the UNSC to end the continuous suffering of the Palestinian people by the hand of the brutal Israeli state.

Millions of Dollars

Between 2002 and 2005, Kuwait donated millions of US Dollars to support Palestine and UNRWA. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah donated \$30 million in 2006 to support the Palestinian people. Kuwait pledged in 2007 to provide \$300 million at the Paris donors conference for Palestine. In 2008, Kuwait signed with the World Bank an agreement to offer Palestinians a sum of \$80 million.

During the Arab social and economic summit in 2009, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah pledged \$34 million to cover the expenses of UNRWA. The same year saw Kuwait donating \$200 million to reconstruct the Gaza Strip, which suffer throughout the years from brutal Israeli military aggressions.

Kuwait decided in 2011 to increase its contributions to UNRWA by \$1.5 million. Kuwait and the World Bank inked again an agreement in favor of development in Palestine. The agreement was worth \$50 million. — KUNA

News in brief

Turkish president visits Kuwait

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is set to visit Kuwait and Qatar between November 13 and 15. During his stay in Kuwait, the Turkish leader is expected to sign a set of cooperative agreements with Kuwaiti officials, Turkish presidency's information office said in a statement yesterday. Erdogan will then travel on to Qatar where he will attend the third meeting of the Turkish-Qatari strategic committee, it added. Erdogan will also discuss with Kuwaiti and Qatari officials bilateral relations and the latest regional and international developments. — KUNA

Kuwaitis in Lebanon coming back on track

KUWAIT: The process of bringing Kuwaitis back from Lebanon is going according to the plan set by the Foreign Ministry and other authorities, said Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Friday. In an online statement, KAC said that Kuwaiti citizens would not need to change their flight reservations, affirming that they can return to the country as soon as they desire with no additional charge. By today, Kuwait Airways will halt the emergency flights and resume normal flight schedules. In a statement Thursday, the Foreign Ministry urged Kuwaiti citizens currently in Lebanon to leave the country immediately. The statement attributed the step to circumstances experienced by Lebanon at the moment, as well as a precautionary measure against any negative impact that might take place. — KUNA

Local

SPECIAL REPORT

Despite modest drop, rents still curb families' budgets

Govt house distributions helped drop real estate prices

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: 'Everything has become expensive.' Prices go up regularly, while salaries are the same. These are common complaints of people in Kuwait - especially expatriates, as they are the most affected by poor and stagnant salaries. Housing is one of the main issues related to the cost of living, as it consumes the greatest part of the monthly budget. Rent values rose significantly during the 10 years from 2006 to 2016: when the rents finally started to drop. But rent rates differ according to the area. According to Ahmad, a real estate broker, rent values dropped significantly only in far-flung areas. "In commercial areas, rent dropped slightly or even remained the same, as most landlords refuse to lower the rent. I know an owner who has three buildings that are mostly vacant, as he refuses to decrease the rent, even as tenants left his apartments for cheaper ones. But I know that in southern and northern areas, rent dropped in greater percentages," he told Kuwait Times.



Inflation rate lowest since Aug 2004

and Farwaniya," he explained. Various reasons are behind the fall in rent values. "Rent started to drop last year, but more so this year. Real estate prices have fallen, but landlords do not want to admit this. A government house in West Sulaibikhat used to command a rent of KD 1,000, but today it is hard to find a tenant for KD 700. Many new rules were issued against expats, so they left or will be leaving - such as terminating hundreds of expat teachers and new rules to terminate expat employees from the public sector," added Qaseem.

Lower inflation

Economist Fahd Al-Saqr noted that inflation this year is lower than last year - between 2 to 2.5 percent. "Inflation in Kuwait increased by about 10 to 12 percent in the past 10 years, which is acceptable in this region where inflation rates are higher than Kuwait. We are a consumerist country dependent on imported goods, so any price hike in other countries will affect us. Also, the Kuwaiti dinar is linked to the US dollar and fluctuations in the international markets, in addition to the price of oil, so what happens there affects us," he pointed out.

According to Trading Economics.com, Kuwait's inflation rate is the lowest since Aug 2004. Consumer prices in Kuwait increased 1.3 percent year-on-year in July 2017. It is the lowest inflation rate since Aug 2004, due to a fall in cost of housing services (-2.3 percent) and communication (-1.1 percent), mainly due to lower Internet charges. In addition, inflation slowed for food and beverages (0.3 percent), clothing and footwear (2.1 percent) and transport (15.5 percent). On the other hand, prices of furnishing and



KUWAIT: While rents registered some drop in northern and southern areas, they remain mostly unaltered the closer the property is to Kuwait City. —KUNA photo

maintenance rose (3.4 percent). On a monthly basis, consumer prices edged down 0.1 percent. The inflation rate in Kuwait averaged 3.03 percent from 1995 until 2017, reaching an all-time high of 11.70 percent in Aug 2008 and a record low of -1.15 percent in April 1998.

No signs

According to Saqr, inflation this year fell due to the drop in real estate prices. "Real estate prices are still decreasing and there are no signs of any price hikes. The price differs according to the area - for instance in Jahra, it is around 30 percent due to the new houses given by the government to Kuwaitis in Abdaly, which is about a 10-minute drive from there. Prices have fallen by only 10-15 percent in commercial areas such as Hawally or Salmiya, as demand is still relatively high in these areas," stressed

Saqr. "Also, the government has played a role in this matter. This year it distributed around 12,500 government houses to citizens, while the figure in the past was between 1,000 to 2,000 annually. This affected the occupancy of rental apartments. The current geopolitical situation in the region has also discouraged investors to invest in Kuwait, and most Kuwaiti investors prefer to invest abroad. For instance, the Nugra Complex was offered for sale in a bid three times, but it was not sold although it has an excellent location and good income," he said.

Regarding consumer goods, prices have definitely hiked, but there are no official statistics of the exact percentage. But consumers feel the pinch when going grocery shopping these days, compared to a couple of years ago. Saqr noted that last year's hike in petrol prices had a great impact on many local goods and services.



KUWAIT: A photo provided by police shows the murder weapon after the suspect discarded it following the crime.

Man confesses to father's stab-murder

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and agencies

KUWAIT: Jahra police arrested a citizen who stabbed his father to death yesterday. The 45-year-old victim died at Jahra Hospital from a stab wound inflicted by his 22-year-old son. The killer confessed to committing the crime and was sent to public prosecution.

Fires

Fire broke out in an electronics' store in Ahmadi, as firemen from the Ahmadi and Fahaaheel fire stations responded and contained the blaze. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, firemen dealt with a blaze in two houses in Khaitan on Friday. Farwaniya, Shuhada, Sabhan and back up fire stations responded. The fire started in a traditional Arab style house covering an area of 500 square meters. The house was evacuated and the flames which spread to a neighboring house were tackled, while firemen faced difficulties due to the collapse of a roof and staircase. A fireman was injured and suffered bruises, whereas no other injuries were reported.

Fights

A fight took place between a number of young people and police officers at a gas station in Qadsiya. The dispute ended with the boys injuring two policemen who were

taken to the hospital while three were detained at Daeya police station. Police intervened after some youngsters gathered at the station and obstructed traffic while harassing girls. The boys then insulted and attacked the police which made an officer pull out a gun to scare them. Separately, a fight broke out between eight people including four girls, and several among them suffered stab wounds. The fight started as a verbal dispute between two women during a party, which led to the interference of others. Policemen arrested those involved.

Intruder arrested

A citizen who wanted to take a shortcut to Ahmadi stormed into the security point at the entrance of a security department, causing extensive damage to the barriers. He was arrested and taken to Ahmadi police station. A security source said that while security men were manning the point, a vehicle at a high speed approached them and stormed into the gate. The driver stopped immediately and told them that he thought it was a shorter route to Ahmadi and wanted to avoid police.

Sergeant injured

An Iraqi boat that entered Kuwait's territorial waters and was chased by Coast Guard fired shots, injuring a sergeant who was taken to Jahra hospital.

Policewoman detained

A policewoman was detained after she insulted an officer and tried to run over a policeman while attempting to escape from a police patrol in Hawally. The policewoman was stopped at a check point and was asked for her ID which made her furious and then attempted to escape.



Firefighters tackle a blaze reported in Khaitan.

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW

KD 25

PAINTBALL KUWAIT

* your subscription for one year for only kd 25 and get 4 free tickets to Paintball kuwait valued at kd37

1 دخول
Entrance Ticket
Value KD 9,250

50 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

30 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

20 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

10 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

5 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

2 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

1 طلقة
Paintballs
www.paintball-kuwait.com

Local

\$8.5 billion lost from suspended production at Khafji, Wafra oilfields

Bureau blames Kuwait Gulf Oil Company for joint operations' halt

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: An State Audit Bureau report showed that Kuwait lost \$8.5 billion as a result of suspending oil production at the Khafji and Wafra oilfields, explaining that estimated losses at the former were \$6.1 billion and \$2.3 billion at the latter till Dec 31, 2016. The bureau explained that Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) was responsible for suspending the joint operations and operation losses at Khafji were \$1.1 billion, in addition to \$685.7 million at Wafra.

The report added that KGOC also suffered further losses due to suspending the 3-D seismic surveying project that had already cost KD 22 million, in addition to cancelling 13 other projects in Wafra during 2016 with a total cost of KD 6.4 million and laying off 290 technical employees from Khafji and 211 from Wafra. "The closure will have a negative impact on Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's reputation," warned the report, noting that KGOC had contacted both governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to discuss the suspension in view of partners' insistence on suspending production.

In addition, the report said the cost of providing medical care to Khafji employees was \$13.4 million despite the reduction in staff, after laying off 79 workers following the suspension of production. Moreover, the report said that the contractor hired to build and maintain the company's new headquarters in Ahmadi at a total cost of \$35.7 million delayed building temporary accommodations to house company employees, which delayed commencing construction works at the main building.

The report also noted that national workers in main office contracts had dropped to 2.2 percent (only 3 out of 134), which is far below the minimum of 25 percent required. It also showed that only KD 1.5 million had been spent on environmental projects instead of KD 5.7 million as agreed upon with the Environment Public Authority (EPA). The report showed that achievement ratios in projects such as a pipeline to transport Kuwait's share of liquefied gas were far below planned expectations, which had predicted concluding the project on July 30, 2017.

Revenues dropped

Another State Audit Bureau report showed that revenues collected by the Ministry of Communications for the fiscal year 2016-2017 dropped by 70.5 percent. The

report added that expenses, on the other hand, had increased by 3.1 percent and that the bureau failed to calculate the final statement because of delay in handing it over to the concerned bodies, which is a violation of articles 38 and 41 of decree number 31/1978 pertaining the rules of making budgets.

The report said that the most significant remark was related to failure to issue e-collection receipts on paying fines using K-Net at the air transport department, of a total value of KD 332 million. The report also noted that both departments and individual employees given leased vehicles to use during official working hours failed to return them when they were on leave.

No definition

A third State Audit Bureau report showed that the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has 292 vacancies and that the authority's technical office had appointed 15 heads of department, three directors and five managers without defining the departments they ran, which is a violation of the authority's structural organization. The report also explained that actual revenues made by the authority had increased by 126 percent compared to estimated revenues of KD 2.41 million, by earning KD 3,039,000.

In addition, the report showed that the authority made remarkable achievement in cutting down the time needed to connect power to sectors N1 and N3 in Jaber Al-Ahmed City from 730 to only 180 days, which is a good thing for citizens waiting for their housing units. On the other hand, the report said the authority failed to hand over project land to contractors without any impediments, which forced it to refund all delay fines to one of the contractors.

Credit Bank

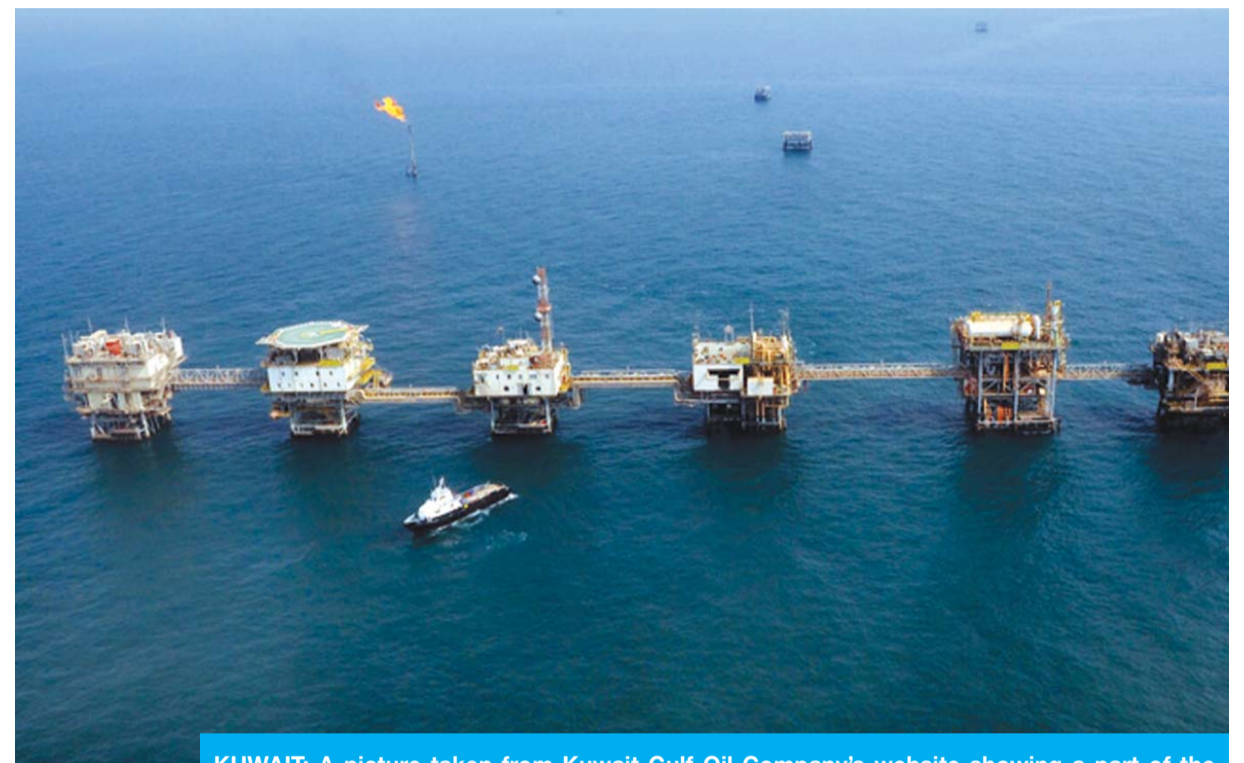
Meanwhile, the State Audit Bureau report about the Credit Bank's actual revenues said that it earned KD 3.71 million, with 4.2 percent increase in the fiscal year 2016-2017. The report added that actual expenses were 29.3 percent less than estimated. The report added that the bank's net profits were KD 59,790,000, an increase of KD 17 million, to be added to the bank's general reserves.

Early-detection

The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) formed a supreme committee to follow up preparations for the rainy season. The committee will be headed by undersecretary



Communication ministry's revenues down by 70.5%



KUWAIT: A picture taken from Kuwait Gulf Oil Company's website showing a part of the Khafji joint operations.

Awatif Al-Ghunaim. MPW said in a statement that all underpasses will be provided with early-detection alarm systems to monitor water levels in them and avoid flooding, like what happened last year. Ghunaim said the committee discussed preparations that had started in August as well as ways to handle any emergencies. She added that preparations were being done in collaboration with various bodies such as MoI, the National Guard, the Civil Defense and the Cabinet's committee for following up security-related decisions.

Ghunaim added that the early-detection systems would send warning notices to a control room if water levels reach 30 cm in any underpass. The same notice is sent to MoI so that warning messages can be sent to all road users to avoid flooded tunnels. She added that preparations include cleaning all drainage systems, manholes and pipelines draining excess water into the sea.

Kuwait Airways

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh said a study by McKinsey recommended considering restructuring Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC). Responding

to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Osama Al-Shaheen, Sabeeh said a report on an IATA study made in 2013-2014 had recommended restructuring KAC with the process of privatizing it. She added that KAC's board of directors had taken the IATA study into consideration and that it is being fully assessed and updated according to new changes as a five-year first phase with a total cost of KD 469,000. She added that the second phase will cost KD 3,005,000 to implement the recommendations.

Responding to a question about the reason for purchasing planes, reselling them and then leasing the same planes, Sabeeh said that this was standard procedure used by various airlines with the aim of cutting capital expenses and distributing financial operational risks between leased and owned assets, with the ultimate goal of providing enough liquidity and making more revenues.

Lease contracts

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said that 136 lease contracts by government bodies to rent buildings since 2013 until the end of 2017 with a total cost of KD 14 million were cancelled.

News in brief

Dramatic drop in traffic violations

KUWAIT: New traffic regulations have helped reduce the number of no-parking violations from an average of 4,000 a day to 150, the Interior Ministry's General Traffic Department said yesterday. Traffic police started two weeks ago to impound for two months a vehicle whose driver parks in no parking zones, is caught driving while using a mobile phone, in case the driver or passenger are not fastening the seatbelt while the car is moving, or in case a motorcyclist is caught driving without wearing a helmet. These new measures have helped dramatically drop the number of violations committed by motorists, Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Fahad Al-Shuwayay said.

Phone services at book fair

KUWAIT: The 42nd Kuwait international book fair will introduce automated queries and smartphones services to the visitors, said an official Friday. Director of Kuwait's International Book Fair Saad Al-Enezi said that the new services, available on iOS and Android systems, will help visitors to best navigate their way through the book fair, held on November 15-25 featuring some 482 publishers from 30 nations and 11,000 titles. He indicated that printed indexing services would be available during the fair, which has an additional 50 new publishers participating for the first time. —KUNA

Kuwait awarded at 'Media Mondial'

CAIRO: Assistant Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information for Radio Affairs Sheikh Fahad Mubarak Al-Sabah said his country dominated the award ceremony of the Sixth Cairo Artworks and Media Mondial. Kuwait has won 45 gold, silver and bronze medals, thus grabbing the lead from 18 other countries participating in the event, he said at the closing ceremony on Friday night. —KUNA

Kuwait participates in Australian ceremony

CANBERRA: Kuwait took part yesterday in a ceremony marking 99th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914-18), held at the Australian War Memorial site in the Capital Canberra. Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader participated in Remembrance Day ceremony on behalf of Kuwait by laying a wreath at the memorial site. Ambassador Bader described the celebration, saying it is an important day for the Australians where they pause for the 99th time to remember over 60,000 Australians who have never returned. —KUNA

Assembly panel rejects screening foreigners at airport

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Head of the National Assembly's Legal and Legislative Committee MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie said that the panel rejected a draft law calling to screen foreigners on their entry at the airport saying it breaches the constitution. Subaie also said the panel rejected another draft law calling to bar the entry of those who make religious abuses, saying that it is not in line with the country's law and is incomplete.

The legal and legislative committee's duty is to ensure that draft laws and proposals submitted by lawmakers are in line with the constitution and other Kuwaiti

laws before sending it to the concerned committee for discussion.

Subaie said that the bill on foreigners is incomplete and objectionable since it includes every expatriate who arrives at Kuwait Airport like investors, tourists and normal visitors. He said there are United Nations laws that prohibit such screening for all and that it contradicts with the Kuwaiti constitution and laws.

He said the panel may have approved it had it only covered certain groups of expatriates like laborers or those coming from an infected country but it cannot be applied to all since it could have the suspi-

cion of discrimination. The other draft law wants that all those who abuse the Almighty, the companions and wives of the Prophet (PBUH) be barred from entering Kuwait. Subaie said the bill is incomplete since it does not include a busing prophets and that is why the committee rejected it. MP Riyadh Al-Adasani meanwhile said that the country's finances and its assets

Bill breaches the constitution

abroad are in good shape, quashing reports that Kuwait's fiscal reserves abroad dropped from \$592 billion last year to just \$528 billion this year. The lawmaker said that reports about losses of the Kuwaiti assets are untrue.



MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie

Japanese embassy, EPA, KEPS organize 'Operation Turtle' beach cleanup

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The Japanese Embassy in cooperation with Kuwait Environment Public Authority (EPA) and Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) organized a beach cleanup yesterday in Kuwait City. The beach cleanup program completed 17 years since its launch in 2000. "We have been organizing this program to help Kuwait clean its coastline," said Takashi Ashiki, Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait. "We named this program 'Operation Turtle' because we love sea turtles. Kuwait has many species of sea turtles which need protection and clean waters to live in."

The event, according to the Japanese envoy, was a project that emerged from the previous environmental projects with Kuwait. The Japanese community consisting of around 300 people usually volunteer in such initiatives. "We have been cleaning the beaches of Kuwait for 17 years, it may be less in scale but it certainly has a huge impact," said the envoy. "Such projects must continue and must be supported by everyone. Our community through this service shows its respect and gratitude towards Kuwait. This country is our second home; they are generous and hospitable people."

Japan is the largest supplier of vehicles to this part of the world, and for that, the Japanese envoy has been very grateful for the trust and confidence bestowed to Japanese car makers. "We conquered more than 60 percent of the car markets in the Gulf and we thank Kuwaitis and residents for trusting in our brands," the envoy noted.



KUWAIT: Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki poses with participants in the beach cleanup. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Volunteers participate in the beach cleanup.

Local

Zain showcases latest enterprise and business solutions at EGOV5

As part of its platinum sponsorship of the event



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan honors Zain.



Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan visits Zain's booth.

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its platinum sponsorship of the fifth E-Government Forum organized by the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) under the theme 'Digital Transformation'. The event, held at Courtyard Marriott Hotel, came under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The opening ceremony witnessed the attendance of several prominent figures, led by HH the Prime Minister's representative the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan, General Manager of the forum co-organizer, NoufEXPO, Yousef Al-Marzouq,

Deputy Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Qussai Al-Shatti, as well as a number of experts, professionals, and leaders from both the public and private sectors.

Zain's platinum sponsorship of the forum comes in line with its core objectives that aim at shouldering the advancement of the community as a whole on all levels, where the company reaffirms the principal of partnership through similar efforts with the aim of contributing to the further progress of national economy.

Zain took the opportunity to introduce a number of its "Zain Business" services and solutions for corporate customers, including Zain Machine-to-Machine (M2M), a service that allows firms to monitor, track

and diagnose the performance their assets, as well as send and receive data and control central management systems using sensors around the electricity grid, which can report in real time, helping prevent power outages, increase capacity and defer costly investment.

The company also showcased Zain Cloud DR, which brings a state-of-the-art Disaster Recovery service of various capabilities - that is reliable and secured - to the market. This will offer a Virtual Server Recovery that will provide a complete Disaster Recovery solution and replication of the customer's servers. The services also include @LASILKI, a reliable and secured wireless Push-to-talk service (PTT) over 4G

technology, with Zain's fast speed and nationwide coverage, as well as the Zain Business Data Center (BDC) that has the ability to offer companies the reliable support they need, in terms of data storage, industry-leading security and connectivity when hosting their digital assets in the MENA region.

The 5th E-Government Forum focused on Digital Transformation as the journey that government agencies should undergo to be able to achieve the objective of the e-government program set by the government. EGOV5 discussed the basic characteristics of digital transformation, its requirements, its success factors, and the pitfalls or risks that need to be considered and mitigated along the way.

Fifth E-Govt Forum honors KFH

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan honored Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in recognition of its participation in the 5th E-Government Forum held under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Roudhan visited KFH booth and praised the bank's efforts and contributions in the forum. He applauded KFH great interest in adopting the technology and enhancing the banking technological environment, indicating this contributes in boosting the economy.

Meanwhile, Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media at KFH, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaich said that KFH participation in the E-Government forum affirms the bank's ongoing commitment to be present in the conferences that discuss the latest developments in the eservices and technology especially that the world is going digital.

The forum hosted a huge number of government officials, digital experts in the information technology and digitalization from the private and public sectors in addition to global specialists and consultants from local and global institutions.



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan honors KFH.



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan visits KFH's booth.

KFH issues 'Pioneers of Islamic Economy' book

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has issued the second edition of 'The Pioneers of the Islamic Economy' book following the great success of the first edition. In the preface of the book, KFH Chairman Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that the idea of issuing the second edition of the book "The Pioneers of the Islamic Economy" stems from the bank's keenness to recognize the first pioneers who greatly influenced the banking business in KFH and launched a plethora of economic initiatives in Kuwait and abroad, thus deserved to be honored with the title of 'Pioneers.'

Marzouq added that the Sharia Committee at KFH is auditing all the banking transactions, pointing out that the success of KFH is the result of the joint effort of highly qualified experts who were devoted to give all they had for the best interest of the bank, while thoroughly complying with Sharia principles. Meanwhile, in the preface of 'Pioneers of Islamic Economy' book, the author Dr Abdulmohsen Al-Kharafi said: "We have the will



KUWAIT: KFH Chairman Hamad Al-Marzouq receives the book from Dr Abdulmohsen Al-Kharafi.

to continue the noble story of those who gave KFH every sincere and constructive effort in order to maintain the excellent success and progress process as the world leading Islamic financial institution.

The book tackles topics of the succession of generations in the service of the Islamic economy, the Islamic business model, the role of KFH in serving the community, and the personalities that contributed to the establishment of KFH and the expansion of its businesses. It also explains the emergence of the

idea of the Islamic economy, the stage of establishing Islamic banks, the difficulties faced by KFH, and the improvement of performance in numbers, profits and distributions.

The book contains an archive of the most important pictures, events and activities organized by KFH, as well as photographs of the founders of the bank and the Boards of Directors who led the development of the Islamic banking industry. The book is available free of charge to customers at all KFH branches.

NBK welcomes Amal School students

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) recently hosted students from Al-Amal School, who toured the bank's head office to learn about the banking industry and the day-to-day work of the bank's various departments.

The students had the chance to learn about the broad range of NBK financial and banking products and services through trained staff who communicated with them in sign language. As

part of the tour, the students visited NBK museum where they had the chance to learn about Kuwait's history, key national historical events in addition to NBK's establishment story.

NBK Communications team accompanied the students on their tour to the bank's various departments including the banking hall, and different banking. The students also were introduced to NBK's safety deposit boxes. The tour is part of NBK's ongoing commitment to its corporate social responsibility program and to promoting the education and development of the country's youth. NBK regularly hosts students on field trips from both public and private schools in Kuwait and provides them with information about the banking industry and career opportunities.



KUWAIT: Al-Amal School students pose with NBK officials during the visit.

Qatar Power Construction (Grade 'A' Electrical Contracting Company in Qatar) is Hiring Electrical engineers full filling the following criteria.

- Minimum 5years of working experience in utility / Electrical distribution company working for 11KV or similar substations.
- Hands on Experience in Switching, Operation to isolate and restore required equipment or circuit and to shift Normal Open Points (NPO).
- Candidates with experience in Operation & Maintenance of distribution sub stations will be preferred.

Kindly send your CVs to:
HR@QPCWLL.COM
RECRUITMENTDIVISION@QPCWLL.COM



North Korea brands Trump 'warmonger'

Britain's Prince Charles steps up as Queen steps back

Page 8

Page 9



RIYADH: Photo shows the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in the Saudi capital Riyadh. Its chandelier-studded ballrooms hosted global business titans just weeks ago. Now Riyadh's palatial Ritz-Carlton is reported to have morphed into a makeshift prison after the kingdom's unprecedented crackdown on the coddled elite. — AFP

Royal purge: Saudi '5-star prison'

Riyadh's palatial Ritz-Carlton morphed into a makeshift prison

RIYADH: Its chandelier-studded ballrooms hosted global business titans just weeks ago. Now Riyadh's palatial Ritz-Carlton is reported to have morphed into a makeshift prison after the kingdom's unprecedented crackdown on the coddled elite. Saudi Arabia's Attorney General has vowed no special treatment for those detained in the purge, which includes princes, ministers and businessmen such as flamboyant billionaire tycoon Al-Waleed bin Talal.

But the five-star hotel spread over 52 acres, originally built to house guests of the royal family, is a far cry from a gritty prison cell—it boasts of majestic suites and pastel-hued hallways awash with bronze statues and glittering chandeliers. It has prompted light-hearted banter on social media, with jocular speculation on who would be added to the "Ritz guest list" as the crackdown expands, and some quipping "take us with you" to be incarcerated in the lavish hotel.

"Those people are as soft as butter and probably cannot survive a real prison," a Saudi man said on Twitter, referring to the elite detainees. The attorney

general has said some 201 people are being held for questioning over an estimated \$100 billion in embezzlement and corruption, many of them subjected to detailed interrogations conducted in secret. It is not clear if they are all being held at the Ritz-Carlton. Police cars surround the palatial compound, with its imposing gates uncharacteristically clamped shut. Its website posted a message saying that the "hotel's telephone lines are currently disconnected until further notice".



Attorney General vows no special treatment

Royal purge, royal privileges
There's no official indication how long the group

will remain under house arrest. Last Sunday, the 492-room hotel's online reservation page showed no availability until December. On Friday, it showed no availability until February 1, fuelling speculation that the "guest list" was expected to grow. A Saudi businessman who had planned to host an event at the hotel this week was abruptly informed it had been cancelled.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances out of the Ritz-Carlton, the hotel had been ordered to accommodate a high-profile government delegation beginning November 4, 2017," he told AFP, quoting a message from the hotel management. A

brief and shaky video allegedly leaked from inside the hotel showed people sleeping on the ground covered in brightly colored blankets, while armed guards lurked in the background. The New York Times identified the place as the hotel's "Ballroom B", saying it appeared to be a makeshift barracks for the guards. The arrests of jet-setting members of the royal family have sent a ripple of anxiety through the kingdom.

Saudi forces have grounded private jets at airports, possibly to prevent high-profile figures from leaving the country, an aviation source said, provoking fears of more arrests. Just weeks ago, the hotel hosted a glittering investment summit—dubbed "Davos in the desert"—which Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman used as a platform to pledge a "moderate" Saudi Arabia and to showcase his ambitious reform drive. The crackdown has exposed the kingdom's once-untouchable elite to rare public scrutiny—Saudiis on social media have quipped that the Ritz-Carlton was not the worst place to be trapped. — AFP

Anger rises as toxic air chokes India's capital

NEW DELHI: As thick smog crept over India's capital this past week and smudged landmarks from view, Nikunj Pandey could feel his eyes and throat burning. Pandey stopped doing his regular workouts and said he felt tightness in his lungs. He started wearing a triple layer of pollution masks over his mouth. And he became angry that he couldn't safely breathe the air. "This is a basic right," he said. "A basic right of humanity."

Pandey is among many people in New Delhi who have become more aware of the toxic air in recent years and are increasingly frustrated at the lack of meaningful action by authorities. This past week the air was the worst it's been all year in the capital, with microscopic particles that can affect breathing and health spiking to 75 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization. Experts have compared breathing the air to smoking a couple of packs of cigarettes a day. The Lancet medical journal recently estimated that some 2.5 million Indians die each year from pollution. United Airlines suspended its flights between New Delhi and Newark, New Jersey, for Saturday and Sunday because of the heavy air pollution in the Indian capital, said Sonia, an airline official who uses one name. Pandey said the millions of rural folk who have moved to the city understand the problem better than they once did, and are trying everything from tying scarves over their faces to eating "jaggery," a sugar cane product that some people believe offers a range of health benefits.

Masks once considered an affectation of hypochondriac tourists are these days routinely worn by government workers and regular people on the street. Volunteers handed out thousands of green surgical masks this week to make a point about the pollution, but such masks likely have a limited impact on keeping out the tiny particles from people's lungs. "This is truly a health emergency," said Anumita Roychowdhury, the executive director of research and advocacy at New Delhi's Centre for Science and Environment. She said doctors in recent days have been dealing with a 20 percent spike in emergency hospital admissions from people suffering heart and lung problems.

And that's in a city, she said, where one in every three children already has compromised lungs. Seema Upadhyaya, who heads a primary school, said she has never before witnessed so many children suffering from respiratory illnesses as she has this year. That has prompted changes to the curriculum. "It's impacting everybody," she said. Authorities have been taking extraordinary measures to try to mitigate the immediate crisis. They have temporarily closed schools and stopped most trucks from entering the city. Next week they are considering rationing car usage.

But everyone agrees such measures don't address the root causes, which remain hard to solve. Roychowdhury said the city's pollution has been trapped this week by a lack of wind at ground level, colliding winds in the upper atmosphere, and cooling temperatures. Air quality typically gets worse at this time of year as nearby farmers burn fields and people build street fires to keep warm. The conditions this week prompted the capital's top elected official, Arvind Kejriwal, to describe his city as a "gas chamber."

While crop burning has been banned in and around the capital, officials say it's hard to punish impoverished farmers for continuing traditional methods that have been handed down through the generations. Pandey said it's part of a broader problem in India. "Your water



NEW DELHI: An Indian family crosses a road amid heavy smog in front of the Red Fort in New Delhi. — AFP

is not healthy, your food is not healthy, your vegetables are polluted, they are poisoned," he said. "I mean, everything is polluted right now." Roychowdhury said she is encouraged there is rising awareness of the air quality problem, both among residents and the medical community. But she says authorities need to do more.

She said officials have been asking people this week to use more public transport, but at the same time the city doesn't have enough buses and hasn't bought any

new ones in recent years. "What we are saying, and the Supreme Court has already asked for it, is that there should be a comprehensive plan for all sources of pollution," she said. Meanwhile, people like Pandey say they are going to have to suffer through, because New Delhi is where they need to be based for work opportunities and their families. "We are India, right?" he said. "We just try to survive in whatever condition we are in. That is how it is." — AP

International

Thousands commemorate Arafat in Hamas-run Gaza

A show of national unity after Fatah-Hamas deal

GAZA: Tens of thousands of Palestinians gathered in Gaza yesterday to commemorate the death of veteran leader Yasser Arafat in the first such memorial in the Hamas-run territory since 2007. The anniversary event was billed as a show of national unity after the Islamists of Hamas struck a reconciliation agreement last month with the rival Fatah movement founded and led by Arafat until his death in 2004.

The deal, which is supposed to see Hamas cede civil control of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority led by current Fatah leader Mahmud Abbas by December 1, could end years of bitter division between the rival factions. Tens of thousands of people from across the Gaza Strip poured into Saraya Square in Gaza City from early morning, hours before the keynote speeches were due to be delivered. Organizers said more than 100,000 people were in attendance. Participants waved Palestinian flags and placards calling for unity, as well as pictures of both Arafat and Abbas.

In a pre-recorded speech broadcast on large screens, Abbas, who has not visited Gaza since his allies were thrown out by Hamas in 2007, hailed his predecessor's legacy. "Our Palestinian people, who have always loved you as a great leader, still have that love, respect and loyalty," Abbas said the Palestinians were pushing ahead to seal reconciliation and to

achieve Arafat's "dream... for freedom, sovereignty and independence on our Palestinian national soil". "There is no state in Gaza and there is no state without Gaza," he said, stressing that the Palestinian people were "united" and "refuse divisions".

Gaza is waiting

Participants at the rally also said the event underlined the need, now more than ever, for Palestinians to unite. "Today is a day for loyalty, unity and reconciliation. We say to the president and the government: Your sons in Fatah are waiting for your support of Gaza," said 20-year-old Shukri Antar. Rania Barbek, 50, who was carrying a Fatah flag and a picture of Abbas, said she and her son had arrived at the square at 7 am from their home in Khan Yunis in the south of the Gaza Strip. "We are all with Abu Ammar,"

people were in attendance. Participants waved Palestinian flags and placards calling for unity, as well as pictures of both Arafat and Abbas. "From this festival, we want Fatah and Hamas to unite against the enemy," Hamas seized control of Gaza in a near civil war with Fatah in 2007 amid bitter recriminations over the Islamists' landslide victory in parliamentary elections the previous year.

The last commemoration in the territory of Arafat's death was held just months afterwards and ended in clashes between the rival factions. Fatah has held other events in Gaza since 2007, including a major celebra-



GAZA: Fatah supporters wave the party flag as they take part in a rally in Gaza City marking the death anniversary of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. —AFP

tion in 2013, but Hamas has often suppressed its activities. On Thursday, several thousand people attended a smaller Arafat anniversary event in Gaza organized by Fatah. On Friday, hundreds of people took part in a "national unity marathon" organized by the Palestine

Athletic Federation to support reconciliation between the rival factions. Tawfiq Abu Naim, head of Hamas's internal security forces in Gaza, said he had instructed them to protect and support yesterday's commemoration, which he described as a "festival of unity". —AFP



Abbas hails his predecessor's legacy, dream

US, Saudi accuse Iran over Yemen missile launch

DUBAI: Both Saudi Arabia and the US now accuse Iran of supplying ballistic missiles to Shiite rebels in Yemen, including one that targeted the kingdom's capital of Riyadh and its international airport. Here's what is known:

The Yemen crisis

Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, sits on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, bordering Saudi Arabia and Oman. It looks out onto the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. Shiite rebels known as Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, in September 2014. A Saudi-led coalition began battling the Houthis and their allies in September 2015 on behalf of Yemen's internationally recognized government. The war has killed more than 10,000 civilians and pushed millions of Yemenis to the brink of famine.

Iran 'offers missiles'

A top US Air Force general in the Mideast on Friday alleged that missiles fired by the Houthis bore "Iranian markings," without elaborating or offering pictures. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Culture and Information later sent military briefing material to The Associated Press showing what they allege to be part of a Houthi Burkan, or "Volcano," ballistic missile. Writing on the side matched an image of an Iranian Qiam missile. The markings on the alleged Houthi missile also largely matched an AP photograph of a Qiam missile on display in Iran on Sept 21, 2012, areas of which read "CLAMP HERE" and "SUPPORT HERE." Another image offered by the Saudis showed the base of the rocket, which resembled that of the Qiam. The US Air Force's Central Command on Saturday declined to discuss the Saudi military briefing papers, though the image of part of the Burkan bore US declassification codes.

What does Iran say?

Iran long has denied offering any arms to the Houthis. It has yet to specifically respond to the US general's comments. However, Mehdi Taeb, an influential hard-line cleric who is a brother to the intelligence chief of the hard-line



SANAA: People look at the damage in the aftermath of an air strike in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa yesterday. The Saudi-led military coalition carried out two air strikes on the defense ministry in Yemen's rebel-held capital Sanaa. —AFP

Revolutionary Guard, said in April that Iran tried three times to send missiles to Yemen. The Guard, answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, oversees Iran's missile program.

Has Iran been accused?

The US Navy's 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain, repeatedly has accused Iran of running armaments into Yemen. It points to seizures over a four-week period in early 2016, when coalition warships stopped three dhows, traditional ships that ferry cargo through the Gulf. The dhows carried thousands of Kalashnikov assault rifles, as well as sniper rifles, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, anti-tank missiles and other weapons. One dhow carried 2,000 new assault rifles with serial numbers in sequential order, suggesting they came from a national stockpile, according to the London-based group Conflict Armament Research. The rocket-propelled grenade launchers also bore hallmarks of being manufactured in Iran, the group said.

Conflict Armament Research, with the permission of the United Arab Emirates' elite Presidential Guard, also examined seized drones used by the Houthis and their allies to

crash into Patriot missile batteries in Saudi Arabia. Destroying Patriot missile batteries allows the rebels to fire missiles into Saudi Arabia without interference, and costs the kingdom millions of dollars to repair and replace. While the Houthis say they manufacture the drones themselves, the research group said the drones share "near-identical design and construction characteristics" of Iranian drones.

Getting missiles into Yemen

Saudi military briefing material sent to the AP alleged Iran smuggled weapons into Yemen by boat and truck. The material offered one set of images showing a truck with a false bottom that the Saudis said ferried weapons into the country. There haven't been any major seizures of arms on the seas since 2016 and the Saudi-led coalition announced it would blockade the country's airspace and ports over the Nov 4 missile attack on Riyadh. But a US defense official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters, said American forces believed some weapons and materiel being used by the Houthis came from Iran or with the help of Iranian-backed groups. "It's a difficult problem and we're convinced it's still occurring," the official said. —AP

Under siege, Syria doctors forced to improvise care

DOUMA: Surgical consultations via Facebook, reused sutures and gloves, and half-doses of expired drugs: doctors in a besieged opposition enclave near Syria's capital are improvising to cope with shortages. Blood and skid marks stain the floor of a dimly lit operating room in Douma, a rebel-held town in the Eastern Ghouta region, where a surgeon was hard at work extracting medical sutures from a patient. "After we finish with the thread, we wash it and sterilize it again" for use on another patient, says 23-year-old nurse Anas Daher.

With the operation over, Daher removes his surgical gloves and, instead of disposing of them, scrubs them with water and soap and tosses them into a red basket full of other pairs. They are taken into an adjacent room, powdered and placed into a sealed jar with sterilization tablets for 24 hours so they can be used again.

"We doctors in Eastern Ghouta are taking steps that are medically undesirable," says Mohammed Al-Omar, the head of the surgical department at the Damascus Countryside Specialized Hospital.

"We are re-sterilizing most of our surgical equipment, from gloves to tubes and even the surgical blades and sutures—even if it's for a single stitch, and just one centimeter long." Omar said he and his team are aware the materials are meant for a single patient, but they had no choice. The United Nations warned on Thursday that some 400 civilians are in urgent need of evacuation from Eastern Ghouta, including 29 who would die unless they were allowed to leave immediately. Since 2013, Syrian government troops have imposed a devastating siege on Eastern Ghouta, leading to rampant food and medical shortages and skyrocketing prices for whatever is available.

Facebook live, for surgery

Residents of the rebel enclave have found creative ways to secure their everyday needs, including burning plastic to generate crude fuel and using solar panels to power water pumps. Eastern Ghouta's doctors, too, have had to make



DOUMA, Syria: An elderly Syrian uses a hammer and chisel to chop firewood in the town of Douma in the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta region, east of the capital Damascus. —AFP

do with whatever is readily at hand. They ration medication, giving patients half the required dose of drugs or expired medication, Omar says.

Hospitals limit operations to emergency surgery and the few remaining surgeons are forced to conduct procedures

outside of their specialties. For guidance, they have turned to the internet to carry out real-time consultations with specialists. Hussam Adnan, a 44-year-old surgeon, was one of four doctors who, in October, operated on an infant with an esophageal deformation. —AFP

News in brief

Muslim recruits abused

WASHINGTON: A US Marine Corps drill instructor was sentenced Friday to 10 years in prison for abusing more than a dozen Muslim recruits, one of whom died in 2016, US media reported. Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Felix was convicted a day earlier of maltreatment of the recruits during their basic training at the Parris Island, South Carolina base. An jury of eight fellow servicemen and women considered Felix, an Iraq war veteran, the most to blame of six instructors who ordered and participated in extreme hazing of the recruits, taunting them as terrorists. Two of them were forced into industrial-sized clothes dryers and in one case the machine was turned on when they did not renounce their faith. One of the recruits, Raheel Siddiqui died after a plunge over a third-story railing in March 2016 after enduring days of hazing worse than the normal high-pressure treatment given recruits. The Marines called his death a suicide.

Drone hits Al-Shabab

MOGADISHU: The United States military said yesterday it has carried out a new drone strike against the al-Shabab extremist group in Somalia, killing "several" militants. A statement by the US Africa Command said the strike was carried out Friday night in Lower Shabelle region, about 20 miles north of the capital, Mogadishu. It came a day after another strike in the Bay Region, about 100 miles west of Mogadishu. Friday's airstrike was the 23rd the US military has carried out this year against the Al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabab and the far smaller Islamic State group in Somalia. The Trump administration earlier this year approved expanded military operations against extremists in the Horn of Africa nation. The latest US drone strike was carried out in coordination with Somalia's government, the US statement said. Al-Shabab, the deadliest Islamic extremist group in Africa, has been blamed for the massive truck bombing in Mogadishu last month that killed more than 350 people.

Crocodile snatches child

MANILA: A 12-year-old girl is missing after being attacked by a crocodile on the Philippine island of Palawan, police said yesterday, just weeks after a similar incident in the region popular with foreign tourists. The girl was fetching water in a heavily-forested area of the island Thursday when a crocodile dragged her away in front of her horrified siblings, a police report said. A search is underway but the coast guard and police are yet to find any sign of the child. It marks the second crocodile attack in Palawan in less than a month. A woman, also fetching water, was bitten in October but managed to escape after her niece drove the crocodile away by throwing rocks, police said. The western island of Palawan, often called the Philippines' "last frontier", is one of the few areas in the country where saltwater crocodiles are still common after hunting and habitat loss.

Farm worker kicks cows

OKEECHOBEE: An undercover video that purports to show workers kicking cows in the head and hitting them with metal rods has prompted authorities to open a criminal investigation at one of Florida's largest dairy farms. Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel Stephen said during a news conference Thursday that he assigned an investigator to the case involving Larson Dairy. And Florida-based Publix supermarkets announced it has suspended milk deliveries from Larson, adding in a statement the company is "shocked" by the treatment of cows. Publix said it has contacted the Florida Department of Agriculture about the alleged abuse. In a statement the company said, "we are disturbed by the images and shocked by the cruelty toward animals." The video was shot by an investigator with Animal Recovery Mission, a Miami Beach-based animal cruelty group, who began working at the dairy in August.

International

Barcelona protest demands freedom for Catalan leaders

Protest organized by two pro-independence lobby groups

BARCELONA: Tens of thousands of Catalans gathered yesterday to demand the release of regional officials who were jailed for their push for independence from Spain, which has left the country mired in a political crisis. The march kicked off in Barcelona, the Catalan capital, at 1600 GMT and came a day after the region's parliament speaker - one of dozens of lawmakers sacked by Madrid last month - was released from jail after posting €150,000 bail.

Thousands gathered on an avenue next to the region's parliament building waving Catalan independence flags and chanting "Freedom!" while some held up banners announcing: "SOS Democracy". Children in riding helmets climbed castells - the region's traditional human towers - as others held placards bearing caricatures of some jailed lawmakers. The Catalonia crisis has caused concern in the European Union as the bloc deals with Brexit and uncertainty over the fate of the region of 7.5 million people. More than 2,400 businesses have moved their legal headquarters elsewhere.

On Wednesday a general strike called by a pro-independence union caused travel chaos, blocking 60 roads and train lines including Spain's main highway link to France and the rest of Europe. Since lawmakers in Catalonia - a wealthy region with its own language and distinct culture - declared independence on Oct 27 following a banned referendum, pro-separatist officials have come under huge pressure from Madrid.

The central government has dismissed Catalan

leader Carles Puigdemont, his government and the parliament, suspended the region's autonomy and called for new elections there on Dec 21. Barcelona's popular mayor, just hours before she was due to attend the rally, railed against the actions of Puigdemont's government. "They've provoked tensions and carried out a unilateral independence declaration which the majority do not want," Ada Colau told a meeting of her party members. "They've tricked the population for their own interests."

Eight members of the axed Catalan cabinet are currently detained on charges of sedition, rebellion and misuse of public funds. A further six fired officials including parliament speaker Carme Forcadell were granted bail this week on similar charges by Spain's Supreme Court. Puigdemont is in self-imposed exile in Belgium awaiting a hearing on possible extradition back to Spain after Madrid issued a EU-wide warrant.



Catalonia crisis has caused concern in European Union

'We want freedom'

Puigdemont and four ex-ministers say they are in Brussels because they cannot be guaranteed a fair trial back home. The deposed leader called on Catalans to create a "common noise" during yesterday's demonstration. "Although some of us are far away from you and others are in prison, we have an opportunity to express loudly and clearly that we want freedom and democracy," Puigdemont told Catalan television. "We also want the return home of all those in prison or abroad."



BARCELONA: A man holds a Catalan pro-independence Estelada flag while others hold placards reading "Freedom!" during a demonstration yesterday calling for the release of jailed separatist leaders. —AFP

Yesterday's protest has been organized by two pro-independence lobby groups, ANC and Omnium, whose two leaders are also detained. Puigdemont has said he travelled to Brussels after declaring independence in order to raise international awareness on the treatment of separatists in Spain. But the European Union, nervous that Catalan independence

could stir up separatist tensions in several member states, has repeatedly backed the government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in its handling of the crisis. Rajoy himself will be in Barcelona yesterday - his first visit to Catalonia since the independence crisis erupted - to show support for his Popular Party candidates in next month's vote. —AFP

News in brief

Notorious Greek assassin

ATHENS: A notorious Greek assassin jailed for life over the killings of 11 people including US, British and Turkish embassy staff, was back in prison yesterday after a controversial two-day leave. The decision to temporarily allow Dimitris Koufontinas, a senior member of the November 17 extremist group, out of jail for the first time in 15 years, sparked uproar from the families of the group's victims. The far-left hitman, now 59, returned to Korydallos Prison around 90 minutes ahead of a required deadline, a justice source said. November 17, named after an anti-junta student uprising, was behind the 1975 killing of the CIA's Athens station chief Richard Welch and claimed responsibility for slaying 23 people in scores of attacks on US, British, Turkish and Greek targets. British military attaché Stephen Saunders was the group's last victim, in 2000.

Australia citizenship row

SYDNEY: Embattled Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull lost his grip on parliament when another of his coalition's MPs resigned yesterday, the latest victim of a constitutional crisis over politicians who hold dual citizenship. Former tennis star John Alexander, who represents a Sydney district for Turnbull's Liberal Party, announced he was resigning after being unable to determine if he had inherited UK citizenship from his immigrant father. His resignation followed an October 27 ruling by Australia's High Court that forced five other politicians to quit parliament because they had fallen afoul of a previously obscure constitutional rule that bars dual citizens from sitting in the Senate or lower house. The five included Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, leader of the rural-based National Party, which rules in a coalition with the Liberals.

'25 euros per vote'

ROME: Italian authorities have accused a leftist politician of paying 25 euros (\$29) per vote to win his seat in regional elections held in Sicily last weekend, the daily La Stampa reported yesterday. Edmondo Tamajo, 41, has been charged with criminal conspiracy in relation to electoral corruption, said the newspaper. On his Facebook account Tamajo stated "I have never bought a single vote and have built my political career on daily acts to support people". He added he was willing to cooperate with the investigation to clear up the situation. La Stampa said Italy's financial police have already questioned "voters who had been paid who are willing to confirm the charges" against Tamajo. It was unclear how many of the 13,984 votes he received had been bought. La Stampa said Tamajo had been caught via phone tapping that targeted a large swath of the political elite in the Sicilian capital Palermo.

Thai royal aide sacked

BANGKOK: A senior Thai royal official has been sacked for "evil acts" including having an extramarital affair and forcing his alleged mistress to get an abortion, the palace said, the latest top aide to be axed under King Maha Vajiralongkorn. Vajiralongkorn, 65, took the throne one year ago following the death of his widely revered father King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for seven decades. He has yet to attain his father's widespread popularity but remains insulated from any criticism by one of the world's harshest royal defamation laws. Since ascending the throne the new monarch has axed a number of powerful palace officials from his father's era. The latest aide to fall from grace is Distorn Vajarodaya, a senior official in the Royal Household Bureau who served as Grand Chamberlain under the late King Bhumibol and was often seen by the ailing monarch's side during the final years of his reign.

'Dope n dreads' stereotypes as Germany mulls 'Jamaica' coalition

FRANKFURT: A German news weekly illustrated the outcome of September's election with a picture of Chancellor Angela Merkel wearing a Rastafarian hat and passing a joint to stoned fellow leaders sporting dreadlocks. The drawing on the cover of Frankfurter Allgemeine Woche was one of the least subtle comic sallies in a post-election period fixated on "Jamaica" - as politics and media have dubbed a prospective coalition between Merkel's conservatives, the liberal Free Democrats and the ecologist Greens. The fact that the three parties' colors of black, yellow and green match the Caribbean nation's flag has proven irresistible for politicians and journalists hunting for questionable jokes. Many have been harmless, like leaders noting the roughly 8,500 kilometers that separate Berlin from Kingston as a metaphor for the distance all sides must go in the arduous negotiations. Skeptics have also cracked wise about the "Curse of the Caribbean" - the German title of the first "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie - when predicting that the talks will fail.

But critics say there is a current underlying the Rastafarian jokes that rely on stereotypes about Jamaica and black people. "This is just reproduction of racist views and perspectives and images," Tahir Della of anti-racism campaign group Initiative for Black People in Germany (ISD) said. "People should stop doing it." Frankfurter Allgemeine Woche's editor, Nikolas Busse said that its cover picture was intended as an eye-catching satirical commentary on the "strange political situation" Germany now faces, and that he was not aware of any reader complaints or hurt feelings. Della however countered that any criticism is "always brushed off with the phrase 'anything goes in satire'".

'Stoner paradise'

Seeking a light-hearted tone, one journalist at conservative newspaper Die Welt expressed mock concern about "a government with the name of a stoner paradise". He warned that "the naturalization of Jamaica looms", riffing on battles over integration, ethnicity and national identity sparked by the arrival of more than one million migrants and refugees since 2015.

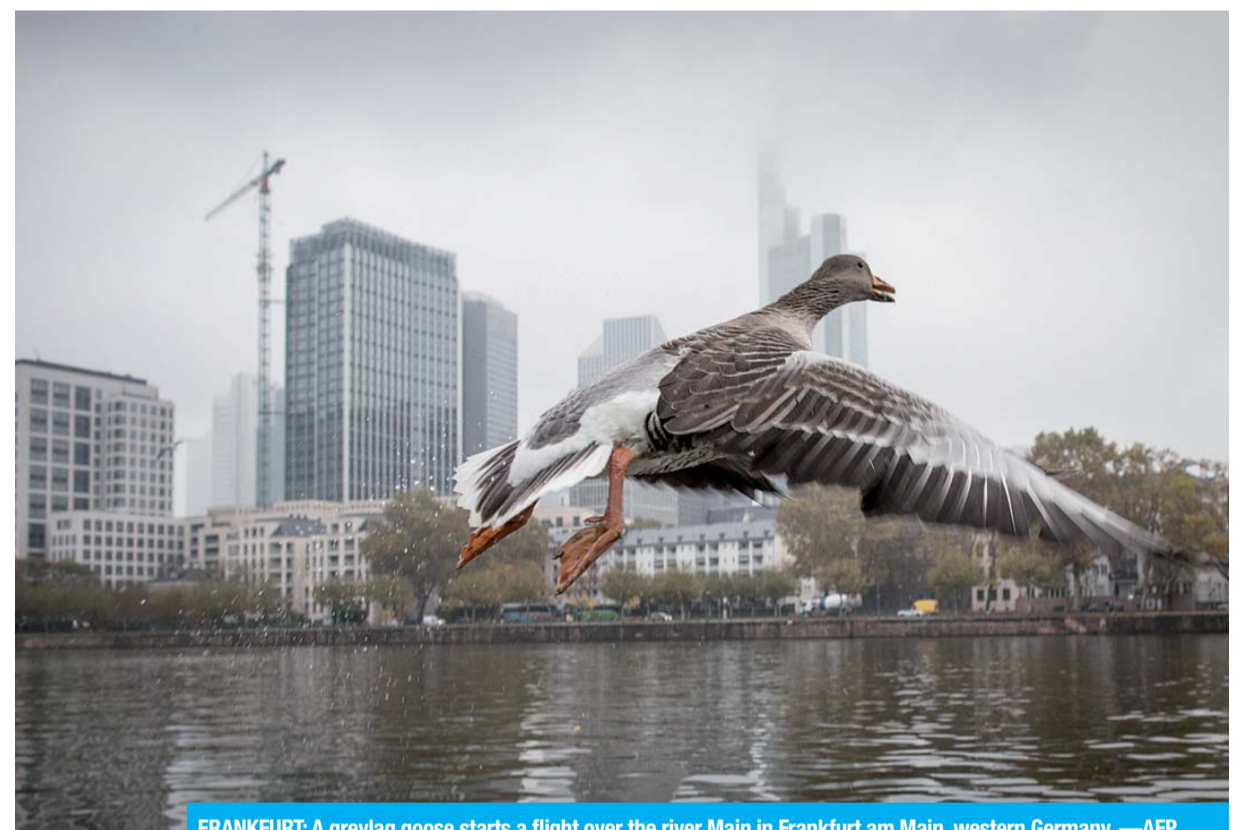
Political scientist Joachim Trebbe of Berlin's Free University said that although he considered the stereotyping "comparatively harmless", equating Jamaicans to Rastafarians was "unfair and perhaps discriminatory", similar to common clichés abroad about

Britain's Prince Charles steps up; Queen steps back

LONDON: On Remembrance Sunday, Prince Charles will lay Queen Elizabeth II's wreath honoring Britain's war dead as she watches on - a rare public symbol of the 91-year-old gradually scaling back her duties. It will be a milestone moment in the otherwise imperceptibly slow-motion process, as her eldest son, now 69, increasingly steps up on her behalf. Experts said Britain's oldest-ever monarch would never consider abdication or even a regency by her son, having sworn to serve her people for life. But Charles, the heir to the throne, will steadily take on more duties outside the core constitutional obligations of her job.

"A very great deal can be done to scale back her public roles progressively and informally," Bob Morris of the Constitution Unit at University College London said. "There are ways of handling a lot of the public functions which don't necessarily require the queen personally to undertake them," he said. "Remembrance Sunday is a very good example." The ceremony is one of the core annual occasions when Britons expect to see their monarch centre-stage.

She has missed it only six times in her 65-year reign: twice



FRANKFURT: A greylag goose starts a flight over the river Main in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. —AFP

"beer-swilling, lederhosen-clad Bavarians" standing in for Germany. George Llewellyn, a Jamaican chef living in western German city Wuppertal, said "there will be people making jokes about it who don't understand the cultural aspects of it, and there will be people who don't joke, because they know the cultural aspect behind it." Nevertheless, "we are living in a democratic land, of course we are free to make jokes about anything", he added. At the Press Council, Germany's media watchdog, there have been no complaints about the Jamaica comparisons, general manager Lutz Tillmanns said. In recent years however there have been more complaints about the coverage of non-white groups as fear of increased crime has been woven into reporting on immigration, he added. Meanwhile public concern about press discrimination against groups that fell victim to the Holocaust such as the Jews, Roma and Sinti has ebbed, he noted.

'Understanding racism'

Germany is widely admired for its open addressing of and atonement for its Nazi past and the Holocaust. Nevertheless, it

when pregnant and four times when overseas. Sunday's service at the Cenotaph memorial in London involves walking backwards down steps and standing still for a long time in often chilly and damp weather. Queen Elizabeth will be looking on from a Foreign Office balcony, alongside her 96-year-old husband Prince Philip, who retired from public duties in August. "The queen wishes to be alongside the Duke of Edinburgh and he will be in the balcony," a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said. A palace source suggested this would set the pattern for future Remembrance Sundays.

Cutting down engagements

By joining her retired husband in this way, the queen opens the door to doing likewise at other events - and has set a precedent as to what she herself might do as she ages. Some reports suggest she could eventually retreat into seclusion in Scotland, like her great-great-grandmother queen Victoria did after her husband prince Albert died.

Queen Elizabeth's official engagements have already dropped 22 percent from the 425 in her 2012 diamond jubilee year to 332 in 2016. She has not made any long-distance trips since 2011. Charles and his wife Camilla now do the bulk of such visits, such as their 11-day tour of four Asian Commonwealth countries which ended Thursday. As the heir, Charles has for years been reading the red boxes of official state papers that are also examined by his mother, shadowing her work in preparation. As Prince of Wales, Charles is outspoken on topics such as the environment, architecture, farming and youth skills.

hasn't had the same intense debate as other western nations about colonialism, with contemporary anti-black racism having a lower profile as relatively few people of African descent live in the country. Germany has "a very narrow understanding of racism and how it affects people", Della said.

In a stunning example, Bavarian politician Joachim Herrmann referred to Afro-Cuban singer Roberto Blanco as a "wonderful negro" in a 2015 TV appearance. While such a gaffe might endanger a political career in Britain or the United States, Herrmann weathered a brief squall of outrage before becoming a lead candidate in this year's elections. As for the nation that has been the butt of the cringe-inducing jokes the Jamaican embassy in Berlin declined to comment on Germany's internal affairs when contacted by AFP. One positive could be increased numbers of German holidaymakers, with tourism body Visit Jamaica confidently predicting 50 percent year-on-year growth in 2017, to around 30,000 people. The increase however has more to do with new flight connections from Germany to the island than with its higher media profile since September, a spokesman said. —AFP



LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II arrives for the reopening of the Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia at the British Museum in central London. —AFP

His activism is partly fuelled by knowing that his time is limited and he will be unable to do so as king. Royal author Penny Junor, an expert on Charles and Camilla who recently wrote "The Duchess: The Untold Story", said the prince was in no rush to become king. "I don't think Charles is itching to get his hands on his mother's duties. He has a very full life already," she said. "He really enjoys what he does. When he becomes king, he can't be so hands-on." Junor said it was the queen, not Charles, who was driving the process of handing over duties, and would progressively be "more and more realistic about what it is that she can do". —AFP

International

North Korea brands US president a 'warmonger'

Trump in Hanoi on the latest leg of 5-nation trip

HANOI: North Korea lashed out yesterday at Donald Trump's "warmonger's" tour of Asia as the US president landed in Hanoi on the latest leg of a five-nation regional visit to drum up support against Pyongyang's nuclear weapons build-up. The outburst came as Trump nears the tail end of his sweep through Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines that has seen him rail against the North's nuclear ambitions and deliver his "America First" vision of global trade.

Trump has urged the region to take a united front against the threat posed by isolated North Korea, which has sparked global alarm with its nuclear and missile tests in recent months. On Friday he warned world leaders gathered in the Vietnamese resort city of Danang that the Asia-Pacific region "must not be held hostage to a dictator's twisted fantasies". Pyongyang issued its own retort yesterday branding Trump's Asia tour a "warmonger's visit for confrontation to rid the DPRK of its self-defensive nuclear deterrence", in the first comments on the trip by a North Korean official.

It said Trump's warnings "can never frighten us or put a stop to our advance", according to the state-run KCNA news agency, quoting a Pyongyang foreign ministry spokesman. Tensions over the North's weapons program have surged in recent months, as Pyongyang carried out a sixth nuclear test by far its

largest to date-and test fired dozens of missiles, some capable of reaching the US mainland. In a speech to the South Korean parliament on Wednesday, Trump warned Pyongyang not to underestimate the United States, while offering leader Kim Jong-Un a better future if he gives up his nuclear ambitions.

Trump has also prodded Chinese President Xi Jinping to pile pressure on North Korea. "I'd like to have him ratchet it up, and I think he's doing that," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Hanoi yesterday following a regional trade meeting in the coastal city of Danang. Though China has backed UN sanctions, Washington would like to see Beijing clamp down on unauthorized trade along the North Korean border.

US seeks a united front against North Korea threat

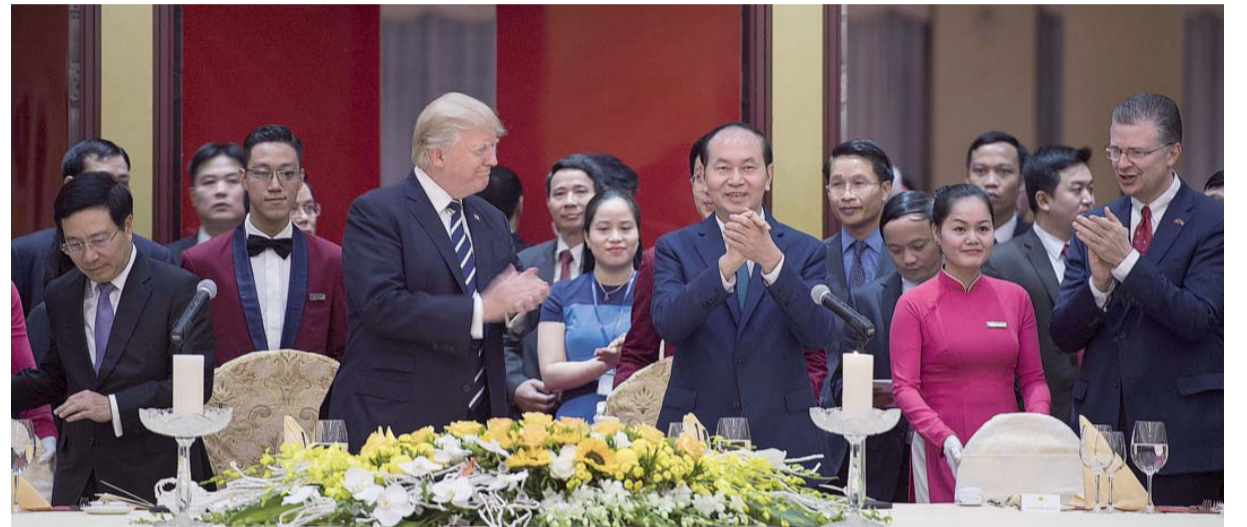


'China likes me'

Trump will turn his attention to Vietnam for an overnight stop in the capital of a communist country once considered a bitter enemy.

Vietnam has eagerly courted trade and investment with the US since Trump's election, more so after he yanked the US from a key Pacific region trade pact, taking with him low tariff access to the world's largest market. The Trump administration has singled out Vietnam as one of many countries that has a yawning trade deficit with the US.

Former billionaire businessman Trump told a gathering of regional CEOs Friday he is open to doing



HANOI: Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang (right) and US President Donald Trump attend a state dinner in Hanoi yesterday. Trump arrived in the Vietnamese capital after attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit leaders meetings earlier in the day in Danang. —AFP

business with Asia-but would no longer tolerate sweeping trade deals he brandished as unfair and harmful to American jobs. Despite his tough talk on trade, he boasted about his cosy relationship with regional leaders. "China likes me. And I get along with them, I get along with others too," he told reporters after meeting with 20 fellow heads of state at a beachside retreat in the coastal city of Danang.

"I have a great relationship with Justin Trudeau, who I just left. I'll be honest with you, I think I have a great relationship with every single one of them.

Every person in that room today," he said. He also said he had a "very good feeling... a good relationship" with Russia's Vladimir Putin. Trump will attend a state banquet ahead of a welcoming and deal signing ceremony in Hanoi today with Vietnam's top leadership. His next stop is the Philippines for a two-day visit that will include an ASEAN summit of Southeast Asian leaders, capping off the 11 day visit to Asia. There he will hold talks with President Rodrigo Duterte, like Trump a famously outspoken world leader. —AFP

In ravaged Central Africa, a quest to turn swords into ploughshares

BAMBARI: Around him, pigs squeal and goats bleat and beat their hooves in excitement as feeding time approaches. Life has changed a lot for Richard Ngueringu, a former militiaman in his early thirties who has witnessed some of worst things that humanity can offer. Once a member of a so-called self-defense group, he says he has witnessed hundreds of killings, as well as atrocities, in Central African Republic's years-long conflict.

Today, in the central town of Bambari, he has swapped his weapon for a bucket of corn meal, under an innovative scheme to help former fighters return to civilian life. "Before the troubles began, I was a farmer. In fact I took over this farm, when my parents died. This is where we grew up," says Ngueringu, a giant of a man who gestures at the walls with powerful, ditch-delver hands. "I want to show what our fathers did to feed us, to help us and aid our families."

Poverty and instability

Seen from the outside, such thinking may seem hugely ambitious, given CAR's mountainous problems. Deeply poor and chronically unstable, the country has been gripped by conflict since 2013. Longtime leader Francois Bozize was overthrown by a mainly Muslim rebel alliance, the Seleka, unleashing a counter-offensive by so-called self-defence militias, the "anti-balaka." France intervened militarily and the UN has deployed one of its biggest peacekeeping forces to the country.

But most of CAR's territory remains in the hands of militia groups and violence-committed in the name of ethnicity or religion-is common. Thousands of people have been killed and more than 900,000 people displaced, almost a quarter of the total population. In the midst of this gloom, Ngueringu and a group of other local fighters have chosen to try to return to ordinary life. He has founded an agricultural cooperative called Kekereke-Ti-Ye, meaning "Our Future," in the local sango language. "If you remain locked in violent behavior, you will have nothing to eat and you will suffer hugely," Ngueringu says.



BAMBARI, Central African Republic: Richard Ngueringu, a former militiaman and founder of an agricultural cooperative called Kekereke-Ti-Ye (Our Future) feeds his goats in central Bambar. —AFP

"I brought in young ex-fighters to help with the project. I explained to them the importance of getting together as a group to do farming, which was what we used to do before the troubles." The "troubles" lasted five years, when Bambari was used as a base for a militia group called the UPC-the Union for Peace in Centrafrique-drawn from the Fula people, also called Fulani. Ngueringu was a "section leader" in the anti-balaka. Clashes in Bambari and the Ouaka region at the turn of last year left dozens of people dead.

Fighters turn farmers

Although violence continues in the region, his cooperative now employs 22 young men and eight young women, all of them former fighters. "I couldn't manage a farm all by myself," he says. Ngueringu's farm has since been integrated into a UN program after being spotted by the local NGO Esperance, meaning Hope. "We see that people want to leave, they are tired of the fighting," says Rosmon Zokue, with the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

The FAO supplies the farm with so-called "installation kits" that includes vital agricultural items such as

wheel barrows, spades, boots and veterinary kits. The scheme is part of the UN's peacekeeping strategy to reconstruct CAR through "disarmament, demobilization and reintegration"-a process launched by the government in September. "The goal is to train young people in techniques for growing vegetables and self-sufficiency. We have to boost their capacity for resilience," says Grace-a-Dieu Sathé Demonkombona of the FAO. The FAO aims to expand the scheme to involve some 1,300 young people in Bambari and a further 3,000 across the country.

'Very bad things'

One potential new recruit is Ismael, a 17-year-old former anti-balaka member, who wants to become a pig farmer because the militia "do not pay you and you die unnecessarily". When asked about his past, Ismael says, several times, "I didn't do anything." But, eventually, he admits: "I went on patrols with my friend, and we did very bad things." One of the main challenges of the program will be to engage fighters in agricultural work, but also persuade them to ditch their weapons forever, even if conflict again breaks out. —AFP

Duterte's words on body count

MANILA: Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, who plays host to world leaders from today, has said repeatedly in recent months he has never incited his police or vigilantes to kill illegally. Police have reported killing nearly 4,000 in his anti-drug war, and many thousands of murders remain unexplained, but Duterte insists he is not responsible for any unlawful deaths. "I know that I have been demonized," Duterte said during a recent speech to Southeast Asian lawyers. "The extrajudicial tag that has been placed on me is simply not true. "I never, never, never ordered any single policeman in this country to say, just kill them without any reason." Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the European Union have all criticized the controversial leader for previous statements that appear to suggest the opposite. Here is a selection of quotes from Duterte on killing:

March 16, 2016

"When I become president, I'll order the police and the military to find these people and kill them." Then-president-

tial candidate Duterte outlines plans to eradicate drugs in the Philippines by killing so many dealers it will unleash a boom for funeral businesses.

June 30, 2016

"If you know of any addicts, go ahead and kill them yourself as getting their parents to do it would be too painful." Hours after being sworn in as Philippine president, Duterte goes to a Manila slum and urges residents to kill drug-addled neighbors.

August 6, 2016

"This campaign (of) shoot-to-kill will remain until the last day of my term. I don't care about human rights, believe me." As the death toll from his drug war nears 1,000, Duterte vows no let up.

September 30, 2016

"I'd be happy to slaughter them." Duterte says there are three million drug addicts in the Philippines, and he'd like them all dead.

December, 12, 2016

"I used to do it personally just to show to the guys that if I can do it, so can you." Duterte boasts that as mayor of the southern city of Davao, he has killed suspects to serve as an example to his police officers.



DANANG: This handout photo shows Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte attending the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in the central Vietnamese city of Danang. —AFP

October 27, 2017

"Forget what they say, those human rights (activists). The problem with these pests, they invite (UN) human rights commission and all, only to show the statistics: here, 10,000 died. What the hell? For me, they can add to that, make it 50,000." In a speech that started with his insisting he did not tolerate extrajudicial killings, Duterte apparently switches tack. —AFP

In youthful India, elderly leaders still cling to power

PAONTA SAHIB: At an age when most people are enjoying retirement, India's oldest chief minister Virbhadra Singh is on the campaign trail, one of a number of ageing men still clinging to power in the youthful country. At 83 he is hoping to snare a seventh term at the helm of Himachal Pradesh when the mountainous north Indian state that he has ruled for years goes to the polls on Thursday.

Singh, a stalwart of the Congress Party that has held national power for much of independent India's history, is far from alone. Around two-thirds of India's population is aged under 35, making it one of the youngest countries on earth. But many of the its top regional leaders are elderly products of a quasi-dynastic system of rule that took root in the twentieth century and now appears at odds with its youthful population.

Earlier this year the neighboring state of Punjab, home to 28 million Indians, voted out its 89-year-old five-time chief minister Prakash Singh Badal. His successor, Amarinder Singh, is the 75-year-old scion of a family that once ruled the princely state of Patiala-now part of Punjab. Virbhadra Singh is himself descended from the royal family that ruled a part of Himachal Pradesh until Indian independence, and he admits his heritage has helped his political career. "The people respect me. They respect my family and lineage," he told AFP during a brief break from campaigning in the state, where campaign hoardings refer to him as Raja Sahib-a royal title.

Nistula Hebbur, political editor of The Hindu daily, said older candidates had a natural advantage because personal relationships were still hugely important in getting things done on the ground. "As a society, we are a gerontocracy that still worships the grey and considers its advice sagely. And this clearly reflects in our politics too," Hebbur said. "Our state's poor record in delivery (of services) also ensures that the personal networks and relationships nurtured by politicians over a long time are still trusted more by the people over youth and the system."

Political patricide

Most of India's leaders do not have royal titles, but a large number are the products of political dynasties that have proved remarkably resilient. At 94, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, five-time former chief minister of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, remains a key political player as leader of the opposition DMK party. His 64-year-old son, MK Stalin, is positioning himself as the political heir-and appears to have met little popular resistance.

Meanwhile campaigning for elections in India's most populous state Uttar Pradesh was dominated by a bitter intergenerational power struggle earlier this year. Akhilesh Yadav, 44, carried out a hostile takeover of the regional Samajwadi Party formed by his 77-year-old father, Mulayam Singh Yadav-a manoeuvre that some termed political patricide. Rahul Gandhi-himself a member of India's most famous ruling dynasty-is reported to have tried to push for younger regional leaders after his Congress Party suffered a heavy defeat to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2014 national election. —AFP

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYANEDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

WASHINGTON WATCH

Trump wasn't
on the ballot.
But he lost.

By Dr James J Zogby

With all due respect to the gubernatorial candidates who won their elections on Nov 7, there can be no doubt that their road to victory was paved, in part, by voter's rejection of Donald Trump and Trumpism. The president wasn't on the ballot, but his presence was felt by an energized electorate intent on sending him a message of rejection.

Much attention, of course, was focused on Democratic wins in the high-profile contests for governor in Virginia and New Jersey. The margins of these victories were larger than expected and were correctly attributed to the striking unpopularity of President Trump in both states. In both, polls showed that twice as many voters said that they cast their vote as a message "against Trump" as did those who said their vote was a message in support of the president.

Exit polls in Virginia also showed that 47 percent of voters "strongly disapproved" of Trump, with one-half of those who voted for the Democratic candidate for governor, Ralph Northam, saying that opposition to the president was what motivated their vote. Much the same was true in New Jersey where opposition to the president was even stronger with 54 percent saying they "strongly disapproved" of Trump. Compounding the Republican's problem in that state was the fact that the current GOP governor was even more unpopular than the president.

Dealing with Trump's strong negative ratings proved to be a dilemma for the Republican gubernatorial candidates as they attempted to keep their distance from the White House while at the same time trying not to alienate the president's shrinking, but still fervid, support base. For example, Virginia's Republican candidate, Ed Gillespie, did not invite Trump to campaign with him. Nevertheless, his TV ads echoed the president's themes of white supremacy and fear of immigrants. In one ad, Gillespie attacks Northam for supporting the effort to remove the state's confederate monuments, using the line "Ralph Northam wants to tear down history while making life easier for illegal immigrants". This appeal to fear and xenophobia was rejected by Virginia's voters.

Real story

As important as the governor contests might have been, even more significant were the down ballot contests won by Democrats. They tell the real story of this year's election. In states and cities across the US, important victories were won by a remarkably diverse group of candidates who, each in their own way, had to overcome their opponents' appeals to fear or bigotry. Their victories not only deal a blow to the appeal of Trumpism, they will help to redefine the American political landscape for years to come.

Across Virginia, at least 14 Democrats unseated incumbent Republican state legislators. Because the results in five additional contests are so close that ballots must be recounted, Democrats are close to retaking control of the legislature for the first time in many years. The stories of the 14 victors are impressive. Two are Latina women, one of whom is half Arab American. They are the first Latina women to win in Virginia.

They and several others among their victorious colleagues won despite being targeted for their support for immigrant rights. Another of the women who won is remarkable not only because she is the first transgender person to win in Virginia, but because she defeated the number two ranking Republican in the state - a man who was the leading opponent of transgender rights and an Islamophobe, as well. It should be noted that two other Arab Americans also won in Virginia.

In northern New Jersey a Sikh won as mayor of Hoboken - the first of his faith to hold an office in New Jersey. An Asian American and Indian American won elections in Edison, New Jersey despite ads that threatened to deport "foreigners" like them. Across the country, Arab Americans, both Christian and Muslim, fared quite well. In an era where Arab-baiting and Muslim-baiting have become worrisome phenomena, every Arab American victory represents another nail in the coffin of bigotry and intolerance.

In Michigan, Arab Americans retained control of Dearborn's City Council and gained a seat in nearby Dearborn Heights. Arab Americans also won in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Georgia, Ohio, Iowa, and Minnesota (where Somali Americans are making rapid progress entering the political mainstream). In many instances, these Arab Americans, like the Asian and Latino candidates had to overcome negative advertising campaign that targeted them for their ethnicity (or religion) or for being "soft on immigration or terrorism". And yet, even with this, they won.

The bottom line is that the American electorate appears to have turned a corner in 2017. A decisive majority sent a message that not only have they turned away from the president, but they also reject the fear and division he exploited in order to win last year.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



Trump, in China, opts against confrontation

US President Donald Trump pulled his punches. On the home turf of the rising superpower he once declared was "raping" the United States on trade, Trump on Thursday abandoned his often-pugnacious posture. He opted instead for public flattery and deference and chose to denounce past US presidents for the economic imbalance. And while he urged China to do more to pressure North Korea to abandon its burgeoning nuclear weapons program, the vibe was more conciliatory than confrontational.

Trump, who made China's growing economic might a bogeyman during his presidential campaign, appeared set to deliver a face-to-face scolding of President Xi Jinping following an announcement of new business deals between US and Chinese companies. Standing just a few feet away from the Chinese president, Trump declared that the two nations "must immediately address the unfair trade practices" that drive the trade deficit, along with barriers to market access, forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.

"But I don't blame China," Trump said to audible gasps from some of the business leaders and journalists from both countries in The Great Hall of the People. "After all, who can blame a country for being able to take advantage of another country for the benefit of its citizens?" he asked, to cheers from some of the Chinese contingent. "I give China great credit." Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said later that Trump's comment had been "a little bit tongue-in-cheek" but that it nonetheless carried "a lot of truth".

Either way, it was a far cry from Trump's inflammatory campaign rhetoric on China. Night after night at rallies across the country, he portrayed himself as a hard-nosed negotiator who would hold other countries accountable for disadvantaging American workers. "We can't continue to allow China to rape our country and that's what they're doing," he said in Indiana in May 2016. "It's the greatest theft in the history of the world."

While Trump made clear that he wanted a more equitable trade relationship, he made no mention of previous campaign threats to label China a currency manipulator, impose double-digit tariffs or authorize draconian trade measures. Trump took a similarly softer tack on rising tensions with North Korea, whose nuclear capability he has

labeled "a threat to civilization". Before arriving in Beijing, Trump had delivered a stern message to Xi, using an address in South Korea to call on China, North Korea's biggest trade partner, to do more to confront and isolate the renegade nation.

But Trump took a gentler tone here, thanking Xi for his efforts and saying he'd been encouraged by his conversations. "China can fix this problem easily. And quickly. And I am calling on China and your great president to hopefully work on it very hard," he said. Tillerson said that while the US and China agreed on the objective in North Korea, the leaders' private talks explored questions over "tactics and the timing and how far to go with pressure."

“

But I don't
blame China

”

While China is increasingly disenchanted with North Korea's nuclear weapons development, it remains wary of using its full economic leverage over its traditional ally. China fears triggering a collapse of the North's totalitarian regime that could cause an influx of refugees into northeastern China and culminate in a US-allied unified Korea on its border. Trump's softer approach can be read as a good strategy to coax more cooperation from the Chinese - or the absence of a coherent strategy. "One of Trump's most successful campaign arguments was that China was taking our jobs and eating our lunch," said Andrew Nathan, political science professor at Columbia University. "But we're seeing that Trump doesn't really have a strategy when dealing with China."

Mugabe grip on
power tested by
sacking of VP

President Robert Mugabe has exerted almost total authority over Zimbabwean politics for decades - but the sacking of his most senior long-time confidante could spark repercussions beyond his control. Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa was dismissed and humiliated on Monday after clashing with Mugabe's wife Grace, who is now in prime position to succeed her husband. The removal of Mnangagwa, who has powerful military connections, has laid bare the rivalries inside Zimbabwe's political establishment as Mugabe, 93, shows increasing signs of old age.

"The situation reflects an enormous amount of unpredictability," said Piers Pigou of the International Crisis Group. "We are moving into uncharted territories. It appears Mugabe is prepared to surgically remove significant sections of the party's historical support base... to try to consolidate his own position and the future leadership."

Mnangagwa, 75, quickly fled into exile, but he vowed to return and launched a direct challenge to Mugabe by calling for members of the ruling ZANU-PF party to desert the president. Mugabe reacted by expelling him from the party, which will hold its annual congress next month when Grace - a hugely divisive figure - could be appointed as one of the country's two vice presidents.

Party problems

"The ball is in Mnangagwa's court, but

what are you going to do outside the party?" Pigou said. "The biggest question is what kind of elevation do we see for Grace Mugabe." The potential leadership role for Grace, who has many opponents within the party and government, could even threaten the future of ZANU-PF. "This is the beginning of the end of ZANU-PF, it is a total destruction of Mugabe's legacy," independent analyst Dewa Mavhinga told AFP. "If Grace ascends to the top, she will fall because she has created so many enemies. She has been reckless. ZANU could be destroyed from within."

Mnangagwa's next move is uncertain, but any path back to high office seems beset with obstacles. "It will be very difficult for him to reinvent himself as a democrat because he is cut from the same cloth as Mugabe," said Mavhinga. Mnangagwa was instrumental in much past election violence, including the 2008 presidential runoff when opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai pulled out due to a wave of killings and beatings. And as security minister in the 1980s, Mnangagwa played a leading role in the Gukurahundi massacres that claimed the lives of around 20,000 perceived dissidents in the southwest of the country.

Street protests?

Mnangagwa issued a defiant statement on Wednesday, telling Mugabe that ZANU-PF was "not personal property for you and your wife to do as you please". The next flashpoint could be next week when Mnangagwa supporters plan to stage protests against Mugabe in Harare. Zimbabwe's ruthless security forces have often violently broken up street demonstrations against the authoritarian president. But some experts believe the turmoil may actually allow Mugabe - the world's oldest national leader - to strengthen the extraordinary hold on power he has maintained since 1980. —AFP

Mafia-by-the-sea
where silence is
safe: Italy's Ostia

The resort town of Ostia, on Italy's west coast, is a magnet for tourists in the summer but is also mafia territory where clans carve up the drugs and extortion business. "If you don't see anything, hear anything or say anything, then you can live to be 100 here," a sexagenarian resident of Ostia, near Rome, told AFP, declining to give his name. "But if you want to change things, then you are going to have some major problems ahead," he added. "That should have happened a lot earlier. These problems are entrenched and now it's no good lopping off a branch because another will grow and the tree will be just the same."

Ostia, a town with a population of 85,000, where many live on impoverished estates, has been in the media spotlight since Tuesday when the brother of a mafia boss violently assaulted a journalist. Roberto Spada was filmed headbutting TV reporter Daniele Piervincenzi, before attacking him with a baton. Piervincenzi had been investigating Spada's alleged links to the far-right CasaPound movement and his nose was fractured in the attack. In Ostia on Friday dozens of Italian journalists protested in defence of freedom of speech after the attack on their colleague.

Piervincenzi was questioning Spada for a report for national broadcaster Rai about municipal elections, two years after the local council was dissolved due to mafia infiltration. CasaPound, suspected of links to organised crime in the area, won eight percent of the first round votes. Italian police arrested Spada on Thursday for assault, with prosecutors saying his behaviour was typical of methods used by

organised crime groups to control territory.

While no one in the town openly talks about the mafia, its influence is all pervasive. "Look at that beach. Not long ago the beach huts, towels, life guards were all abusively managed by the clan," one resident said. "But since last summer, nothing. The municipality decided to seek tenders for the management, but no one has bid," he added, smiling knowingly.

'Digging a bit too deep'

The attack on Piervincenzi didn't just upset fellow journalists. Ostia residents also turned out to defend freedom of expression. "Let's just say that the presence of the press has forced law enforcement to lift the lid on the issue," Silvia Frau, a resident, told AFP. "I hope they stay once the media rush is over," she added. However another local passing by said that the reporter "was looking for it and he got it". "He should have known when to stop. He was too insistent, he wanted to dig a little too deep."

Rome Mayor Virginia Raggi, of the populist Five Star Movement, was one of the first politicians to react to the attack, calling the violence unacceptable and pledging a crackdown on crime. "Spada's arrest is proof that there are no lawless areas in Italy," the interior ministry said in a statement. CasaPound came fourth in Sunday's first round voting in the municipal elections and is hoping to do better in the second round on November 19.

It is calling on voters to kick out Raggi who it claims "hasn't even managed to move an abandoned mattress in 18 months". The Spada clan is notoriously violent. Seven members of the family were sentenced to a combined 56 years in jail in October, and Roberto's brother Carmine was ordered to serve 10 years last year for extortion and mafia association. CasaPound insists that is all part of a campaign to discredit the movement. "What CasaPound has done on the ground is anti-mafia work, anti-organized crime," the group's vice president Simone Di Stefano said Thursday. —AFP

News

Some GOP political operatives fearing Moore could lose

MONTGOMERY, Alabama: His party suddenly and bitingly divided, Alabama Republican Roy Moore emphatically rejected increasing pressure to abandon his Senate bid as fears grew among GOP leaders that a once-safe Senate seat was in jeopardy just a month before a special election. Moore, an outspoken Christian conservative and former state Supreme Court judge, attacked a Washington Post report that he had sexual contact with a 14-year-old girl and pursued three other teenagers decades earlier as "completely false and misleading."

In an interview Friday with conservative radio host Sean Hannity, Moore, now 70, did not wholly rule out dating teenage girls when he was in his early 30s. Asked if that would have been usual for him, Moore said, "Not generally, no." He added: "I don't remember ever dating any girl without the permission of her mother." As for the encounter with 14-year-old Leigh Corfman, as described by Corfman in Thursday's Post article, he said, "It never happened."

The story has produced a wave of concern among anxious GOP officials in Washington but little more than a collective shrug from many Republicans in Alabama, which holds a special election on Dec 12 to fill the seat previously held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. "Humphrey Bogart started dating Lauren Bacall when she was a teenager," said state Auditor Jim Ziegler, referring to the then-19-year-old actress. "I'll always vote for him," said 28-year-old Erica Richard, of Altoona, Alabama, adding that she wouldn't change her mind even if the allegations of sexual misconduct are proved true. "He's a good man. I love him and his family, and they are all good people."

Despite such support, experienced Republican operatives believe the Alabama Senate seat, held by the GOP for the last 20 years, is now at risk. They fear the controversy could exacerbate the party's broader challenge in

the era of President Donald Trump in appealing to college-educated suburban voters - the same group that fueled a big Democratic victory in the Virginia governor's race this week.

Those familiar with recent polling of the Alabama race suggest it was always going to be close despite the state's strong Republican leanings - largely because of Moore's controversial past. In the immediate aftermath of the Post report Thursday, a wave of national Republican leaders called for Moore to drop out of the race if the allegations are true. They included the White House, the head of the House Freedom Caucus Mark Meadows, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

On Friday, the Senate GOP's campaign arm formally ended its fundraising agreement with Moore. The GOP's 2012 presidential nominee Mitt Romney condemned his colleagues' caveat - "only if the allegations are true". "Innocent until proven guilty is for criminal convictions, not elections. I believe Leigh Corfman," he said of the Alabama woman who said Moore molested her when she was 14. "Her account is too serious to ignore. Moore is unfit for office and should step aside."

Facing a tough re-election, Rep Barbara Comstock likened Moore to Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, former Rep Anthony Weiner and former Fox News executive Roger Ailes, all men accused of sexual misconduct. "The defense from some of his supporters is beyond disgusting," Comstock wrote. "Moore should not serve in the US Senate." Sens Mike Lee and Steve Daines withdrew their endorsements.

Yet there is no sign Moore is going away quietly. And the Alabama secretary of state's office reported that it's too late to remove his name from the ballot. The Republican Party's options, including the possibility of a write-in campaign, "are all being researched," said Steven Law, who leads the pro-Republican Senate Leadership Fund. Those who think Moore should be replaced have little hope of that happening. "I don't think anyone expects Roy Moore to drop out of this race," Law said. "I think he enjoys being an object of intense controversy. The fact that this has happened may make him even more committed." — AP



Roy Moore

A decade in making, Louvre Abu Dhabi...

Continued from Page 1

The Louvre in France takes a \$400-million share of that sum for the use of its name up to 2037. For the next 10 years, the mother ship in Paris will lend works to its Abu Dhabi partner on a voluntary basis, for a maximum of two years. For its permanent collection, the museum has acquired hundreds of pieces, dating from the earliest Mesopotamian civilisations to the present day.

On opening day, guided tours wound through the spacious galleries as Asian and African dance troupes performed in the open-air sections overlooking the sea. "It is not a copy of the Louvre," said Badria Al-Mazimi, an architectural engineer. The 26-year-old Emirati said she had visited the site when the museum was still under construction and had eagerly anticipated the public opening.

"The beautiful thing is they made it not just one building, but like a little neighborhood. When you walk around, you feel like you're walking in an old Emirati quarter," she said, beaming as her husband studied a Central Asian statuette dating from 1700 BC. "To see all these people from different nationalities waiting in this long line to visit the Louvre - it's something really special," she said. "This is what you see when you travel abroad, and now it's here, in

the Emirates."

"This museum actually goes beyond expectations because the museum is an icon in itself and ... under its beautiful roof it has so many nice pieces of art which brings the whole world together," said Michaela Stolz-Schmitz, who lives in Dubai. Another visitor, Christine Bayhon, was similarly impressed. "We've seen it on the Internet so we sort of have an idea what it is, what it looks like but getting here and really being here and seeing all of this, I'm in awe," Bayhon said. "It's like, 'Oh wow.' I tried to capture it on my phone but I just couldn't." "I wanted to experience it for real, rather than just looking in the TV or in pictures," fellow visitor Juliet Bayhon said.

More than a decade in the making, a VIP inauguration was held on Wednesday, with French President Emmanuel Macron among the first visitors. The museum design, by France's Pritzker prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, 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. The Louvre Abu Dhabi is the first of three museums to open on Saadiyat Island, where the UAE plans to launch the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, designed by Frank Gehry, and Norman Foster's Zayed National Museum. — Agencies

Lebanon asks Saudi Arabia for...

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Minister for Gulf Affairs Thamer Al-Sabhan warned earlier this month that his government would deal with Lebanon as a hostile state as long as Hezbollah was in the Lebanese government. The Lebanese unity government that Hariri formed a year ago includes Hezbollah members - the result of a tacit Saudi-Iranian agreement to sideline Lebanon from the other proxy wars in the region. Sabhan blasted in a tweet late yesterday as laughable those expressing support and "love" for Hariri despite their previous opposition to him. He added that those who "sold out" Lebanon would soon be exposed.

In his shock announcement, Hariri had accused Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of taking over his country and destabilizing the broader region, saying he feared for his life. His statement prompted fears that Lebanon - dominated by rival camps led by Hariri and Hezbollah - would be caught up in spiralling tensions between Riyadh and Tehran.

Hariri's weeklong absence from Lebanon has sparked rumors that the former prime minister - who also holds Saudi nationality - is under de facto house arrest in the kingdom. "The head of the Lebanese government is detained in Saudi Arabia, he is banned from returning to Lebanon until now," Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised address Friday. Members of Hariri's own Al-Moustaqbal (Future) party said they had no information on his fate. And Lebanese

Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil announced on Friday that he was launching a "diplomatic campaign to bring back the head of our government of his own free will".

A Lebanese official who declined to be named said Aoun, who has been convening high-level meetings with politicians and diplomats, told ambassadors on Friday that Hariri was "kidnapped" and should benefit from immunity as prime minister. "Lebanon does not accept its prime minister being in a situation at odds with international treaties," Aoun said in the statement. He said a marathon planned in Beirut today in which tens of thousands will participate should be "a national sports demonstration for solidarity with prime minister Hariri and his return to his country". Last year Hariri took part in the marathon, wearing the number 3.

Even world powers have appealed for calm and freedom of movement for Hariri. The United States said yesterday it "rejects any efforts by militias within Lebanon or by any foreign forces to threaten Lebanon's stability ... or use Lebanon as a base from which to threaten others in the region." The White House called Hariri "a trusted partner" and referred to him as prime minister.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Friday described Hariri as "a strong partner" and warned against "any party, within or outside Lebanon, using Lebanon as a venue for proxy conflicts or in any manner contributing to instability in that country". On Friday, a spokesman for France's foreign ministry said: "We wish Mr Saad Hariri to have all his freedom of movement and to be fully able to play the essential role that is his in Lebanon." Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman claimed Saudi Arabia is aiming to create unrest in Lebanon after doing so in the Gulf region and Yemen. Bahram Qasemi said in comments carried by state news agency IRNA that the kingdom is trying to destabilize the region. — Agencies

Socialism finds comrades among...

Continued from Page 1

The political group is not a party, and has nowhere near the clout of sister movements elsewhere such as Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party in Britain, or Syriza in Greece and Podemos in Spain. But socialism has not had a voice this loud in American politics for decades.

Though she would not yet classify the wave of leftist activism as a mass movement, politics professor Cathy Schneider of American University said the DSA's growth is significant in that it indicates voters shocked by Trumpism are also increasingly disillusioned with the Democratic Party. "There is a sector of American society who feel that the political parties do not address their concerns," she said. "The Democratic Socialists have said we have an answer for that."

Their current strategy does not necessarily include

third-party politics; instead the DSA is fielding socialist candidates for elected office using whichever ballot line makes winning likely, generally that of the Democrats. And though many members got involved in the aftermath of the Sanders campaign, organizers now say their goal is to build a movement not connected to any single politician but instead based on core issues like universal health care, public investment in education and housing and bolstering labor protections.

Schneider also noted that socialism's "alarming reputation" appears to be fading, no small development in a country that lived through the Red Scare era of anti-communist propaganda. "People no longer associate socialism with dictatorships in the USSR and China," she said. That didn't stop Carter's opponent from red-baiting: In the final days of the race the Republican sent a mailer to 11,000 homes that juxtaposed the democratic socialist's face with portraits of famous communists including Karl Marx and Mao Zedong. But even Republican voters told canvassers they found the attempt to sully the leftist's image "gross", Carter said. "The scare-mongering around what's essentially a disagreement on economic philosophy doesn't work anymore." — AFP

Trump believes Putin's election...

Continued from Page 1

Asked by reporters on Air Force One if he believed Putin, Trump said he was keen to move on to other issues. "Look I can't stand there and argue with him," Trump said. "I'd rather have him get out of Syria, I would rather get to work with him on the Ukraine." The exchanges produced a rare common ground on the war in Syria, a bloody six-year conflict which has seen the US and Russia back competing factions. In a joint-statement the leaders said there was "no military solution" to the war, an agreement that marks a small but incremental step towards peace.

Trump also gave a loud airing to his "America First" rhetoric at the APEC summit. In a speech on Friday Trump said American jobs had been siphoned off overseas by countries with cheap labor but little compunction to play by trade rules. "We are not going to let the United States

be taken advantage of anymore," he said, adding his country would now use its economic might to cut favorable bilateral deals.

China's President Xi Jinping laid out a different narrative to the same hall, positioning the world's second largest economy at the heart of the future of global free trade as the US retreats. As a first mark of an new trade era without the US as its pivot point, 11 Asia-Pacific countries yesterday agreed to press ahead with the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) - a major agreement abruptly abandoned by Trump at the start of the year.

That dismayed allies and cast into doubt an agreement heralded for linking lower tariffs to strong environmental and labor protections. After a three-day wrangle that at points threatened to see the massive pact unravel, delegates from economies including Japan, Australia, Canada and Malaysia agreed to rescue "core elements" of the deal. APEC is an annual summit bringing together 21 Pacific Rim countries representing 60 percent of global GDP. It emerged in 1989, casting itself as a beacon for free, open trade and globalization - an idea that has been on the rack since Trump's ascent to power and the UK's Brexit vote. — AFP

Militants attack Bahrain oil...

Continued from Page 1

"The attack on the pipeline ... was followed by the suspension of the pumping of oil to the State of Bahrain," the Saudi Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources said. "The Ministry of Energy also confirmed that it has increased its security precautions at all its

facilities, and that all these facilities enjoy the highest levels of protection and safety," it added in a statement.

Bahrain, home to the US Navy's 5th Fleet, faces occasional attacks from local Shiite militant groups as the kingdom continues a crackdown on all dissent, imprisoning or forcing politicians and activists into exile. Independent news gathering there has grown more difficult, with the government refusing to accredit two AP reporters and others. However, that campaign of bombings and shootings had not seen the island's oil infrastructure targeted, even immediately after Emirati and Saudi forces helped Bahrain put down its 2011 Arab Spring protests.

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!

Lenovo AIO310

99 د.ك / 119 قبل د.ك

All in One System

- Intel Celeron
- 4 GB DDR4 RAM
- Storage 500GB
- 19.5" FHD Display Screen

ASUS K51U

159 د.ك / 209 قبل د.ك

Intel Core i5-7200U

- 6GB RAM
- 1TB Storage
- 2GB Graphics
- 15.6" Display Screen

NewMacAir 13

259 د.ك / 349 قبل د.ك

Intel Core i5

- 8GB RAM
- 128 SSD
- HD 6000 Graphics
- 13.3" Display

PS4

99 د.ك / 122 قبل د.ك

PS4-500GB+3GAMES

Value Bundle

- PS4 Slim
- + 4 Games
- + PSN Card

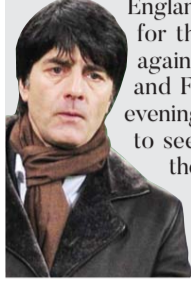
Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Sports

Loew to test German World Cup hopefuls

BERLIN: Germany's friendly against France on Tuesday offers Joachim Loew a chance of revenge, but the coach appears to be looking forward to the 2018 World Cup rather than back at Euro 2016. "There are certain players that I want to see tested against the best," Loew said ahead of the meeting in Cologne with Les Bleus, whose 2-0 victory in the Euro semifinals was Germany's last defeat. Loew sees this week's matches, against England and France, as a chance to try things out in preparation for the World Cup. He plans to use the spring internationals, against Spain and Brazil, to bed in his lineup for Russia. "England and France are the measuring sticks for us," Loew said Friday evening after the world champions drew 0-0 at Wembley. "I want to see where certain players are. That was more important than the result." "I think France are a little better than England," he said. "France have an extremely fast attack and midfield and are more dangerous in front of goal than England." —AP



Mercedes staff robbed at gunpoint at Brazil track

SAO PAULO: Lewis Hamilton said members of his Mercedes team had guns held to their heads as they were robbed as they left the Interlagos circuit on Friday. "Some of my team were held up at gun point last night leaving the circuit here in Brazil. Gun shots fired, gun held at ones head. This is so upsetting to hear," world champion Hamilton tweeted. "Please say a prayer for my guys who are here as professionals today even if shaken." A Mercedes spokesman said: "We can confirm that a team minibus was robbed at gunpoint last night leaving the circuit. Valuables were stolen, but most importantly everybody is safe and uninjured." Members of the Williams team and officials of the FIA, motor sports' governing body, were also targeted by robbers, the BBC's chief Formula One writer Andrew Benson tweeted early yesterday. "Some Mercedes personnel were robbed at gunpoint leaving the track last night. No-one harmed. Close escapes for FIA and Williams people, too." —AFP

Olympic champion Hanyu pulls out of NHK Trophy

OSAKA: Yuzuru Hanyu has pulled out of the NHK Trophy after injuring his ankle in practice, a setback that could have a serious impact on his preparations for an Olympic title defense. The 22-year-old Hanyu withdrew before the short program on Friday, a day after falling while attempting a quadruple lutz in practice, and three months before the Pyeongchang Olympics. "As I was preparing for the NHK, I received an examination from doctors last night. Unfortunately their judgment was that I withdraw," Hanyu said in a statement. "I will now go through treatment as I prepare for the Japanese nationals." The Japanese nationals are Dec. 19-24, after the Grand Prix Final in Nagoya, Japan. At the practice on Thursday, he appeared to be favoring his right ankle but did not leave practice. He skated during the run through for his free skate, although he did not do any further jumps. A two-time world champion, Hanyu last month placed second at the Rostelecom Cup in Russia, where he skated well but wasn't his dominant self. —AP



Tonga upsets New Zealand at Rugby League World Cup

Samoa finish third in Group B after draw with Scotland

HAMILTON: David Fusitu'a scored a second half hat-trick as Tonga produced one of the biggest upsets in Rugby League World Cup history by rallying from a 14-point halftime deficit to beat New Zealand 28-22 yesterday and secure top spot in Group B.

New Zealand led 16-2 at halftime but the Tongans replied with five tries after the break and then held off a late comeback by the Kiwis. The result marks the first time a so-called tier-two nation has beaten one of the sport's three top-tier nations. New Zealand won the World Cup in 2008 and has appeared in the final in each of the last three tournaments, while Tonga has reached the quarterfinals at the World Cup for the first time.

Tonga coach Kristian Woolf said it wasn't out of the question for his team to reach the Dec. 2 final in Brisbane. "What I do know is that we've got a group of good blokes here - a lot of people have singled out the guys who have been names in the NRL and we do have a number of those, but there's a lot of guys there really playing to their potential," Woolf said. "That's a sign of a group of men who want to play for each other and together, (and) they're obviously playing for something they really believe in."

Both teams had already qualified for the quarterfinals and were joined yesterday by Samoa, which drew 14-14 with Scotland in the other Group B game but went through because of a superior points difference. Fusitu'a, who plays for the New Zealand Warriors in Australia's National Rugby League, crossed three times, including the match winner three minutes from the end.

Tuimoala Lolohea also scored from an intercept

while William Hopoate joined the Tongan tryscorers to stun the tournament co-hosts. "We let ourselves down in the discipline areas, that we're normally really good at, or have been in this tournament," New Zealand captain Adam Blair said. "That forced us into playing some footy and caused a few errors, so you've got to give them credit for the pressure they put on us. If you give them a bit of football, they're a hard team to stop."

The showdown in Hamilton had the makings of a bitter contest after Jason Taumalolo opted out of the Kiwis in favor of playing for the South Pacific island homeland of his family.

Andrew Fifita chose to join Taumalolo instead of playing for Australia, further bolstering the Tongan squad, who easily beat Scotland and Samoa to set up the Group B decider with New Zealand.

The pre-match featured a fearsome exchange of war dances, with players from rival teams coming face-to-face in a bid to intimidate each other. The Kiwis began strongly with Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Jordan Rapana and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck all scoring first-half tries.

Tonga piled on 22 unanswered points after the interval to lead 24-16 before Tuivasa-Sheck scored his second try of the match, which was converted by Shaun Johnson to cut the margin to two. That left it to Fusitu'a to seal his team's win with his third try.

By finishing top of Group B, Tonga is now likely to avoid having to play tournament favorite Australia, at least until the final, while New Zealand faces the prospect of a much trickier path, starting with a quarterfinal against Fiji.

"This is a blessing in disguise for us," New Zealand coach John Kidwell said. "We're still going down to



EDINBURGH: Samoa's centre Kieron Fonotia (L) tackles Scotland's wing Tommy Seymour (C) during the autumn international rugby union test match between Scotland and Samoa at Murrayfield stadium in Edinburgh yesterday. — AFP

Wellington, we're still in a quarterfinal and we'll prepare well again." Samoa finished third in Group B after coming from behind to draw with Scotland in Cairns. The Scots led 14-6 at halftime but failed to score again

after the break as Samoa responded with unconverted tries from Matthew Wright and Young Tonumaiepa. Defending champion Australia was playing Lebanon later in Sydney. — AP

Medvedeva wins NHK Trophy to secure Grand Prix berth

OSAKA: Two-time world champion Evgenia Medvedeva overcame an early fall to win the NHK Trophy yesterday and secure a place in the International Skating Union's Grand Prix Final.

The Russian, who was first after the short program, recovered from a shaky start in her free skate to "Anna Karenina" and won her second Grand Prix of the season with a total of 224.39 points.

Carolina Kostner of Italy was second with 212.24 points, followed by Russia's Polina Tsurskaya with 210.19. Medvedeva fell on her opening triple flip, which was supposed to be a combinations jump, and two-footed the landing of a triple lutz but nailed the rest of her jumps. Combined with her win at Cup of Russia last month, Medvedeva booked her place at the Dec. 7-10 Grand Prix final in Nagoya, Japan.

"I'm not satisfied with my free program," Medvedeva said. "But I'm glad I did the combination in the second half which was the best part of my program."

Kostner doubled a toe loop and fell on a triple salchow. The 2012 world champion was ranked third in the free skate but held on to claim second place overall.

"As for my performance, I made two mistakes today, actually on easier elements, which is too bad," Kostner said. "But mistakes happen and show you where work is needed." Russia also topped the podium in the men's event with Sergei Voronov holding on to his lead from the short program to win with a total of 271.12 points.

Adam Rippon of the United States was second with 261.99, followed by Alexei Bychenko of Israel with 252.07. World champions Wenjing Sui and Cong Han of China won the gold medal in pairs with 234.53. Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov of Russia were second, followed by compatriots Kristina Astakhova and Alexei Rogonov.

Three-time and reigning world champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, who won their seventh Skate Canada title last month with a record score, were first after the ice dance short program with 80.92.

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue of the United States were second, with Anna Cappellini and Luca Lanotte of Italy in third.

"We had a quick week turnaround from Skate



OSAKA: Evgenia Medvedeva of Russia performs during the women's singles free skating event in the NHK Trophy figure skating competition in Osaka yesterday. — AFP

Canada to here, so we had to be strategic about the improvements we wanted to make in each program," Virtue said. "It certainly was a step forward in a lot of the elements and we are pleased with the attack that we had and with our technical proficiency."

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series consists of six events and culminates in the Grand Prix Final in Nagoya, Japan, next month. — AP

Vlhova beats Shiffrin to win World Cup slalom

LEVI: Slovakian skier Petra Vlhova wasted no time in confirming her status as Mikaela Shiffrin's main rival for slalom success in the Olympic season. At the first World Cup race in the discipline, Vlhova trailed Shiffrin by 0.21 yesterday after the opening leg but used a near-perfect second run to finish in 1 minute, 49.98 seconds and edge the overall World Cup champion by 0.10.

"I feel great and I am really happy that I beat Mikaela because she is really strong and fast," Vlhova said. Wendy Holdener of Switzerland was 1.35 behind in third with the rest of the field finishing more than two seconds behind. Frida Hansdotter of Sweden, the only skier other than Shiffrin to win the slalom World Cup title in the past five years, was third after the opening run but dropped to fourth.

It was Vlhova's third career win. She also beat Shiffrin in March at the World Cup finals in Aspen, Colorado, after the American had wrapped up her first overall title. The Olympic gold medalist also won her third world slalom title last season.

Vlhova had been tipped as Shiffrin's closest competitor since Slovakian teammate Veronika Velez Zuzulova, who was runner-up to the American last season, suffered a severe knee injury in September.

"I have been training very hard because it is the Olympic season," Vlhova said. "But now the goal is (to compete) for the World Cup. End of January I start to think about the Olympic Games."

Shiffrin won the traditional first slalom of the season in Finnish Lapland twice, in 2013 and again last year. Each of the 14 previous times she was leading in a slalom race after the opening run, she won the race. Shiffrin increased her lead over Vlhova to 0.23 at the first split time of her final run, but lost time on the steep middle section and could not make up enough on the flats before the finish.

After missing out on her 32nd career victory, she said it was "OK to have another podium." "But I know, Petra, she is really hammering. She is pushing a lot," Shiffrin said. Shiffrin set the pace in the opening leg with an aggressive and dynamic run. She came wide at a turn on the steep part of the course but quickly regained her rhythm.

"I was pretty clean for the most parts so I can be a



LEVI: Slovakia's Petra Vlhova celebrates on the podium after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom in Levi, Finland, yesterday. — AP

little bit more precise maybe in a couple of gates," she said. "But it felt like a good run. It was really fun to ski." Shiffrin finished fifth in the season-opening giant slalom in Austria two weeks ago, when she complained about stiff legs.

"I had a much better feeling today," Shiffrin said. "This morning when I woke up I was a little bit nervous but when I went into the starting gate I sort of relaxed and tried to push me for that run." — AP

Sports

Mark Stone lifts Senators past Avalanche in Sweden

Patrick Marleau scores in OT, Maple Leafs beat Bruins

NHL results/standings

Las Vegas 5, Winnipeg 2; Dallas 5, NY Islanders 0; Florida 4, Buffalo 1; Toronto 3, Boston 2 (OT); Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1; Carolina 3, Columbus 1; Ottawa 4, Colorado 3 (OT).

Western Conference						
Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
St. Louis	13	3	1	56	39	27
Winnipeg	8	4	3	48	45	19
Nashville	8	5	2	40	42	18
Dallas	9	7	0	47	43	18
Colorado	8	6	1	51	51	17
Chicago	7	7	2	44	39	16
Minnesota	6	7	2	45	44	14
Pacific Division						
Los Angeles	11	3	2	54	39	24
Las Vegas	10	5	1	57	46	21
Calgary	9	7	0	44	46	18
Vancouver	8	6	2	43	41	18
Anaheim	7	6	3	47	48	17
San Jose	8	6	0	37	35	16
Edmonton	6	8	1	35	46	13
Arizona	2	13	3	44	71	7
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Tampa Bay	13	2	2	69	45	28
Toronto	11	7	0	68	62	22
Ottawa	7	3	5	55	50	19
Detroit	8	8	1	48	49	17
Boston	6	5	4	43	47	16
Montreal	7	9	1	44	60	15
Florida	5	8	2	52	60	12
Buffalo	5	9	2	39	58	12
Metropolitan Division						
New Jersey	9	4	2	52	48	20
Pittsburgh	9	7	2	46	63	20
Washington	9	7	1	51	52	19
Columbus	9	7	1	53	49	19
Philadelphia	8	6	2	50	44	18
NY Islanders	8	6	2	55	53	18
NY Rangers	8	7	2	56	57	18
Carolina	6	5	3	38	39	15

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

STOCKHOLM: Mark Stone scored in regulation and again in overtime to give the Ottawa Senators a 4-3 victory over the Colorado Avalanche on Friday night in the first of two regular-season games in the Swedish capital. Swedish defenseman Fredrik Claesson and Christopher DiDomenico also scored for the Senators. Nail Yakupov, Alexander Kerfoot and Nathan MacKinnon scored for Colorado. Stone scored 59 seconds into overtime for his 11th of the season. MacKinnon tied it for Colorado with 7:07 remaining in regulation. The teams will complete the NHL Global Series in Stockholm tonight. It's for the fifth time the NHL has played regular-season games in Europe, but the first since 2011. The capacity crowd of 13,000 spectators at Stockholm's Ericsson Globe cheered loudly for both teams, each led by Swedish captains - Colorado's



STOCKHOLM: Colorado Avalanche's Chris Bigras (L) and Ottawa Senators Jean-Gabriel Pageau the NHL Global Series hockey game between Colorado Avalanche and Ottawa Senators at Ericsson Globe in Stockholm, Sweden.—AFP

Ben Bishop made 14 saves in his 20th career shutout

Gabriel Landeskog and Ottawa's Erik Karlsson.

CAPITALS 4, PENGUINS 1

John Carlson and T.J. Oshie scored rare home power-play goals, and Braden Holtby became the second-fastest goalie in NHL history to 200 victories in Washington's win over Pittsburgh. Holtby stopped 27 of the 28 shots he faced to pick up victory No. 200 in his 319th game, second only to Hall of Famer and six-time Stanley Cup winner Ken Dryden, who did it in 311. The only goal he allowed was credited to Phil Kessel, but went in off Capitals defenseman Dmitry Orlov. Chandler Stephenson and Jakub Vrana also scored for Washington.

PANTHERS 4, SABRES 1

Roberto Luongo broke a tie with Curtis Joseph for fourth place on the NHL career victory list with 455, making 24 saves in Florida's win over Buffalo. Evgenii Dadonov and Aleksander Barkov each had a goal and an assist, and Ian McCoshen and Vincent Trocheck also scored to help the Panthers snap a five-game skid. Kyle Okposo scored for the Sabres, and Robin Lehner stopped 27 shots.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, BRUINS 2, OT

Patrick Marleau scored in overtime to give the Toronto Maple Leafs a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins on Friday night in the first game of a home-and-home series. James van Riemsdyk scored twice, the second to tie it with a minute left in regulation, and Frederik Andersen made 33 saves. The Maple Leafs have won three in a row to improve to 11-7-0. Patrice Bergeron and David Pastrnak scored for Boston, and Anton Khudobin stopped 30 shots. Boston will host the back end of the two-game set tonight.

STARS 5, ISLANDERS 0

Ben Bishop made 14 saves in his 20th career shutout and Dallas beat New York. John Klingberg had a goal and two assists for Dallas, and fellow defenseman Esa Lindell added a goal and an assist. Klingberg leads NHL defense-men with 18 points. It was Bishop's first shutout of the season. He got some help 3 1/2 minutes into the second period when Tyler Seguin swept the puck away from the net to prevent an Islanders goal.

HURRICANES 3, BLUE JACKETS 1

Jordan Staal had two goals, Cam Ward made 25 saves and Carolina beat Columbus. Staal snapped a 1-1 tie 8:54 into the third period when he beat Sergei Bobrovsky from the slot. Teuvo Teravainen assisted on each of Staal's goals, and Brock McGinn got an empty-net goal with 25 seconds left. Brandon Dubinsky scored for Columbus, and Bobrovsky stopped 26 shots.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 5, JETS 2

William Karlsson scored twice for Vegas, and David Perron had a goal and an assist. Karlsson has six goals and four assists in his last 10 games. He had no goals and two assists in his first six games of the season. Reilly Smith had two assists for Vegas, giving him 200 points in his NHL career. Making his sixth start for the Golden Knights, Maxime Lagace stopped 27 shots.

Patrik Laine and Adam Lowry scored for Winnipeg, and Connor Hellebuyck made 16 saves in his first regulation loss of the season. He was the only goalie in the NHL who had not lost in regulation in 10 or more starts.—AP

Overton presses Test claims in England's win

ADELAIDE: Craig Overton improved his chances of an England Test debut in this month's Ashes series with an impressive bowling performance in the emphatic tour win over the Cricket Australia XI in Adelaide yesterday.

England needed just half an hour to wrap up a comprehensive 192-run victory early on the final day of the four-day tour match at Adelaide Oval. The Somerset paceman took one of the three remaining wickets to fall to finish with three for 15 off 11 overs to share the wickets among the pace battery.

Overton is now firmly in line to make his Test debut at the Gabba for the opening Test of the series on November 23 and insists he is ready for the task. "I'd like to think so but I've still got a bit of work to do," Overton told reporters.

"It's still a work in progress. It's just finding that rhythm over here and I'd prefer to be over-cooked than under-cooked going to Brisbane." On his chances of cracking a spot in the England Test XI, Overton said: "You're never quite sure, you just keep on doing your thing and try not to worry about it too much.

"If you get a call up then happy days if not I will be supporting the team as much as possible. "I'm just making sure I bowl the best I can when I get a chance and hopefully that will be good enough. I'm confident it will be." James Anderson took two wickets on the final day to finish with three for 12 off 10.2 overs while Chris

Woakes, who triggered the CA XI second innings collapse late on Friday, did not bowl on Saturday to have four for 17 off 10 overs.

Anderson, who is now the new team vice-captain in place of the suspended Ben Stokes, said he has been impressed with Overton's efforts on tour. "He's a big lad, gets plenty of bounce and he's very skilful too," England's all-time Test wicket-taker said.

"He can swing the ball, seam the ball and he brings something different to the team. He's settled in really well." An England batting collapse was averted only by Jonny Bairstow's unbeaten knock of 61 in the second innings of 207 and former fast bowler Ryan Harris, in charge of the CA XI, liked what he saw.

"I think their batting is vulnerable, absolutely, especially with no Stokes at six or seven," Harris said. "But it depends on how our boys bowl at them. If we're loose and wide then we won't have them in any trouble. "We've got some good intelligence and knowledge on England and I'll pass that on to our bowlers."

Australia are delighted that England's big two batting hopes, Joe Root and Alastair Cook, have not really fired on tour yet, the new captain having made one half century in his three innings and the former one having suffered three failures.

"We've been known to target the captain and Joe Root is genuinely their best player," Harris said. "You've got Alastair Cook too who knows these conditions pretty well so if you take the best two out it's always going to be hard. That's what I'm sure the Australians are trying to do.

"I think Cook looked a bit rusty. He's had a good county season but it's different in our conditions." England head to north Queensland today for their final Ashes warm-up game against the CA XI yet again, starting in Townsville on Wednesday, before the opening Test in Brisbane.—AFP



Craig Overton

Pakistan put off West Indies series to March

LAHORE: Pakistan yesterday put off their three-match Twenty20 series with the West Indies scheduled later this month to March next year, citing weather conditions as the reason for postponement. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Najam Sethi announced the new dates. "The weather conditions were not conducive so we did not take any risk and next year a full strength West Indies team will play three Twenty20 matches on March 29, 31 and April 1," said Sethi at a press conference. A combination of smoke and fog has paralysed daily life in Lahore, and also threatened the staging of Twenty20 internationals. Pakistan had hoped three-match series would further help them revive international cricket in their country, where foreign teams have been refusing to tour over security fears for eight years.

International cricket was suspended in Pakistan after terrorist attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in 2009, which killed eight people and injured several players. Pakistan hosted Zimbabwe for a limited over series in 2015 followed by staging of the final of the Pakistan Super League and Twenty20 series with a World XI—both this year.

Last month Sri Lanka became the first high profile team to play a Twenty20 international match in Lahore. Sethi said the PCB and Cricket West Indies have agreed to play Twenty20 series for five years.—AFP

Trailblazer Feng is China's first world No 1 golfer

SHANGHAI: Feng Shanshan is to be China's first golfer ranked world number one after she claimed back-to-back wins with a thrilling victory at the Blue Bay LPGA yesterday. No Chinese golfer, male or female, has ever topped the rankings before and her slice of history underlines the country's growing heft in a sport that was banned under Mao Zedong.

Feng, who started the week third in the world, is projected to rise to top spot at the expense of South Korean rookie Park Sung-Hyun, the LPGA said. Twenty-eight-year-old Feng's ascent to the summit comes thanks to a nervy one-shot victory over Moriya Jutanugarn after the Thai's birdie try on the 72nd hole lipped out, to the delight of the home crowd on the southern Chinese island of Hainan.

Feng's fellow Chinese players showered the trailblazer in water on the 18th green at Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Club. She told LPGA.com: "I'm really, really excited and very proud of myself and I think it's special because I

won this tournament to become world number one. "I finished first in China, so I actually claimed the world number one in front of all the people at home," said Feng, who is from the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou and turned professional in 2007.

Feng, who also captured last week's TOTO Japan Classic title, added: "Hopefully there will be more Chinese getting on the tours and more world number ones coming up from China. "I just want 2017 to keep going. A never-ending 2017, that would be great." The deposed number one Park was tied third and relinquishes the top spot after just one week.

For Feng, the Rio 2016 Olympic bronze medallist, it is the culmination of more than a decade of toil on tour. It is also a third victory of the season for her and ninth career LPGA win, one of those a major.

As well as being China's first number one, she was also the country's first winner on the LPGA Tour (2012 Wegman's LPGA Championship). Her rise to the top was widely celebrated in Chinese media, but the Beijing government has an ambivalent attitude towards golf, which is traditionally viewed in China as bourgeois.

On the one hand Chinese authorities have shut dozens of golf courses—many of them illegal—and curbed new construction, while at the same time holding men's and women's tournaments like the one that Feng won. The LPGA Tour heads back to the United States next week for the CME Group Tour Championship in Florida, the final event of the 2017 season.—AFP



HAINAN ISLAND: China's Feng Shanshan poses with the trophy after winning the Blue Bay LPGA golf tournament at Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course on China's southern Hainan Island yesterday.—AFP

Sports

Boston Celtics beat Hornets 90-87 for 11th straight win

Antetokounmpo leads Bucks past Spurs in Bledsoe's debut

BOSTON: The Boston Celtics lost Kyrie Irving but rallied from 18 points down in the second half and captured their 11th straight victory, roaring past the Charlotte Hornets and hanging on for a 90-87 victory on Friday night. With Gordon Hayward out for the season and Al Horford sitting out a second straight game with a concussion, Irving, the third member of the new Big Three, went down with a possible concussion less than two minutes into the game—the result of an errant elbow from teammate Aron Baynes. Boston went on to a season-low 11 points in the first quarter and was down 18 early in the third before sending the Hornets to their fourth straight loss that completed an 0-4 road trip. With journeyman guard Shane Larkin leading the way, the Celtics went on a 14-2 fourth-quarter run to take control of the game and held the Hornets to 11 points in the fourth quarter. But the home team still had to survive a scramble at the end to survive.

Pacers 105, Bulls 87

Victor Oladipo scored 25 points and Bojan Bogdanovic added 22 as Indiana snapped a four-game losing streak. The Pacers never trailed and limited the Bulls to 25.9 percent shooting (7 of 27) from 3-point range. The Pacers had struggled defensively during the four-game skid, allowing an average of 115 points. Thaddeus Young chipped in 13 points for Indiana (6-7), which won for the first time since Nov. 1. Myles Turner also reached double figures for the Pacers and finished with 11 points and nine rebounds. Bobby Portis, playing his second game since returning from an eight-game suspension, scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds off the bench to lead Chicago, which lost its third straight.

Pistons 111, Hawks 104

Reggie Jackson made two pivotal 3-pointers in the final minute, lifting Detroit to its fourth straight win. Jackson finished with 22 points and six assists for the Pistons (9-3), who gave away a 19-point lead before regaining control. Andre Drummond had 16 points, 20 rebounds and a career-high seven assists for Detroit. Avery Bradley supplied 20 points and Tobias Harris contributed 16 points and eight rebounds. Ish Smith led Pistons reserves with 17 points and five assists. Kent Bazemore tallied 22 points, five rebounds and five assists for the Hawks (2-10). Dennis Schroder recorded 17 points and 11 assists, John Collins tossed in 16 points and eight rebounds, Dewayne Dedmon added 13 points and nine rebounds and Marco Belinelli chipped in 14 points.

Bucks 94, Spurs 87

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 12 rebounds and newly acquired Eric Bledsoe added 13 points and hit a key jumper down the stretch as Milwaukee defeated San Antonio to snap a four-game losing streak. The Bucks led 87-80 with 6:13 to play on a jumper by Khris Middleton,

but Milwaukee missed its next five shots and allowed San Antonio to pull within 89-87 on Manu Ginobili's 3-point play with 2:26 remaining. Bledsoe, who was playing his first game with Milwaukee after being traded from Phoenix on Tuesday, made a jumper with 1:40 to play and Middleton added another with 55 seconds left to push the Bucks' advantage to 93-87. The Spurs missed their final five shots and got no second chances down the stretch.

Thunder 120, Clippers 111

Paul George scored a season-high 42 points as Oklahoma City beat slumping Los Angeles. Russell Westbrook added 22 points and eight assists while Anthony scored 14 points as Oklahoma City snapped a four-game losing streak. Lou Williams scored a season-high 35 points to lead the Clippers. Blake Griffin and Austin Rivers added 17 each for Los Angeles, which lost for the fourth straight time and the sixth time in seven games.

Heat 84, Jazz 74

Dion Waiters scored 21 points and Goran Dragic added 18 to help Miami rally for a win over Utah. Miami won its second straight after holding the Jazz to 4-of-33 shooting (12.1 percent) in the second half. Utah's shooting struggles helped the Heat overcome 20 turnovers. Rodney Hood scored 19 points to lead the Jazz. Rudy Gobert chipped in 12 points and 12 rebounds and Donovan Mitchell and Alec Burks each scored 12 points for Utah, which has lost four straight—three at home.

Magic 128, Suns 112

Aaron Gordon scored 22 points, Nikola Vucevic had 19 and Orlando blew open a seesaw game early in the fourth quarter to beat slumping Phoenix. Terrence Ross and Jonathan Simmons added 17 each for the Magic, who are 8-4 and off to their best start since going 9-3 to start the 2011-12 season. The Magic are a perfect 4-0 against the Western Conference. Alex Len had 21 points and 13 rebounds for Phoenix, TJ Warren had 20 and rookie Josh Jackson had a career-high 18 points for the Suns, who have lost five straight and the first three games of a seven-game homestand. They also lost forward Jared Dudley to a right knee sprain in the third quarter.

Nets 101, Trail Blazers 97

D'Angelo Russell totaled 21 points and nine assists as shorthanded Brooklyn beat Portland. Russell five players in double figures for the Nets, who used a 31-18 third quarter to improve to 2-2 on a five-game road trip. DeMarre Carroll added 16 points, former Trail Blazer Allen Crabbe added 12 and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson contributed 11. Jusuf Nurkic led the Trail Blazers with 21 points, and guard Damian Lillard added 19. — Reuters



BOSTON: Boston Celtics' Jaylen Brown (7) passes under pressure from Charlotte Hornets' Michael Kidd-Gilchrist during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston. — AP

NBA results/standings

Brooklyn 101, Portland 97; Oklahoma City 120, LA Clippers 111; Milwaukee 94, San Antonio 87; Orlando 128, Phoenix 112; Miami 84, Utah 74; Indiana 105, Chicago 87; Boston 90, Charlotte 87; Detroit 111, Atlanta 104.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference			
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division			
	W	L	PCT				
Boston	11	2	.846	Minnesota	7	4	.636
Toronto	7	4	.636	Denver	7	5	.583
Philadelphia	6	5	.545	Portland	6	6	.500
NY Knicks	6	5	.545	Utah	5	7	.417
Brooklyn	5	7	.417	Oklahoma City	5	7	.417
Central Division				Pacific Division			
Detroit	9	3	.750	Golden State	9	3	.750
Indiana	6	7	.462	LA Clippers	5	6	.455
Milwaukee	5	6	.455	LA Lakers	5	7	.417
Cleveland	5	7	.417	Phoenix	4	9	.308
Chicago	2	8	.200	Sacramento	3	8	.273
Southeast Division				Southwest Division			
Orlando	8	4	.667	Houston	9	3	.750
Washington	6	5	.545	Memphis	7	4	.636
Miami	6	6	.500	San Antonio	7	5	.583
Charlotte	5	7	.417	New Orleans	6	6	.500
Atlanta	2	10	.167	Dallas	2	10	.167

Rublev thrashes Coric, sets up Chung rematch in Next Gen final

MILAN: Top seed Andrey Rublev crushed a demoralised Borna Coric on Friday and must now try to stop undefeated South Korean Chung Hyeon to win the inaugural Next Gen ATP Finals title.

Russian number one Rublev, the highest-ranked qualifier for the tournament at 37th in the world, dominated his fellow 20-year-old with superior firepower to win 4-1 4-3(6) 4-1 in little over an hour at the Fiera Milano. Chung, ranked 54, followed Rublev into the final when he dispatched Russian, Daniil Medvedev, 4-1 4-1 3-4(4) 1-4 4-0. It was too easy for Chung in the opening two sets but 65th-ranked Medvedev emerged from his slumber to make a match of it.

Chung re-asserted his authority in the third set, although he did have to save three break points when leading 2-0 — letting out a huge roar as he made his way back to his seat. He then broke again to finish the job. Coric, who perhaps regretted battling back from two sets down to win his final round-robin match against Karen Khachanov despite already having qualified, looked jaded and took his frustration out on his racket. Twice he broke frames in the third set as Rublev raced away to victory and a final against either Chung Hyeon or fellow Russian Daniil Medvedev who are in action later.

Coric was too passive in the first set but revived in the second after coach Christian Schneider told his player, through headphones, to "give me more energy". The Croatian got himself into a tiebreak but a poor forehand at 6-6 gave Rublev a second set point and he made no mistake. One of the many innovations at the Next Gen Finals, the headphone exchanges between coach and player make for interesting listening for the crowd and TV audiences and Coric's reaction to losing the second set was candid.

"I don't know what to do any more," he said, before crumbling to defeat. Coric even became irate with one live Hawkeye call—the system that has replaced human line judges at the event.

Rublev, who came into the tournament on the back of three straight defeats, said it was his best performance so far and hopes to reverse his crushing round-robin loss to Chung. "We'll see if I can change something," he told reporters. "The first match here, I wasn't playing that aggressive. I didn't play that good. I was missing a lot. So I hope tomorrow I can show a better game." — Reuters

Russian refusal to admit doping could block Olympic path

MOSCOW: Russia's refusal to accept responsibility for widespread state-sponsored doping uncovered in the McLaren report could prevent its competitors taking part in the 2018 Winter Olympics, WADA director general Olivier Niggli said on Friday.

One of the 19 conditions the World Anti-Doping Agency laid out in a 'Roadmap to Compliance' requires the authorities responsible for Russia's anti-doping program, including the Ministry of Sport and National Olympic Committee, to publicly accept the findings of the McLaren investigation.

The report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren found that more than 1,000 Russian competitors in more than 30 sports were involved in a conspiracy to conceal positive drug tests over a period of five years.

"We have one Roadmap that was agreed by everybody, including our board, and until there is a decision from the WADA board that this Road Map should be changed we are sticking to it," Niggli told Reuters in a telephone interview from WADA's Montreal headquarters. "So yes, we will not consider that they have fulfilled the conditions as long as there are still conditions on the Roadmap that have not been fulfilled. We are not deviating from the agreed Roadmap."

If Russia remains non-compliant with the WADA Anti-Doping Code it would be another obstacle standing in the way of the country being cleared to compete at next year's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South

Vandeweghe gives US early lead in Fed Cup final

MINSK: CoCo Vandeweghe gave the United States a 1-0 lead in the Fed Cup final against Belarus yesterday with the Americans looking to break a 17-year championship drought.

Vandeweghe beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-4, 6-4 in front of a boister-

ous home crowd in Belarus. "I think that's part of having the home court advantage and I would expect the same in the US," said Vandeweghe.

Vandeweghe broke in the opening games of both sets, and didn't face a break point on her serve in the opener. In the second set, Vandeweghe lost serve in the second and eighth games, but broke serve on three of four offerings to secure the match.

Sloane Stephens faces Aryna Sabalenka in the second match of the day. The Americans won a record 17th Fed Cup title in 2000, with Billie Jean King as captain. Since then, they have played and lost in three finals — 2003, 2009 and 2010. Belarus is playing in the Fed Cup final for the first time. — AP



CoCo Vandeweghe

Olympic gymnast Raisman: I was abused by doctor

NEW YORK: Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman says she is among the young women abused by a former USA Gymnastics team doctor. Raisman tells "60 Minutes" she was 15 when she was first treated by Dr. Larry Nassar, who spent more than two decades working with athletes at USA Gymnastics. He's now in jail in Michigan awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to possession of child pornography.

Raisman, the captain of the 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold-medal winning team, details the abuse in her book "Fierce," which will be released on Nov 14. Raisman is the latest gymnast to claim she was abused by Nassar. McKayla Maroney, who won two medals at the 2012 Games as Raisman's teammate, said last month she was molested for years by Nassar.

Nassar also is 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, and the dozens of civil suits filed in Michigan are currently in mediation.

Raisman's interview with "60 Minutes" will air tonight. The 23-year-old Raisman has been highly critical of USA Gymnastics in recent months, calling for leadership change at the top of the organization while becoming a strong advocate for athlete's rights. She's also spoken up for victims who have been reluctant to come forward publicly.

"These girls, they should be comfortable going to USA Gymnastics and saying: 'I need help. I want therapy. I need this,'" Raisman said during an interview in August at the 2017 national championships in Anaheim, California.—AP

Sports

Banana salvages a 2-2 World Cup draw for Cameroon

Nigeria draw in Algeria to finish with 14 points

JOHANNESBURG: Yves Banana scored in stoppage time to salvage a 2-2 draw for Cameroon in Zambia yesterday at the end of a disappointing World Cup Group B campaign for the African champions. Zambia teenager Patson Daka opened the scoring and set up Brian Mwila to put the hosts ahead again after Senegal had leveled before half time in the central city of Ndola.

Andre-Franck Zambo Anguissa scored the first Cameroon equaliser and Banana's glancing header restored parity a minute into additional time. The result meant the "Indomitable Lions" finished third in Group B with seven points, having won only one of their six matches, at home to off-form Algeria last month.

Cameroon had been expected to mount a strong challenge for first place and a ticket to the 2018 finals in Russia as they chased a record-extending eighth World Cup appearance by an African country.

But after drawing away to Algeria and at home to Zambia last year, they were trounced 4-0 by eventual group winners Nigeria two months ago to effectively drop out of contention. Nigeria drew 1-1 in Algeria Friday to finish with 14 points, followed by Zambia (eight), Cameroon (seven) and Algeria (two). Cameroon sprang a surprise last February by winning the Africa Cup of Nations in neighbouring Gabon, coming from behind to beat Egypt 2-1 in the final. Belgian coach Hugo Broos, the architect of the continental triumph, says he is rebuild-

ing before Cameroon host the 2019 Cup of Nations, and has pleaded for patience.

He will take hope from the performance of Fabrice Ondoa in the draw in Zambia as the Spain-based goalkeeper made a string of excellent saves in both halves. Zambia coach Wedson Nyirenda must have been encouraged by the form of 19-year-old Daka, a member of the team that won the Africa U-20 Cup of Nations this year.

The next competitive outings for the countries are Cup of Nations qualifiers in March when Zambia visits Namibia and Cameroon are away to the Comoros. Although Cameroon qualify automatically for the 2019 tournament as hosts, they are playing in the qualifying competition to gain match practice.

Senegal on Friday became the third African nation to secure a place at next year's finals as English Premier League pair Diafra Sakho and Sadio Mane played key roles in a 2-0 win over South Africa in Polokwane. Gabon and Mali drawing 0-0 in eastern town Franceville in a Group C dead rubber was predictable as the countries have two of the three worst scoring records in the groups.

The Gabonese, who lacked star striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, scored twice goals in one mini-league match and none in the other five. Mali were even worse, going 522 minutes without a goal after scoring



CONSTANTINE: Nigeria's William Ekong (L) vies for the ball with Algeria's Islam Silmani during the 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifying football match between Algeria and Nigeria at the Chadli Hamlaou Stadium in Constantine. — AFP

18 minutes into their first match. Morocco hold a one-point advantage over the Ivory Coast ahead of the group decider in Abidjan later.

The Ivorians are seeking a fourth consecutive qualification while the Moroccans have not been to the finals since 1998. — AFP



Diafra Sakho, Sadio Mane play key roles

Brazil and France impress, England in Germany stalemate

PARIS: Neymar starred as Brazil ramped up their World Cup preparations with a 3-1 win over Japan on Friday, while France saw off Wales 2-0 in Paris and a new-look England held Germany 0-0 at Wembley. Elsewhere, Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku became his country's equal all-time record goalscorer as Belgium played out a thrilling 3-3 draw against Mexico in Brussels.

In Lille, Neymar scored a penalty and missed another as Brazil outclassed Japan. Neymar rolled in a 10th-minute spot-kick following consultation with the video assistant referee, although Neymar saw a second penalty saved shortly after by Eiji Kawashima.

Marcelo rifled in a magnificent second as Brazil doubled their lead on 17 minutes, with Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus rounding off a clinical counter-attack before half-time to make it 3-0. Tomoaki Makino nodded in a consolation from a corner on 62 minutes but Japan remain winless against Brazil, losing for the 10th time in 12 meetings. "I'm really happy with what's happening with the national team and (coach)

Tite, we feel confident with him and believe in him," said Neymar. Japan coach Vahid Halilhodzic was left to rue his team's disastrous start. "I don't know what was happening in their heads in the first half," said Halilhodzic whose team has also qualified for the finals in Russia. At the Stade de France in Paris, Antoine Griezmann rediscovered his goal-scoring touch with the first goal in a 2-0 victory against Wales. Griezmann had scored only three times in 13 appearances for Atletico Madrid this term and was without a goal for his club since netting a penalty against Chelsea in the Champions League in September.

But he ended his drought by opening the scoring in the 18th minute on Friday, converting a pass from Corentin Tolisso. Arsenal's Olivier Giroud hit his 29th international goal in the second half to complete the win. At Wembley, England debutants Jordan Pickford



VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ: Brazil's forward Neymar (L) vies with Japan's defender Atsuto Uchida (R) during the friendly football match between Japan and Brazil at the Pierre Mauroy Stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, northern France. — AFP

and Ruben Loftus-Cheek caught the eye as Gareth Southgate's injured-ravaged side played out a 0-0 draw with world champions Germany.

Everton goalkeeper Pickford, 23, made a number of smart saves, while 21-year-old Chelsea midfielder Loftus-Cheek, who is on loan at Crystal Palace, produced an assured display in the number 10 shirt. "We posed our own questions and I thought we used the ball well," said Southgate.

Joachim Loew's Germany came closest to scoring when winger Leroy Sane rattled the crossbar midway through the first half. The Confederations Cup winners missed out on an eighth successive win, but they have now gone 20 games unbeaten ahead of their year-end-

ing home game with France—the last team to beat them on Tuesday. "Both teams were very good and played well defensively. There weren't many counter-attacks," said Loew.

Lukaku scored twice as Belgium shared a six-goal thriller with fellow World Cup finalists Mexico. He now has 30 international goals, joining Paul van Himst and Bernard Voorhoof who also reached the mark.

Missing star striker Robert Lewandowski, Poland drew 0-0 with Uruguay who were without Luis Sanchez in Warsaw. Portugal didn't miss the resting Cristiano Ronaldo as they defeated Saudi Arabia 3-0 with goals from Manuel Fernandes, Goncalo Guedes and Joao Mario. — AFP

Aguero gives Argentina win over Russia

MOSCOW: Sergio Aguero scored the first goal at the reopened Luzhnik stadium as Argentina beat Russia 1-0 in a friendly yesterday. The Manchester City forward scored on the rebound in the 86th minute to leave Argentina on a seven-game unbeaten streak despite a difficult World Cup qualifying campaign.

It was the first game in four years at Moscow's vast Luzhnik stadium, which hosts next year's World Cup final. Argentina struggled to break down Russia's defense for much of the game, but coach Jorge Sampaoli saw encouraging signs. "We played in a straightforward, courageous, bold manner. We created resistance to the pressure that our opponent put us under. We need to continue to do the same," Sampaoli said through a translator. He singled out Aguero for creating scoring opportunities despite a lack of space offered by Russia's defensive setup.

However, Sampaoli said Argentina had been too cautious at times and "there were

situations when we weren't able to apply the final touch." On a chilly afternoon in Moscow, Sergio Aguero and Angel Di Maria went close to scoring for Argentina in the first half, but were denied by good saves from Russia captain and goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev.

Konstantin Rausch headed a goal-line clearance shortly after half-time to cut out a chipped cross from Lionel Messi. Russia came closest to scoring with two efforts from midfielder Denis Glushakov around the hour-mark, but one went narrowly wide and the other was hit straight at goalkeeper Sergio Romero.

Otherwise, the hosts posted little attacking threat. "We were bad in the transition out of defense," said Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov, who thought Argentina's goal should not have counted because of an offside in the buildup.

Cherchesov said playing against 2014 World Cup finalist Argentina was ideal preparation for Russia to learn how to pull off a shock against higher-rated opposition at next year's World Cup. "Our opponents were stronger today but we need to learn how to play right and beat them," Cherchesov said.

With a sellout crowd, security was tight at Luzhnik. The Soviet-era stadium, which hosted the 1980 Olympics and 2008 Champions League final, has been almost



MOSCOW: Argentina's Sergio Aguero, left, challenges Russia's Viktor Vasin during their international friendly soccer match between Russia and Argentina at Luzhnik stadium in Moscow. — AP

completely rebuilt for next year's tournament. As well as the July 15 final, it will also host Russia in the opening game on June 14. The grand 1950s facade stays, but the stands were torn out and rebuilt closer to the pitch in a football-first con-

figuration that does away with the Olympic athletics track. The steeper stands, now over two main tiers, mean better visibility for fans even as capacity increased from the pre-refit 78,000 to 81,000 for the World Cup. — AP

Buffon says 'no panic' as Italy on brink of World Cup disaster

MILAN: Italy must not panic as they bid to avoid missing a World Cup for the first time in 60 years, goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon said after a 1-0 play-off defeat to Sweden pushed them to the brink of disaster.

Captain Buffon-bidding to reach a record sixth World Cup finals in Russia—is one of the last survivors of Italy's golden generation of 2006 World Cup winners. But an Azzurri performance in Stockholm branded "ugly and confused" leaves Italy with all to play for in tomorrow's second leg in Milan to avoid failing to qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1958.

"We need to be as clear-headed as possible to go to the World Cup," said Buffon, who conceded a shot by Swedish substitute Jakob Johansson that was deflected by Daniele De Rossi.

"We know we've lost, but we have another 90 minutes to overcome this complicated situation. The first rule is not to cry over it," he told TMW radio. "I expect a full San Siro to carry this team through. I don't want to think it's the game of life, but I'm convinced that with the help of the public we will do it."

"We must be confident tomorrow, otherwise we have already lost." The 39-year-old added: "You have to keep your head high and your shoulders straight. There are another 90 minutes and we want to make the most of it, we are strong."

But former Italian international Andrea Pirlo believes it is dangerous for the four-time World Cup winners to rely too heavily on the atmosphere generated by 65,000 frenetic fans in the San Siro to squeeze through.

"The San Siro doesn't score, I've never seen a fan score," said Pirlo, a member of the 2006 World Cup winning team who announced this week he was retiring from football.

Pirlo acknowledged that the team "seemed frustrated," but he insisted he was quietly confident of getting through, saying: "I like this Italy." The last time Italy failed to reach the World Cup was for the 1958 tournament in Sweden.

But Gian Piero Ventura's side were already under pressure going into the tie after a disappointing end to their Group G campaign that featured a 3-0 loss in Spain and a 1-1 home draw with Macedonia.

"I feel so strongly that we will qualify because I saw the players in the dressing room and they were angry," said Ventura.

NEW BLOOD LACKING

But Ventura's tactics are under the microscope along with Italy's failure to bring in sufficient new blood over the past decade. Buffon is one of three 2006 World Cup-winning veterans—the others are Daniele De Rossi, 34, and 36-year-old defender Andrea Barzagli—still in the team.

Ventura failed to find room in his 3-5-2 formation for in-form Napoli winger Lorenzo Insigne and Andrea Belotti and Ciro Immobile failed to find the impetus up front.

In more bad news for Italy, influential midfielder Marco Verratti picked up a yellow card which means the Paris Saint-Germain playmaker is banned for the second leg.—AFP

12 Medvedeva wins NHK Trophy to secure Grand Prix berth



13 Trailblazer Feng is China's first world No 1 golfer



14 Vandeweghe gives US early lead in Fed Cup final



WELLINGTON: Peru's Yoshimar Yotun (L) goes down in a tackle by New Zealand's Michael McGlinchey during the World Cup football qualifying match between New Zealand and Peru at Westpac Stadium in Wellington yesterday. — AFP

N Zealand, Peru draw in WCup playoff

Peru dominates early exchanges against nervous New Zealand

WELLINGTON: Oceania champion New Zealand held Peru to a 0-0 draw yesterday in the first leg of their intercontinental World Cup playoff that will decide the final qualifier for Russia next year.

The teams will head to Lima next week for the second leg with the South Americans hoping to return to the World Cup for the first time in 36 years and New Zealand looking to make just its third appearance at the finals. Peru, which finished fifth in the South American qualifying tournament and is currently ranked 10th in the world, was heavily favored to beat New Zealand, but struggled in the absence of star striker and captain, Paolo Guerrero, who was suspended after failing a doping test.

New Zealand, ranked 122nd in the world, also suffered a setback before kickoff when key striker Chris Wood was forced out of the starting lineup because of a lingering hamstring injury, but steadily grew in confidence as the match progressed and brought on the Burnley forward as a second half substitute as they pressed for a late goal.

Peru head coach Ricardo Gareca said he believed his

side deserved to win the match and reassured the team's supporters they were determined to win at home and end their long World Cup drought.

"We have many fans and everyone is behind the team and I want to tell them that we have a good chance to qualify but it won't be easy," he said. "Don't worry about this result because the team will still give 100 percent in its attempt to qualify."

Peru dominated the early exchanges against a nervous New Zealand team, retaining possession for long periods and playing at pace and with precision, but was thwarted by the home team's staunch defense, led by the captain Winston Reid.

Peru came close to scoring in the seventh minute after a mix-up by the New Zealand defense saw a

deflection trickle back toward the net before goalkeeper Stefan Marinovic cleared it off the line just in time. Marinovic also pulled off two notable saves in the second half, palming a header from Aldo Corzo over the bar in the 63rd minute and stopping a low shot from Yordy Reyna a minute later.

But the All Whites also created some chances of their own to put the visitors under pressure and New Zealand manager Anthony Hudson said it was significant that his team did not give up an away goal, although he stressed "the mindset is we've achieved nothing."

"The key for us, and we said this at the beginning, it's not a 90 minute match, it's 180 minutes," he said. "We have to still be in the game in the last 15 minutes over in Lima. This suits us. We're accustomed to that sort of

adversity."

Kosta Barbarouses, left alone up front in the initial absence of Wood, flashed across goal in the 33rd minute after getting in behind the Peru defense.

Wood, who was introduced after 73 minutes, had a sniff of a chance in the 83rd minute and Barbarouses shot just wide seconds later. Ryan Thomas then blasted a powerful shot past the post in the 85th minute with the goalkeeper off his line, before Pedro Aquino had one of Peru's best chances in the 88th minute but missed the target after Markinovic had been knocked down.

Peru has qualified for the World Cup on four previous occasions, reaching the quarterfinals in 1970, but has not made it back to the sport's marquee tournament since 1982. They edged out Chile on goal difference to finish fifth in the South American qualifiers and book a place in the intercontinental playoffs against the champions of Oceania, the only regional confederation not guaranteed direct entry. New Zealand has qualified for the World Cup finals just twice before, in 1982 and 2010.—AFP

“It's not a 90 minute match, it's 180 minutes”

'Karate kick' Evra leaves Marseille, banned until June 30

MARSEILLE: Patrice Evra parted ways with Marseille on Friday after his infamous karate kick on one of his own fans, just moments after being banned from European tournaments until June 30, 2018.

Marseille said they and the 36-year-old defender had both agreed the former Manchester United and French international would leave by "mutual consent". "The player's contract is officially terminated with immediate effect," said the club.

Moments earlier, Evra was banned by UEFA

from all European tournaments until June 30 and fined 10,000 euros (\$11,650). Evra was widely condemned for the assault on a Marseille spectator which took place during the pre-match warm-up of a Europa League tie at Portuguese side Vitoria Guimaraes last week.

He had been suspended by Marseille in the wake of the controversy while the club's fanatical followers made it abundantly clear that he was no longer welcome at the Stade Velodrome. "This Game is Over" said a banner unfurled at the ground at last weekend's 5-0 win over Caen.

Another banner read: "We don't want you in our colours anymore. Evra get lost." Marseille president Jacques-Henri Eyraud said Friday that it was a sombre day for the 1993 European champions. "Today, there is sadness, firstly for Patrice Evra, who obviously understood the consequences of his actions and who will no longer be able to display his passion at Marseille," said Eyraud.

"Then, for the supporters of Marseille, who are stigmatised because of the irresponsible behaviour of a handful of them. "Finally, for the

club, whose reputation is tainted."

The ban handed down by UEFA mirrored that given to Evra's French compatriot Eric Cantona for his flying kick in 1995. Cantona, who was playing for Manchester United at Crystal Palace when the attack took place, was banned for eight months by the English FA. UEFA added Friday that they have not asked FIFA to extend the ban internationally which would have prevented Evra from seeking a new club outside of Europe.

France national coach Didier Deschamps said he was saddened by the affair. "It's a very complicated situation, I wouldn't wish anyone to be in this situation," said Deschamps after France's 2-0 friendly win over Wales in Paris on Friday night. "The sanctions have been announced and they are heavy." Evra had already attempted damage limitation at the weekend. "Great result tonight well done guys I'm really proud of you. Thanks to all real Olympique Marseille fans... I'm receiving so much support from them," he wrote on his Instagram account after the win against Caen.—AFP



MARSEILLE: File photo shows Olympique de Marseille Patrice Evra posing with his new jersey during a press conference with manager Andoni Zubizarreta (L) and president Jacques-Henri Eyraud. — AFP

Business

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

18 Lincoln Motor appoints Alghanim Auto as its new Agent and Dealer**19** Kuwait's credit growth remains steady at 3.2% y-o-y in August**20** Boursa Kuwait closes in red; trading activity remains weak

BEIRUT: Shoppers select products displayed in a shop in Beirut. Prime Minister Saad Hariri's shock resignation could unravel the first steps in years toward injecting some cash and confidence in Lebanon's anemic economy. — AP

Lebanon's economy plunges back into crisis

Hariri resignation could derail efforts to rebuild economy

BEIRUT: Just when things were starting to look up for Lebanon's economy, a new political crisis threatens to send it crashing down again.

Prime Minister Saad Hariri's shock resignation could unravel the first steps in years toward injecting some cash and confidence in Lebanon's anemic economy. Already, the crisis is putting at risk multi-billion-dollar plans to rebuild decaying road and electrical and communication networks and get the oil and gas sector moving. Lebanon has long been buffeted by blows from the great-powers rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran. But its economy sputtered on under a tacit understanding among the regional heavyweights and their local proxies that left Lebanon on the sidelines of that contest.

That may have changed yesterday when the Saudi-aligned Hariri announced his resignation in a televised statement from the kingdom's capital, Riyadh, saying Hezbollah, Iran's proxy in Lebanon, had taken the country hostage. It was an unexpected announcement from the premier, who formed a coalition government with the militant group less than a year ago.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates all ordered their citizens out of Lebanon this week, and the Lebanese are wondering and worried about what's to come.

"We don't know how things will escalate," said Rida

Shayto, an associate director at the pharmaceutical manufacturer Algorithm, which does half its sales to the Gulf.

The developments have stunned the Mediterranean country, which once looked to Saudi Arabia as a pillar to its own stability. The kingdom brokered the Taif agreement in 1989 that ushered in peace for Lebanon after 15 years of civil war. The kingdom has plowed decades of investment into Lebanon, opened markets to trade and allowed generations of talented and ambitious Lebanese to work in its oil-based economy.

The concern now is that the kingdom and other Gulf nations will throw out Lebanese workers, as they did with Qatar this summer in a rage over that country's perceived closeness to Iran.

Some 220,000 Lebanese work in Saudi Arabia and send back close to \$2 billion in remittances each year, according to Mounir Rached, a senior economic adviser to the Finance Ministry.

Lebanese are hoping Saudi Arabia will be too wary of the negative impact on its own economy from such a

mass expulsion. Many Lebanese hold managerial positions, including in the kingdom's all-important oil sector, and it would take time to refill the posts. An expulsion would also undermine decades of Saudi efforts to cultivate ties with Lebanese Sunnis.

"I think those who are invested in Lebanon are not going to come and destroy everything that they did in terms of relationships and associations and credibility," said Kamel Wazni, an economist and sometimes adviser to Hariri's government.

But the kingdom and its powerful Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, who has made his name by dramatic - or reckless, as his critics put it - moves, can't be seen as doing nothing, said Randa Slim, a Lebanese analyst at the Washington-based

Middle East Institute.

"They have locked themselves into an escalatory path without giving themselves an exit," she said.

The kingdom could expel Lebanese Shiites and Christians, she said. Shiites are Hezbollah's constituency

and some Christian parties have allied with it. They number 10,000 to 20,000 in Saudi Arabia, according to Rached, the Finance Ministry adviser.

As it is, the biggest threat now is a retreat to the political paralysis that has crimped growth since 2011. Lebanon, once a beacon of free market growth and joie de vivre living, was paralyzed for years over how to respond to the catastrophic civil war consuming its neighbor and trade partner, Syria.

Hariri's Future Movement, the largest party in Parliament, wanted Lebanon out of Syrian affairs, while Hezbollah was sending its militias there to fight on behalf of President Bashar Assad. The political log-jam resulted in Lebanon not having a president for more than two years and no economic vision to attract investment. Meanwhile, refugees poured into the country - more than one million of them, equivalent to a quarter of Lebanon's population - depressing wages in service and labor sectors. Hariri became premier under a deal that broke the deadlock and allowed the election of a Hezbollah-friendly president. The political breakthrough also brought an end to the stagnation in economic policy. The country passed its first budget since 2005, raising taxes and public salaries and opening up two oil and gas blocks off its coastline for drilling in a bid to bring in some sorely-needed investment. — AP

“ We don't know how things will escalate ”

Trans-Pacific trade deal advances without US

DANANG, Vietnam: Countries in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal have agreed on the core elements to move ahead without the United States, officials said yesterday, after last-minute resistance from Canada raised new doubts about its survival.

Taking the agreement forward is a boost for the principle of multilateral trade pacts after US President Donald Trump ditched the TPP early this year in favor of an "America First" policy he believes would save US jobs. Talks - often heated - have been held on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the Vietnamese resort of Danang, where Trump and other leaders held their main meeting yesterday. "We have overcome the hardest part," Vietnam's trade minister, Tran Tuan Anh, told a news conference. The agreement, which still needs to be finalized, would now be called the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), he said.

Japanese Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said he hoped that moving ahead with the deal would be a step towards bringing back the United States. Partly to counter China's growing dominance in Asia, Japan had been lobbying hard for the TPP pact, which aims to

eliminate tariffs on industrial and farm products across the 11-nation bloc whose trade totaled \$356 billion last year. Some 20 provisions of the original agreement were suspended. Those included some related to protecting labor rights and the environment, although most were related to intellectual property - one of the main sticking points after the US withdrawal.

"The overall impact on most firms is quite modest," said Deborah Elms of the Asian Trade Centre think-tank, adding that the new version was "essentially identical to the original document".

Doubts

Any kind of deal looked doubtful on Friday, when a summit of TPP leaders was called off after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau did not attend. Canada's trade minister later blamed Trudeau's absence on "a misunderstanding about the schedule".

Canada, which has the second-biggest economy among remaining TPP countries after Japan, had said it wanted to ensure an agreement that would protect jobs. Canada's position has been further complicated by the fact that it is simultaneously renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the Trump administration.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Trudeau said though Canada was pleased with the progress made on TPP, there was "still more important work to be done."

Trudeau said Canada will always be "extremely closely linked to the American economy" but there was a need to diversify trade through other deals. NAFTA talks with the United States were not affecting Canada's stance on TPP negotiations, he said.



DANANG: APEC leaders pose for the family photo at the APEC Summit in Danang, Vietnam yesterday. — AP

In a speech in Danang, Trump sent out a strong message that he was only interested in bilateral deals in Asia that would not disadvantage the United States.

Chinese President Xi Jinping used the same forum to stress multilateralism and said globalization was an irreversible trend. China had noted that the 11 TPP

countries had made some progress on the deal, but it "hasn't paid too much attention" because it is focused on APEC work during the meeting. Zhang Jun, Director General of the Department of International Economic Affairs of China's Foreign Ministry, told reporters. — Reuters

Lincoln Motor appoints Alghanim Auto as its new Agent and Dealer in Kuwait

Partnership true testament of our long-standing success: Omar Alghanim



DUBAI: American luxury automotive brand Lincoln recently announced that it has selected Alghanim Auto as the official dealer in Kuwait. Alghanim Auto is part of the Alghanim Industries automotive portfolio, which includes Ford Motor Company.

Alex Schaeffer, Director of Lincoln Middle East, said: "We are very pleased to partner with Alghanim Industries to further grow the Lincoln brand in Kuwait. Alghanim Industries, through their long-standing history of automotive expertise, show a high-level of commitment towards high quality service and customer satisfaction. We have full confidence in their capabilities to properly represent the Lincoln luxury brand. We are excited to display our latest vehicles and services that guarantee our Kuwaiti customers a luxurious experience".

CEO of Alghanim Industries, Omar K Alghanim, said: "We're proud that Alghanim Auto has been selected as the official dealer of Lincoln cars in Kuwait. This partner-

ship is a true testament of our long-standing success with automotive brands. Our dedication to customer service and satisfaction has earned us a strong reputation within the region, and we are excited to work closely with Lincoln to deliver this American luxury experience to the Kuwaiti market. We look forward to welcoming our customers and providing them with quality of service they've come to expect from Alghanim Industries."

Lincoln enjoys a rich heritage of luxury, craftsmanship and reliability which made it the brand of choice for pres-

idential cars. Lincoln has seen tremendous advancement in its design and models recently, as seen in its iconic models such as the new Continental and the all-new Navigator vehicles.

Lincoln customers can visit the new Lincoln showroom and service center located in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, opposite from the Classical Car Museum. Working hours are from 9:00AM to 9:00PM, Saturday to Thursday.

Lincoln is the luxury automotive brand of Ford Motor Company, committed to creating compelling vehicles with an exceptional ownership experience to match. For more information about

Lincoln, please visit media.lincoln.com, www.lincoln.com, or www.lincolnluxury.me for the Middle East.

Alghanim Industries is one of the oldest and largest, privately-owned companies in the MENA region. Founded at the turn of the century, in Kuwait, the company today employs more than 15,000 people in 30 businesses across 40 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia.

Alghanim Industries is a market leader in almost every major sector of its operations, which include: engineering, retail, automotive sales and service, insulation and pre-engineered steel building structures, logistics and warehousing, fast moving consumer goods, food & beverage, oil & gas, office automation, advertising, insurance, consumer credit and travel. The company is actively growing its brand portfolio, with a focus on top-tier global partners. Among them: Avis, British Airways, British Petroleum, Cathay Pacific, Daewoo, Honda, Saint-Gobain and Toshiba.



High quality service and customer satisfaction



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

Japanese Yen	3.650
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.935
Malaysian Ringgit	72.430
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.110
Thai Bhat	10.135
Turkish Lira	78.555

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.395434	0.402934
Czech Korune	0.005854	0.017854
Danish Krone	0.043541	0.048541
Euro	0.349151	0.356651
Georgian Lari	0.135223	0.135223
Norwegian Krone	0.033365	0.038565
Romanian Leu	0.065015	0.081885
Russian ruble	0.005231	0.005231
Slovakia	0.009062	0.019062
Swedish Krona	0.032290	0.037290
Swiss Franc	0.298728	0.309728
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.224779	0.236779
New Zealand Dollar	0.204516	0.214016
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.234258	0.243258
US Dollars	0.299500	0.303920
US Dollars Mint	0.300000	0.303920

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003317 0.003901
Chinese Yuan	0.044221 0.047721
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036933 0.039683
Indian Rupee	0.004128 0.004769
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018 0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002596 0.002776
Korean Won	0.000261 0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068551 0.074551
Nepalese Rupee	0.003030 0.003200
Pakistan Rupee	0.002663 0.002953
Philippine Peso	0.005790 0.006090
Singapore Dollar	0.218098 0.228098
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001648 0.002228
Taiwan	0.010030 0.010210
Thai Baht	0.008816 0.009373

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.798309 0.806809
Egyptian Pound	0.014562 0.020280
Iranian Riyal	0.000084 0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207 0.000267
Jordanian Dinar	0.423604 0.432604
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000 1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156 0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022816 0.046816
Omani Riyal	0.782253 0.787933
Qatar Riyal	0.079101 0.084041
Saudi Riyal	0.079873 0.081173
Syrian Pound	0.001287 0.001507
Tunisian Dinar	0.117384 0.125384
Turkish Lira	0.073493 0.083793
UAE Dirhams	0.081234 0.082934
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987 0.001067

Business

NBK Economic Report

Kuwait's credit growth remains steady at 3.2% y-o-y in August

Gains mostly from household borrowing, some businesses

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Credit saw a moderate gain in August, though growth continued to slow on basis effects. The month saw a net gain of KD 193 million in credit, as growth eased to 3.2 percent year-on-year (y/y). Most gains came from solid household borrowing and from some business sectors. Private deposits bounced back following a couple of months of decline. Meanwhile, interest rates held steady.

Household lending saw a second consecutive month of strength in August, with growth steady at 7.2 percent y/y. Personal facilities excluding securities lending added a net KD 118 million during the month, double the average monthly gains achieved in the first half of 2017.

Business credit (excluding nonbanks) saw a relatively modest gain in August, as the real estate sector weighed on growth. Credit added a net KD 83 million, with growth slipping to 1.4 percent y/y. Gains were largely limited to construction and "other sectors", which added KD 81 million and 82 million, respectively. These increases were partly offset by declines in real estate and oil & gas.

Despite apparent weakness in business credit, lending to "productive" business sectors remained relatively robust in August. While growth in this segment, which excludes real estate and financial sector lending, was

unimpressive at 4.5 percent y/y, this was largely due to large settlements in 4Q16. By contrast, growth thus far in 2017 averaged an annualized 11 percent. The August gain in this portfolio topped a healthy KD 142 million, which is well above the average monthly gain of KD 99 million registered this year through August.

Private deposits bounced back in August following two months of declines. Deposits rose by KD 240 million on the back of gains in foreign currency deposits and KD time deposits. Some of this was offset by declines in KD sight and KD savings deposits. This helped push money supply (M2) growth higher to 2.9 percent y/y. Government deposits were flat, with growth slipping to 4.9 percent y/y.

The banking system's liquid reserves, or "excess liquidity", edged lower in August to 7.1 percent of bank assets. Bank reserves (cash, deposits with the CBK, and CBK bonds) decreased by KD 247 million to KD 4.4 billion. This coincided with KD 400 million in net issuance of public debt. This increased outstanding domestic public debt instruments (PDIs) to KD 4.57 billion, or an estimated 12 percent of GDP. Domestic interest rates in August were little changed from July. The 3-month interbank rate edged up 2 basis points to settle at 1.74; rates have slightly adjusted upwards since. Customer deposit rates were unchanged on the month.



Business credit witnesses modest growth

Table 2: Consolidated bank balance sheets

	Aug-17		1-month change		3-month change		12-month change	
	KD mn	%	KD mn	%	KD mn	%	KD mn	%
Total bank assets	62,785	521	0.8	1,183	1.9	3,228	5.4	
Core liquid assets	4,442	-245	-5.2	-353	-7.4	-279	-5.9	
Cash and CBK deposits	790	100	14.5	-286	-26.6	-203	-20.4	
CBK bonds	2,982	-200	-6.3	-19	-0.6	-276	-8.5	
Time deposits with CBK	670	-145	-17.8	-48	-6.7	200	42.5	
Public debt instruments	4,809	612	14.6	662	16.0	2,229	86.4	
Interbank deposits	1,537	235	18.0	267	21.0	-110	-6.7	
Credit facilities	35,591	193	0.5	438	1.2	1,113	3.2	
Foreign assets	12,620	-179	-1.4	401	3.3	167	1.3	
Other assets	3,785	-95	-2.4	-232	-5.8	109	3.0	
Total bank liabilities	54,474	500	0.9	1,136	2.1	2,942	5.7	
Total deposits	43,196	496	1.2	293	0.7	1,121	2.7	
Private sector deposits	34,588	240	0.7	-176	-0.5	862	2.6	
Government deposits	7,101	-5	-0.1	187	2.7	331	4.9	
Interbank deposits	1,508	260	20.9	282	23.0	-73	-4.6	
Foreign liabilities	5,090	-110	-2.1	496	10.8	1,227	31.8	
Other liabilities	6,188	114	1.9	347	5.9	2,145	53.1	
Shareholder equity	8,312	22	0.3	47	0.6	286	3.6	

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Bayt.com weekly report

Your full-time job-seeker schedule is here

KUWAIT: Irrespective of whether you have recently become unemployed or have just taken your first step into job seeking for the first time, the lack of structure that comes with being unemployed can be detrimental to your job hunt. There are many harmful daily practices that you probably won't realize are eating away huge chunks of your time and motivation. For example, sleeping in, staying in your pajamas all day or browsing through social media when you should be buckling down and focusing as much of your time possible on the job hunt. It is time to treat the job search as a full-time job in itself.

While it is true that you do not have a direct report or a boss to keep you on the edge of your seat, but you should be the CEO of your own life and provide yourself with focus, discipline and motivation. Refrain from succumbing to the ill-advised routine of staying up all night, lazing in bed for hours looking through social media notifications, hanging around in your sweatpants all day and looking for jobs now and then between episodes of your favorite series. Searching for a job is an all-day exercise, so you will need to keep your energy levels high and your finger off the sneaky snooze button.

To help make things easier for you, Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, has come up with your schedule! Remember that even a good routine can be monotonous, so if you feel yourself getting tired of the schedule, don't be afraid to move things around to keep yourself upbeat.

7:00-8:00 am: Get your early bird worm

You should get into the habit of starting your day early. Starting at 7:00 AM will give your day a good start and keep you structured. There's about an hour leeway here where you should have a good, balanced breakfast, drink that coffee you've been thinking about from the second you woke up, and get dressed. Do not be tempted to just wear your sleepwear and make sure you dress nicely. This will keep you from crawling onto the couch or into bed throughout the day.

8:00-9:00 am: Start your mornings right

They say a healthy body makes a healthy mind, but, more importantly, starting your day with some fitness will give you energy and give your body the kick start it needs.

9:00-10:00 am: Look around

You should dedicate around an hour minimum daily toward looking for jobs. Keep track of anything that interests you. Through Bayt.com, you can find thousands of jobs, save them for later, email them to yourself, print them and ask for similar jobs to be sent directly to you. This should make it easier for you to compile a list as time goes on. You can

file these jobs however you prefer, whether you're the type of person to print each job posting out or compile it neatly in a word document. This will help you keep track of all the jobs that interest you and make sure you don't miss anything.

10:00-11:00 am: Review your CV

Take a break from looking through jobs in order to look over your CV again. After reading the job descriptions, you might want to add certain buzzwords to your CV and improve your chances. If you have not updated your CV in a while, now might be a good time to freshen it up. The fresher the CV, the more attractive you are as a candidate. In fact, employers can filter out old CVs with one click so make sure your CV always makes it to the fresh pile.

11:00-11:20 am: BREAK

It's time to take a breather. Get up, stretch your legs, look through the notifications you have been ignoring and unwind for about 20 minutes before you get back to work.

11:20 am -13:00 pm: Get in some self-development

Dedicate at least an hour and a half of your day to taking online tests and courses. Honing your soft skills will only make you shine more as a candidate for a job. You should also use this time to learn more about the companies that interest you and familiarize yourself with their company culture, products and values. This will only make you more prepared if you get an interview, or choose to write a cover letter.

13:00-15:00 pm: Lunch

Don't eat at home by yourself every day. Make time to see friends and family at least three times a week. Unemployment can get lonely, and loneliness leads to negative feelings which, in turn, could put a slump in your daily routine. Make sure you have time daily to pursue your other interests.

15:00-17:00 pm: Get applying

You should dedicate at least two hours of your day every day to applying for jobs. Pull out that list you compiled earlier in the day and begin. Make sure to write customized cover letters to improve your chances. Review your CV, cover letter, and anything you else you might be sending for embarrassing typos and grammatical mistakes. Make sure to include these optional items that add the edge to your application, answer any questionnaires, and give each application your 100 percent.

17:00-18:00 pm: Network

In your last hour, you should focus your time on networking. Building a network of professional contacts is critical for business success. All you need is a public profile on Bayt.com and you will be connected to millions of professionals across the MENA region and the world.

Your day of job seeking should end around the same time a work day does. While there will be times where you will put in overtime, the evenings are for resting. Watch your favorite show, read a book or go out with friends. Remember, there are 10,000+ jobs available on Bayt.com on any given day for you.

Adeeb Ahamed wins Entrepreneur of the Year award

NEW DELHI: Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director, Tablez, was honored with the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Franchise Awards 2017 held at The Lalit, New Delhi on Wednesday. In its 15th edition, Franchise Awards 2017 are India's topmost honor in retailing and recognizes personalities and businesses for their excellence in retailing, franchising and business development.

Speaking after receiving the award, Adeeb said, "It is a great honor to receive this award. The Franchise Awards respects the core value of entrepreneurial spirit and this recognition encourages me to further expand our business here in India and propel it to greater heights."

Judged by an independent panel of experts and supported by the Indian Franchise Association (IFA) & with Francorp India as Process advisors, Franchise Awards rewards individuals and organizations that have shown outstanding business acumen, passion and achievement of franchise businesses across India.

Adeeb Ahamed heads Tablez, the organized retail arm of Lulu Group International, along with Lulu Exchange, the financial services company which has more than 170 branches worldwide and Twenty14 Holdings, hospitality investment firm which owns prestigious properties around the world.

Tablez has introduced leading global brands in F&B, toys, lifestyle and apparel to India. The company recently opened the first outlet of



NEW DELHI: Adeeb Ahamed accepting the Entrepreneur of the Year award from Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi and Ritu Marya, Editor in Chief, Entrepreneur India.

leading American brand Toys R Us and Babies R Us at Phoenix Marketcity in Bengaluru. Tablez has introduced Spanish fashion brands Springfield and women's secret to India, while on the F&B front it holds the franchise rights for Cold Stone Creamery and South Africa-based flame-grilled chicken concept, Galito's. In addition to them, Tablez has successfully

developed two home-grown brands: Bloomsbury's - a boutique café and artisan bakery, and Peppermill - a colonial Indian themed fine dining restaurant.

Other awards including Franchisor of the Year, Franchisee of the Year, Hall of fame, Licensee of the Year, were also given away during the event.

AUB organizes new activity for salary campaign in The Avenues

KUWAIT: Following the considerable success Ahli United Bank (AUB) achieved through the launch of its special Salary Acquisition Campaign at 360 Mall recently, which received a very positive response from customers, AUB announced that it will be present in The Avenues Mall starting from 9 November for 3 consecutive days to highlight the amazing benefits of the campaign.

During its presence in The Avenues, AUB will offer an exciting competition giving lucky mall visitors the chance to win iPhone X devices. AUB's latest campaign offers new customers, transferring their salaries to the Bank, a chance to choose from an extensive number of instant cash gifts that are valued at KD 300 for salaries

of KD 1,000 and above, and KD 200 for salaries less than KD 1,000. Or, customers can receive a Qard Hasan with a maximum value of KD 8,000 with a flexible repayment period of up to five years, in an effort to provide more room for reduced monthly installments. The campaign also offers customers the chance to enter into the Bank's Grand Draw to win an Audi R8 V10.

The benefits of this campaign also include providing customers who transfer their salaries to AUB's Al-Hassad Islamic Account, free Takaful life insurance against natural death worth 36 monthly salaries up to KD 50,000 maximum, in addition to free Takaful insurance against accidental death worth 72 monthly salaries up to KD 100,000 maximum. The minimum salary transferred must be KD 700. Customers are also given the chance to enter the draw for Al-Hassad Islamic Account prize draws, which offers the largest prize draw value to the largest number of winners, while also being the first draw program in Kuwait that is sharia-compliant.

Furthermore, customers who transfer their salaries during the campaign period will receive free credit cards during the first year of the card issuance.



For Rent

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



Duplex & Triplex Villas + Big Salon + Separate pool All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas



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

Boursa Kuwait closes in red; trading activity remains week

Market still grappling to reach the stability stage

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 6,258.47 points, down by 4.43 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 5.08 percent after closing at 397.67 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 910.13 points down by 5.72 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 60.12 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 24.87 million, whereas trading volume average was 122.06 million shares, recording an increase of 51.91 percent.

The trading activity during the last week showed that the market could not yet reach the stability stage and is not able to cross the red zone on the weekly level, as its three indices ended the week's trading recording grouped losses for the third consecutive week, amid control of the red color over its performance during most of the daily sessions of the week, affected by the random purchasing operations that included many listed stocks, headed by the leading and operational ones, which caused the three indices to slide down reaching low levels, especially KSX-15 Index, that reached in once session of last week its lowest closing level in around a year.

The Boursa lost by the end of last week approximately KD 1.45 billion, as its market capitalization reached KD 26.57 billion after it was KD 28.01 billion in the previous week, which means that the market lost 5.16 percent of its total market cap in five days only, to contract by such its gains since the beginning of the current year and reach 4.56 percent, compared to its value at end of 2016, where it reached then KD 25.41 billion. (Note: The market cap for the listed companies in the primary market is calculated based on the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial statements). As per

the daily trading activity: the first three sessions witnessed a continuous drop to the market and the three indices lost many points due to the increased selling operations executed by the traders, especially KSX-15 Index that lost around 90 point of its value during the three sessions, amid a gradual growth in the trading levels of both the value or the volume, whereas the selling operations lead to a drop in most of the stocks' prices, especially the leading stocks that were subject to a noticeable pressure during the same days.

On Wednesday's and Thursday's sessions, the market witnessed a return to the green color once again, and its three indices were able to redirect its route to

4.63 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 2.84 percent growth.

Sectors' indices

Nine of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while one recorded increase. On the other hand, the Health Care & Technology sector's index closed with no change from the week before. The Consumer Goods sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 8.03 percent to end the week's activity at 897.68 points. The Financial Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 7.46 percent, closing at 626 points, followed by the Oil & Gas sector, as its index closed at 926.21 points at a loss of 6.74 percent. The Basic Materials sector was the least declining as its index closed at 1,252.42 points with a 2.02 percent decrease. On the other hand, the Consumer Services sector was last week only gainer, which index grew by 1.50 percent, closing at 941.20 points.

Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 214.99 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 35.23 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 24.22 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 147.83 million shares.

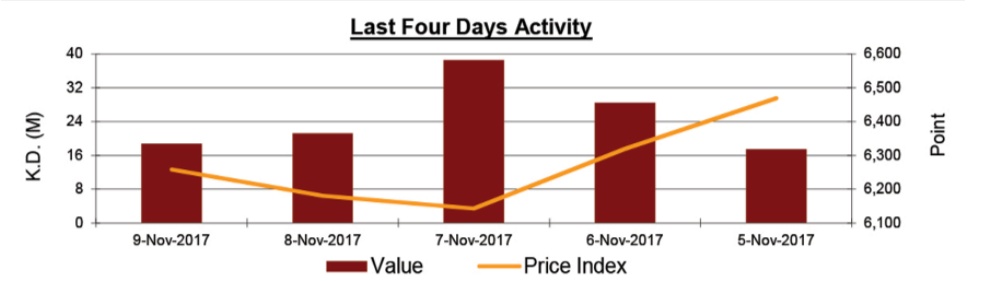
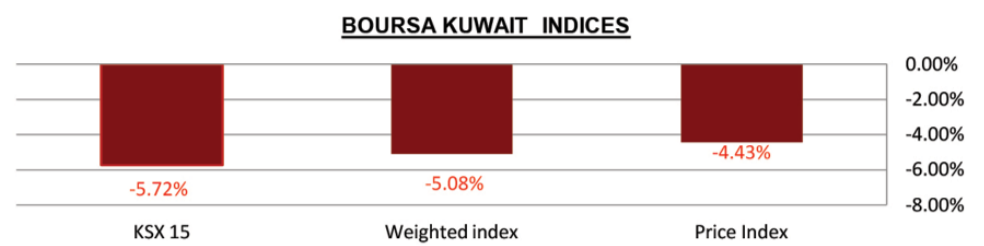
On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 56.75 million or 45.63 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 19.25 million representing 15.48 percent of the total market trading value. - Prepared by: Studies & Research Department — Bayan Investment Co.



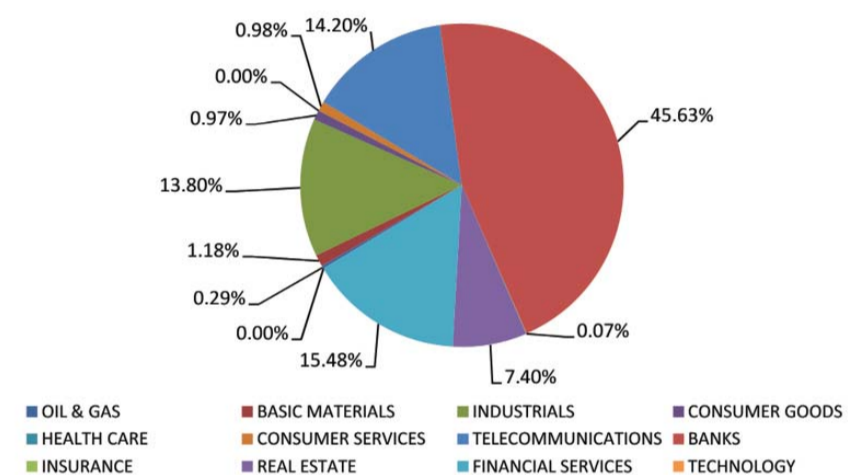
Nine sectors edge lower amid selloff

the green zone, amid random purchasing operations that targeted many stocks of previous drops in prices and that reached tempting purchasing levels, which enabled the market to compensate about KD 700 million of its market cap losses that it recorded in the first three sessions of the week, however the three indices' losses remained the most, on the weekly level, for the current year.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 8.88 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by



SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY



Wall Street Weekly Roundup

US stocks on two-day losing streak as health stocks fall

NEW YORK: So that's what a losing streak feels like. Stocks fell for the second day in a row Friday, which hadn't happened in a month, as Amazon put a scare into yet another industry: medical device and health care equipment companies. Those companies slumped after an analyst for Citi Investment Research said Amazon might be on the verge of shaking up their industry by speeding up distribution and cutting prices. Energy companies gave up some of their recent gains while retailers, media companies and household goods companies moved higher. Stocks finished the week with small losses, ending an eight-week winning streak.

One factor in those losses was uncertainty over the Republican plan to cut taxes. Stocks dipped Thursday after Senate Republicans proposed leaving corporate tax rates alone in 2018 before cutting them in 2019. That surprised investors, who pulled stocks down slightly from their recent record highs.

"We would expect a little bit more of that as we get more delays and uncertainty in the tax plan," said Sean Lynch, the co-head of global equity strategy for Wells Fargo Investment Institute. Lynch said an eventual tax cut for companies, and for at least some individuals, would give investors "a dose of confidence" that company earnings will grow a bit faster and the economy and stock market will rise for a bit longer. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 2.32 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,582.30. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 39.73 points, or 0.2 percent, to 23,422.21. The Nasdaq composite turned higher and rose 0.89 points to 6,750.94. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks inched up 0.26 points to 1,475.27.

The S&P 500 set an all-time high on Wednesday, but finished the week down 0.2 percent. The index had gained five percent over its winning streak, the longest in almost four years. The Russell 2000, which is comprised of smaller companies that might benefit more from a corporate tax cut, fell 1.3 percent this week. That was its largest loss in three months.

Citi Investment Research analyst Amit Hazan wrote Friday that Amazon is making quick progress in the medical supply field and could soon start distributing goods to hospitals, as some organizations appear interested in working with the online retail giant.

"New online distribution/wholesaling models like Amazon's will come to dominate the supply chain" in coming years, Hazan said. Baxter International, which sells intravenous pumps and other hospital equipment, fell 1.35, or 2.1 percent, to \$64.04. Becton, Dickinson dipped \$5.25, or 2.3 percent, to \$219.23. Medical device maker Medtronic slid \$1.48, or 1.8 percent, to \$79.33.

Competition with Amazon has hurt retail-



NEW YORK: Trader Peter Tuchman works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. —AP

ers for years and the online giant has also pressured supermarkets and grocery stores with its purchase of Whole Foods. In recent weeks, health care product companies, medication distributors and drugstores have all fallen as Wall Street wondered what Amazon's logistics expertise and its willingness to slash prices will do to their businesses. Drugstores CVS and Walgreens jumped Friday; investors may be relieved that Amazon could turn its focus to industries they are less involved in.

Long-suffering department stores made gains Friday. J C Penney advanced 42 cents, or 15.3 percent, to \$3.17 after it said a closely-watched sales measurement grew for the first time in more than a year. The company also took a smaller quarterly loss than analysts had expected. Macy's built on its 11 percent jump a day ago and added another 48 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$19.98. Competitor Kohl's rose \$1.87, or 4.5 percent, to \$43.04. All of those companies have seen their sales and stocks tumble in large part because of increasing online competition.

Walt Disney Co. rose \$2.10, or 2 percent, to \$104.78 after it said it received bigger payments from cable companies for ESPN and offered more details about its planned sports

streaming services. The company also announced plans for a new "Star Wars" film trilogy. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," released in late 2015, grossed about \$2 billion and investors have high hopes for next month's "The Last Jedi." US crude oil lost 43 cents to \$56.74 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gave up 41 cents to \$63.52 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline gave up 1 cent to \$1.81 a gallon. Heating oil lost 1 cent to \$1.93 a gallon. Natural gas rose 1 cent to \$3.21 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Bond prices slumped. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.38 percent from 2.34 percent. Gold dropped \$13.30, or 1 percent, to \$1,274.20 an ounce. Silver fell 10 cents to \$16.87 an ounce. Copper lost 1 cent to \$3.08 a pound.

The dollar rose to 113.54 yen from 113.32 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1618 from \$1.1643. The FTSE 100 index in Britain fell 0.7 percent. The French CAC 40 lost 0.5 percent and the German DAX dipped 0.4 percent. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.8 percent and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.3 percent. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng dipped less than 0.1 percent.—AP

Frontline Logistics spreads its wings to Bahrain

MANAMA: Frontline Logistics, the organization that started its logistics operations with headquarters in Kuwait, had spread its operational wings to Bahrain as well leaving only Oman to be added to the list in the Middle East. Frontline with its pure global vision in the field of logistics had already got its own offices in the Middle East in addition to the head office in Kuwait. It has now offices in Dubai and Jebel Ali in the UAE followed by Riyadh and Dammam in Saudi Arabia, Doha in Qatar and now in Bahrain, creating a growth path over the last 9 years since its inception.

Apart from Middle East, it also possesses four direct offices in Iraq as well as Safwan, Baghdad, Umm Qasar and Erbil. Also Frontline has a centralized B E O in India that takes care of all back-end activi-

ties of the regional offices. In Bahrain, Frontline Logistics office is located at Siqqayyah Road - Manama. The office was inaugurated on 16th of October, 2017 by Frontline Group Regional Director - B P Nasser in the presence of all distinguished guests, families and friends.

In his inaugural speech, he wished the office-bearers all good success and thanked Almighty for giving the Group, such opportunities of expansion. The gathering included all Frontline Group Directors and senior heads of all regions.

Directors Mustafa Kari and Afsal Ali made their comments on Frontline's growth path. Senior personnel of the group, the regional manager Vivian Castolino, Group Financial Head Guru Murthy, man-

agement personnel and country heads of all locations Anwar Ali and Janardan of UAE, Rabeeh and Riyas Usman from Jeddah and Dammam, Febina, Head B E O India, Chandra Mouli, Manager, Corporate Sales - Kuwait were among the others who attended the occasion. Ravi Shankar, Manager Business Development of Bahrain Branch, addressed the gathering and proposed a vote of thanks.



Another feather in the cap

Chinese spend billions shopping online on 'Singles Day'

BEIJING: Chinese consumers are spending billions of dollars shopping online for anything from diapers to diamonds on "Singles Day," a day of promotions that has grown into the world's biggest e-commerce event. China's biggest e-commerce giant, Alibaba Group, said sales by the thousands of retailers on its platforms had exceeded 130 billion yuan (\$20 billion) by early evening Saturday in a count that started at midnight Friday. Last year, sales on Alibaba's platforms totaled over 120.7 billion yuan, a record for the company.

By comparison, American shoppers last year spent more than \$5 billion shopping online on Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday, according to Adobe, which tracks such data. Shoppers also spent \$3.39 billion on Cyber Monday last year, the largest single online shopping day in the US, Adobe said.

In China, Alibaba's main rival, online retailer JD.com, said sales had topped \$16.7 billion - though the tallies are not comparable because JD tracks transac-

tions starting from Nov. 1 through to the actual day.

Starting at midnight Friday, diamonds, Chilean frozen salmon, tires, diapers, beer, shoes, handbags, and appliances were shipped out from JD.com's distribution centers on trucks bound for deliveries across China. China is already the world's largest e-commerce market and the share of online shopping that makes up all consumer spending grows every year. Boston Consulting Group forecasts online spending will rise by 20 percent a year, hitting \$1.6 trillion by 2020, compared with 6 percent growth for off-line retail.

Singles Day was begun by Chinese college students in the 1990s as a version of Valentine's Day for people without romantic partners. Zhang Jingjing, a 30-year-old clerk for an engineering company, prepared for Singles Day by building a shopping list on Alibaba's retail platform Tmall and watching for when prices dip. She then clicks and snags a long-sought item at a discount.

"I have often emptied my 'shopping cart' on Singles Day," Zheng said. "I have been watching those goods for a long time and know very well their original prices."

The spending gives a boost to the ruling Communist Party's efforts to nurture consumer-based economic growth and reduce reliance on trade and investment. China has 731 million internet users, up 6 percent from 2016, according to government statistics.—AP

All-New 2018 Traverse... Powerful by Nature

Chevrolet Alghanim Introduces The All-New 2018 Traverse

Chevrolet Alghanim unveiled the all-new 2018 Traverse in Kuwait, bringing the completely redesigned, bold and refined vehicles, which also features advanced technologies, to help keep passengers of all ages and lifestyles comfortable and connected.

Traverse delivers what is expected to be best-in-class third-row legroom, maximum cargo room and passenger volume with an enhanced roster of available active safety features.

The all-new Traverse offers the ultimate in style and convenience for the segment, with the versatility customers need and a thoughtful, spacious design they'll love in a midsize SUV designed to help keep them safe, comfortable and connected.

The 2018 Traverse is the fourth updated crossover or SUV from Chevrolet within a year, joining the Trax, Bolt EV and 2018 Equinox, further strengthening the brand's crossover and SUV lineup. Chevrolet maintains its industry leadership by offering a broader, fresher lineup of SUVs and crossovers than any other manufacturer.

Bold and refined

The 2018 Traverse has a new look inspired by Chevrolet's full-size SUVs, with purposeful proportions complemented by premium cues such as chrome accents, LED signature lighting and available D-Optic LED headlamps.

Chevrolet added a new trim level for the 2018 Traverse to offer customers more choices for a personalized appearance.

The High-Country trim features premium content and technology, including a unique interior trim featuring Loft Brown leather appointments with suede accents, 20-inch polished wheels, High Country badging, D-Optic headlamps, standard twin-clutch AWD and power-fold third row seats.

The all-new Traverse blends Chevrolet's characteristic SUV cues with the capability and refinement inside and out, offering style with a purpose.

With available seating for up to eight and a longer wheelbase than the current model, the Traverse has few peers when it comes to capacity and roominess. In fact, the new Traverse is expected to offer best-in-class passenger volume as well as max cargo room at 98.5 cubic feet (2,789 liters), while greater storage options and larger bins throughout the ergonomically optimized cabin are designed to enhance convenience and versatility.

Loading the Traverse is a breeze with a new Chevrolet bowtie logo lamp feature illuminating the ground to show



**Bold,
refined with
a new look**

where drivers need to place a foot to activate the available hands-free power liftgate.

A new split-folding second-row seat improves on the Traverse's original Smart Slide® feature. The curbside seat is capable of tipping up and sliding forward, even with a forward-facing child seat in place, to provide open and easy access to the third row. Third-row legroom is expected to be the most spacious in the segment at 33.7 inches (856 mm).

Connected and protected

The 2018 Traverse offers purposeful technology designed to help keep passengers safe, comfortable and connected.

Chevrolet's latest connectivity technologies include available 7- and 8-inch-diagonal MyLink infotainment systems designed to support Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Passengers will have access to USB charging ports in all three seating rows, available wireless charging and steering wheel-mounted phone and audio controls. Chevrolet's Rear Seat Reminder feature is standard on all trim levels.

When it comes to helping to protect passengers, a comprehensive suite of available safety technologies and adaptive crash-avoidance features offers ease of use and added peace of mind, with new available features including:

Surround Vision

D-Optic LED headlamps (standard on High Country and Premier)
Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning
Front Pedestrian Braking
Forward Collision Alert
Low and High-Speed Forward Automatic Braking.

Performance and efficiency

A new 3.6L V-6 and nine-speed automatic transmission form the standard propulsion system, expected to offer nearly 10 percent more horsepower than the current model and a GM-estimated 25 mpg highway (FWD). The combination also supports an estimated 5,000-pound (2,268 kg) trailering capacity when properly equipped.

The engine features a new intelligent stop/start technology that determines the best times for fuel-saving engine-stop events, based on a variety of driving factors.

New Traction Mode Select is standard on all models and allows the driver to make real-time adjustments to the vehicle's driving mode to account for varying road conditions. On available AWD models, it also allows the system to be completely disconnected from the rear axle, which helps save fuel and enhances refinement.

High Country's exclusive Advanced AWD system employs twin-clutch technology that optimizes traction for every condition it encounters. It is engineered for optimal performance in wet, snowy and icy conditions, while also providing enhanced stability in dry conditions.

The all-new Traverse also enable customers to take advantage of Alghanim's high quality services and Chevrolet Complete Care program, which entails customers to many after-sale services. Customers can also rest assured that their Chevrolet vehicle will give them the ease of mind they look for in a car that provides strong performance, reliability, advanced design and safety features as well as competitive prices which ensure customers receive their money worth in a car that suits their lifestyle.

Chevrolet Complete Care Program

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons benefit of the Chevrolet Complete Care program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Complete Care program is an exceptional cus-



tom service that is 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 2018 Traverse by visiting any of Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms at the following locations: Shuwaikh, Al-Rai (Safat Alghanim), Sharq, Fahaheel and Ahmadi.

To stay tuned of the latest offers, events and announcements, customers are encouraged to follow Chevrolet Alghanim on its social media channels @ChevroletAlghanim or call the hotline 1800022.

ITS KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ 20" ALLOY WHEELS
- ✓ SKYSCAPE® POWER TILT-SLIDING SUNROOF
- ✓ 8" MYLINK WITH APPLY CARPLAY COMPATIBILITY
- ✓ BOSE PREMIUM 10 -SPEAKER SYSTEM
- ✓ LED D-OPTIC BI-FUNCTION PROJECTOR-BEAM HEADLAMPS
- ✓ SURROUND VISION WITH BIRD'S-EYE VIEW (INCLUDES REAR VISION CAMERA)
- ✓ SPACIOUS THIRD-ROW SEATS
- ✓ VENTILATED LEATHER SEATS

TEST DRIVE IT TODAY! / FIND NEW ROADS™

CHEVROLET

Technology

Surf's up for startups
at Web Summit 2017

Web Summit helps startups to hook up with venture capitalists

LISBON: The next generation of Internet giants gather this week in Portugal for four days of tech-fueled networking, nights out and—for the first time this year—surfing of the offline variety. Web Summit, which likes to promote itself as “the Davos for geeks” and provides a platform for startups to hook up with venture capitalists and hear about new trends from industry leaders such as Facebook, will see around 60,000 tech experts convene in Lisbon, where participants will look to catch a break either in or out of the water.

“Lisbon is kind of the surf capital of Europe, so not going surfing would be a very significant missed opportunity,” said Web Summit CEO Paddy Cosgrave. Around 250 participants arrived in the Portuguese capital ahead of Tuesday's official start to enjoy some of Europe's best waves. Mircea Baldean, founder and CEO of Canada-based startup MeetVibe, said he was looking forward to the networking opportunities at the event.

“It's my first time in Lisbon, my first time surfing and my first time at Web Summit... as an entrepreneur you have to be ready to do new things every day.” But the event isn't all beach shorts and wipeouts: there's serious money up for grabs with some of the world's largest tech firms scouting for the next big app or technology in which to invest. Organizers claim that around a third of startups who display their products at the Web Summit find a donor within 12 months.

“We've got 1,500 of the most active investors from around the world and a sample of 2,000 really high potential startups,” said Cosgrave. Speakers at this year's event include former US President Al Gore, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and former olympian and campaigner Caitlyn Jenner—as well as representatives from Internet giants such as Amazon and app-based behemoths Uber and Tinder.

Work hard, play hard

The stakes are high: organizers say one fifth of all venture capital invested in the last three years went to firms that participated in Web Summit—accounting for tens of billions of euros. But they are also open about its out-of-hours approach to networking, and hope relationships forged in the bars and restaurants of Lisbon can go on to power the next waves of online innovation.

“The truth is a lot of the best relationships are built over dinner, over long walks in the city and other social activities. So we put a huge emphasis on what happens after 5



LISBON: Portuguese model Sara Sampaio smiles during an interview at the 2017 Web Summit in Lisbon. —AFP photos

pm,” said Cosgrave. For Michael Memeteau, a founder of an energy startup who will be acting as an unofficial guide for one of the after-hours “pub crawls”, it's the social aspect that makes Web Summit so popular.

“The thing is to keep some energy for the night, as the quality of exchanges is better,” he said. “In fact I'm only going to go to three of the actual talks.” Tommy Otzen, CEO of Danish start up Kubo Robot and winner of last year's Web Summit “Pitch” competition to find the best new firm, said his company received a one-million-euro investment off the

back of the conference. “Our success at last year's Web Summit was what triggered that relationship, because we got a lot of media attention,” he said.—AFP



LISBON: Web Summit's co-founder and entrepreneur Paddy Cosgrave, left, waves to the public along with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.



Martin Garrix



Werner Vogels

The Davos
for geeksTencent may use
Snapchat to promote
smartphone games

SAN FRANCISCO: Chinese gaming and social media company Tencent Holdings Ltd on Thursday flagged video games and ad sales as areas where it thinks it could help Snapchat owner Snap Inc after acquiring a 12 percent stake in the US firm. Snap disclosed in a US regulatory filing on Wednesday that Tencent recently bought 145.8 million of its shares on the open market, fueling investor speculation about how the two companies might work together.

The US social media company has struggled since its March initial public offering to meet analyst expectations for user growth, and it is locked in fierce competition for users and ad dollars with Facebook Inc. In describing its stake, Tencent, the world's largest gaming company by revenue, implied a close relationship with Snap that could go beyond passive investing and involve assisting the US company with strategy.

Investors treated Tencent's new stake as an investment rather than a step toward an acquisition, while analysts viewed the move as potentially more beneficial for the Chinese company than for Snap. Shares in Snap fell 4.3 percent on Thursday to \$12.35, adding to a 14.6 percent loss in the previous session. Snap went public at \$17 a share. Morgan Stanley analysts late on Wednesday cut their rating on the stock to “underweight” because of competition from Facebook's Instagram, which has introduced features that mimic Snapchat's disappearing messages. A separate Morgan Stanley division was lead underwriter for Snap's IPO.

Tencent's shares do not have voting power and the company will not have a board seat. Snap said in its filing on Wednesday that Tencent notified it of the share purchases this month. “The investment enables Tencent to explore cooperation opportunities with the company on mobile games publishing and newsfeed as well as to share its financial returns from the growth of its businesses and monetization in the future,” Tencent said in an emailed statement. It also referred to the potential for newsfeed ads.

It was not immediately clear if Snap has the same plan. The California-based company declined to comment beyond its filing, in which it said it was inspired by Tencent's creativity and entrepreneurial spirit and grateful to continue a productive relationship. Snapchat does not have a Facebook-style newsfeed, but said on Tuesday that it was planning a redesign that could include such a feature.

Last year, PepsiCo Inc's Gatorade ran an interactive video game ad on Snapchat featuring tennis star Serena Williams. Beyond that and a few similar examples, the app has not offered mobile games. Analysts said Tencent has benefited from its social media apps for the phenomenal popularity of its smartphone games such as Honor of Kings, and will need the help of local networks to fuel overseas growth. Honor of Kings, based on Chinese historical characters, is the top-grossing mobile game in the world. It became so popular that Tencent in July curbed play time amid reports of addiction among children.—Reuters

UN to host first
talks on use
of killer robots

GENEVA: The United Nations is set to host the first-ever talks on the use of autonomous weapons, but those hoping for a ban on the machines dubbed killer robots will be disappointed, the ambassador leading the discussions said Friday. More than 100 artificial intelligence entrepreneurs led by Tesla's Elon Musk in August urged the UN to enforce a global ban on fully-automated weapons, echoing calls from activists who have warned the machines will put civilians at enormous risk. A UN disarmament grouping known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) will on Monday hold five days of talks on the issue in Geneva.

But anything resembling a ban, or even a treaty, remains far off, said the Indian ambassador on disarmament, Amandeep Gill, who is chairing the meeting. “It would be

Facebook urges users
to send nude pics to
combat revenge porn

SYDNEY: Facebook is trying to combat “revenge porn” by encouraging users in Australia to submit their nude photos to a pilot project designed to prevent intimate images from being shared without consent. Adults who have shared nude or sexually explicit photos with someone online, and who are worried about unauthorized distribution, can report images to the Australian government's eSafety Commission.

They then securely send the photos to themselves via Messenger, a process that allows Facebook to “hash” them, creating a unique digital fingerprint. The identifier is used to block any further distribution on Facebook, Instagram and Messenger as a pre-emptive strike against revenge porn, a common method of abuse and exploitation online. “We're using image-matching technology to prevent non-consensual intimate images from being shared,” said Antigone Davis, Facebook's head of global safety.

A Facebook spokesman said Britain, Canada and the United States are also expected to take part in the project. Australia's eSafety commissioner Julie Inman Grant told AFP the initiative empowers people to protect themselves against the unauthorized spread of intimate images. “It removes control and power from the perpetrator who is ostensibly trying to amplify the humiliation of the victim amongst friends, family and colleagues,” she said. If successful, the Facebook trial should be extended to other online platforms, Inman Grant added.

“The precedent already exists for the sharing of child exploitation images and countering violent extremism online, and by extending to image-based abuse we are taking the burden off the victims to report to multiple online platforms.” Australia is among world leaders in efforts to combat revenge porn. Its eSafety Commission launched an online portal last month, allowing victims to

very easy to just legislate a ban but I think... rushing ahead in a very complex subject is not wise,” he told reporters. “We are just at the starting line.”

He said the discussion, which will also include civil society and technology companies, will be partly focused on understanding the types of weapons in the pipeline. Proponents of a ban, including the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots pressure group, insist that human beings must ultimately be responsible for the final decision to kill or destroy. They argue that any weapons system that delegates the decision on an individual strike to an algorithm is by definition illegal, because computers cannot be held accountable under international humanitarian law.

Gill said there was agreement that “human beings have to remain responsible for decisions that involve life and death”. But, he added, there are varying opinions on the mechanics through which “human control” must govern deadly weapons.

Machines ‘can't apply the law’

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which is mandated to safeguard the laws of conflict, has not called for a ban, but has underscored the need to place limits on autonomous weapons. “Our bottom line is that machines can't apply the law and you can't transfer responsibility for legal decisions to machines”, Neil Davison of the ICRC's

arms unit said. He highlighted the problematic nature of weapons that involve major variables in terms of the timing or location of an attack—for example something that is deployed for multiple hours and programmed to strike whenever it detects an enemy target. “Where you have a degree of unpredictability or uncertainty in what's going to happen when you activate this weapons system then you are going to start to have problems for legal compliance,” he said.

Flawed meeting?

Next week's UN meeting will also feature wide-ranging talks on artificial intelligence, triggering criticism that the CCW was drowning itself in discussions about new technologies instead of zeroing in on the urgent issue. “There is a risk in going too broad at this moment,” said Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch, who is the coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. “The need is to focus on lethal autonomous weapons”, she told said. The open letter co-signed by Musk as well as Mustafa Suleyman, co-founder of Google's DeepMind, warned that killer robots could become “weapons that despots and terrorists use against innocent populations, and weapons hacked to behave in undesirable ways.” “Once this Pandora's box is opened, it will be hard to close”, they said.—AFP



SAN JOSE: In this file photo, a conference worker passes a demo booth at Facebook's annual F8 developer conference in San Jose, California.—AP

report cases where their photos have been shared on the internet without consent. The government agency then works with websites and search engines to have them removed.

Abuse on mass scale

A recent survey by the commission showed one in five Australian women aged 18-45 suffered image-based abuse, with Facebook and its Messenger app accounting for 53 percent of revenge porn, followed by Snapchat at 11 percent then Instagram at four percent. Research by Melbourne's Monash University and RMIT University earlier this year found people were falling prey to abusive

behavior on a “mass scale”, and that men and women were equally likely to be targeted.

RMIT legal studies lecturer Anastasia Powell said it was “positive” to see collaboration between social media companies and government—a vital part of any strategy to tackle revenge porn. “It requires a combination of legal reform, as well as policy, as well as additional services from victims, as well as these sort of responses from social media companies,” she told AFP. “There's very little consistency between laws internationally and police cooperation and processes to make sure that countries can work together, to make sure that images can be taken down, or to pursue a criminal response.” —AFP

Health

Rohingya children face death by malnutrition

Children at camp in critical condition

BALUKHALI, Bangladesh: Tiny Mohammad Sohail cries uncontrollably as he waits to see a doctor—one of the thousands of Rohingya children at risk of an agonizing death from malnutrition even after reaching the safety of refugee camps in Bangladesh. His father was killed in the crackdown on Muslims in Buddhist-dominated Myanmar's Rakhine state, forcing his mother Hasana Begum to flee with Mohammad and his brother—joining some 610,000 other Rohingya who have fled since August.

The family barely ate on their seven-day trek across hills and through jungles to the Bangladesh border where they arrived two weeks ago, and it has taken its toll. Aged just 21 months, Mohammad's ribs nearly poke through his skin. His hands are just skin and bone. "We walked for days through continuous rain, cold and heat. Both my sons suffered from fever and diarrhea and have since lost appetite," Begum said. There are at least 50 other malnourished children like him at the Balukhali camp medical unit.



It is a desperate battle for all

"The condition of many of these children is very critical. Most of their parents don't even understand the extent of the problem," said paramedic Shumi Akhter. Medical teams are distributing special high-nutrition baby food packs so Rohingya infants can build some muscle. But it is a desperate battle for all. The UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, estimates that 25,000 children in the overcrowded Rohingya camps are suffering from severe malnutrition that could easily become a major killer.

"The Rohingya children in the camp—who have survived horrors in Rakhine state and a dangerous journey here—are already caught up in a catastrophe," said Edouard

Beigbeder, the country head of UNICEF. "Those with severe malnutrition are now at risk of dying from an entirely preventable and treatable cause. These children need help right now," Beigbeder said. More than half of the huge influx into the refugee camps are children. Some have died there, but the UN said it had no information on whether malnutrition was a cause.

Selling rations

For widows like Begum who have no extended family, getting food is a new battle as ration queues last between six and eight hours. "I can't take them to collect the relief as I cannot carry my sons and the heavy sack," the 23-year-old said. She cannot leave them in the tarpaulin shanty that has become their home either as there is no one to look after Mohammad and three-year-old Nur Alam. "Every neighbor is busy with their own problems. Nobody has spare time to babysit," she said. "But I get panicky there until I get back home because these boys are everything I have left," she said.

A visit to shanties at Balukhali showed that most refugee families survive on a diet of rice and lentils, with occasional vegetables and dried fish. "Such a diet is not sufficient for toddlers or breastfeeding mothers. In this camp, the number of malnourished babies is already over the emergency margin line," aid worker Fazle Rabbi said. Charity workers said the situation was exacerbated by refugees selling food to local Bangladeshis to raise cash for household goods and other essentials.

"Everyday we buy a lot of food from the refugees. We

greenhouse gas-tipped over 403 parts per million (ppm), 40 percent above the pre-industrial average and the highest level in at least 800,000 years, the UN's weather agency reported this week.

Proven prescient

Even under optimistic scenarios, that number is projected to rise for decades. What's the limit for a climate-safe world? The UN's science advisory body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has said we can "likely" stay under the 2 C threshold if CO2 levels don't exceed 450 ppm by 2100. For Hansen, that's a recipe for disaster. Melt water from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets could add meters to sea levels by 2100, he has calculated. "The last time in Earth's history that CO2 concentrations were at 450 ppm, sea level was 25 meters (80 feet) higher," he noted.

When writer and environmentalist Bill McKibben decided a decade ago to launch a campaign to fight global warming, he asked the world's best known climate scientist what he should call it. "He had in mind the name '450.org,'" Hansen recalled. By coincidence, Hansen was about to publish a major study that concluded the ceiling for CO2 levels should be 350 ppm, at most. Thus was born 350.org, probably the largest grassroots climate action organization in the world.

"Hansen does make a compelling case that many climate change impacts are occurring sooner and with greater magnitude than we expected," said Michael Mann, director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University. "Jim's past predictions have proven prescient and we do indeed ignore him at our peril." "Hansen's contributions to the basic science of climate change are fundamental to our current understanding—no one has contributed more," said Michael Oppenheimer, a



UKHIA: A young Rohingya Muslim refugee who entered Bangladesh by boat rests as he waits to go to refugee camps near the Thankhall refugee camp in Bangladesh's Ukhia district.—AFP

pay them cash in exchange for rice, lentil, sugar, salt, cooking oil, milk powder and baby food," a Bangladeshi wholesaler in the nearby town of Ukhia said.

Refugees who admitted selling food said they needed

cash to buy firewood, clothing, and other necessities. The Rohingyas are not allowed to seek work in Bangladesh. Refugee Karim Majhi said: "We don't have any choice but to sell food."—AFP

Climate target too low and progress too slow

BONN: The world must sharply draw down greenhouse gas emissions and suck billions of tons of carbon dioxide from the air if today's youth are to be spared climate cataclysm, a top scientist has warned. "This reality is being ignored by governments around the world," said James Hansen, who famously announced to the US Congress 30 years ago that global warming was underway. "To say that we are 'moving in the right direction' just isn't good enough anymore," he said in an interview.

Head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies until 2013, Hansen and his 18-year-old granddaughter—who is suing the US government for contributing to the problem—delivered that message this week at UN climate negotiations in Bonn. Thousands of diplomats at the 12-day, 196-nation talks are haggling over the fine print of a "user's manual" for a treaty that will go into effect in 2020. Inked in the French capital in 2015, the Paris Agreement calls for capping global warming at two degrees Celsius. With the planet out of kilter after only one degree of warming-enough to amplify deadly heatwaves, super storms and droughts—the treaty also vows to explore the feasibility of holding the line at 1.5 C.

"That is a good impulse, because if we go to 2 C, it is guaranteed that we will lose our shorelines and coastal cities," said Hansen. "The only question is how fast." Earth's surface temperature, the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere, and sea levels have all changed in lock-step over hundreds of millions of years, he pointed out. In 2016, atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide—the main



WASHINGTON: This file photo shows atmospheric physicist and Columbia University Earth Institute adjunct professor James Hansen testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington, DC.—AFP

professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton University.

Climate negligence

Even if humanity succeeds in bending down the curve of greenhouse emissions far sooner than currently seems imaginable, it would not be fast enough to bring CO2 levels back to 350 ppm by century's end, according to Hansen. "You would have to extract 150 billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere," more than 10 times the amount we emit each year, he said. The technology to do that does not currently exist. At 76, Hansen is thinking a lot about what kind of world young people will be inheriting.—AFP

Orbital Cygnus cargo ship poised for frigid launch

WASHINGTON: An unmanned Cygnus cargo ship operated by Orbital ATK is poised to blast off toward the International Space Station on a frigid yesterday, carrying supplies to the six astronauts living in orbit. The launch from Wallops Island, Virginia is scheduled for 7:37 am, with temperatures forecast to be below freezing at around 25 Fahrenheit. But the unseasonably cold temperatures are still within the acceptable range for an Antares rocket launch, which would be halted only if the weather dipped below 20 F, launch managers said.

As of Friday afternoon, the forecast for yesterday's sunrise launch was "95 percent favorable," NASA said in a statement. The mission is the eighth for Orbital ATK, which has a \$1.9 billion-dollar contract with NASA to resupply the space station over several years. The barrel-shaped Cygnus is packed with 7,400 pounds of food, supplies, equipment and science experiments. Among them is a satellite that will test how bacteria grow in microgravity, and determine the minimum amount of antibiotic needed to stop its growth. "Bacterial antibiotic resistance may pose a danger to astronauts in microgravity, where the immune response is weakened," NASA said.—AFP

CLINIC
PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
إستشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAFP. PEM

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

What's On

Kuwait Marriott Hotels offer special weekend promotion



Kuwait Marriott Hotels have launched exclusive weekend deals on rooms and restaurants. The special weekend promotion offers GCC nationals and residents special discounts on rooms and suites at JW Marriott Kuwait City, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait and Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait City. In addition, the package also includes complimentary buffet breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and free meals for children under 6 years old.

To add to the exclusive benefits, guests can enjoy free access to the swimming pool and health club. Free valet parking and shared airport transfers will also be available along with early check-in and late check-out, subject to availability. It is also worthy to note that JW

Marriott Hotel Kuwait and Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait have a direct exclusive entrance to "Salhia" and "Arraya" shopping malls, where guests can shop between an array of world-class retail brands.

A superb dining experience can be enjoyed at the Terrace Grill restaurant at JW Marriott Kuwait, known to be one of the best steakhouses in Kuwait. The restaurant offers an extensive menu of the finest meat cuts and seafood. Other interesting cuisines can be tried at the Japanese Kei restaurant offering sushi and Teppanyaki. The much-celebrated Indian restaurant Soul and Spice in Courtyard by Marriott is well known for serving flavorful Indian dishes, in addition to Sushi restaurant which offers a wide array of mouth-

watering Japanese delicacies.

In addition, Crossroads restaurant at the JW Marriott Kuwait has also launched new theme nights, including the Mediterranean Night every Monday, which offers a wide selection of the most popular dishes from different Mediterranean cuisines. And the Seafood Night every Wednesday, with a wide range of fresh seafood buffets.

Moreover, Blendz restaurant, located at the lobby of Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait City, offers its guests a unique flavor of modern recipes in a very relaxed ambience making it a perfect place to spend time with family and friends. George Aoun, Cluster General Manager at Kuwait Marriott Hotels said, "With every-



thing from the finest dining to value-oriented hotels and ultimate shopping experiences, our goal is to offer great value for money deals and the highest level of customer service to our guests."

Millennium Hotel Kuwait wins 2017 Kuwait's Leading Conference Hotel award



Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait won the Kuwait's Leading Conference Hotel Award during the 24th Annual World Travel Awards. The hotel was given the award based on voting of experts in travel and tourism, leading companies, clients in the entertainment and tourism fields from around the globe. The award was received on behalf of the hotel by Dani Saleh - Area General Manager - Kuwait, Bassem Al Hajj - Cluster Director of Sales & Marketing Kuwait and Yasser El Adawi - Director of Front Office.

Dani Saleh said: "We are glad to receive this award during the 2017 World Travel Awards. A standpoint that the Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait has embarked in the hospitality industry as "Kuwait's Leading Conference Hotel". This is a true indication of the full commitment and hard work shown by our hotel's management and staff to deliver excellent service to our guests."

The award was given during the annual 'World Travel Awards' held in

Dubai last October 29, 2017 featuring top officials in the field and VIPs. The 24th Annual World Travel Awards is considered one of the most prestigious awards in the travel sector; awards are given to leaders in tourism, aviation, hotels and hospitality industry.

Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait is located in a strategic place in Salmiya, overlooking the Fourth Ring Road and Fahaheel Expressway, and a few meters away from the best shopping malls, recreational sites and restaurants in Kuwait. It is considered one of the most luxurious 5-star hotels that serve businessmen and tourists, and the highest level in terms of hosting conferences and exhibitions.

Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait provides 295 rooms and suites equipped with the latest technology, including high-speed free Wi-Fi, gym, pool, sauna and other premium services. It also provides an integrated business center, secretarial services and office facilities. Furthermore, it contains three restaurants and a bar by the pool.

GUST hosts its 1st Alumni Reception

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) yesterday announced that it held its first official alumni reception yesterday, welcoming GUST Board of Trustees Chairman, GUST President, top management representatives, and over 100 alumni on its grounds. The aim of the event was for the university and its alumni to reconnect, reminisce, and build stronger ties. Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Salem Marzouq Al-Tuhaih, said, "GUST is keen on taking care of its students even after graduation. It is important to keep lines of communication open, to better able to provide you with the right opportunities whether it is for jobs, or further academic growth. This is one of the main drives behind this event, to build those lines of communication and be able to benefit the university, and bring you further success."

GUST alumni, Marina FM radio broadcaster, Ali Najim, and Ibrahim Al-Mutawa, took on the role of masters of ceremony at the reception; where alumni enjoyed an evening of socializing, music, photos, a raffle draw, and reconnecting with their former professors and university. The event officially introduced the Alumni Office, which caters to all alumni needs from organizing reunions to arranging benefits and services for alumni.

Moreover, it highlighted several university initiatives to strengthen its ties with its graduates, including hosting networking events such as the annual Career Fair, as well as the impending launch of the online recruitment platform, BEYOND, which aims to give students and alumni access to job opportunities in Kuwait across a variety of sectors in the form of internships, as well as full time and



part time jobs, by connecting them with potential employers. The platform is free of charge to use for all concerned parties. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, also noted: "The university strives on providing its graduates with the best academic programs, by recruiting world-class professors and working on obtaining the highest international accreditations."

As of this year, GUST has graduated over 6,069 from its undergraduate and graduate programs combined. Since then, the university has attained four academic accreditations, including the AACSB-International accreditation for the College of Business Administration, the Commission on Intensive English Program Accreditation (CEA) for the English Foundation Program, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for the computer science program, and most recently, the American Communications Association (ACA) accreditation for the Mass Communication and Media Department.

GUST also offers several types of scholarships for its students and one in particular for its alumni - the graduate scholarship. The graduate scholarship is a fully-funded program for GUST alumni to continue their masters and PhD degrees abroad in an accredited university. It is a prime opportunity for



Professor Salem Marzouq Al-Tuhaih

those interested in continuing their education. The university takes pride in its continuous strive to provide its students with a well-rounded education in order to flourish after graduation. GUST alumni hold key positions in various public and private institutions in a range of sectors, and includes many who have established their own businesses in the fields of finance, event management, design, and food & beverage, among others.

KNES organizes fund raiser to support breast cancer research

A bake sale was organized by the student council of Kuwait National English School (KNES) on October 19, 2017 to raise awareness as well as funds for breast cancer research. The event was well organized and brilliantly executed by the student council and they were able to raise a fairly substantial amount. Students from primary and secondary actively participated and contributed in many ways to make it a runaway success. Students bought in a wide range of mouthwatering delicacies and they were sold out within minutes of the start of the Bake Sale. The highlight of the day was 'The shaving the head' event which was organized to raise awareness and empathy with cancer survivors.

Students had to vote for the member of staff they would want to have shaved and the winner of this interesting event was Mr Darryl, the school principal, who gamely agreed to have his head shaved. The head boy Bader Saab too joined in and it was an entertaining sight in the basketball court. Furthermore, the school was awash with pink ribbons as students supporting the fundraising event were given a pink ribbon to show their solidarity with cancer sufferers. Kuwait National English School's mission statement encourages students "to act upon issues threatening our human family". Cancer is an obvious threat to our human family and the funds raised will be donated towards the research of cancer.



TV



00:30 Bloodrayne: The Third Reich
01:55 The Tower
04:00 Road Wars
05:30 The Rock
07:45 Star Wars: The Force Awakens



00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Going Ape
02:15 Going Ape
02:40 Going Ape
04:50 Gorilla School



00:05 EastEnders
00:40 The Durrells
01:30 The Durrells
02:15 Kat & Alfie: Redwater



00:00 Escaping Polygamy
01:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
02:00 My Haunted House



00:05 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
00:30 Tosh.0
00:55 Tosh.0
01:17 Idiotsitter

20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



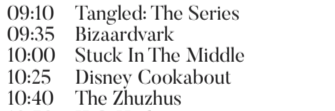
00:30 Now That's Funny
01:20 Now That's Funny
02:10 Pick A Puppy
02:35 Pick A Puppy



00:50 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:45 Forbidden: Dying For Love
02:40 Reel Crime/Real Story



00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binnie And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer



00:00 Disney II
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Avengers: Secret Wars

02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Steakout
02:00 Mystery Diners



00:15 Supertrucks
01:00 Fast N' Loud
01:45 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
02:30 Street Customs 2008



06:00 Disney II
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Avengers: Secret Wars



00:00 The Platinum Life
00:55 The Platinum Life
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story

11:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
12:50 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
13:40 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian



00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Steakout
02:00 Mystery Diners



00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 The Chase
02:00 Coronation Street



00:00 What Really Happened
01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 Ancient Aliens
03:00 Ancient Aliens



00:20 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 The Curse Of Oak Island

14:20 Swamp People
15:10 Alone: Lost And Found
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Counting Cars



00:15 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
00:45 A Is For Apple
01:10 Carnival Eats
01:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia



00:10 Live Free Or Die
01:00 Yukon Gold
02:00 Cold Water Gold
03:00 Pond Stars



00:20 Photo Ark
01:10 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 World's Weirdest Creepy Cures

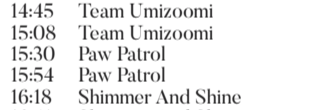


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig

School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants



00:16 Shimmer And Shine
00:38 Shimmer And Shine
01:01 Max & Ruby
01:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom



00:30 Ginger & Rosa
02:00 Autumn In New York
03:45 25th Hour
06:00 Bears



00:10 All She Wishes
01:45 Kung Fu Panda 3
03:25 The Angry Birds Movie



00:05 Dirty Grandpa
01:50 Spanglish
04:05 She's Funny That Way



01:55 Suffragette
03:50 David Lynch: The Art Life
05:30 Dead Poets Society

16:00 Goal!
18:00 Fort McCoy
19:50 The Best Of Me
21:45 99 Homes



00:10 Bark Ranger
01:40 Quest For A Heart
03:10 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods



00:15 Wanted
02:10 Cinderella Man
04:35 The Express
06:45 Norbit



00:40 Junkyard Wars
01:30 Junkyard Wars
02:20 Junkyard Wars
03:10 Junkyard Wars



00:30 Ginger & Rosa
02:00 Autumn In New York
03:45 25th Hour
06:00 Bears



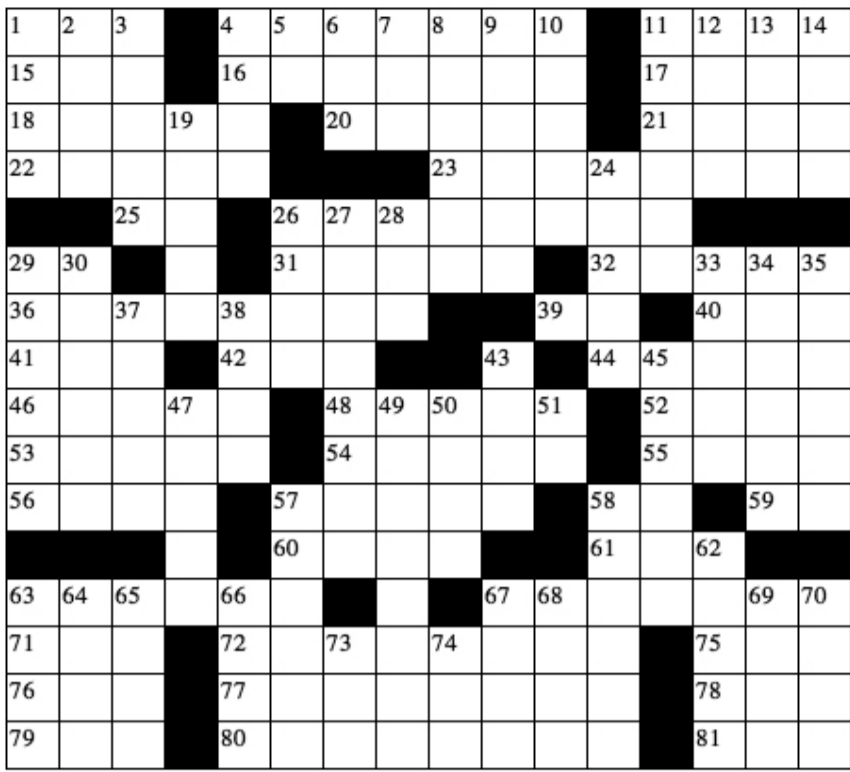
00:00 Project Runway
01:00 Project Runway
02:00 Wedding Band
03:00 House Of DVF



00:20 Fat And Trapped In My House
01:05 Botched Up Bodies
01:50 This Is Life With Carissa Cupido

Stars

CROSSWORD 1759



ACROSS

1. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
4. A tan discoloration of a woman's face that is associated with pregnancy or with the use of oral contraceptives.
11. Not agitated.
15. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
16. A person who is authorized to act as an agent for the sale of land.
17. Type genus of the Amiidae.
18. An association of nations dedicated to economic and political cooperation in southeastern Asia.
20. (Babylonian) God of fire.
21. The habitation of wild animals.
22. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
23. A loss of the ability to write or to express thoughts in writing because of a brain lesion.
25. One thousand periods per second.
29. A radioactive element of the actinoid series.
31. Specified in advance.
32. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
36. The capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the Congo river opposite Brazzaville.
39. A bachelor's degree in science.
40. (folklore) A small grotesque supernatural creature that makes trouble for human beings.
41. The United Nations agency concerned with the interests of labor.
42. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
44. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
46. Great merriment.
48. Red pear-shaped tropical fruit with poisonous seeds.
52. Toward the mouth or oral region.
53. A bowl-shaped vessel.
54. A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.
55. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
56. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
59. Not out.
60. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
61. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
63. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
71. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
72. A substitution of part of speech or gender or number or tense etc. (e.g., editorial 'we' for 'I').
75. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
76. The sixth day of the week.
77. Italian anatomist who was the first to use a microscope to study anatomy and was among the first to recognize cells in animals (1628-1694).
78. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
79. An interest followed with exaggerated zeal.
80. Of or relating to or formed by trees.
81. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
2. In addition.
3. Offering little or no hope.
4. The template for protein synthesis.
5. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
6. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
7. American prizefighter who won the world heavy weight championship three times (born in 1942).
8. Use explosives on.
9. United States anthropologist who studied the Seneca (1818-1881).
10. (Akkadian) Mother and earth goddess in Gilgamesh epic.
11. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
12. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
13. Being three more than fifty.
14. God of death.
19. Elk or moose.
24. Squash bugs.
26. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
27. Gregarious burrowing rodent larger than the chinchillas.
28. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus *Iva* with small greenish flowers.
30. Of or relating to cilia projecting from the surface of a cell.
33. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
34. Of or relating to the Gypsies or their language or culture.
35. A port city in southwestern Iran.
37. Of or relating to Scandinavia or its peoples or cultures.
38. German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
43. Prolific Spanish playwright (1562-1635).
45. Expletives used informally as intensifiers.
47. A crown-like jeweled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
49. A port city in western South Korea on the Yellow Sea.
50. Informal terms for money.
51. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
57. Thorny shrub or small tree common in central Argentina having small orange or yellow flowers followed by edible berries.
58. A descent down a nearly vertical surface by using a doubled rope that is coiled around the body and attached to some higher point.
62. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
64. A city in northern India.
65. Set down according to a plan.
66. Area around the altar of a church for the clergy and choir.
67. A measuring instrument for measuring and indicating a quantity or for testing conformity with a standard.
68. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
69. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
70. God of love and erotic desire.
73. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
74. (Irish) The sea personified.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today you will be able to tackle tasks that require real discipline or organization. You will find yourself in a very practical mood—working with, instead of against, yourself. You may have some serious or contemplative moments. There is a yearning for adventure and far horizons or to just have fun; you remain steadfast in your determination to finish whatever project you start. Travel may be in order soon so pull out the patient side of you as the opportunities will come to you soon. This evening you may find yourself in a poetic mood. You are able to put your dreams and ideals into words and communicate them through speaking and writing. Your whole mental environment takes on an almost otherworldly hue at this time. Your personal goals are in sight.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

An emotional beginning, a fresh start, perhaps the establishment of a new relationship or new patterns of living is coming up for you now. Your conversations today are full of quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights and solutions. This is a wonderful time to write and communicate with real originality. Inventions and breakthroughs are possible. Completing a short story and submitting it to be published can be accomplished this day. You may be sought after for your advice regarding very personal issues. You will be able to understand and handle this very volatile material. Music, spiritually filled visions, clear communication with others all go toward making this a very nice day and one filled with renewed appreciation.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You find yourself at your most imaginative, at least when it comes to ideas and thoughts. Today you will have an opportunity to rise above the everyday thoughts and soar into more cosmic musings. Libraries, museums and perhaps art shows—all have a particular appeal for you just now. You have a desire to explore all kinds of new horizons. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons will open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have special appeal for you; transmitting ideas on a broad scale brings gain. This is a time in your life where you will be able to enjoy those that support you, as well as the accomplishments you have achieved.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find the need to be persuasive today. You are able to be most successful in this endeavor. A good conversation with those you love is possible. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on greater importance. It's wisdom, not knowledge, that counts now. Coming to grips with the past or getting in touch with the mystical and the spiritual are the things that give you a sense of completeness. There is time today to have a little private conversation with someone you love. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony makes this a happy time. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general become simplified and receive encouragement. Young people have a lot to teach you this weekend.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This morning is a good time to devote time and energy to completing some creative project. Take a survey of your property now—draw up a plan for a spring planting. Romantic and social relationships are apt to be in a state of change; respond to the challenge and establish new directions and you will stave off those feelings of dissatisfaction. Feel good about yourself. This is a great day to partake in self-improvement activities. Start with a new hairstyle or outfit. Your support system is becoming more secure. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential and develop what is most basic in your environment. You encourage better support. Friends find you most caring and in a listening mood. Many things give you confidence about the future.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Making a good impression and putting your best foot forward take on a greater importance as a new cycle gets underway in your life now. Appearances and style may count more than substance. Romance, the arts and life's other pleasures seem to take center stage. There is a pronounced curiosity about taboos and mysteries in which you may soon become quite interested. You could feel great support from those around you, or circumstances could dictate your taking action—you feel healthy and natural. Perhaps you will plan to attend or create a treasure hunt where your friends and you search for treasure. Everything points to your taking the first steps in a creative direction. Fun activity with others is the basic idea for the afternoon and evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Supporting your friends and ideals—maybe even struggling with them—comes into the picture now. This may involve quite a bit of volunteer service. You are actively involved on a social level, taking a bigger part in collective events. You have little patience for people who do not live up to their principles. Broadening your intellectual and spiritual horizons takes on a high priority now. You are intent on seeing the big picture and getting to the point. Being in touch with ideas and people on a grand scale keeps your mind busy. The study of psychology or self-help tools may be helpful in understanding or aiding others. You feel a love of order and law—an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. Problems are seen as lessons, rather than obstacles.



Scorpio (October 23-November 18)

Close relationships and other ties between people become a focus for much of your energy. New partnerships are entered into and old ones are renewed or else they are left behind. A partnership can raise high hopes and give your spirits a boost. People close to you are optimistic and have good prospects. You may find yourself analyzing your life situation and surroundings. You could find yourself giving advice to someone—perhaps a young person—concerning a fishing, camping or survival trip you participated in lately. Conversations of an inspiring kind may be in order with young people or others around you. This is a good time to review the social scene. There is a renewed perception of commitment that could lead to marriage or some form of yoga.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A pronounced curiosity about taboos and mysteries plays a greater part in your life now. Your mind is on cutting through the nonessentials and penetrating to the core of any situation you may find. This may mean you are reading instructions on how to put together an easy-to-assemble product. Sex, taxes, investments and life's other most compelling phenomena may captivate your interest more than ever. You are determined to become more organized and informed so that when tax time comes next year, you will be able to get through it quickly! For those of you who are not married—you may become more interested in finding that perfect mate. The search for a mate and marriage in particular are crucial for you—you are driven.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Information that you have been examining and thinking about will now begin to take shape and prove useful to you. This is a time of action and embarking on new projects. A growing sense of direction and self-worth will find you reaching out and becoming established. Circumstances can throw you into positions where you must use your mind and deal with communications, service or enclosed hidden interests. You may deal with education, psychology, spiritual enlightenment or teaching principles and techniques. Networking this afternoon may turn up some valuable opportunities. Get on the phone and start dialing your colleagues and associates. Let them know your ideas. Be patient—the universal energies are about to turn the corner to favor you.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

There is a feeling of being at peace and stable on the emotional level at this time. Stability and permanence satisfy a deep emotional need. Music is likely to play a more important role now. A period of material acquisition can satisfy a deep yearning to be free from want. You have questions today that are on an emotional level. You have needs but you seem to have trouble getting others to respond. Because you appear so self-sufficient, others may find it very difficult to imagine that you might need love and attention. A new hobby fascinates you. You enjoy expressing yourself creatively—intellectually, the people who share your interest are compatible friends. Plan to enjoy a little quiet time with a loved one tonight.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general get attention this day. You could be working on a picture album or scrapbook, or shuffling keepsakes into a more organized place. You may feel that your life is balanced and you keep yourself busy trying to keep it that way. You are wise to make notes for the chores or jobs you will want to complete later. This will keep you from becoming distracted. You could gain from young people this afternoon. These young people have lists of their own to complete and you may be able to help guide them. You may spend time to consider the food and gifts to be purchased during this winter season—a plan will help you economize. Today you can work out a family budget that is agreeable to all.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Autumn

Find and circle all of the Autumn words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - an Albert Camus quotation.

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

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| ACORN | EQUINOX | NOVEMBER | SEPTEMBER |
| APPLE | FALL | OCTOBER | SHORTER DAYS |
| BIRD MIGRATION | FARMING | ORANGE LEAVES | SQUASH |
| BLOWING LEAVES | FEAST | PIE | SWEET POTATOES |
| BLUSTERY DAY | FROST | PUMPKIN | THANKSGIVING |
| CANNING | HALLOWEEN | RAKE | TURKEY |
| CHESTNUTS | HARVEST | RED LEAVES | WINDY |
| CHILLY | HAYSTACK | SCARECROW | YELLOW LEAVES |
| COLD | HICKORY NUTS | SCHOOL | |
| CROPS | LONGER NIGHTS | SEASON | |

Yesterday's Solution

Australia

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

The hidden message is:
AUSTRALIA'S MOUNT AUGUSTUS IS THE LARGEST ROCK IN THE WORLD

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Kuwait Times Classifieds

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



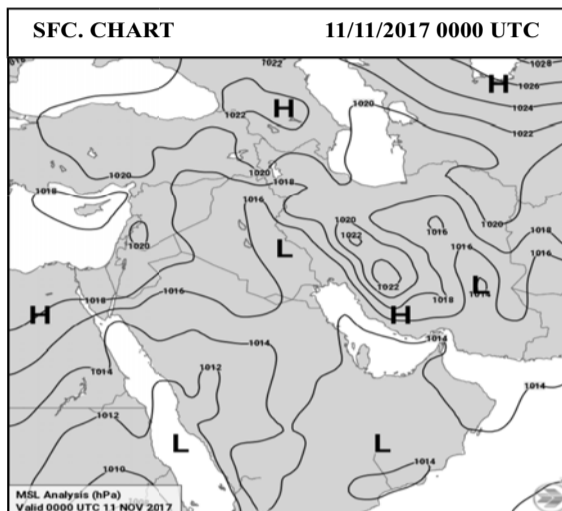
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Clouds will increase with light to moderate north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for scattered rain.

BY NIGHT: Cool with light to moderate freshening at times over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

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

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	29 °C	23 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30 °C	17 °C
ABDALY	32 °C	17 °C
BUBYAN	29 °C	16 °C
JAHRA	31 °C	21 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	30 °C	22 °C
SALMIYAH	28 °C	23 °C
AHMADI	26 °C	24 °C
NUWAISIB	31 °C	20 °C
WAFRA	34 °C	20 °C
SALMY	28 °C	17 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	11/12	Relatively hot and some high clouds will appear with a chance for rising dust over open areas	30 °C	18 °C	NW-N	15 - 45 km/h
Monday	11/13	Relatively hot and Clouds will increase gradually	30 °C	18 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Tuesday	11/14	Relatively hot and Clouds will decrease gradually	31 °C	17 °C	NW	08 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	11/15	Mostly Sunny and some high clouds will appear	29 °C	16 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 26 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:47
Sunrise	06:08
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:34
Sunset	16:55
Isha	18:15

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	31 °C
MIN. Temp.	17 °C
MAX. RH	74 %
MIN. RH	39 %
MAX. Wind	E 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

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

लक़्ज़री अपार्टमेंट किराए देना है
 दो कमरे, हॉल,
 बॉरूथम, रसोईघर
 सम्पर्क: 69996992, 66804222

FOR RENT

In Fintas
 Furnished apartment, 2 rooms,
 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, internet,
 security, room cleaning service, very
 close to the sea. Rent KD 400 monthly.
 For inquires 90041500

REQUIRED

For a Manufacturing Co.
MECHANIC FOR GENERAL MAINTENANCE
 The candidate should be below 35 years, with 2 years
 experience, read & write English.
 Contact No. 24710120

Automated enquiry
 about the Civil ID card is
1889988
EMERGENCY
112

For Rent

In Rumaithiya
 Super Delux apartment
 plus roof with
 3 bedrooms including one
 master bedroom + large
 reception +
 maid room.
 For inquiries call Rajoo:
66048094
 Or 99922262

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Sunday 12/11/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 12/11/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
IOW	157E	Al Najaf	00:05	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
JZR	1343	Al Najaf	00:10	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
JZR	125	Bahrain	00:10	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	KAC	677	Dubai	01:00
JZR	1345	Al Najaf	00:45	JZR	1348	Al Najaf	01:00
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05
KAC	102	London	00:50	IOW	158E	Al Najaf	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	JZR	142	Doha	01:45
WAN	416	Beirut	01:05	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
DLH	625	Bahrain	1:45	KAC	788	Jeddah	02:45
THY	64	Istanbul	01:50	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	03:05
JZR	55	Alexandria	02:15	WAN	4436	Al Najaf	03:40
ETH	20	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	03:40
QTR	086	Doha	02:20	KAC	502	Beirut	03:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR	787	Riyadh	03:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	OMA	645	Muscat	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	FEF	937	Sohag	04:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	UAE	857	Dubai	04:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	03:05	QTR	1072	Doha	04:05
JZR	1347	Al Najaf	03:05	KAC	118	New York	04:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	04:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR	779	Jeddah	05:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	051	Dubai	05:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	RJA	640	Amman	05:05
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	542	Cairo	05:30
IOW	157F	Al Najaf	04:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	05:45
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:10	GFA	215	Bahrain	06:05
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	JZR	125	Bahrain	06:25
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	JZR	777	Jeddah	06:50
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	WAN	984	Tbilisi	06:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	UAE	875	Dubai	07:05
JZR	1349	Al Najaf	04:40	FDB	063	Dubai	07:15
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	JZR	177	Dubai	07:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	MSR	620	Cairo	08:00
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	QTR	1080	Doha	08:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	744	Dammam	08:00
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	KAC	776	Riyadh	08:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	08:30
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	RBG	555	Alexandria	08:35
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	GFA	217	Bahrain	08:35
KAC	678	Dubai	06:00	KAC	156	Istanbul	08:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	JZR	483	Istanbul	08:50
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	KAC	674	Dubai	08:55
QTR	8511	Doha	06:25	FDB	057	Dubai	09:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:55
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	KAC	104	London	20:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	620	Doha	20:15
BAW	157	London	07:10	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
FEF	933	Sohag	07:30	KAC	166	Rome	20:20
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	QTR	1088	Doha	20:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:25
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:35
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	KAC	676	Dubai	21:40
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	WAN	116	Bahrain	21:50
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	KAC	564	Amman	22:00
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	QTR	1082	Jeddah	22:05
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	ETD	309	Doha	22:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	241	Amman	22:40
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	JZR	185	Dubai	23:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:15
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				

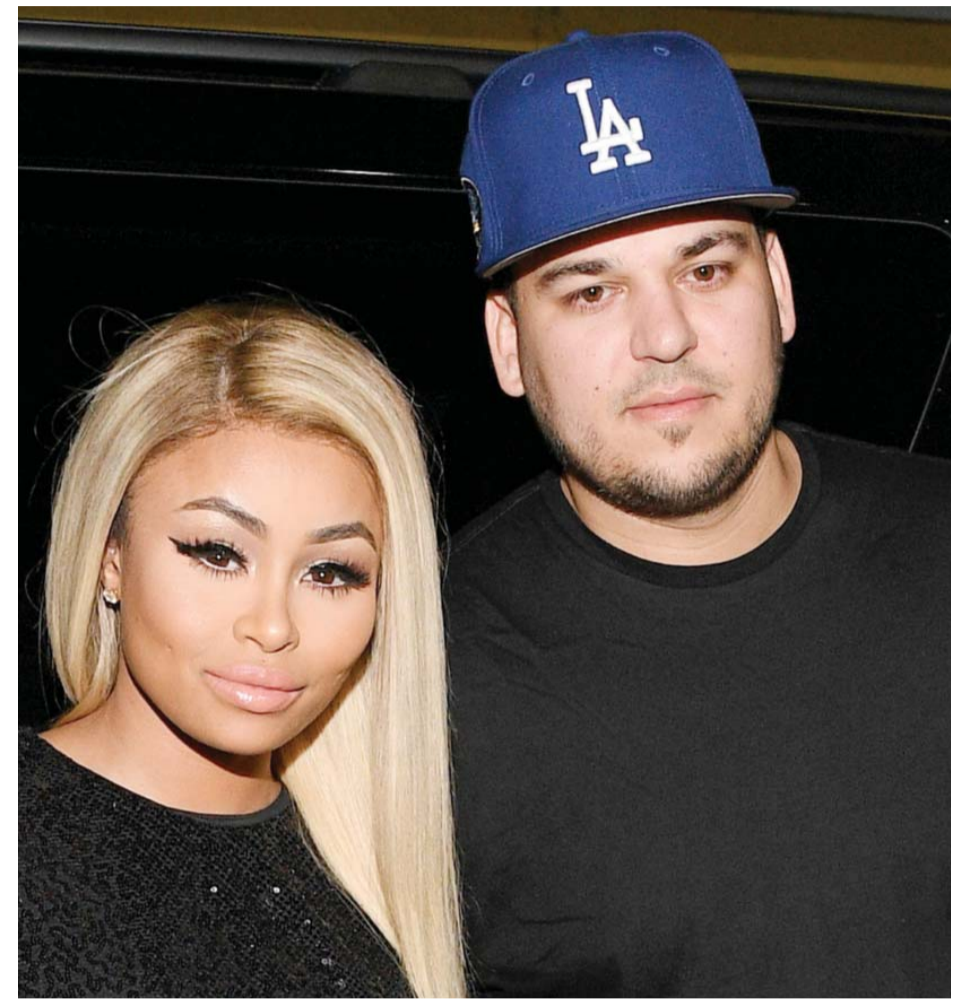
Lifestyle | Gossip

Mandy Moore wants to get married 'soon'

The 33-year-old actress is currently engaged to her partner Taylor Goldsmith, and despite the musician having only popped the question two months ago, Mandy is already thinking about getting the nuptials out of the way as she doesn't feel the need to "wait" for too long. She said: "It'll happen sooner rather than later. I'm not in any rush, but also I'm like, 'I wanna do it'. I don't need to wait, I don't need to have a long engagement. I'm not planning some giant, lavish affair. So, I might as well just do it." Mandy admitted she would love to start a family with Taylor once they've tied the knot, but claims her role on TV drama 'This Is Us' - in which she plays a mother - hasn't taught her anything about parenthood, as the children on the show have their own parents to look after them. When asked if starring in the NBC drama has affected her views on having children, Mandy said: "I have always known that I wanted to be a mother, hopefully. Hopefully that's on the cards for me. But I feel like I haven't learned too much from the show, except that I love being around children of any age. But whenever they get fussy, or do something that is naughty, mom and dad are standing in the wings ready to take them away. You know, feed them or change them or anything so I get the best part of parenting and none of the grunt work. So I don't think I've learned any valuable lessons." The '47 Meters Down' actress and the Dawes musician have been dating for two years after they got in touch with one another via social media app Instagram, and Mandy says her advice to anyone looking for love on the internet is to not be "afraid".

Rob Kardashian throws extravagant party for daughter Dream

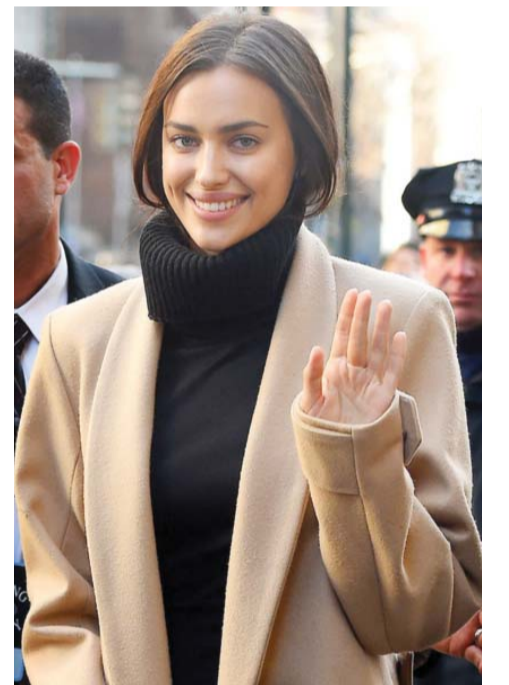
The 30-year-old reality star has taken to social media to pay tribute to his only child - who he has with his former partner Blac Chyna - who celebrated her special day on November 10. And the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star has showered the youngster with gifts, including a rocking horse and two pink miniature cars, including a Mercedes SUV. The Arthur George sock designer posted a string of images on his Twitter account, including one of the gifts with "Happy 1st Birthday" spelled out in silver helium balloons, as well as a photograph of him playing with his daughter. He captioned the posts: "Happy 1st Birthday mama 'Birthday girl' 'That arm tho' 'Love You happy baby (sic)'. The tiny tot also celebrated her special day with two cakes, one which was covered in edible pink roses, whilst another sweet treat had a photograph of Dream's face emblazoned on the icing, as well as cookies that were made to remember Dream's 62-year-old grandmother Kris Jenner. Rob's ex-fiance also paid tribute to Dream on her birthday. Chyna - who also has five-year-old son King Cairo with her ex beau Tyga - shared a picture of Dream dressed up as a mermaid on her Instagram account, which she captioned: "Happy 1st Birthday Dreamy (sic)". Rob's siblings also took to social media to give an insight into the bash, as the dark-haired star's Kim Kardashian West, 37, attended the party and posed for pictures with Dream, who adorned a full Adidas ensemble, on her Snapchat account. Khloe Kardashian, 33, and Kourtney Kardashian, 38, also attended the event, and the oldest out of the Kardashian/Jenner brood brought her children Mason, seven, Penelope, five, and Reign, two, along to the party who played with Dream.

**Adwoa Aboah felt 'shame' when she had a termination**

The 25-year-old model admitted it was an "awful" experience but she feels "lucky" that she was able to make her own decision not to continue with her pregnancy, and has vowed to fight so other women are in the same position. She told the latest issue of Harper's Bazaar magazine: "It was awful and I wouldn't want it to happen to me again. "But, if I took any positive thing from it, it was that I must do all I can to fight for women's rights." "It was my decision and I was lucky enough to be able to make that decision. "I also felt a huge amount of shame. It didn't come from family or friends, I wasn't brought up in a household where abortion was frowned upon. "So I had to question where that shame came from. And it was societal." Adwoa - who is dating Riccardo Ambrosio - has spoken openly about her mental health issues and suicide attempt in the past, but these days she is able to remind herself of how grateful she is for how far she's come and how proud she is for seizing her opportunities. She said: "Whenever I feel exhausted or fed up, there's a very strong sense of gratitude for all the opportunities that have come my way and a huge amount of pride that I have for myself. "I didn't have that before. Now, I get up in the morning and I'm there for my friends, I'm there for my sister, I'm there for my mum and dad and family. So all of that is life-changing in terms of where I was."

**Irina Shayk thinks every woman is 'sexy'**

The 31-year-old model - who has nine-month-old daughter Lea with partner Bradley Cooper - insists it's what is on the inside that counts, rather than wearing a particular item of clothing or a certain style of make-up. She said: "For me, it's not about wearing high heels or red lips. Great underwear definitely helps, but feeling sexy definitely comes from inside. "Any woman can feel sexy, and every woman is sexy in her own way. "Just an expression or a smile can make a woman look super sexy." And the Sports Illustrated beauty thinks confidence also comes from within. Asked what or who makes her feel confident, she told LOOK magazine: "Myself. I don't believe somebody else has to make you feel confident. It should come from within." Irina is very "proud" of her family and they are always a huge source of inspiration for her. She said: "Both my grandma and my mum [have been influential]. I grew up in a family of women and I learned a lot of things about how to be strong and never give up, how to go my own way and make my dreams come true. "And in my family, we always supported each other - I can proudly say I have the best family in the world. My grandma always inspired me." The Russian beauty couldn't be happier with her life right now. She said: "The most important thing is to be at peace inside and be happy. "I enjoy every moment of my life and I'm really grateful for everything God has given me."

**Kate Moss believes in 'love at first sight'**

The 43-year-old supermodel - who has 15-year-old daughter Lila with former boyfriend Jefferson Hack - doesn't see anything wrong with having sex on a first date because she thinks romantic connections are instant. Asked if it's OK to sleep with someone on a first date, she said: "I believe in love at first sight." But the British beauty - who is dating Nikolai Von Bismarck and was previously married to Jamie Hince and dated the likes of Pete Doherty and Johnny Depp - admitted she doesn't always stay friendly with her former partners when they go their separate ways. She told Vogue magazine: "You don't always want to stay friends with an ex." And Kate would take drastic measures when it comes to ending a relationship. Asked how to let someone down gently, she said: "Change the locks and block their number." Meanwhile, Kate's daughter has warned her mother she will "actually cry" if she grows up to find they have different sized feet. She said: "I'm saving a lot of my clothes for [Lila]. She said she would actually cry if she doesn't fit my shoes." When she's going out, Kate doesn't worry about other people being late - because she's usually the last one to turn up. She said: "It's unusual for someone to be later than me... except Naomi [Campbell]." But even though she's not very punctual, Kate can get ready in a hurry if she needs to. Asked how she would get ready in just five minutes, she said: "Brush my teeth, brush my hair, curl my eyelashes, put a lip on and a spritz of scent."

Mark Wahlberg admits he often mistaken for Matt Damon

The 46-year-old actor might be a star in his own right, but he has admitted people often come up to him to praise him for movies he never starred in, as they believe he is fellow Hollywood hunk Matt Damon. And, rather than face the embarrassment of having to correct the strangers, the 'Daddy's Home' star admits he often just goes with it. Speaking during an appearance on 'Late Night with Seth Meyers' on Thursday (09.11.17), Mark said: "Yeah, he gets recognised for me and I get recognised as him but I never tell people. I never correct anybody. Somebody comes up to me and says, 'I loved you in 'Bourne Identity', I say 'Thank you, I got another coming out soon' and I just keep going. "I don't want to have to apologise then start explaining. Don't want to think I'm offended, I'm not offended at all." Mark isn't the only star to be mistaken for a fellow actor either,

as Colin Farrell recently revealed people often get him confused with his namesake Colin Firth, even though he says the 'Kingsman: The Secret Service' actor has "a lot more decorum" than he does. Farrell said: "Even though he beats me by an Oscar, about ten inches and a lot more decorum. I tried to sign up for gym once and the woman got on the phone to sort out the membership and she said in a rather loud whisper, 'Colin Firth is here.'" And Farrell - who has been single for over six years - previously hinted he was considering joining dating app Tinder, though he could face the same identity crisis problem if hopeful romantics believe his is the wrong Colin. He said last year: "I have friends who have met people on dating sites who have had really good relationships, and that's great. F**k anyone else who says that's bulls**t."

James Arthur says being vegan has helped him

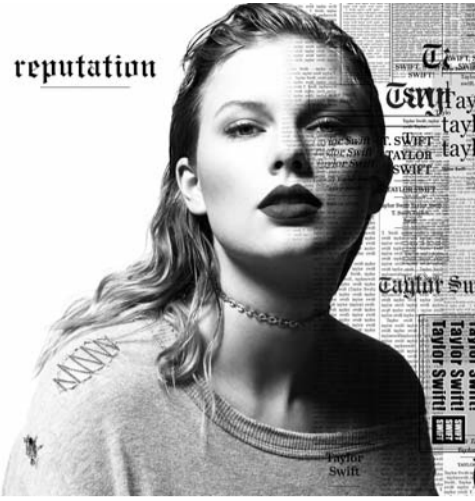
The 29-year-old singer recently made the decision to follow a plant-based diet and no longer gorges on animal products, and has said the dietary change has helped him shed some weight. He said: "It's all about the vegan lifestyle. Not eating the animal products it's helping me lose the belly." And the 'Say You Won't Let Go' hitmaker admits his decision to go vegan came after he realized he wasn't taking care of his body, and he now values staying hydrated with water over enjoying a beer. Speaking to Darryl Morris at Key 103 Live in Manchester, he said: "There was a point where I just wasn't looking after myself and I decided I just had to. I eat pretty good now and I'm like you know keeping hydrated more. It used to be a complete afterthought to me, so now it's like top of the list, drink water and keep yourself hydrated. Water before the beer." James' comments come after he recently made a comeback to the music scene following his addiction to drugs and troubled past which saw him being dropped from Simon Cowell's Syco label in 2013, before re-signing to the label last year. The 'Impossible' singer - who also previously battled suicidal thoughts - recently admitted he'd be severely depressed if he didn't have music to channel his troubles. He said: "I'm in a better place. But I think I'm always going to have those struggles. "Unfortunately, from a young age I've had this kind of nervous dispo-



sition and music's the way that I've always channeled that energy. "If not, then I'd have got myself into trouble, I've spoken out of turn and I've gotten myself into addiction. It's kind of something that's tormented me throughout my life - my struggle with anxiety, which has led to depression I guess." — Bangshowbiz

Lifestyle | Music & Movies

'I Did Something Bad': Taylor Swift re-crafts sound and reputation



In her rise to pop superstardom, Taylor Swift was once earnest and anodyne, her life's disappointments more a chance for songs of perky commiseration than of rage. The world has changed, or maybe the 27-year-old has grown up. On "Reputation," her sixth studio album, Swift is in a fighting spirit—and the story is all about her.

"Reputation" stars Swift as aggrieved and vindictive—not the singer from her last album "1989" who playfully pointed to the chatter among her ex-lovers, but one wielding a baseball bat and ready to smash stuff up on the video for the new album's first single "Look What You Made Me Do." On "I Did Something Bad," Swift—who breaks new ground on the song by recording a profanity-tells a man who crossed her, "I don't regret it one bit / 'cause he had it coming." In a possible nod to challenges faced by strong women, Swift continues: "They're burning all the witches, even if you aren't one."

More hip-hop, no politics

Swift has always brought autobiographical elements into her songs but on "Reputation" one target is unmistakably clear-Kanye West. The rapper notoriously interrupted Swift as she accepted an MTV award in 2009 and last year infuriated her by boasting that he might be able to have sex with her because he "made that bitch famous."

West's wife, socialite Kim Kardashian, sought to defend her husband at the time by releasing a recording of a telephone conver-

sation in which West appeared to consult Swift about the lyrics. Swift hits back on her latest album: "Friends don't try to trick you / Get you on the phone and mind-twist you / And so I took an ax to a mended fence." The focus on West is all the more striking as "Reputation" for the first time sees Swift embracing hip-hop, completing a transformation from her early days strumming country guitar. "End Game," one of the strongest songs on the album, has Swift collaborating with both rapper Future and English songwriter Ed Sheeran, a close friend, in a finely tuned blend of pop and hip-hop. If the sharp-elbowed tone may reflect the mood of the United States in 2017, one element is strikingly absent-politics. Unlike virtually all A-list pop singers of the moment, the self-described feminist Swift has stayed mum about President Donald Trump. The silence may be refreshing for music fans looking for an increasingly elusive political space in Trump's America. But it also marks a shrewd marketing move for an artist who works on the liberal coasts but whose country roots have ensured her a loyal fan base in conservative states.

Still peaceful with fans

And even if her persona on the album is harder-edged, she is also making sure her real-life reputation among fans stays undisturbed. Swift has made surprisingly few public appearances for "Reputation," instead communicated through safe posts on social media platform Tumblr.



Taylor Swift performs at the DIRECTV NOW Super Saturday Night Concert in Houston. — AP photos

When three years ago she released "1989," one of the top-selling albums of the past decade, Swift also waged a high-profile war against Spotify, accusing the fast-growing streaming site of short-changing artists. Swift has since dropped her campaign and returned to Spotify. But she is keeping "Reputation" off all streaming services for at least one week, hoping to maximize sales.

Swift is less reserved in other areas. She speaks more forthrightly than ever about

sexual desire, even if her imagery is still prim compared with lyrics from stars such as her rival Katy Perry.

"I don't want you like a best friend / Only bought this dress so you could take it off," Swift sings. Swift sharply shifts tone to close the album with a ballad, "New Year's Day." Swift's gentle voice is backed by piano, a reminder of her earlier sound — and that her new "reputation" is also about maturity. — AFP

Execs eye Sony's Spacey gamble as brave possible precedent

With Hollywood roiled by mounting sexual misconduct allegations, studios are monitoring Kevin Spacey's removal from his latest movie as a bold but risky precedent for dealing with scandal-hit talent. Sony and filmmaker Ridley Scott have been praised for cutting the disgraced 58-year-old from "All the Money in the World" but, with the release just six weeks away, the move is expected to be costly. "Sony put people before profits in their decision to cut Spacey from a movie only weeks away from its release," Jeetendra Sehdev, a Hollywood branding expert and bestselling author, told AFP. "The studio has set a new standard in Hollywood, and that's inspiring." Spacey is being replaced by Christopher Plummer for the part as US millionaire J Paul Getty in the story about the 1973 kidnapping of his teenage grandson John Paul Getty III.

audiences find it hardest to forgive allegations of child sexual assault. I doubt we'll be seeing a Spacey comeback," added Sehdev, author of "The Kim Kardashian Principle." "Kevin Spacey was turned toxic for good reason. Audiences judge brands based on how quickly they act. If you value your reputation, you need to get away and stay away from Spacey immediately."

If the decision to drop Spacey was straightforward, the race to finish the movie in time for its original release date is more complicated. Sony and financier Imperative Entertainment had considered nudging the release to 2018, according to Variety magazine. But they wanted it to open ahead of Danny Boyle's FX series "Trust," also about the Getty kidnapping and due to debut in January.

The movie is also expected to be among the favorites for the upcoming awards season but must hit theaters by the end of the year to have a chance at the Oscars. It is not entirely uncharted territory for Scott, who was hit by the death of British legend Oliver Reed three weeks before wrapping "Gladiator" (2000). Then, the director rewrote parts of the movie to include previously filmed scenes featuring Reed and shot new material with a body double digitally spliced with Reed's head.

A gamble

Some 15 years earlier, Robert Zemeckis replaced Eric Stoltz with Michael J Fox five weeks into shooting "Back To The Future," after deciding he'd cast the wrong rising star. Woody Allen and Stanley Kubrick faced similar problems with "September" (1987) and "Eyes Wide Shut" (1999) respectively, both ordering extensive reshoots. While digital trickery is never straightforward, the technology is sufficiently advanced for Plummer to do much of his acting against a green screen, to be pasted into existing footage later.

But it is understood that the preferred option is to bring back co-stars Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Williams for reshoots alongside the stand-in. The extra eight days required for Plummer to replicate Spacey's scenes is expected to cost around \$2.5 million, but the real financial drag could be the new trailers and posters, plus post-production. Whether the gamble pays off will likely depend as much on how slick the substitute looks as the extent to which the taint of scandal has been wiped clean.

"When (Reed) died we had to make sense of the whole end of the film. It's a very weird thing to have to do—particularly then, when the technology wasn't really there at all," "Gladiator" visual effects supervisor Rob Harvey told the BBC. "It was a clever bit of directing and scriptwriting. We just tried to do it as tastefully as possible." — AFP



This file photo taken on February 26, 2015 shows US actor Kevin Spacey posing for photographers on the red carpet ahead of the world premiere of the television series 'House of Cards - Season 3' in London. — AFP

Best known for his role in 1965 as Captain Von Trapp in "The Sound of Music," the 87-year-old was reportedly Scott's original first choice before he was pressured into picking a bigger name. A Massachusetts mother accused Spacey this week of sexually assaulting her 18-year-old son on the holiday island of Nantucket last year. Dropped by Netflix, he has also been accused of attempting to rape a 15-year-old boy in New York and of making advances decades ago on actor Anthony Rapp, when he was 14 years old.

Unprecedented

While filmmakers have been forced into quick recasting decisions before, such a bold move for non-creative reasons in a finished movie is unprecedented. Sony's TriStar has pulled the project from the prestigious closing slot of the AFI Fest in Los Angeles but Scott's crew is racing nevertheless to honor the planned December 22 release.

"Many celebrities misbehave but



Kristen Stewart attends the LA premiere of "Come Swim" at the Landmark Theatre on Thursday, Nov 9, 2017, in Los Angeles. — AP

Kristen Stewart dives into grief in her directorial debut

Kristen Stewart's directing ambitions go all the way back to when she was an 11-year-old performing in the 2002 David Fincher thriller "Panic Room." "I was working with Jodie Foster and I was like, 'I'm going to direct. I'm going to be the youngest director that exists,'" Stewart recalled in an interview. When she, years later, told Foster she was finally making something, Stewart says, "She was like, 'Dude, the first thing you're going to realize is that you have nothing to learn.'"

It took longer than Stewart expected, but she has now made a short film titled "Come Swim." Following premieres at the Sundance Film Festival and the Cannes Film Festival, "Come Swim" debuted Friday on the women's entertainment and lifestyles website Refinery29. The film announces Stewart's filmmaking ambitions and opens a new chapter in the fast-moving career of the 27-year-old actress. Stewart is already developing several other projects, including a script she's writing that's an adaptation of a memoir (Stewart declined to say whose). She's taking two months off acting to write it, and she also hopes to turn "Come Swim" into a feature-length film.

'Aggrandized pain'

"It's my first step into something I've wanted to for a really long time," said Stewart. Stewart spoke in a pair of interviews - one on a balcony in Cannes in May, the other by phone on Thursday. As to the recent sexual harassment scandals that have swamped Hollywood, Stewart pointed to her speech last month at Elle's Women in Hollywood event, where she spoke about the less-noticed harassment of below-the-line crew members. Stewart declined to add to those comments Thursday but acknowledged the industry's gender imbalances

behind the camera have been on her mind.

"I'm so fortunate to be able to have made this movie because it's obviously tougher for women to be heard," said Stewart. "I'm obviously deeply proud of anyone who's able to express themselves freely and it's awesome that we're living in a time where they can." "Come Swim" isn't your standard actor-made directorial debut. It's an 18-minute metaphorical rendering of a feeling, of the overwhelming oppression of heartbreak and grief. A man is submerged, literally, by water everywhere. Stewart describes the film as about "aggrandized pain" and says its imagery has haunted her for four years.

"You don't realize when you're trudging through that water, you feel so alone," says Stewart. "We've all been there. But when you're in it, you feel like you can't participate in life." In many ways, "Come Swim" reflects something essential about Stewart: she is hyper alert to her surroundings and her emotions. It's a quality that has probably helped make her, in the eyes of many, a performer of twitchy, alive sensitivity.

"I am so sensitive it drives me crazy," says Stewart. "It's funny (that) the first movie I wanted to make was basically just a movie about somebody who is like, 'You don't get it! It's horrible!'" Getting behind the camera was also a way for Stewart to be the kind of director she herself appreciates - one who favors discovery over heavily-scripted control. "The worst is when directing becomes correcting," she says. "It's like: 'Do it all yourself then. Why are you even making movies?' I don't want packaged and delivered ideas." "Come Swim," abstract and impressionistic, is certainly not that. For an actress who remains a considerable box-office draw, her film is little concerned with matching audience expectations. — AP

LOUIS CK SAYS HE MISUSED HIS POWER, 'BROUGHT PAIN'

With his career imploding over allegations of sexual misconduct, comedian Louis CK confessed Friday to misbehaving in front of women and expressed remorse for wielding his influence "irresponsibly." The comedian said in a statement that the harassment claims by five women detailed in a New York Times report published Thursday "are true." "I can hardly wrap my head around the scope of hurt I brought on them," he said. "There is nothing about this that I forgive myself for," he wrote. "And I have to reconcile it with who I am. Which is nothing compared to the task I left them with."

He apologized to the cast and crew of several projects he's been working on, his family, children and friends, his manager and the FX network, among others. The 438-word statement ends with the comedian vowing to stop talking and leave the spotlight, stating, "I will now step back and take a long time to listen." The comedian stepped forward on the same day the indie distributor The Orchard said it will scrap the release of CK's film "I Love You, Daddy." CK has already been edited out of the upcoming HBO benefit "Night of Too Many Stars" and his work is being scrubbed from the cable network's vaults.

More fallout came Friday when Netflix said it will not produce a second planned standup special starring the comedian, citing his "unprofessional and inappropriate behavior." He had been tapped for two specials, with the first airing in April. At least five of the comedian's stand-up specials remain on Netflix.

Deep sorrow and empathy

In a further blow, FX Networks and FX Productions said they are ending their association with CK, which means cancellation of a deal with his production company, Pig Newton, and removing him as executive producer on the four shows FX is making with him, including "Better Things," "Baskets," "One Mississippi" and "The Cops." His compensation is ended as well, FX said. CK behaved professionally on all his series for FX, "as far as we know," according to a statement Friday. "However, now is not the time for him to make television shows," FX said. "Now is the time for him to honestly address the women who have come forth to speak about their painful experiences, a process which he began today with his public statement."



In this Feb 28, 2016 file photo, Louis CK arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills. — AP

Actress and writer Pamela Adlon, whose work with CK includes TV's "Better Things," said Friday that she and her family "are devastated and in shock after the admission of abhorrent behavior by my friend and partner." "I feel deep sorrow and empathy for the women who have come forward," she wrote, asking for privacy to process the situation before she could say more. Adlon, who stars in "Better Things," also appeared on his comedy "Louie" and is in "I Love You, Daddy," the new film that was pulled from release Friday following allegations of sexual harassment by CK. He lost another film Friday, when Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment said they have "terminated their relationship" with CK on the planned animated comedy "The Secret Life of Pets 2."

Flood of accusations

CK provided the voice of Max the dog in "The Secret Life of Pets," which was released last year. The comedian's publicist, Lewis Kay, also announced Friday on Twitter that "As of today, I no longer represent Louis CK." CK is the latest high-profile man caught in a flood of accusations that began after an October report in the New York Times alleging that Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed or assaulted several women. Others who face sexual harassment or assault accusations include "House of Cards" star Kevin Spacey and filmmaker Brett Ratner. The widening allegations have also reached former "Gossip Girl" actor Ed Westwick. The BBC scrapped a TV series in the wake of rape allegations against Westwick. The broadcaster also paused filming on the 1980s-set sitcom "White Gold," which stars Westwick. He has been accused of raping two women. Actor Jeremy Piven also took to social media to once again declare his innocence of sexual misconduct, saying on Twitter he hopes the string of sexual harassment allegations will lead to "a constructive dialogue on these issues" but warned about "false accusations." "We seem to be entering dark times - allegations are being printed as facts and lives are being put in jeopardy without a hearing, due process or evidence. I hope we can give people the benefit of the doubt before we rush to judgment," he wrote. Piven, who has been accused by two women of sexual misconduct, faces a fresh accusation made against him from an advertising executive. Tiffany Bacon Scourby told People magazine that Piven held her down while he performed a sex act at a hotel 14 years ago.

The crisis has also roiled the world of journalism, with editors at The New Republic and NPR losing their jobs. The latest accusation involved Rolling Stone: Ben Ryan, a freelance writer, accused the magazine's publisher, Jann Wenner, of sexual harassment, saying Wenner offered a writing contract if Ryan spent the night at the publisher's Manhattan townhouse. Wenner acknowledges he did attempt to have a sexual liaison but denied offering a writing contract for sex. — AP



A screenshot from the film 'I Love You, Daddy'

Iran's first Oscar submission directed by woman causes stir



Iranian film director Narges Abyar gives an interview to The Associated Press at her home in Tehran. — AP



Iranian actress Gelareh Abbasi, right, plays in a scene from "Nafas, or Breath".



Iranian film director Narges Abyar, right, directs a scene of her film "Nafas, or Breath," in the city of Yazd.

A movie about a young girl whose fantasy world helps her escape the hard realities of growing up in the countryside near Tehran in the aftermath of the 1979 Islamic Revolution is Iran's first-ever submission for the Academy Awards' foreign film directed by a woman. But not everyone is celebrating.

The mixed reaction to Narges Abyar's film "Nafas," or "Breath," shows how art cuts across Iranian politics, both at home and abroad. Hard-liners have criticized the movie, and it remains unclear whether Abyar and her husband would even be able to get a visa to attend the Oscars in March under President Donald Trump's travel bans. Nominations for the Oscars will be announced in January. Yet the 47-year-old director and writer Abyar remains confident in the power of art to bridge cultural and political divides.

"Cinema, culture and art do not recognize any border, but in fact bring humanity closer together," she told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "Breath" focuses on Bahar, a lively girl whose asthmatic father is bringing her and her siblings up on his own, with the help from the children's religious grandmother. The film shows the rapid changes that hit Iran after the Islamic Revolution, and later, as Scud missiles fall, Iraq's invasion of Iran and the start of the ruinous eight-year war.

Parts of the film take place in Bahar's imagination as she tries to escape the hardship around her. "Don't let her read so much. She'll go crazy," the grandmother tells Bahar's dad in a scene shown in the film's trailer. "Granny is right," Bahar later muses. "You go crazy when you read books a lot." Abyar acknowledges she

made an anti-war film. "The only thing that could destroy her fantasies and imagination was war," Abyar said of Bahar's character. "This film shows us the obscene face of war that we should avoid, this is what politicians won't tell you," she added. Bahar refuses to attend Quranic classes, alleging her teacher was being mean to her. Her uncle later teaches the girl how to read the holy book - though she prefers another that she found despite a plot she cannot grasp, a story about girls being kidnapped and put in a house full of prostitutes. Not surprising-

“Cinema, culture and art do not recognize any border”

ly, the film's topics have proven controversial for Iran's hard-liners who describe the Iran-Iraq war in religious terms as the "Holy Defense" of the Shiite power from dictator Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated government.

They have unleashed criticism on Abyar, despite the fact that her first film, "Shiar 143" or "Track 143," earned her hard-liners' praise for focusing on the role of mothers during the Iran-Iraq war. "This movie is showing exactly what our enemies in the West want to see," said hard-

line cleric Ahmad Alamolhoda, an ally of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Negative propaganda
Gen Mohammed Reza Naghdi, a senior commander of Iran's powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, offered a similar view. "The West is already spreading enough negative propaganda against us, so we shouldn't spend our taxes on such a film," Naghdi said, citing that the state-run Farabi Cinema Foundation submitted "Breath" for the Oscar.

Iran's moderate President Hassan Rouhani, now in his second term in office, has promised to increase women's participation in film, though it isn't clear whether his pledge helped tip the scales and win Abyar the nomination for "Breath." Art can be a dangerous profession in Iran and filmmakers have fallen into trouble before. Award-winning Iranian filmmaker Keywan Karimi was released in April, after serving about five months of his year-long sentence over his work, though he escaped the 223 lashes that were part of his sentence. He later told the AP that he doesn't know whether he'll make movies again in the Islamic Republic. International politics also comes into play in Iran's cinema.

While the Farabi Cinema Foundation routinely submits films to the Academy Awards, tensions rise and ebb between Iran and the US in the years since the 1979 revolution and takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran. While tensions appeared to ease slightly under President Barack Obama and with the 2015 nuclear deal, Trump has taken a much harder

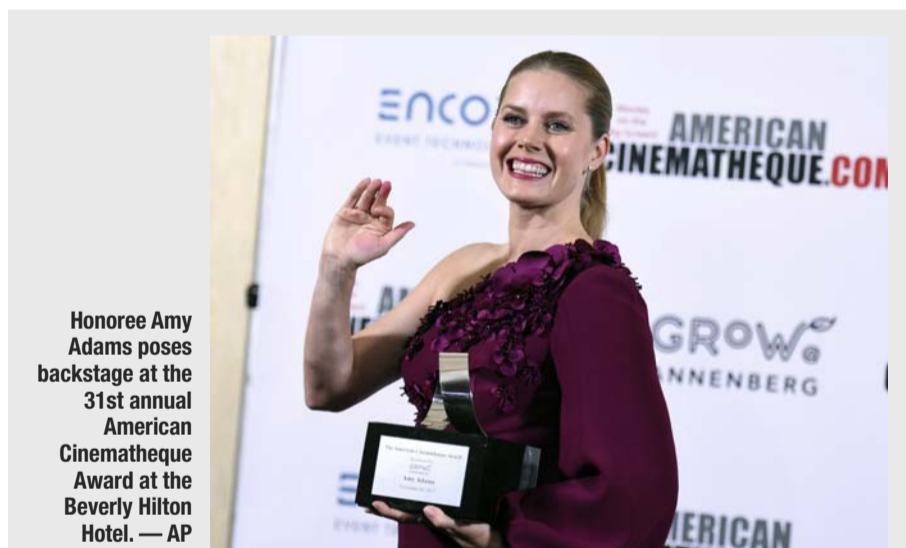


Narges Abyar, left, sits with her husband Mohammad Hossein Ghasemi, who is her film producer, during an interview.

line than his predecessor. Iran has been on every iteration of Trump's travel ban predominantly targeting Muslim-majority nations. Iran also has been removed from the US green card lottery as well.

Last year, Iranian director Asghar Farhadi won his second Oscar with his film "The Salesman," but declined to attend the award ceremony because of Trump's travel ban. But even he faces criticism from hard-liners and has

been working on his next film outside of the country. For Abyar, she and her husband would attend the awards if they are granted visas, she said, though she didn't hold back from criticizing Trump herself. "We should go for a language that brings nations closer together, not the language of hatred or the one that creates a gap between nations," she said. "This is a thing that is happening in the US and we see that the art community does not like this." — AP



Honoree Amy Adams poses backstage at the 31st annual American Cinematheque Award at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. — AP

Hollywood takes break from scandals to honor Amy Adams

Scandal-hit Hollywood left its woes behind Friday to honor Amy Adams for a glittering career that has seen her go from waitress to five-time Oscar nominee. The 43-year-old-famous-for-the-diversity-of-her-film-roles-told-AP-ahead-of-being-presented-with-the-31st-American-Cinematheque-Award-that-her-proudest-moment-was-her-first-nod-for-2005-comedy-"Junebug."

"It really depends where I am in my life, but right now I'm looking for films with a specific message," she said on the red carpet in Beverly Hills as she weighed her 18-year career. "It can be very subtle, but I want it to mean something to me and move me forward in my life." A host of A-listers paid tribute to Adams in a rare celebration at the end of a week which has seen the industry tarnished by unprecedented allegations of sexual misconduct.

"I'm always happy when I show up at work and she's there," Michael Shannon, who starred alongside Adams in 2016 neo-noir thriller "Nocturnal Animals," as well as two "Superman" movies, told AFP. "I've never seen her be anything but hard-working and easy to be around." Adams's four other Oscar nominations were for best actress in "American Hustle" and supporting-actress roles for "Doubt," "The Fighter" and "The Master" - but she has never won the coveted statuette.

"I think Amy and I have the same attitude about it. We just feel fortunate that we're a part of this business to begin with," two-time Oscar nominee Shannon told AFP. Adams's award was a welcome moment of levity in a difficult week of soul-searching in Hollywood, which has seen the Harvey

Weinstein sexual misconduct scandal expand to envelope Oscar-winner Kevin Spacey and comic actor Louis CK.

'Striking'

"It's sad that people have been hurt and I'm glad that something is being done about it," said Shannon, 43. Adams's movie credits have included awards season favorites such as "Arrival" and box-office smashes such as "Enchanted" and "Man of Steel." She won Golden Globes for her work in "American Hustle" and "Big Eyes." Adams was presented with the American Cinematheque Award for "making a significant contribution to the art of the motion picture" by "Doubt" co-star Meryl Streep. Among those expected to attend the star-studded event at the plush Beverly Hilton were Tom Hanks, Jake Gyllenhaal, Chris Messina, Kristen Stewart and Natalie Portman. Adams was raised in a Mormon family in Colorado-one of seven children, all of whom, she says, liked to act.

She did not tread the boards in high school, but took a job at a theater where she worked as a waitress. It was not until she moved to Minnesota that a producer saw her in the chorus line of "Anything Goes." Her first film role was as Leslie in "Drop Dead Gorgeous" (1999), which tells the story of girls in a Minnesota town competing in a beauty pageant. Her co-star in the film, Kirstie Alley, recognized her star power and urged her to move to Los Angeles. Villeneuve, who directed Adams in "Arrival," told AFP he was captivated by her performance in "The Master." Paul Thomas Anderson's acclaimed 2012 psychological drama. — AFP

DISNEY HOPES FOR ITS NEXT BLOCKBUSTER IN NEWEST 'STAR WARS'

Disney's \$4 billion deal for Lucasfilm and "Star Wars" just keeps getting better for the House of Mouse. The company is banking on the latest installments, "The Last Jedi" in December and a Han Solo movie in May, to drive people to theaters. But that's far from the end of money-making opportunities from Han Solo, R2-D2, Kylo Ren and Rey. In fact, CEO Bob Iger said Thursday that the company is now planning a brand-new "Star Wars" trilogy, which will be the fourth in the franchise.

Disney has drawn big profits from the strengths of its TV channels - namely ESPN - but that growth is challenged as more people dump cable subscriptions. As people turn to online replacements such as Netflix, Disney is hoping to lure them with a streaming service planned for 2019. "Star Wars" movies will be a big part of that; so will a new "Star Wars" series Iger also announced Thursday. Disney also wants to squeeze cash from "Star Wars" fans in the forms of toys and theme park visits and hotel stays.

Movie money

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens," released in December 2015, pulled in more than \$2 billion in worldwide ticket sales, trailing only "Avatar" and "Titanic" as the best-selling theatrical release ever (without adjusting for inflation). It also bumped up home entertainment revenue from DVD sales. "Rogue One," last year's installment, made over \$1 billion in global box-office revenue. "The Last Jedi" will continue from where "Force" left off. Michael Nathanson of MoffettNathanson has a "somewhat conservative" estimate of \$1.9 billion in box-office haul for the film. He also expects the latest "Avengers" installment to bring in \$1.3 billion. Big-budget, sequel-generating movies deliver big wins for studios. In fiscal 2016, when Disney released "The Force Awakens," the studio's profit was \$2.7 billion. That's expected to fall this year and jump back up to \$2.84 billion in 2018, thanks to "The Last Jedi" and several Marvel movies. In the July-September quarter, however, the studio's revenue fell 21 percent to \$1.43 billion. "Cars 3" wasn't as big a hit as "Finding Dory" in 2016. Overall, The Walt Disney Co.'s net income slipped 1 percent to \$1.75 billion. Revenue dropped 3 percent to \$12.78 billion.

Disney Empire

Disney is funneling its movie hits to other parts of its sprawling empire to help it make money repeatedly from its intellectual property. For example, "Star Wars"-themed areas at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida will open in 2019. "They're huge and I



Plush Disney characters piled up in a display at a Disney Store in Saugus.

think very exciting in terms of how we're using technology to create really interesting attractions and experiences," Iger said at a September investment conference.

The company is also planning a "Star Wars"-themed hotel at Walt Disney World in Florida. Disney touts it as an "immersive" experience; guests will be able to dress up as their favorite characters. Disney is making other big investments in its parks, too, as it races to catch up with Universal's enormously popular Harry Potter-themed areas. In the latest quarter, revenue rose 6 percent to \$4.67 billion, helped by the international parks. In the US, Hurricane Irma shut down Walt Disney World for two days, hurting domestic results. Analysts expect merchandise revenues to get a bump in fiscal 2018; Nathanson cites the "Star Wars" and Marvel movies, as well as "Frozen" coming to Broadway, as drivers.

Gearing up against Netflix

The movies will also serve as a lure for Disney's streaming service, which will contain hundreds of movies and thousands of TV episodes and shorts. Pixar, "Star Wars" and Marvel films will be included along with Disney-brand video. Disney's deal with Netflix is expiring and won't be renewed, making the new service the exclusive online home for much of Disney's prime content.

Morgan Stanley estimates that the service can, after a decade, become a nearly \$5 billion-a-year business, with roughly 30 million subscribers. (Netflix's streaming revenues for just the last nine months were \$8.1 billion, with 109 million subscribers.) Disney will lose out on hundreds of millions from Netflix when it pulls its movies, and UBS estimates that it needs 32 million subscribers for the app just to break even. — AP



This file image provided by Lucasfilm shows a scene from the upcoming "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," expected in theaters in December. — AP photos

Lifestyle | Features



A late afternoon view of Piotrkowska Street in downtown Lodz, Poland. — AFP photos



A view of a new tram station known as The Unicorn Stable.

A changing Polish city dreams of Expo 2022

Under a massive glass roof, the ultramodern new train station in Lodz, a central city in Poland, already appears ready to welcome visitors for a 2022 international expo that the former textile capital dreams of hosting. The station will form the new heart of the rapidly changing city, which gradually lost its luster after years of grandeur at the end of the 19th-century. Lodz hit hard times after communism fell and dozens of fabric factories closed.

By the early 1990s, more than 20 percent of the population was unemployed and the city began to empty. Last year there were 696,000 residents, down from 854,000 in 1988. Now Lodz wants to renew itself. It selected "City Re-Invented" as its theme for the Specialised Expo 2022/23, which is like a smaller World Expo that showcases a precise challenge facing humanity. "At the Expo, we want to talk about how you can breathe new life into post-industrial cities. It's a problem that affects many countries around the world," Lodz mayor Hanna Zdanowska said.

To make its dream come true, Lodz still has to beat Buenos Aires and Minneapolis. Delegates from the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) will choose the winner in Paris on November 15. To breathe life back into its city centre, Lodz is thinking big. A total of 300 hectares will be revitalized, including

buildings, streets and parks. "It's rare to be able to build a city from scratch. We have that chance," Zdanowska said. Everything has been rethought: new uses have been cooked up for industrial public buildings. Beautiful apartment blocks, villas and palaces are to be renovated. New roads are to be built. All for a sum of 20 billion zloty (4.7 billion euros, \$5.5 billion), according to Zdanowska.

terms of growth rate. Chicago was number one. The ruthless capitalism of those years was depicted in "The Promised Land", a 1899 novel set in Lodz written by Nobel Prize-winner Wladyslaw Reymont. A screen version was later directed by Andrzej Wajda, one of a number of leading figures in the film world to study at Lodz's well-known cinema school. To this day around 140 large red-brick factories from the 19th-century form part of the landscape of downtown Lodz. Most have lain abandoned for years, though a few have been turned into malls, art centers or loft apartments. The former power station EC1, for example, is now the largest arts and science centre in Poland.

Believing in their city again

Lodz is also known for its art, attracting visitors to its design and photography festivals. "It was a working-class town and not bourgeois, with all its cultural baggage, which paradoxically is a good thing because you could do more things that are impossible elsewhere and still can," said Michal Piernikowski, who heads the Lodz Design Festival. "The level of madness and I mean that in a positive sense of the city and its residents is greater than anywhere else," he said. Piernikowski is also active at The Art Factory, a former textile factory that with



The history of Lodz could give a person vertigo

'The Promised Land'

The history of Lodz could give a person vertigo. In 1820, the city numbered only 800 people. A century and an industrial revolution later, there were 500,000 people living in the city nicknamed the Polish Manchester. At the time, Lodz was home to Poles, Jews and Germans and was ranked number two in the world in



People are seen sitting inside The Art Factory. The former textile factory now offers co-working space, exhibitions, concerts and support for creative entrepreneurs.

the city's help now offers co-working space, exhibitions, concerts and support for creative entrepreneurs. Its red brick walls have been renovated with care, without changing the post-industrial essence of the space. Even the 19th-century wooden warehouse floors have been maintained. Whatever comes of the Expo 2022 decision, Lodz already feels like a winner. Investors have noticed the changes and are once again setting up factories in the city.

Today Lodz is one of Europe's household appliance manufacturing hubs, as well as a popular spot for bank headquarters and service centers. "The greatest success of this revitalization project is that the residents themselves have begun to believe in their city, which didn't use to be the case," said Marcin Obijalski, director of the revitalization division of the mayor's office. "Until now Lodz was considered a grey city by residents and out-of-towners alike. That's no longer the case." — AFP



A tourist standing in front of a building decorated with a mirror mosaic by artist Joanna Rajkowska.

INDONESIAN MUSEUM REMOVES NAZI EXHIBIT AFTER GLOBAL OUTRAGE



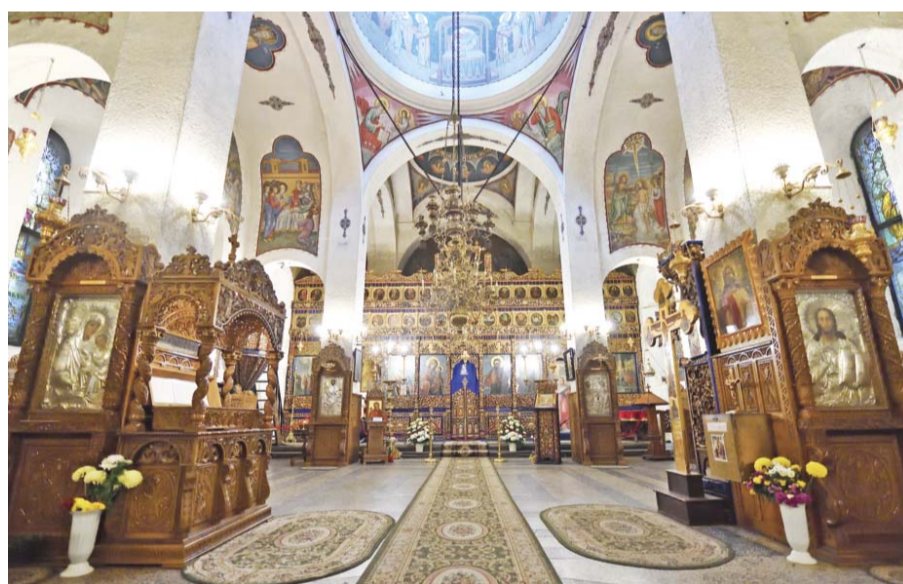
This photograph taken on November 10, 2017 shows an Indonesian woman take a selfie with a life-size wax sculpture of Adolf Hitler at a museum in Yogyakarta. — AFP

JAKARTA: An Indonesian museum that allowed visitors to take selfies with a life-size wax sculpture of Hitler against a backdrop of Auschwitz concentration camp has removed the exhibit following international outrage, the manager said yesterday. De ARCA Statue Art Museum in the Javanese city of Jogjakarta drew swift condemnation from rights groups after details of the controversial display were published in foreign media.

The exhibit features a sure-footed Hitler standing in front of a huge photo of the gates of Auschwitz—the largest Nazi concentration camp where more than 1.1 million people were killed. The museum's operations manager, Jamie Misbah, said the wax sculpture had been removed after the building was alerted to criticism from prominent Jewish human rights organization the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"We don't want to attract outrage," Misbah told said. "Our purpose to display the Hitler figure in the museum is to educate." The Hitler sculpture is one of about 80 figures, including world leaders and celebrities, at the wax and visual effects centre. The Nazi-themed exhibit was a popular attraction for visitors to take selfies, and photos circulating on social media show customers—including children—posing with Hitler and in some cases using the Nazi salute.

Misbah said he thought it was "normal" for visitors to take photos in front of displays, but said the museum respected the exhibit had upset people from around the world. Historians have blamed poor schooling for the lack of awareness and sensitivity about the Holocaust in Indonesia, which is home to the world's biggest Muslim population and a small number of Jews. In January, a controversial Nazi-themed cafe in the western Javanese city of Bandung closed. The venue, which featured swastika-bearing walls and photos of Hitler, sparked global uproar when reports about the unusual venue surfaced several years ago. — AFP



Orthodox church Sfantul Ioan Nou (Saint John the New), one of the moved churches, is pictured in Bucharest. — AFP photos



Orthodox church Mihai-Voda, built in 1594 by Prince Michael the Brave, which was moved some 289 meters, is pictured in Bucharest.

How churches were lifted to safety in communist Bucharest

A bit bruised but still standing, old Orthodox churches can be found around Bucharest, having escaped the frenzied demolition of the Romanian capital in the 1980s ordered by ex-communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. At least 10 jewels of Romania's religious heritage from the 16th to 19th centuries survived due to an engineering tour de force: they were moved and hidden away.

Engineer Eugeniu Iordachescu was head of an institute at the time that was confronted with the architectural whims of Ceausescu and his wife Elena. The couple had been impressed with Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, and got the idea to bulldoze the historic centre of Bucharest to make way for a government district dominated by a gigantic "House of the People". The demolitions had already started when Ceausescu inquired about the width of Bucharest's main Kiseleff road.

"Someone said 50 meters, another 70 meters. Then Ceausescu said, 'Make the boulevard 90 meters wide'. That had major implications. You had to destroy 20 meters more on each side," recalled Iordachescu, now 88 years old. When the engineer went out to evaluate the impact of the destruction, he was enchanted by a small Orthodox church, Schitul Maicilor (meaning the Nuns' Convent), built in 1725.

"A jewel that had to be saved no matter the cost," he said. "After months of wracking my brains, God enlightened me." Inspired by "the waiter who carries glasses on a tray without spilling a drop", he said he imagined



a "concrete tray" built under the church. Detached from its foundations, the church was lifted and placed on rails and moved to a new location with the help of hydraulic jacks and winches.

Schitul Maicilor, with its beautiful exterior paintings, was the first church saved in June 1982, moved 245 meters. It was tucked away behind a massive building that today houses the state's intelligence service. "The sight of a church bothered Ceausescu. It didn't matter if they demolished or moved it, as long as it was no longer in sight," according to the capital's former chief architect

Alexandru Budisteanu. "Relics that were seen (by the Communists) as forming part of an outdated city model were to be removed.... Some churches were kept but banished to the backyards, possibly to avoid provoking the religious population," according to the recently published "Mobile Churches", a book of photographs by Anton Roland Laub, a Romanian photographer.

Nine more churches, including seven in Bucharest, were saved thanks to the "concrete tray" method and then concealed behind the new huge communist buildings. Among them was the Mihai-Voda church,

built in 1594 by Prince Michael the Brave, which endured the longest trip, moved some 289 meters. Iordachescu says his proudest feat was the moving of the Orthodox synodal palace, a 9,000-tonne building, including the basement, in 1985.

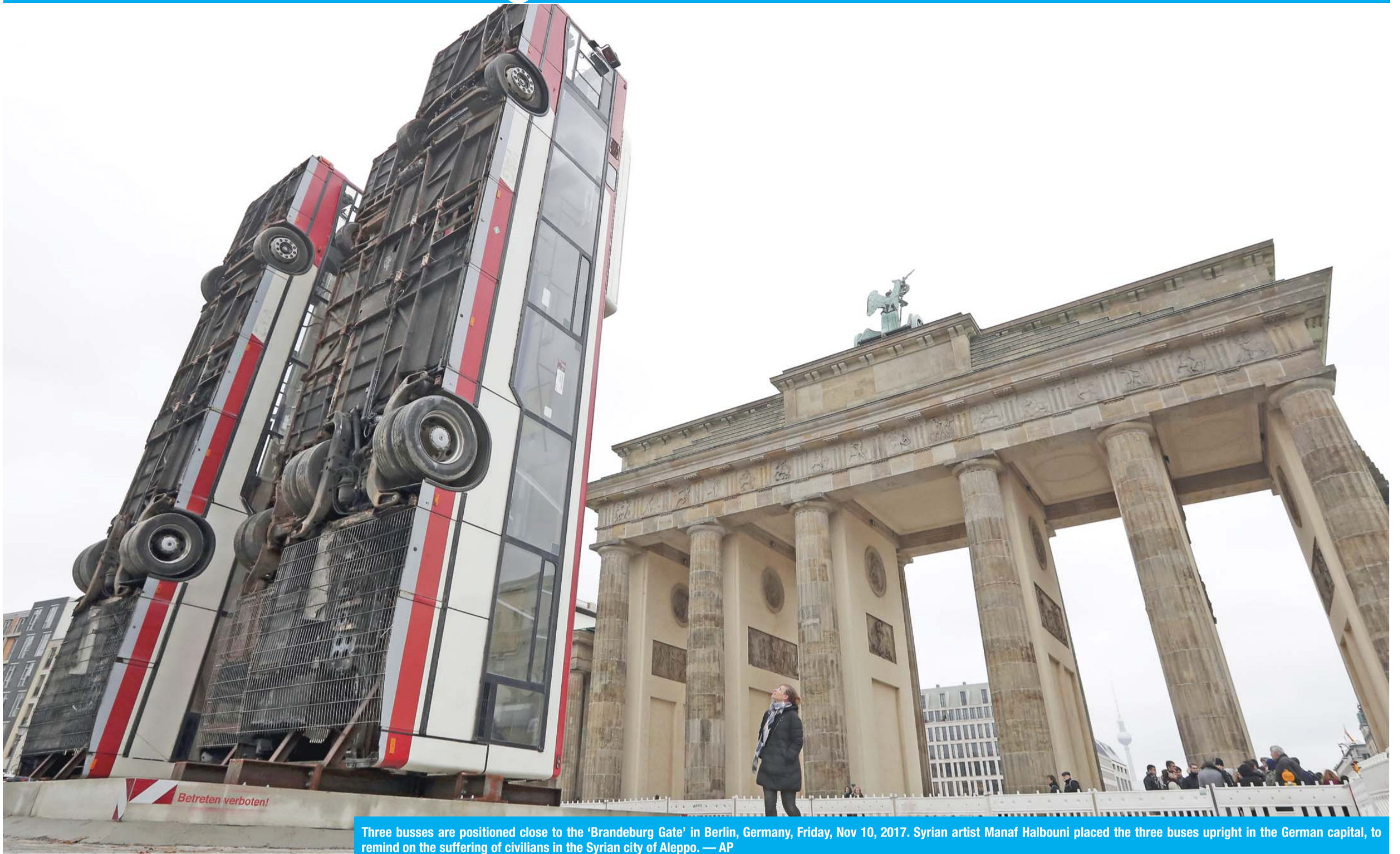
A 'priceless' effort

While some churches were saved, many more were lost. Bulldozers knocked down 22 churches between 1977 and 1987, making way for Ceausescu's grandiose plans for Bucharest, which ultimately demolished a fifth of the capital, the legacy of the dictator executed in 1989 after the overthrow of communism.

"When are you going to move that church?" Iordachescu recalled Ceausescu would say during his weekly visits to the construction sites. A simple wave of his hand could lead to the demolition of a building or an entire road. "The Orthodox Church managed to save what it could. A more radical attitude, an open conflict with the communist regime, would not have accomplished more," the spokesman for the patriarchate, Vasile Banescu, told AFP. But paradoxically, Ceausescu, who advocated atheism, paid for moving the churches, which Banescu attributed to his "peasant origin which preserved a certain respect for religion". A campaign led by Western media to save Romania's heritage also helped, Iordachescu added. And how much did that rescue effort cost? "A building erected 400 or 500 years ago is priceless," the engineer simply responded. — AFP

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017



Three buses are positioned close to the 'Brandenburg Gate' in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Nov 10, 2017. Syrian artist Manaf Halbouni placed the three buses upright in the German capital, to remind on the suffering of civilians in the Syrian city of Aleppo. — AP

Made-in-Italy: A 'Disneyland for foodies'

A gastronomic theme park designed as a celebration of Italy's field-to-fork food culture opens next week with backers aiming to pull in six million visitors a year. Dubbed a 'Disneyland for foodies' and billed as the biggest venture of its kind in the world, FICO Eataly World is located on the outskirts of Bologna. It is the brainchild of Oscar Farinetti, the entrepreneur behind Eataly, a global network of upmarket Italian food halls that has taken New York and a string of other major cities around the world by storm in recent years.

Spread over ten hectares, the park, which will operate as a conference venue as well as a tourist attraction, will be run by a partnership of Eataly and Italian retail group Coop. The venue has been financed by a consortium of private investors and the local authorities in a city famed for its rich cuisine but off Italy's main tourist track. The FICO of the park's name comes from the acronym for Fabbrica Italiana Contadina (Italian Farming Factory). Fico is also the Italian word for a fig, and a popular slang term for 'cool'. The multiple meaning is in keeping with Farinetti's multi-faceted vision of a venue that will allow visitors to take part in activity workshops ranging from food photography to gelato-making via the basics of truffle hunting.

'Total panic'

A fifth of the park, assembled in what was the city's wholesale fruit and vegetable market, is outdoors with some 200 animals and 2,000 species of plant life due to be on show. "Education is fundamental to the whole thing. But it is also about having fun, eating, shopping," Farinetti told AFP in an interview ahead



Fishmongers present fish dishes at a stand during a press tour at FICO Eataly World agri-food park in Bologna. — AFP photos

of Wednesday's opening. The park is also about celebrating the culinary and farming crafts that lie behind many of Italy's most famous gastronomic products, and the biodiversity of a country that stretches from Mediterranean islands within sight of Africa to

snow-capped Alpine peaks. Visitors can explore that diversity via more than 40 eateries and a similar number of learn-how-its-done displays by specialist producers of everything from rare-breed beef to liquorice sweets.

As the opening date nears, Farinetti says he

is caught between rampant enthusiasm at seeing a dream realised, and "total panic." "This for me is quite normal. I'm terrified that people won't come in the numbers we expect. You can't help but feel panicked when you start something like this." Park CEO Tiziana Primori said

the target was to be drawing six million visitors a year by 2020, with the business plan envisaging a third coming from the local area, a third from the rest of Italy and a final tranche of around two million from abroad.

Betting on success

Asked if that target is realistic, Farinetti responds with a broad smile. "No, it's utopian, but every project I have been involved with has been utopian. The whole world is realistic, I prefer utopia. I don't know if we will make it but we'll give it our all." Underpinning that ebullience is the success enjoyed by almost all of the Eataly stores that have been opened from Copenhagen to Sao Paolo.

"At the moment there is an absolutely crazy interest in Italian food from the citizens of the world, for pasta, for pizza, for our simple cuisine," said Farinetti. That, he says, is down to the ease in which dishes tasted in Italy or in restaurants can be reproduced in domestic kitchens. "You can buy half a kilo of pasta, some extra virgin olive oil and San Marzano tomatoes and go home and make what you had. And it is very digestible and light."

Among those backing Farinetti's vision is Antonio Capaldo, owner of the Feudi San Gregorio wine company and one of dozens of entrepreneurs involved in the project. Capaldo has teamed up with a seafood wholesaler to create a fish-based fast-food eatery at the park which will showcase his expanding company's white and sparkling wines. "We know all the complications but there is a great thirst for Italian culture around the world, and that, combined with Oscar's track record, is why we are betting on this being a success," he said. — AFP



Pizza bakers prepare traditional pizza margherita during a press tour at FICO Eataly World agri-food park.



Sweet pastry on display at a stand.



A vendor presents special Italian sheep 'kebab' at a stand.