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Amir, Erdogan hold key talks, seal numerous bilateral deals

Crown Prince returns after successful medical trip

KUWAIT: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held talks with HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday, as a crisis that has split Qatar from its Gulf neighbors enters its sixth month. Erdogan and Sheikh Sabah discussed "regional and international developments" the KUNA news agency said. A group of nations led by Saudi Arabia and including Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates cut ties with Qatar in June, accusing it of supporting extremists and fostering ties with Riyadh's archrival Iran.

Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, denies the accusations. Kuwait has led mediation efforts in the dispute, while Turkey has stepped in to support Qatar with food imports in the face of a blockade by the Arab states. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said the talks highlighted deep-rooted bilateral relations, ways to bolster them and means to improve cooperation on all fronts.

Kuwait and Turkey also signed a number of agreements in a ceremony held at Bayan Palace with both nations' leaders in attendance. The ceremony brought together HH Sheikh Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Erdogan.

Among the agreements was a deal for cooperation in sports, in which Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry as well as Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan, along with his Turkish counterpart Osman Askin Bak were the signatories. Meanwhile, a memorandum of understanding to encourage bilateral investment was signed by Director General

Continued on Page 11



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA



HH Sheikh Sabah receives HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Amiri airport terminal yesterday. — KUNA

Fake gold jewelry worth KD 50,000 found at Rai store

KUWAIT: Ministry of commerce and industry inspectors discovered 3.940 kg of counterfeit gold products valued at KD 50,000 (\$165,000) at a jewelry store in Al-Rai. The case was later referred to prosecution. The ministry said in a statement yesterday that the forged items were gold jewelry of Indian designs. Cavities in the gold jewelry items were filled with cheap materials in order to increase their weight and sell them as pure gold.

The ministry will take all needed procedures against the forgers, who have already been referred to competent authorities, the statement added. The ministry will increase inspection of gold and jewelry markets to verify validity and condition of scales and percentage of precious stones set within the items displayed for sale. The ministry is supervising all precious metals and stones, whether those displayed at stores, produced in local factories or coming from abroad, it said. — KUNA

Harbi opens state-of-the-art surgery unit at Jahra Hospital

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi yesterday opened the surgery unit at Jahra Hospital after it was fully equipped. "Jahra Hospital is the first public hospital to have the latest cardiovascular information system (CVIS) that links all departments and keeps doctors updated with their patients' info," Harbi said. He affirmed the health ministry aims to achieve the vision of the government to provide the highest standards of performance in order to improve the quality of health services and provide excellent health services to citizens and residents.

Jahra Hospital Director Dr Ali Al-Mutairi said the unit occupies an area of 600 sq m and is fitted out with the latest equipment that will enable doctors to conduct all medical interventions 24/7. The unit is made up of a reception room and five fully-equipped rooms, including



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi tours the surgery unit at Jahra Hospital after its opening yesterday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra (See Page 3)

two main rooms with state-of-the-art medical and sterilization equipment.

The beds in the unit can bear weights of up to 500 kg. There are also examination and operation rooms, a three-bed room, a changing room, a storage room and a room for medical staff. The unit is working with 20 doctors and 50 nurses to provide the necessary medical services to residents of Jahra and nearby areas.

Mutairi pointed out that the importance of this unit stems from the fact that it is an integrated and independ-



ent unit, which makes it easier to carry out minor operations without having to move to other hospital departments. This also reduces the length of stay of the patient in the hospital. He stressed that the opening of the new unit comes within a comprehensive plan to develop the services provided by the hospital in terms of performance and provision of advanced devices. Work on the unit was done by Central Circle, which is a leading company in medical equipment. Central Circle was established in 1979 to provide medical equipment and turnkey solutions.

Kuwait supports Lebanon sovereignty; patriarch meets Saudi king, Hariri

BEIRUT/RIYADH: Kuwait's ambassador to Lebanon told President Michel Aoun his country supports his efforts to overcome the "delicate situation" and stands by Lebanese sovereignty, Aoun said in a tweet yesterday. Lebanon's Saudi-allied Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri declared his resignation on Nov 4 in a broadcast from Riyadh, throwing Lebanon into political crisis. Saudi Arabia, an ally of Kuwait, has accused Lebanon of declaring war on it because of the influence of Iran-backed Hezbollah, and has advised Saudi citizens to leave Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the head of Lebanon's Maronite church, in a historic visit to Saudi Arabia, voiced support yesterday for Hariri over his resignation. Beshara Rai arrived in Riyadh on Monday in the first trip to the kingdom by a senior Lebanese figure since Hariri quit. Hariri had cited fears for his life and accused Hezbollah of controlling Lebanon. "I am convinced by the reasons for his resignation," Rai said. "He will return to Lebanon as soon as possible."

Many observers suspected Riyadh had ordered him to resign, and senior Lebanese politicians have alleged he is under de facto house arrest in the capital. But in his first tweet in several days yesterday, Hariri brushed



RIYADH: Lebanon's Christian Maronite patriarch Beshara Rai meets Saudi King Salman yesterday. — AFP

aside those allegations. "Everybody, I'm totally fine. God willing, I'll be back in these two days. Let's calm down," he wrote. He added that his family would stay in Saudi Arabia, calling it "their country".

Hariri's resignation came against the backdrop of mounting tensions between Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran, which back opposing sides in conflicts and power struggles from Syria to Yemen. Rai's trip to Saudi Arabia, though overshadowed by Hariri's resignation, is significant as it symbolizes a rare inter-religious exchange in the ultraconservative Sunni kingdom, home to the holiest sites in Islam. Rai is the top cleric in Lebanon's powerful Maronite community, and is regularly consulted by both Christian and non-Christian political figures as well as receiving foreign dignitaries when they visit the country.

Continued on Page 11

Qatar leader hails Amir's efforts, says '1,000 times better off' without allies

DOHA: Months into a dispute that has seen Doha cut off from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Qatar's emir said yesterday his country was "a thousand times better off" without them, while lauding mediation efforts exerted by HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In a speech to the Shura Council, the upper house of parliament, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said his government had nonetheless put in place contingency plans as he expected the bitter political dispute with his neighbors and former allies to drag on.

"We do not fear the boycott of these countries against us, we are a thousand times better off without them," the emir told members of the council and foreign dignitaries in Doha. "But vigilance is required," he added. Sheikh Tamim said his government was working on "introducing a number of food security projects" and had "given special attention to water security" as it looked to a future without its former Arab allies. Iran, Turkey and most recently Spain have stepped in to help Qatar secure food imports amid a boycott by four Arab states.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt in June announced they had severed ties with



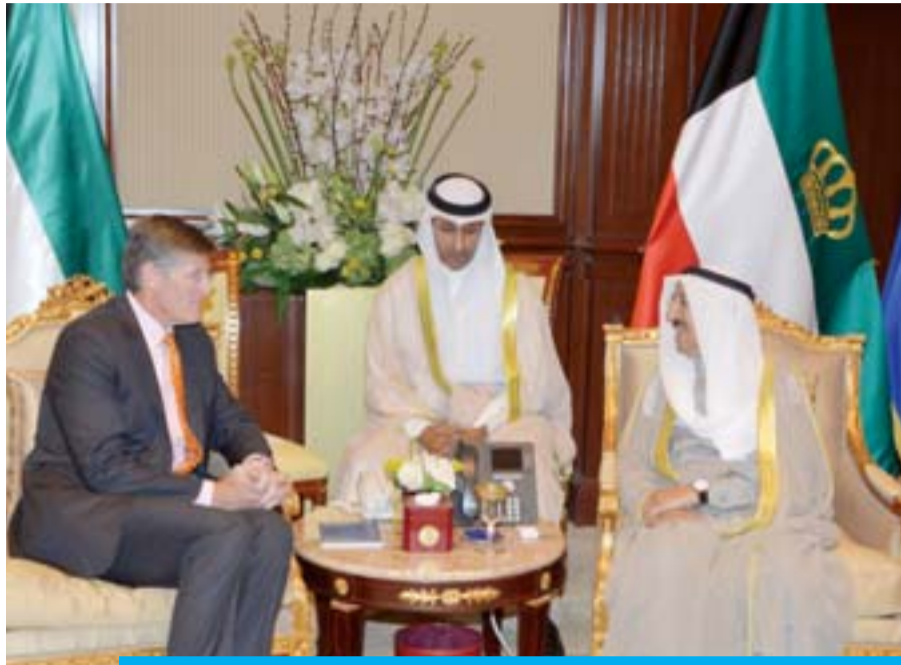
DOHA: Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani addresses the 46th inaugural session of the Qatari Shura Council yesterday. — KUNA

Qatar, sealing off the emirate's only land border in the wide-ranging boycott. They accuse Qatar's government of supporting Islamist extremism and fostering close ties with Iran. Qatar denies the charges, claiming the dispute is an attack on its sovereignty. "We express our readiness for a compromise within the framework of a dialogue based on mutual respect for sovereignty and common obligations, but on the other hand we recognize that the indicators that come from the blockade states show they do not want to reach a solution," Tamim said. The four countries have "put pressure and published rumors and fabrications" against Qatar hosting the World Cup in 2022.

Both parties in the crisis, the worst to grip the Gulf Cooperation Council in its 36-year history, have refused to back down despite mediation attempts by Kuwait and the United States.

Continued on Page 11

Local

Amir meets
Citibank officials

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chief Executive Officer of Citigroup Michael Corbat. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Deputy Director-General and advisor of Citibank Kuwait Hazem Essa Al-Essa. His Highness also received Chief Executive Officer of Citigroup Michael Corbat and Chief Executive Officer of the Middle East and Africa Region Operations at Citigroup Atiq Ur Rehman. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Lawmakers call for technocratic
Cabinet to face regional dangers

Panel discusses naturalization proposals

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Lawmakers yesterday called on His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to form a Cabinet of technocrats which should be competent to face dangerous regional developments. MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei said the new ministerial team must be based on a clear plan of reforms, should consist of technocratic ministers and that personal influences and factors should not be allowed to impact the formation.

The government resigned about two weeks ago following a no-confidence motion against a senior minister after a marathon grilling. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah asked Sheikh Jaber to form the new Cabinet, his seventh since he was appointed to the post in 2011. MPs have been pressing on the premier to speed up the formation and to adopt a new methodology in forming a strong and capable government.

Tabtabaei said he rejects the quota system in forming the Cabinet because it does not serve the Kuwaiti people. He said that he supports picking up technocratic ministers from the ruling family, adding that royal min-

isters should be appointed in suitable portfolios. He remarked the Cabinet is not a cake that is distributed among the ruling family.

Tabtabaei called on the premier to exclude the majority of the outgoing ministers in order to avoid disputes between the Assembly and the government. He also said that he supports calls to postpone grillings at this stage and to ease tensions between the government and the Assembly.

MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said there was no justification to delay the formation of the new cabinet under the pretext of the need to ease tensions between the assembly and the government. He said that crises in the Gulf and the whole region are likely to continue for a long time to come. Dallal insisted that political tensions will ease only when the new government is effective and transparent, works to counter domestic and external challenges and extend a true and real hand of cooperation with the National Assembly.

Meanwhile, MP Safa Al-Hashem, the lone woman in the 50-member house, welcomed reports that the prime minister is working to exclude pro-Muslim Brotherhood members in the new Cabinet. She said reports that the new Cabinet will balance between regional

and domestic requirements are welcome, adding if this means excluding Muslim Brotherhood members, it is a "blessed step".

Naturalization

In the meantime, head of the interior and defense committee MP Askar Al-Enezi said the panel discussed yesterday proposals for the naturalization of children of widowed and divorced Kuwaiti women. He said that the government has failed to apply the law for the past several years, and accordingly scores of children of Kuwaiti women who are widowed or divorced from non-Kuwaiti men have been unfairly treated and left without Kuwaiti citizenship.

He said that under the law, children of Kuwaiti women are entitled to get Kuwaiti citizenship five years after the death of their foreign fathers, and children of Kuwaiti women from foreign spouses can get citizenship after seven years of divorce. But Enezi said that the government has granted only one list of such children in the past five years, and accordingly the government must be made to apply the law. He said that more meetings will take place with the government over the issue.

Turkish leader visits new terminal



KUWAIT: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan poses with workers at the construction site of the new terminal at Kuwait International Airport yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited the new terminal at Kuwait International Airport during his visit to the country yesterday. Erdogan got acquainted with phases of the construction of the terminal. The Turkish President was accompanied by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdallah, Head of Mission of Honor Mohammad Abulhassan and Minister of works Abdulrahman Al-Mutawwa. — KUNA



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other officials listen to a demonstration during their visit to the new terminal at Kuwait International Airport yesterday.

Kuwait says
regional conflicts
prevent SDGs'
implementation

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said Monday conflicts in the region prevented implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in countries witnessing armed conflicts and least-developed nations. Sabeeh, also Minister of State for Economic Development, highlighted importance of contributions of Arab ministries and institutions to boost social-related performance in Arab countries.

Sabeeh, speaking before a meeting of Arab Social Affairs Ministers, said the role of the Arab Parliament was essential to enable the private sector and civil societies achieve development. She said the ministers would discuss terrorism and social development, eradication of poverty and protection of elderly.

Sabeeh said Kuwait was keen on promoting philanthropy and humanitarian action. The Arab ministers, added the Kuwaiti official, would pay a special attention to people with disabilities who should be fully integrated into society. Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs Mohammad Tarabulsi thanked Kuwait for hosting an international conference over the suffering of the Palestinian children. He hoped recommendations of the conference would be enforced to provide protection for the Palestinian children, who were living under the Israeli occupation.

Greater synergy

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit underlined the need for greater synergy among Arab state to tackle the huge demographic, environmental, economic and social challenges facing region and contain their repercussions on people. In his inaugural speech at the session, Abul-Gheit warned that the enormous social and humanitarian backwash of the historic time of change in the Arab World are posing serious threats to societies. The Arab world is undergoing a deep and rapid change, he said. He cautioned that some of the challenges created



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh attends a meeting of Arab Social Affairs Ministers in Kuwait on Monday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

by this situation are tantamount to real menaces to societies' security, stability and welfare. He lamented that the wave of unrest that rattled several Arab countries had a ripple effect on the region.

It has left some societies dismembered, numerous cities destroyed, millions of people displaced and states slid into bloody civil conflicts, he said. Despite these unprecedented complexities, the Arab League chief expressed confidence in the ability of Arab countries in overcoming these difficulties and moving forward to brighter future. Abul-Gheit, however, stressed that both governments and civil society had become more aware of the desperate need for real reforms.

On the terrorism threat, he pointed out that the Arab Social Affairs Council is dealing with the social aspect of the phenomenon. The council is not only interested in answering the question of how to counter terrorism but rather how terrorism did find a foothold in our societies, he suggested.

The Arab League chief also stated that the Arab League is trying to eradicate poverty through the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development plan which was ratified by the Arab leaders in their summit in Nouakchott. He reiterated the call for Arab Social Affairs Council to put in place its five-year plan and fulfill the great tasks assigned

to it. He urged member states to continue their support to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Unified vision

In the meantime, Arab Parliament Speaker Meshal Al-Selmi emphasized the importance of agreeing on a unified Arab vision for achieving social development. In his speech, Selmi welcomed the Arab ministerial meeting follow up deliberations on the required measures to eliminate multi-dimensional poverty and achieve social development based on the ambitious plans of Arab governments. He lauded the Arab League's vision, which has much in common with the Arab Parliament's working paper, on countering poverty from legislative and humanitarian perspectives. He commended the Arab League's strategy for protecting displaced children as well as provision of medical care to elderly people.

Selmi called for increased focus on the psychological needs of elderly people, stressing that need for new legislations to guarantee decent life for this segment of the society. He reiterated the Arab Parliament's readiness to cooperate with the Arab Social Affairs Ministers Council to transform the joint Arab action and overcome challenges obstructing the development of Arab countries. — KUNA

Phase 1 of Mina Al-Ahmadi
sulfur project operated

KUWAIT: The first phase of Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery Sulfur Handling Facilities Project (SHFP) - revamp and new - has been operated, the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) said yesterday. The operation featured the first export shipment of sulfur granules from Mina Al-Ahmadi's Pier 30, on the vessel LADY AMNA, capacity of 32,000 tons, KNPC's CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi. Mutairi added that the first phase includes operating

four reservoirs with total capacity of 18,820 metric tons, and five sulfur granules units with production of 5,000 metric tons daily. In addition, there is a reservoir for granules, 145,000 tons, and an independent solid sulfur pier for 60,000 deadweight (DWT) ships, he noted. The second phase, totally revamping the existing sulfur processing facilities, will be completed by December 2019, the CEO explained said. — KUNA

Kuwait urges
WFP members
to unite against
challenges

ROME: Kuwait representative to UN's World Food Programme (WFP) Yusuf Jhail called on WFP member countries on Monday to unite and initiate dialogue over major issues facing food and agriculture.

Jhail, addressing WFP's Executive Council's annual meeting in Rome, said the council members were following with interest ongoing discussions over UN reforms which would help achieve

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, specially the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

Jhail was presiding the meeting, attended by 36 member countries and other organizations, which was due until tomorrow. WFP Executive Director David Beasley said the world was witnessing an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, while WFP was trying to deal with major emergencies around the globe. He said WFP, which was established to address an urgent incident, has been expanding its role due to the repeated crises.

WFP, which was facing financial strains, was engaged with the UN Secretary General and leaders of international organizations to draw a full-fledged plan and national strategies to better address humanitarian crises, he said. — KUNA

Local



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr. Jamal Al-Harbi opened the surgery unit at Jahra Hospital yesterday. The unit occupies an area of 600 sq m and is fitted out with the latest equipment that will enable doctors to conduct all medical interventions 24/7. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: Dr Ziad Al-Alyan, CEO of Central Circle Company, and the team who delivered the project pose with Dr Ibrahim Wafai, emergency medicine consultant at Jahra ER.



KRCS provides 5,000 vulnerable families with winter clothing

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched winter aid campaign for 5,000 most vulnerable families in Kuwait. The low-income families will get provisions of food and winter clothing, blankets as well as heaters. Volunteer Jaafar Al-Jamali from the local aid department said the distribution of winter clothes started on Monday and would continue "until we reach our target of 5,000 families." He said the clothes would be distributed to needy families, widows, divorcees, patients and low-income individuals.



Separately, the visiting representatives of NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) have lauded KRCS' humanitarian and relief efforts, said Deputy Chairman of KRCS Anwar Al-Hasawi. The NATO PA delegation visited KRCS facilities and viewed the operations center affiliated with the disasters and emergency department, Hasawi stated. They also observed the relief action procedures at the alert and response sector and natural disasters monitoring centers, he added. The NATO PA representatives were also informed about the Society's local efforts such as providing aid to needy families and launching education campaigns to around 5,000 children of all nationalities, he said. The NATO PA delegation also viewed a short film highlighting the Society's various regional and international projects and aid efforts, said Hasawi. KRCS is moving on with providing aid and relief to countries affected by disasters, conflicts and humanitarian crisis, he affirmed. — KUNA



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Local

Ooredoo begins new phase in partnership with Ministry of State for Youth Affairs next week

As part of company's ongoing commitment to supporting youth

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, announced its sponsorship for the Youth Initiative Award for the second consecutive year. The award recognizes volunteer and humanitarian efforts by youth in the Arab region. The announcement came in a press conference that was held last Saturday at the JW Marriott hotel, and is organized in partnership with the Arab Media Forum. More than 860 projects from the Arab world participated in the event, which is judged by a panel that includes a number of leaders in philanthropy in the region. The sponsorship of this event comes in tandem with Ooredoo's core values of caring, connecting and challenging.

Among the participating sponsors of the event were the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, represented by Minister Khaled Al-Roudan; the Environment Public Authority, represented its manager Sheikh Abdullah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah; the Public Authority of Youth represented by its president Abruhrhan Al-Mutairi. The event was also attended by guest of honor Arab League Secretary General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Relief, Sheikh Hessa Al Thani. Speaking at the event, CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani reiterated that Ooredoo's sponsorship comes to reiterate the company's commitment to supporting youth in a variety of fields to enrich their experience, especially volunteerism which is a field that Ooredoo adopted even since the inception of its volunteer program, nearly four years ago.

Al Thani explained that Ooredoo's support for youth is two-fold: through its products and services, and through its corporate social responsibility initiatives. With the regards to the products and services, Al Thani explained that Ooredoo's products and services are tailored specially to cater for the needs of youth and entrepreneurs. This is especially apparent in Ooredoo's participation in launching the Kuwait Business Center earlier this year, which



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani

is a government entity established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that is dedicated to streamlining the process of business licensing for microenterprises in Kuwait. Ooredoo's packages and bundles provide comprehensive solutions at competitive prices, aimed at propelling entrepreneurs towards success, especially in an age where the internet and communication play a major role in all businesses.

Company to sponsor Youth Initiative Award

Regarding the company's corporate social responsibility portfolio, CEO Al Thani noted, "We are proud to be among the first companies to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, extending our support to the governmental entity that dedicates its time and effort to create a better environment for youth across Kuwait. We're proud to say that our sustainable Ooredoo Volunteer Program is a testament to our commitment when it comes to supporting youth, especially in the field of volunteer work."



(From left) Mejbel Al-Ayoub, Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani, Fahad Al-Me'jel, Abruhrhan Al-Mutairi and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah pose with volunteers.



A voluntary team is honored by Ooredoo during the event.

Kuwait Times

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EQUATE celebrates 20th anniversary, new HQ inauguration

KUWAIT: EQUATE Group, a global producer of petrochemicals, hosted a ceremony to celebrate its 20-year anniversary and the official inauguration of its new headquarters, which is located in Ahmadi, Kuwait.

With the attendance of several dignitaries, the celebration was held to coincide with the official inauguration of EQUATE Petrochemical Company on November 12, 1997 under the patronage of the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The celebration, which was titled 'The Shape of Things to Come,' hosted Kuwait's Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq, the Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Chairman and CEO Kuwait Petroleum Corporation of (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani, former and current members of EQUATE's board, as well as several other distinguished guests from Kuwait and around the globe.

Sheikh Fawaz said: "It was my utmost pleasure and pride to participate in celebrating the 20th anniversary and inaugurating the new EQUATE headquarters in Ahmadi with the Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq, KPC CEO Nizar Al-Adsani, and EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain. EQUATE is now part of the integrated industrial and economic community located in Ahmadi Governorate, enabling it to continue its path of excellence as the manifestation of Kuwait's first international joint venture in the petrochemical sector." EQUATE's President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "This event is not



EQUATE's President and CEO Mohammad Husain (right) honors Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq.

only a celebration of past achievements. Rather it is part of EQUATE's journey towards the future based on trust, innovation, sustainability and continuous development. EQUATE's achievements have seen it progress from a local operator to a global producer of petrochemicals and the world's second largest producer of ethylene glycol (EG). We look forward to continue our achievements as contributors to diversifying Kuwait's economy, part of the country's global petrochemical arm and one of the world's main industrial enterprises."

EQUATE's new headquarters is qualified to be certified in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. It is designed, built and operated as a sustainable building that meets the most advanced and eco-friendly universal standards. With a land area of 16,500 square meters, the modern design incorporates international standards reflective of the Group's continuous pursuit of excellence and reliability. The new building's advantages include reducing water consumption by 20 percent, as well as solar panels to generate 5-7 percent of electrical use. The groundbreaking of the headquarters took place in 2015 under the patronage of the Governor of Ahmadi, Ahmadi Governorate is a vital industrial hub including major complexes and marine ports in Kuwait.

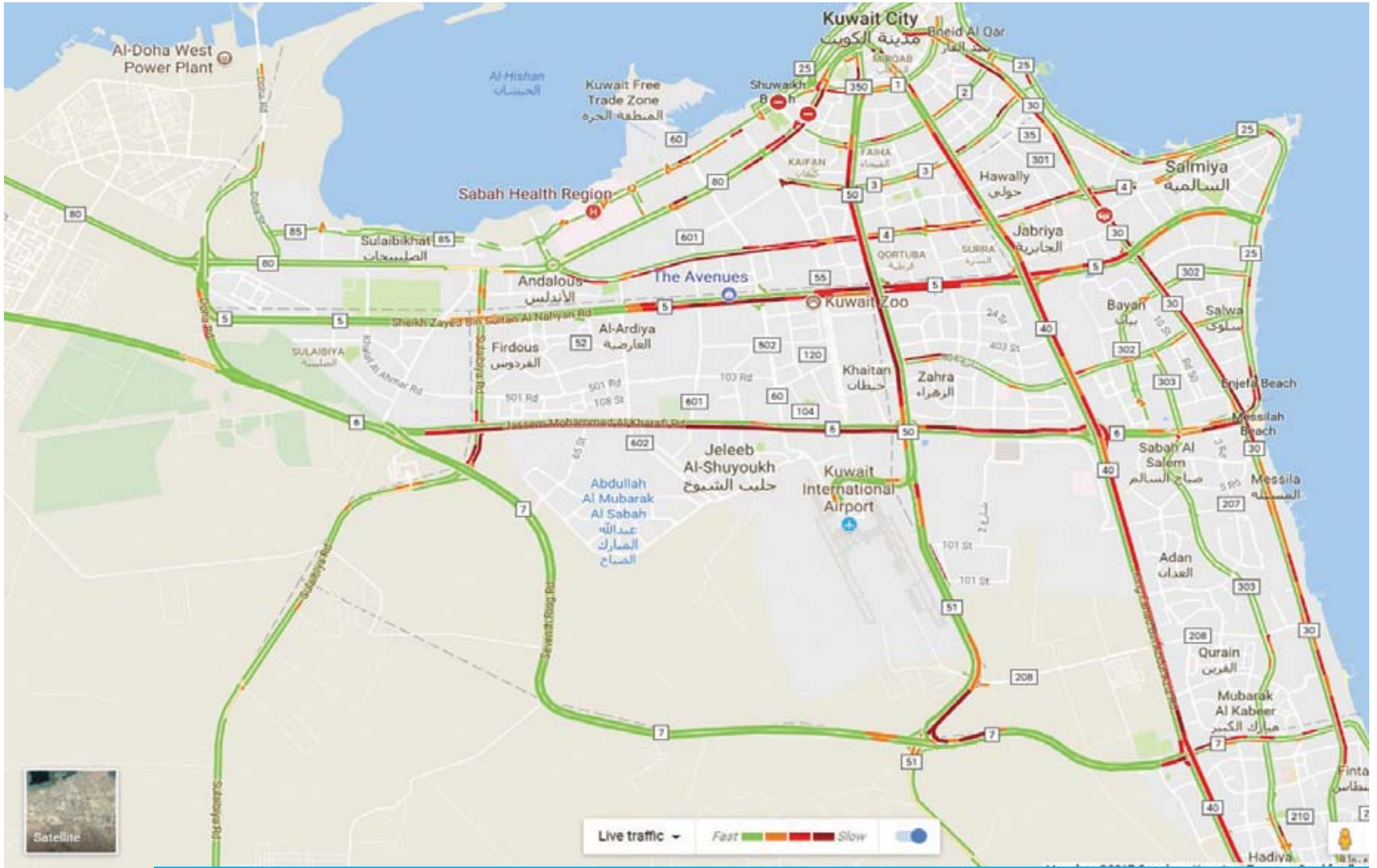


KUWAIT: Officials attend a ceremony to celebrate EQUATE's 20-year anniversary.



A picture taken from inside EQUATE's new head office building.

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Traffic came to a standstill across large parts of Kuwait yesterday as the Google map illustrates. Screenshot at around 5pm, the map shows many major highways including the Fifth Ring, Sixth Ring, Highway 40 and parts of the Fahaheel Expressway completely blocked. No reason was given by authorities for the traffic jams but a visit by the Turkish president to Kuwait yesterday may have affected road closures temporarily.

Two MoH undersecretaries referred to retirement

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) approved referring two assistant undersecretaries at the Ministry of Health, namely Mahmoud Abdul Hadi and Omar Al-Sayyed to retirement effective October 23, 2017.

TEC projects

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said that the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) failed to launch the Jahra Recreational Hall project as a lawsuit concerning it is still being heard in court. Saleh added that TEC is waiting for the final decision on developing Failaka island and to start working on the site allocated for it within the island development plan. Commenting on the closure of Al-Shaab Park and delaying its opening for visitors, Saleh stressed that the park was closed upon court orders which terminated TEC's contract and ordered eviction within four months effective from November 30, 2017. Saleh said that most TEC projects were worn out as the company had been established in the beginning of the 1970s but had not been developed ever since, which made the company prepare field studies about developing some of its projects which were reviewed by the cabinet pending funding plans.

Political issues

The Kuwait International Book Fair, a cultural event

avoiding all political issues regionally prevalent, opens today and lasts until November 25, said Mohammed Saleh Al-Assoussi, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural Affairs at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL). He noted that in addition to being a book fair, the event is also accompanied by several cultural activities such as lectures, seminars and workshops focusing on books and readers' other quotidian concerns. He added that around 482 publication houses from thirty Arab and foreign countries, including 423 private, 53 public and six Arab and International organizations, will take part in the fair displaying over 160,000 books including 11,000 new 2017 publications. Assoussi said that the books include over 7,400 Arabic, over 500 foreign books in addition to 1,080 Arabic and 1,385 foreign books for children. The total number of fair visitors last year was 330,000 with a daily rate of 33,000, hoping that this year's fair will attract as many visitors.

Court cases

The criminal court yesterday abstained from passing a verdict against a female citizen accused of joining the Islamic State (IS) in Sinai. The defendant, who faces charges of joining the terrorist group said that she had left Kuwait after receiving an invitation from a person who identified herself as a member of the organization. After being asked to do things she did not approve of, the woman made a failed attempt to escape, but was detained, and her father paid a ransom of KD 5,000 for her release. Separately, the criminal court sentenced a citizen and a number of expats to jail terms ranging between five and 10 years over charges of smuggling a container full of liquor bottles into Kuwait.

No earthquake

Head of the Green Line environmental group Khaled Al-Hajri has strongly denied rumors about a devastating earthquake predicted to hit Kuwait and other countries in the region soon, which was falsely attributed to the United States Geological Survey Agency in some social media reports yesterday.

Kuwait considers joining UNODC

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti official said Monday his country was considering joining an international agreement to eliminate drug trafficking, commending UN Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) programs that help custom officials in Kuwait combat drug trafficking. Adnan Al-Qedheebi, Deputy Director General of Customs department for land and maritime borders, said the UN has programs that could develop anti-narcotics system in Kuwait. He made the statement following a meeting with Hatem Ali, UNODC's regional chief. Qedheebi said Kuwait's custom department was studying an agreement that would eliminate drug trafficking, before signing it. Osama Al-Roumi, customs department deputy director general for inspection, said Ali briefed them on the UNODC's programs against drugs and crime. Ali said they discussed Kuwait's joining of an international program to monitor containers. This program, he added, aimed at improving national capabilities for inspection of containers. — KUNA

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Turkish Cypriots split over the rise of Islam

Myanmar Rohingya exodus leaves ghostland behind



SARPOL-E-ZAHAB: A woman mourns at an earthquake site in Sarpol-e-Zahab in western Iran, yesterday. Rescuers are digging through the debris of buildings felled by the Sunday earthquake in the border region of Iran and Iraq. — AP

Iran-Iraq quake death toll hits 530

Hungry survivors battle cold • Rescue operations end

ANKARA: Iranian officials called off rescue operations, saying there was little chance of finding more survivors from the earthquake that shook parts of western Iran on Sunday, killing at least 530 people, state media said yesterday. Survivors, many left homeless by the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck villages and towns in a mountainous area bordering Iraq, battled overnight temperatures just above freezing and faced another bleak day yesterday in need of food and water. The death toll of 530, reported by state news agency IRNA, made it Iran's deadliest earthquake in more than a decade. Thousands of people were injured and 30,000 homes damaged. Two whole villages were destroyed.

The quake struck on the Iran-Iraq border, causing most of its damage in Iran despite an epicenter on the Iraq side of the frontier. Iraqi officials said seven people were killed and 325 injured in Iraq, all in the northern Kurdish provinces.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani arrived in the morning in the stricken area in Kermanshah province and promised that the

government would "use all its power to resolve the problems in the shortest time".

Thousands of people huddled in makeshift camps while many others chose to spend a second night in the open, despite low temperatures, because they feared more tremors after some 193 aftershocks, state television said. A homeless young woman in Sarpol-e Zahab, one of the hardest-hit towns, told state TV that her family was exposed to the night cold because of lack of tents. "We need help. We need everything. The authorities should speed up their help," she said.

Television showed rescue workers combing through the rubble of dozens of villages immediately after the quake. But by yesterday morning, Iranian officials said there was no longer any likelihood of finding survivors and called the rescue off.

"The rescue operations in Kermanshah province have ended," Pir-Hossein Koliyand, head of Iran's Emergency Medical Services,

said. Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, offered his condolences on Monday to the victims and called on government agencies to do all they could to help. The



Iran deadliest earthquake in over a decade

Iranian army, the elite Revolutionary Guards and forces of its affiliated Basij militia were dispatched to affected areas on Sunday night.

Bitter cold

Hospitals in nearby provinces took in many

of the injured, state television said, airing footage of survivors waiting to be treated. Hundreds of critically injured were dispatched to hospitals in Tehran. Iran's Red Crescent said emergency shelter had been provided for thousands of homeless people, but a lack of water and electricity as well as blocked roads in some areas hindered aid supply efforts. "People in some villages are still in dire need of food, water and shelter," said the governor of Qasr-e Shirin county in Kermanshah province, Faramarz Akbari. The mayor of Ezgeleh, a city in Kermanshah, said 80 percent of its buildings had collapsed. Survivors desperately needed tents with elderly people and babies as young as one-year-old sleeping in the cold for two straight nights.

In an interview with state television, Nazar Barani asked people to send fuel, milk, water and food as emergency services were too slow and providing limited provisions. "People are hungry and thirsty," a local man told ISNA

news agency. "There is no electricity. Last night I cried when I saw children with no food or shelter." Houses in Iranian villages are often made of concrete blocks or mudbrick that can crumble and collapse in a strong quake. Some people are angry that among the collapsed buildings were homes that the government has built in recent years under an affordable housing program.

Photographs posted on Iranian news websites showed rescue workers digging people out of collapsed buildings, cars smashed beneath rubble and rescue dogs trying to find signs of life under the twisted ruins. "More people will die because of cold. My family lives in a village near Sarpol-e Zahab. I cannot even go there. I don't know whether they are dead or alive," Rojan Meshkat, 38, in the Kurdish city of Sanandaj told Reuters by telephone. Iran is crisscrossed by major fault lines and has suffered several devastating earthquakes in recent years, including a 6.6 magnitude quake in 2003 that reduced the historic southeastern city of Bam to dust and killed some 31,000 people. — Reuters

New islands could solve Bangladesh's land crisis

DHAKA: Dozens of new islands have emerged from the waters around Bangladesh over the last decade, providing a possible solution to the existential threat that rising sea levels pose to the low-lying coastal nation. The government said Monday that 29 islands with a combined area of 125,370 acres had emerged from the Bay of Bengal since 2007.

Every year Himalayan rivers carry an estimated one billion tons of silts and deposit them in the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh, forming islands in the shallow waters. Many of these islands, known as chars in Bangladesh, are already inhabited and experts said they could mitigate the threat posed by global warming. "Every year Bangladesh has new land emerging and new land being devoured by rivers and sea," said Maminul Haque Sarker, head of the Center for Environment and Geographic Information Services. He said studies by the Dhaka research centre had shown a net gain of terri-

tory of around 12-14 square kilometers. Most of the new land is near the estuary of the Meghna river, which is the confluence of the main tributaries of the two main Himalayan rivers of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. One of the islands has controversially been earmarked as a possible temporary base for the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar currently living in squalid makeshift-camps in southern Bangladesh.

The United Nations says 615,000 refugees from the Muslim minority have crossed into Bangladesh from its Buddhist neighbor since late August. The influx has overwhelmed existing facilities in the densely populated country, and authorities have struggled to find alternative land to house them. A recent World Bank study projected that 40 percent of productive land in southern Bangladesh would be submerged by the year 2080 due to a rise in sea levels.

A decade ago the influential Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said a one-metre (three-foot) rise in sea levels would flood 17 per cent of Bangladesh and create 20 million refugees by 2050. Local scientists, however, criticized the study for failing to take into account the silt islands, which are highly fertile. Water expert Zahirul Haque Khan said dams could be set up to trap the vast amounts of sediment that flows from Bangladesh's rivers into the sea every year. — AFP

IS corpses in refrigerated containers

MISRATA: Hundreds of corpses of Islamic State fighters have lain stored for the past year in a row of refrigerated containers in the Libyan city of Misrata awaiting a final decision on their fate. "The temperature must be kept at between -18 and -20 (Celsius, 0.4 to -4 Fahrenheit) for the bodies to remain conserved," said Ali Tuwaileb at a high security anti-organized crime complex in the city. Around 700 bodies have been housed at the improvised morgue ever since IS jihadists were expelled in December 2016 from the coastal city of Sirte that had been their bastion in Libya. Two old stretchers under an improvised tent, set up in front of the containers, serve as a laboratory for a forensic doctor. "As you can see, we don't have the means. This is where we took samples for DNA tests and where we photographed the corpses," said Tuwaileb, who is in charge of the facility.

Due to the lack of resources, several hundred other IS corpses have been abandoned under the rubble in Sirte or in makeshift cemeteries dug by the jihadists. In the wake of the battle during which US-led coalition



MISRATA: Ali Tuwaileb who is in charge of a high security anti-organized crime complex in Misrata where the bodies of Islamic State (IS) group fighters are being stored opens one of the refrigerated containers at a make-shift morgue. — AFP

air strikes backed Libyan security forces, decaying bodies on the streets of Sirte gave rise to fears of epidemic.

In a comment after an August visit that drew strong criticism, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said the country could one day become a magnet for tourists and investors once it can "clear the dead bodies away".

According to Tuwaileb's estimate,

between 1,500 and 2,000 jihadists were buried in the Mediterranean city. "We don't have enough fridges, or we would have exhumed all the bodies," said the Libyan official, who pointed out that the containers were loaned by private companies. Out of the seven refrigerated containers in Misrata, three have broken down. "We've had to redistribute the bodies among the fridges that still work," said Tuwaileb. — AFP

International

Fears for Lebanese economy if Saudi Arabia imposes Qatar-style blockade

Hariri delivers blunt message from Saudis to Lebanon

BEIRUT: Lebanese politicians and bankers believe Saudi Arabia intends to do to their country what it did to Qatar - corral Arab allies into enforcing an economic blockade unless its demands are met. Unlike Qatar, the world's biggest supplier of liquefied natural gas with a population of just 300,000, Lebanon has neither the natural nor financial resources to ride it out, and people there are worried.

Up to 400,000 Lebanese work in the Gulf region, and remittances flowing back into the country, estimated at between \$7-8 billion a year, are a vital source of cash to keep the economy afloat and the heavily-indebted government functioning. "These are serious threats to the Lebanese economy which is already dire. If they cut the transfer of remittances, that will be a disaster," a senior Lebanese official said. Those threats came from Lebanon's former prime minister, Saad Al-Hariri, who resigned on Nov 4 in a shock broadcast from Riyadh that Lebanese political leaders have ascribed to pressure from the Saudis.

Hariri, an ally of Saudi Arabia, on Sunday warned of possible Arab sanctions and a danger to the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese living in the Gulf. And he spelled out Saudi conditions for Lebanon to avoid sanctions: Hezbollah, the Iran-backed group that is Lebanon's main political power and part of the ruling

coalition, must stop meddling in regional conflicts, particularly Yemen. According to a Lebanese source familiar with Saudi thinking, Hariri's interview "gave an indication of what might be waiting for us if a real compromise is not reached. The playbook is there in Qatar."

Hariri's resignation has thrust Lebanon to the centre of an escalating rivalry between Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran. The non-confrontational Saudi policy of the past towards Lebanon has gone, analysts say, under the new leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman,

32-year-old son of King Salman. He is now the de facto ruler of the kingdom, running its military, political and economic affairs. Whether Iran and Hezbollah are willing to make significant concessions to Riyadh is doubtful, sources said. "They (Hezbollah) might make some cosmetic concessions, but they won't submit to the Saudi conditions," a source familiar with Hezbollah thinking said.

'Ball in Hezbollah's court'

Lebanese analyst Sarkis Naoum said Riyadh wanted Hariri to return to Lebanon and press President Michel Aoun to open dialogue and address their conditions on Hezbollah's regional interventions. "They need to come up with a position that will be satisfactory to the Saudis ... If the Saudis decide on sanctions they will do it," Naoum said. A source close to Hariri said he had "put



Sanctions may include ban on flights, exports, money transfers



ZOUK MOSBEH, Lebanon: A poster of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri is seen on a giant billboard that reads in Arabic 'All of Lebanon is Saad Hariri' on the highway of Zouk Mosbeh, north of Beirut yesterday. — AFP

the ball in the court of Aoun, Hezbollah and its allies, by saying 'business cannot continue as usual.' "There was no sugar-coating. The sanctions were spelled out clearly. They want Lebanon to be disassociated from Hezbollah". Aoun has welcomed comments that the former premier planned to return home soon, palace sources said on Monday.

Hezbollah, a movement with a heavily armed fighting force in addition to seats in parliament and government, is

Iran's spearhead in the region. Tehran's Revolutionary Guard looks to be trying to replicate it by building coalitions of militia groups in Iraq and Syria, according to some analysts. The list of potential sanctions against Lebanon, political sources there say, could include a ban on flights, visas, exports and transfer of remittances. Some of those have been imposed on Qatar, but that blockade, initiated in June, has had limited effect on the emirate so far, beyond driving it closer to Iran. — Reuters

Turkish Cypriots split over the rise of Islam



Photo shows the four minarets during construction works at the Hala Sultan mosque outside of the divided capital Nicosia, in the Turkish occupied northern part of the Island of Cyprus. — AP

NICOSIA: At over 60 meters high, the four black-coned minarets of the nearly completed Hala Sultan mosque tower over the plain of Mesaoria in the northern, Turkish Cypriot part of ethnically divided Cyprus. The imposing, Turkish-funded structure that's believed to be the largest mosque on the east Mediterranean island will hold as many as 3,000 worshippers beneath its massive domes. It's named after Umm Haram, who legend says was a relative of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and who died in Cyprus after falling off her mule during a 7th-century Muslim military campaign.

But the construction of the huge mosque has become emblematic of fears held by some Turkish Cypriots that a resurgence of the Islamic faith is a direct assault on their long-held secular way of life, and a means by which Turkey can further expand and entrench its control over all facets of their 270,000-strong community. Religious leaders and education authorities in the north counter such talk as baseless fear-mongering among a radically secular few. They insist what's happening is the restoration of Islam at the core of Turkish Cypriots' collective identity, as it was for centuries.

Leftist Turkish Cypriots have long bemoaned Turkey's high-handed ways with Turkish Cypriots, especially after the island was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece. But the issue has again come to the fore after a promising round of talks with the majority Greek Cypriots to reach a reunification deal failed in the summer. Only Turkey recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence. It keeps more than 35,000 troops in the north.

Apart from projecting the image as the protector of Turkish-speaking peoples, Turkey feels that it's earned the right to play an outsized role in Turkish Cypriot affairs because it bankrolls the north to the tune of over 250 million euros (\$290 million) annually. "Turkey follows the policy of 'I finance, you obey,'" says Cemal Ozyigit, the leader of the small, left-wing Communal Democracy Party. Ozyigit and Sener Elcil, the head of the 1,600-strong primary school teachers' union KTOS, have been among the most vocal critics of Turkey's pervasive and expanding influence in the north. Both men say that in the past, hard nationalism and militarism were the traditional mechanisms of control. Now, they've been augmented with religion.

"With the religious, Islamic government in Turkey, the Islamic identity of Turkish Cypriots has been questioned for the last decade or more," says Ozyigit. "Are they Muslim enough? They don't practice, they don't fast. And now they're trying to push this change on us." Elcil says that Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is using Islam to consolidate his political control over the north, as he has done in his own country over 14 years of rule. He says as many as 400 Imams have been dispatched "acting like missionaries" to service mosques and give lessons on the teachings of the Quran, Islam's holy book.

"We're in danger now as a community because we're under bombardment of (the) Sunni faith," Elcil says, adding that Imams are directing their messages to young people and especially children of mainland Turks who settled in the north. "Later on, they're going to use these people as political supporters of their actions," says Elcil. "If we're going like that, in 10 years ... religion will be a conflict point in Cyprus also." Ozyigit says the children of mainland Turks are being targeted for religious education "to speed up the change" toward a stricter adherence to Islamic precepts and code of conduct, unlike many Turkish Cypriots whom he described as "softer Muslims" who consume alcohol - a practice Islam forbids.

"We have managed to resist this change toward an Islamic character but the question is how much longer can Turkish Cypriot society resist these changes being forced upon it?" Elcil and Ozyigit say the Turkish Cypriot education system has long safeguarded the community's secular identity. But recent moves by Turkish Cypriot authorities have given more weight to religious instruction inside and outside of schools, including the founding of the north's first theology school four years ago.

Turkish Cypriot Education Minister Ozdemir Berova says his ministry is acting to meet a demand from parents for religious education for their children. He downplays

criticism as an exaggeration grounded in a leftist ideology that teachers trade union leaders can't see beyond. "As a government, we believe that if a family wants their children to have a religious education, the best way is the education that we give them which is under supervision," Berova says. "We can inspect and we can control religious studies they're receiving now."

It's that desire for religious education among many Turkish Cypriots that the leader of the north's religious affairs, Grand Mufti Talip Atalay, says signals the community's realignment with its true Islamic character that was sidetracked by Turkey's internal politics some 60 years ago. Atalay says the historical record offers proof of Turkish Cypriots' strong embrace of the Islamic faith. He says in 1949, there were 300 mosques operating all over Cyprus - 100 more than now, to service five times as many faithful. "What is happening here in our country is not Islamization at all," says Atalay. "It is normalization. For many decades, these rights have been neglected or prevented from the people who are demanding it, and nowadays we're trying to bring it back to normal."

Atalay denies that the views of expressed by Elcil and Ozyigit represent those of the majority of Turkish Cypriots. He says "anti-religious" ideologies that emerged from Turkey's politics of the 1960s have engendered an unwarranted fear of Islam. He says these leaders have repeatedly spurned his calls to jointly develop a religious education curriculum that is in line with the Turkish Cypriot way of life. "Unfortunately, they have such a fear of religion that they're not prepared to listen or to do anything progressive. They're completely against it."

Atalay insists Turkish Cypriots have their own government and institutions that cannot be controlled by Turkey. He also bristles at the suggestion that bolstering the Islamic faith in the north will foment more discord and conflict with Orthodox Christian Greek Cypriots, insisting the historical record doesn't bear this out. — AP

Japan's Koike steps down as head of party

TOKYO: Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, once seen as a possible first Japanese female prime minister, stepped down as leader of her party yesterday after suffering a crushing election defeat last month. Vowing to do away with "old politics," the charismatic former television anchorwoman launched a new party in September that aspired to offer an alternative to the long-governing Liberal Democratic Party and its leader Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the October 22 snap elections.




Her new "Party of Hope" fielded 235 candidates for the poll but won a mere 50 seats while Abe's ruling coalition grabbed a two-thirds majority. Koike's support imploded partially because she failed to stand herself in the election-confusing voters who did not know who would be premier if she won. In opinion polls conducted by the Sankei Shimbun at the weekend, support for her party dropped to 3.9 percent from 9.5 percent last

month, with more than 77 percent of respondents calling on her to concentrate on her job as Tokyo governor.

"Stepping down as the head, I want to support you in an appropriate capacity," Koike told a party conference after it selected its executive members. Koike said she would stay within the party while focusing on her job as governor of Tokyo, with the capital set to host the Summer Olympics in 2020. "I have finished my responsibilities as the founder," she told reporters. "As governor I will put the metropolitan administration first and cooperate with lawmakers of a reborn Party of Hope," she added.

'Iron plate'

The 65-year-old was elected Tokyo governor last year, one of several jobs the trailblazer has been the first woman to fill. She once complained that Japan has not just a glass ceiling but an "iron plate" holding women back. The creation of the "Party of Hope" sent shockwaves through Japanese politics and caused the immediate implosion of the main opposition party, as scores of members pinned their colors to the Koike mast. But critics attacked her both for lacking a clear policy platform and for taking a dictatorial approach to the new party - she reportedly forced potential members to sign a pledge that was leaked to the media. — AFP

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International

Australian citizenship crisis deepens as 8th lawmaker falls

Citizenship crisis hits Turnbull hard

SYDNEY: The citizenship crisis engulfing Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's government deepened yesterday as an eighth lawmaker exited parliament and the main opposition party drafted in a high-profile candidate for a key by-election. Turnbull's centre-right government has already lost its majority in parliament, accounting for four of the eight lawmakers to be forced out or to resign from parliament in recent weeks because they were dual citizens. That status is banned under the Australian constitution to prevent split allegiances.

Adherence to that rule in a country where more than half the population of 24 million was either born overseas or has a parent who was born overseas has only come under the spotlight in the current crisis, with the High Court confirming a strict interpretation of the law. Jacqui Lambie, an independent and outspoken senator for the island state of Tasmania, confirmed yesterday that she was the eighth lawmaker in a parliament of 226 to fall foul of the dual citizenship law, with political analysts warning that several more are likely to fall.



Lawmakers lose their seats over dual citizenship

The opposition Labor Party upped the stakes yesterday by announcing it was putting forward former state premier Kristina Keneally to contest the seat vacated by a lawmaker in Turnbull's Liberal Party. The by-election in the inner Sydney seat of Bennelong, along with another one for the seat of former Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, who was ejected by last month's High Court ruling, will be key to restoring Turnbull's small majority in parliament. "This is a chance which I think a lot of people in Australia would like to have that has fallen to the people of Bennelong to send a message against the dysfunction and the chaos of the current government, the policy paralysis, the failure of leadership," Labor leader Bill Shorten told reporters yesterday.

While Joyce is widely expected to win back his safe rural seat after renouncing his New Zealand citizenship, the entry of the popular Keneally into the Sydney race has made that contest far less certain. Previously a safe conservative seat, it fell to the Labor Party in 2007, before the conservatives won it back in 2010. "Elections

are notoriously volatile, anything is possible," Nicholas Economou, a political scientist at Monash University, told Reuters. "Voters often use by-elections to give a stinging rebuke to a government that's at war with itself and that's what this government is. It's game on in Bennelong."

The citizenship crisis has hit Turnbull hard, with a poll released on Monday showing he had slipped to a new low in voter popularity amid criticism that he has failed to act decisively. Independent lawmakers have threatened to use their new-found power in the lower house to push through controversial legislation that has been blocked by the government, including a Royal Commission into the banking sector. The government and main opposition party cobbled together a deal on Monday to agree to a deadline of Dec 1 for all politicians to disclose the birthplace of their parents and grandparents.

Lambie vowed to immediately renounce her UK citizenship, granted by descent courtesy of her Scottish-born father. "I won't be laying down. I'll just get up and get back on and go again, simple as that," she told local radio. Lambie, 43, a former army corporal, has become one of Australia's most recognizable and colorful politicians in her short time in office. She has garnered headlines for a range of controversial comments, including her belief that China could invade Australia and applauding Russian President Vladimir Putin's "very strong leadership." — Reuters



SYDNEY: Former New South Wales state Premier Kristina Keneally addresses the world's largest St Patrick's Day luncheon at the Lansdowne Club in this file photo. — AFP

News in brief

Rare quintuplets die

NAIROBI: A Kenyan mother who gave birth to extremely rare naturally-conceived quintuplets has lost all five babies, according to a hospital in the south west of the country. The mother, Jacintah Akinyi, 30 - who did not know she was carrying five babies-went into labor on Sunday and gave birth to two babies at home, who both died, before being transferred to the Kisii Teaching and Referral hospital. Nurse Manager Florence Ogero said a third baby died that night, due to being underweight and suffering a condition caused by low levels of blood platelets. "The other one had severe pneumonia and from all those birth-related complications, these babies have succumbed," she said. "It was a premature delivery and the mother did not attend antenatal clinic. The multiple deliveries were diagnosed upon delivery so there was no anticipation," she added. "We have tried our level best because they were being taken care of by a competent team."

22 police, 8 soldiers killed

KANDAHAR: The Afghan Taliban attacked more than a dozen checkpoints over six hours in the southern province of Kandahar, killing 22 police and wounding 15, officials said yesterday, as militants killed eight soldiers in the west in a growing insurgency. Government forces killed 45 insurgents and wounded 35 and none of the police checkpoints was captured in the overnight attacks, officials said. "Our forces resisted until they received reinforcements and air support," said Zia Durrani, spokesman for Kandahar's police chief. "The Taliban were defeated." The Taliban told reporters by WhatsApp that they killed 43 police and members of a militia and destroyed 13 armoured vehicles. The insurgents often exaggerate battlefield casualties. The Taliban, fighting to restore Islamic rule after their 2001 ouster by US-led troops, also attacked Bala Boluk, in the western province of Farah yesterday, killing eight soldiers and wounding three, according to the provincial government.

Bangladesh arrests Hindu

DHAKA: Bangladesh police said yesterday they have arrested a Hindu man suspected of being behind a Facebook post that triggered violent reprisals on the religious minority. Around 5,000 Muslims went on the rampage on Friday after the post, which local media said "defamed" the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), torching Hindu homes and temples. At least one person died when police opened fire on the rioters. Khandker Golam Faruq, regional police chief in Rangpur district where the violence occurred said a man named Titu Roy had been arrested yesterday morning. He said police had also arrested at least 108 people suspected of involvement in the violence. It is not the first attack on the minority Hindu community in mainly Muslim Bangladesh, which has seen a rise in communal tensions in recent years. In October last year a mob angered by another Facebook post smashed Hindu temples.

Indian beggars rounded up

HYDERABAD: Authorities in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad are rounding up beggars ahead of a visit by Ivanka Trump. Over the past week, more than 200 beggars have been transported to separate male and female shelter homes located on the grounds of two city prisons. Authorities have been strictly enforcing a begging ban on the city's streets and in other public places. The crackdown seems to be having the desired effect, with most of the city's thousands of beggars vanishing from sight. Trump is a senior adviser to her father, President Donald Trump. Officials say the drive against begging was launched because two international events are taking place in Hyderabad - the Global Entrepreneurship Summit that Ivanka Trump is scheduled to attend and the World Telugu Conference in December.

Rohingya exodus leaves ghostland behind

ALE THAN KYAW: Torched villages and unharvested paddy fields stretch to the horizon in Myanmar's violence-gutted Rakhine state, where a dwindling number of Muslim Rohingya remain trapped in limbo after an army crackdown coursed through the region. A rare military-organized trip for foreign media by helicopter to Maungdaw district-the epicenter of a crisis that exploded in late August-showed a landscape devoid of people, with the emerald paddy fields scarred by the blackened patches of destroyed Rohingya villages.

More than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled the area over the past two and a half months, running from a scorched-earth military campaign against militants that the UN has described as a "textbook example" of ethnic cleansing. Myanmar, a mainly Buddhist country, has denied committing atrocities but has heavily restricted access to the conflict zone with the exception of brief government-organized visits. Under the watchful eye of an army brigadier and border police, journalists on Sunday were able to speak to some of the several hundred Rohingya camped at the beach near Ale Than Kyaw village, hoping to flee across treacherous waters to neighboring Bangladesh.

Desperate escape

While the worst violence appears to have subsided, those left behind say they are trapped-unable to afford the \$50 boat fee, but without the means to eke out a living in the region. "We used to work in farming and fishing, but now the owners don't want labor," said 25-year-old Osoma, explaining that most Rohingya businesses and landowners have joined the exodus. The young mother of three, carrying a month-old baby in her arms, said her family was not certain if life in Bangladesh's sprawling refugee camps would be better. "But we want to stay with the others who are there



ALETHANGYAW, Myanmar: A woman holds the hand of a child as they stand near tents at a makeshift camp in Rakhine state in Myanmar, while waiting to find a way to cross over into Bangladesh. — AFP

already," she said.

Rakhine's northernmost Maungdaw district was once home to around three quarters of Myanmar's 1.1 million-strong Rohingya population, according to government figures. Aid workers estimate that only some 150,000 remain there, with other communities living further south. With no one left to work Maungdaw's fields, huge swathes of verdant farmland are at risk of rotting—a cruel irony given the severe food shortages in aid-dependent Rakhine and the squalid refugee camps across the border. Myanmar says it has trucked in workers from other parts of the state to harvest 70,000 acres of abandoned rice paddies. But some stretches of untouched fields have already started to turn brown in the mountain-studded region. The media trip to

Rakhine comes amid mounting global pressure on Myanmar over its handling of the crisis, with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson set to visit the capital today. The top American diplomat is expected to take a firm tone with the country's powerful military leaders, whom he has deemed "responsible" for the crisis. Meanwhile, on the shores of Rakhine, some desperate Rohingya are taking matters into their own hands. Ro Shi Armad, 18, has teamed up with several other families to build a flimsy-looking raft using plastic containers and bamboo. Scores of refugees have drowned in recent months while attempting the perilous journey to Bangladesh. "We're not worried if we die on the way over," the teenager said. "What else can we do now?" — AFP

Defecting N Korea soldier escapes in hail of bullets

SEOUL: A North Korean soldier is expected to survive critical wounds he received when his old comrades fired a hail of bullets at him as he made a defection dash to South Korea, the South's government and military said yesterday. The soldier had on Monday sped towards the border in a "peace village" in the heavily guarded demilitarized zone, in a four-wheel drive vehicle. But when a wheel came loose, he fled on foot as four North Korean soldiers fired about 40 rounds at him, said Suh Wook, chief director of operations at South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, briefing lawmakers.

"Until this morning, we heard he had no consciousness and was unable to breathe on his own but his life can be saved," Suh said. Surgeons had removed five bullets from the soldier's body, leaving two inside, Suh added, to murmurs from lawmakers who said the soldier's escape was "right out of a movie". The soldier took cover behind a South Korean structure in a Joint Security Area (JSA) inside the demilitarized zone

between the two Koreas.

South Korean and US soldiers, fearing more North Korean fire, later crawled to him to rescue him, the United Nations Command said in a separate statement. North Korea has not said anything about the soldier. Its military had not given any indication of unusual movements yesterday, the South's military said. While on average more than 1,000 North Koreans defect to the South every year, most travel via China and it is unusual for a North Korean to cross the land border dividing the two Koreas, which have been in a technical state of war since their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

The UN Command, in place since the end of the war, said an investigation into the incident was being conducted. South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo said it was the first time North Korean soldiers had fired towards the South's side of the JSA, prompting complaints from some lawmakers that the South's military should have returned fire. Moon Sang-gyun, the South's defense ministry spokesman, said military operations at the JSA were usually conducted under the orders of the UN Command, which is in turn under orders from the US military.

Intestinal damage

The soldier, who was not armed, was flown in a UN Command helicopter to an operating theatre where doctors began working to save him even before he was out of a uniform that indicated he held a



PAJU, South Korea: A man looks through binoculars towards North Korea from a South Korean observation post near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas yesterday. — AFP

lower rank, Suh said. South Korean officials have yet to identify where the soldier came from or what his intentions were. Lee Cook-jong, the surgeon in charge of the soldier's care at the Aju University Hospital, told reporters he was suffering from critical intestinal damage.

Hospital officials where under strict security agency orders not to talk to media and all updates on the soldier had to be through the military, workers there said. Dr Lee had been "given a talking-to" after a brief exchange with the media, the hospital workers said. The UN military armistice commission said it had informed the North Korean military that the soldier, who was found about 50

meters south of a Military Demarcation Line, was undergoing surgery for his wounds.

Suh said the South had also informed the North on Monday of the soldier and his treatment, via loudspeakers on the border. North Korea has in the past complained that North Korean defectors had been abducted by South Korea, and it has demanded their release. This month, the North demanded that South Korea return 12 waitresses it said had been kidnapped while working in China in 2016. South Korea said the 12 women, and one man, had chosen to defect to the South. Monday was the first time since 2007 a North Korean soldier had defected across the JSA. — Reuters

BELGIUM KING'S DAY



Words by H.E. Ambassador Piet Heirbaut

Dear Readers,

I want to thank the Kuwait Times for giving me the opportunity, on the occasion of King's Day, to present my country to you. Most of you know Belgium as the land of fries and waffles, comic books and of course, high quality chocolate.

Yet, my country has so much more in store. Belgium is in the top 3 of most Globalized countries in the world, according to the latest KOF index of Globalization. We are in fact the per capita biggest exporters in the world as 80 % of our prosperity stems from selling products and services abroad. This has led to many success stories on a global scale, some of them in Kuwait.

Like the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Belgium attaches a lot of importance to peace and stability on a regional and global scale. Therefore my country is candidate for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council and we hope to join Kuwait in the council from January 2019 onwards.

The celebration of King's Day is the perfect occasion to bring our countries even closer together and I am looking forward to working with you in the next coming years.

Yours truly,

Piet Heirbaut

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the State of Kuwait.

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Belgium – Your partner in the center of the European Union

A Major logistics hub

Thanks to its location in the throbbing heart of Western Europe, Belgium offers easy access to millions upon millions of consumers. As a result, many international companies have chosen Belgium as their bridgehead for continental Europe and have benefited from two added assets, the country's excellent infrastructures and the high quality of its workforce.



Innovation, the Key of the success of the Belgian Economy

Since the days of the industrial revolution, in which Belgium played a pioneering role, the country has never ceased to innovate. Indeed innovation is the key to

Belgium's future economic success in the traditional industrial sectors and in the new high tech industries. In 2017 Belgium was in the top 3 of the "Innovation Indicator" – an innovation ranking of 35 countries. The list is based on a study conducted by the German Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation



Research (ISI) and the Center for European Economic Research (ZEW).

Universities are without a doubt the main catalysts of fundamental and applied research in Belgium. For one thing, universities have a number of technology transfer offices (TTO's) which are responsible for completing the delicate transition of a given project from the laboratory to a start-up company. Every year Belgian universities are instrumental in setting up dozens of spin-offs, some of which go on to become big players in the global economy.

A showcase of Belgian Know-How is biopharma : around 4200 researchers work in the R&D laboratories of the Belgian Pharmaceutical industry. The companies and their employees benefit from a unique business environment that has made Belgium the second-biggest exporter and the third biggest producer of medicines and vaccines in the European Union. Looking back over the last fifty years, Belgium has also been at the forefront when it comes to developing and applying information technologies and the Internet and promoting the digital revolution.

A high level education system

According to recent education reports of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Belgium has the third best education system amongst the 35 OECD countries. Thanks to outstanding teachers and a flexible education system, our country has scored considerably better than the world average.

This is also reflected in the performance of Belgian universities at the global level. Five Belgian Universities ranked in the top 250 in the World University Ranking 2018. Most Universities also offer an English speaking curriculum, especially at the Master's and PhD level. Kuleuven which occupies the top spot among them participated in the 2017 QSEduEx student fair last month.

Research cooperation between Belgium and Kuwait on Solar energy - Imec a World Renowned research center

Belgium's best known state-of-the-art technology center is without a doubt IMEC, which specializes in components for semi-conductors and nano-technologies. IMEC works with the world biggest ICT companies to create the world's smallest elements. The center has a clear mission : "We aspire the impossible and aim for radical innovation". Based in Leuven, (Belgium) it has a staff of 2200 and also has premises overseas. Imec and Kuwait University have been successfully conducting joint research and development in the field of silicon solar cell technologies since 2012.



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Analysis

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Trump heads home with 'America First' ringing in Asian ears

As Air Force One took off from Manila yesterday at the end of the longest trip to Asia by an American president in more than quarter of a century, at least two of the region's leaders had good reason to feel satisfied. At a summit in the Philippines, Donald Trump forged a "great relationship" with President Rodrigo Duterte, who only a year ago had cursed "son of a b***h" Barack Obama for decrying his administration's bloody war on drug pushers and addicts. And Trump flashed a thumbs-up as he shook hands with Cambodia's authoritarian prime minister, Hun Sen, who praised the US president as a kindred spirit for telling countries to put their own interests first.

"You are a great man to me," Hun Sen said, addressing Trump at a meeting with other Southeast Asian leaders, and then referenced Trump's 'America First' policy. "I would like to inform you that if you follow your new policy in respect of the independence and sovereignty of other countries, the United States will have a lot of friends and you will be much respected and loved."

For other leaders across Asia, however, Trump's go-it-alone instincts must have represented a puzzling departure from his predecessors, who were - to varying degrees - standard bearers of multilateralism, democracy and human rights. During a tour that took him to Japan, South Korea, China and Vietnam and the Philippines capital, Trump called for joint efforts to tighten the screws on North Korea and its development of nuclear weapons in defiance of U.N. sanctions.

But at an Asia-Pacific summit in Vietnam, he declared that redressing the uneven balance of trade between Asia and the United States was at the center of his "America First" policy, which he says will protect US workers. Trump's vision has up-ended a consensus favoring multinational trade pacts whose regional champion is now China. On the sidelines of the Vietnam meeting, 11 countries kept alive a Trans Pacific trade deal that Trump walked away from last year in the name of protecting American jobs.

One cabinet member from a major ASEAN country told Reuters there was little enthusiasm in the region for Trump's bilateral approach to deals. "As Singapore Prime Minister Lee pointed out, the reason bilateral trade deals are so attractive for the USA, is precisely why no one will want to enter into one with the USA: because the USA could bully anyone on a bilateral basis," said the Cabinet member who did not want to be named. "Why would anyone sign up for that?"

The art of the deals

Trump told reporters before leaving that he had sealed deals of "at least \$300 billion, possibly triple that figure". US businesses signed around \$250 billion worth of deals during Trump's Beijing visit, but many of those were nonbinding. Missing was any agreement on market access or reduction in technology-sharing agreements that American businesses have long complained about. For Trump, dogged at home by low public approval ratings and investigations into Russian links to his election campaign, the deals will be an important prize to flaunt on his return.

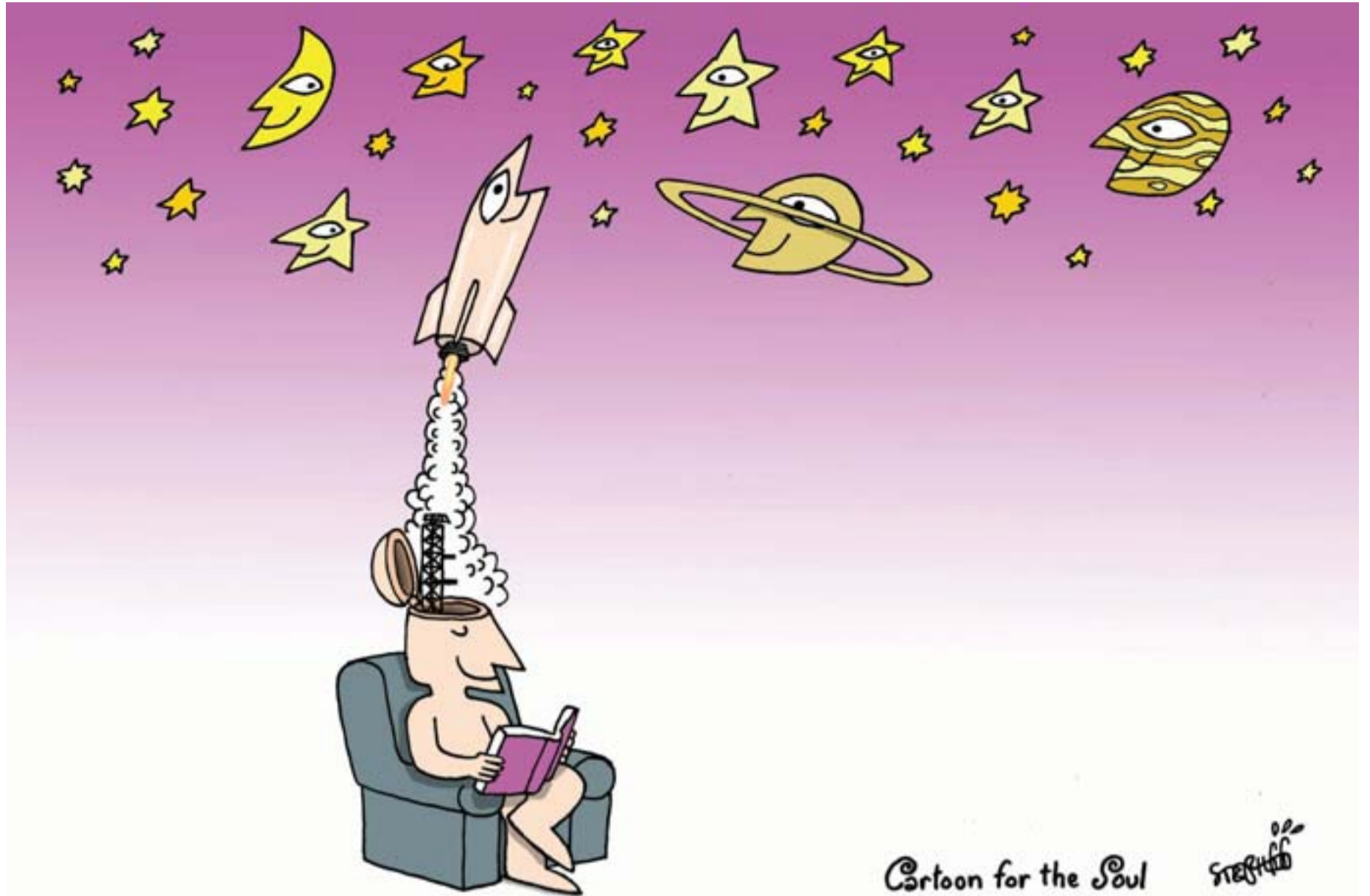
"The multi-billion-dollar deals he struck in Beijing may not help the US trade deficit," said a former Japanese diplomat in Tokyo, who declined to be named. "But optically ... he can tell people that because he went to China with business leaders, he was able to come back with a gift." Although there were few weighty deliverables from Trump's tour, for Asian nations looking nervously at China's increasing assertiveness, it may be welcomed as a sign that his administration is still committed to the region.

"What regional countries wanted was for him to simply show up - to underscore that America remained at least notionally committed to Asia," said Shahrman Lockman, a senior analyst at the Institute of Strategic & International Studies in Malaysia. A senior official in South Korean President Moon Jae-in's administration said Seoul had been worried he "would come to South Korea and engage in unexpected behaviour and language, but it turned out Trump was quite considerate". "South Korea was able to rest assured regarding its partnership with the United States," the official said.

He also got good reviews at the start of his Asia tour in Japan, which has been currying favor with Trump since right after his election when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe jetted off to Trump Tower with an expensive golf club as a present. "The most important deliverable is that we can send an almost identical message to the world that we share an identical strategy," a Japanese government official said.

Lavish reception

For Asian leaders, Trump's off-the-cuff style, free-wheeling tweets, and rhetorical hyperbole, must have been daunting. But one thing they seemed to learn was that he responds well to a lavish reception. "They say in the history of people coming to China there has been nothing like that, and I believe it," Trump told reporters after his visit to Beijing, where President Xi Jinping extended him the honor of a personal tour of the Forbidden City. One measure of the Asian trip's success, he said, was the "red carpet, like I think probably nobody has ever received." Diplomats say the bonhomie in Beijing probably stemmed in large part from Washington's expectations Xi will lean more heavily on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. —Reuters



Oil real prize of Iran's Kurdish adventure

After helping Iraq stifle a Kurdish push for independence, Iran is now positioning itself to take control of oil exports from the region's giant Kirkuk field, with the first deliveries expected within days, officials and trading sources said. In the weeks since September's failed Kurdish independence referendum, Iraq has agreed for the first time to divert crude from Kirkuk province, which it retook from the Kurds, to Iran, where it will supply a refinery in the city of Kermanshah.

Iran is locked in a proxy war with its regional rival and US ally, Saudi Arabia. As well as Iraq, it has been extending its influence in Syria, Yemen and Lebanon, raising increasing concerns in Washington and Riyadh. Under the new arrangement, the first oil will be trucked across the border in the coming days. Initially Iran will receive 15,000 barrels per day worth nearly \$1 million, rising gradually to 60,000 bpd, according to Iraqi officials and trading sources.

Baghdad and Tehran have also revived a project to build a pipeline to carry oil from Iraq's Kirkuk fields to central Iran and onwards for export from the Gulf. Hamid Hosseini, the Iranian secretary-general of the Iran-Iraq Chamber of Commerce, said Iran want to build a pipeline that can take as much as 650,000 bpd of Kurdish oil for its domestic refineries and for exports. The pipeline would replace existing export routes for crude from northern Iraq via Turkey and the Mediterranean and would be a blow to Ankara's hopes of becoming an energy hub for Europe.

It would also be evidence of a US failure to prevent a rapprochement between its ally Iraq and one of its biggest political foes, Iran, which is rapidly regaining influence in the Middle East. That is in part due to general Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Quds force, the international

branch of the Revolutionary Guards, which is also taking a keen interest in Iran's oil business in Iraq. Soleimani visited Iraqi Kurdistan in September to warn the region against holding an independence vote. He was also involved in the Iraqi army's recapture of Kirkuk.

"In Iraq, Iranian forces are working to sow discord as we recently saw in Kirkuk, where the presence of Quds force commander, Qassem Soleimani, exacerbated tensions among the Kurds and the government in Baghdad,"

denied the referendum as destabilizing the region. The United States also called on Kurdistan to scrap the vote. But it was probably internal Kurdish divisions which doomed the referendum to failure, local political sources believe. Oil was at the heart of this dispute.

The Kirkuk fields were controlled by Iraq's state oil firm SOMO before being taken over by Kurdish forces in 2014, when the Iraqi army retreated in the face of attacks by Islamic state. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party (PUK), in Sulaimaniya, then accused the ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) party of President Massoud Barzani, based in the capital Erbil, of not sharing the oil wealth. The PUK wanted to export oil from Kirkuk to Iran.

"We tried to make Barzani accept joint management between Erbil and Sulaimaniya over the fields but he strongly opposed it," said Sherzad Yaba, a political adviser close to the PUK. "To put an end to the illegitimate control of the KDP over Kirkuk oil, senior members from the PUK contacted both Baghdad and Tehran and encouraged the Iranians to build a pipeline to export Kirkuk crude through Bandar Abbas port," said Yaba.

The project lay dormant even though Iraqi oil minister Jabbar Al-Luaibi and his Iranian counterpart Bijal Zanganeh signed a memorandum on the project in February. After the referendum, the KDP accused the PUK of striking a deal with Iran to withdraw from Kirkuk, which the PUK denies. The recapture of Kirkuk was coordinated with Soleimani and left Iraqi government troops in control of half of all Kurdish oil output. As Kurdish engineers fled the fields, output from Kirkuk was suspended and has remained shut for the past five weeks as Baghdad and Erbil argue over the revenue split. —Reuters

Iraq to start trucking \$1m worth of oil daily to Iran

US Senator John McCain said in Washington last week.

Kurdish division

"The Kurdish dream of being a big oil exporter is in tatters," said a source close to the government in Erbil, who predicted that "Iran will be king of the game". The Kurds' bid for independence angered Turkey and Iran, which both have large Kurdish populations and con-

Zimbabwe reeling after army chief's warning to Mugabe

Zimbabwe was reeling yesterday after the army warned it could intervene if President Robert Mugabe continued to purge veteran ruling party figures in an apparent effort to help his wife succeed him. Both the ruling party's youth wing and the main opposition party called for civilian rule to be protected, while analysts called the crisis a potential turning point. Army chief General Constantino Chiwenga on Monday warned Mugabe to "stop" purges of the ruling ZANU-PF party after the president abruptly sacked vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa last week.

Mnangagwa had clashed repeatedly with First Lady Grace Mugabe who is widely seen as vying to replace the 93-year-old leader when he dies. "We must remind those behind the current treacherous shenanigans that when it comes to matters of protecting our revolution, the military will not hesitate to step in," Chiwenga told top brass at Harare's King George VI military headquarters in an unprecedented intervention. He appeared to be referring to the increasingly open efforts of Grace Mugabe to elevate her public position and publicly undermine her opponents - including Mnangagwa.

The main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) called for civilian rule to be defended following Chiwenga's threat. "No one wants to see a coup - not that I am saying there is going to be a coup. If the army takes over that will be undesirable. It will bring democracy to a halt, and that is not healthy for a nation," the MDC's shadow defense minister, Gift Chimankire, told AFP. ZANU-PF's Youth League, which strongly supports Grace Mugabe, said

in a statement that Chiwenga would not be allowed to pick Zimbabwe's leaders. "We will stand guard in defense of the revolution - like the people of Turkey last year who repelled rogue security forces from interfering with an elected government," it said.

Neither the ZBC state broadcaster nor the government-run Herald daily covered the army chief's open threat to Mugabe, prompting senior commanders to demand why his intervention went unreported. Speculation has been rife in Harare that Mugabe could now remove Chiwenga who is seen as an ally of ousted Mnangagwa. The crisis "marks another landmark ominous moment in the ongoing race to succeed" Mugabe, said political analyst Alex Magaisa in an online article. "(Mugabe) has previously warned the military to stay away from ZANU-PF's succession race. His authority over the military has never been tested in this way. If he does nothing, it might be regarded as a sign of weakness. If he puts his foot down, it could result in open confrontation."

'A turning point'

Chiwenga, 61, was on official business in China when Mnangagwa was removed. They were both prominent figures in the struggle for independence from Britain, along with Mugabe. Mnangagwa was widely seen as Mugabe's most loyal lieutenant having worked alongside him for more than 40 years and his ouster sent shockwaves through the region. He fled the country and is thought to be in South Africa but has yet to make a public appearance following his searing five-page condemnation of Grace's ambition and Mugabe's leadership style. Shadrack Gutto, the director of the Centre for African Renaissance Studies at the University of South Africa, told AFP that if Grace attempted to take control, the army "will throw her out and she can go into exile or die". —AFP

Heat on 'climate chancellor' Merkel over coal and cars

Angela Merkel has been dubbed the "climate chancellor" but she now faces the real risk of Germany, a green energy pioneer, missing its emissions reduction target on her watch. Battles over dirty coal plants and the combustion engine have dogged her efforts to forge an unlikely three-way governing alliance with the Greens and pro-business Free Democrats (FDP). They are also flashpoint issues as Germany and Fiji co-host UN climate talks in Bonn, which Merkel will address during a visit today with French President Emmanuel Macron.

Critics charge that Merkel, a trained physicist who has often championed climate action on the world stage, tends to cave in to business and political interests when it matters. Merkel has opposed stricter EU emissions limits for cars, fought planned diesel bans in cities suffering toxic air pollution and shelved a plan to get one million electric vehicles onto German roads by 2020. Weekly newspaper Die Zeit harshly compared Merkel's policies to that of climate change-denying US President Donald Trump, adding that "at least Trump is honest about it".

Emissions not falling

Merkel, at a G7 summit she hosted in 2015, wrested a crucial if lofty promise from the world's leading economies - to "decarbonize" by the end of the century. On Saturday she said that Germany and other advanced economies must make sure "things change" in order to slow the trend of melting ice caps, rising seas and worsening storms, floods and droughts. "The urgency, as we can tell from the natural disasters, is great," she warned in her weekly video podcast, stressing that an overheating planet

was a key driver of migrant flows. But she also made clear that Germany must protect its "industrial core" and that "if steelworks, aluminium plants and copper smelters all leave our country and move somewhere with weaker environmental regulations, then we won't have gained anything for the global climate". Missing from that list were coal-fired power plants, Germany's current environmental hot-button issue that has sparked mass rallies.

Germany has in the past two decades raised the share of wind, solar and other clean renewables to one third of its electricity needs, while mothballing nuclear plants. But coal, cheap and abundant, still makes up 40 percent, and Germany's carbon emissions have not fallen for the past eight years. Germany has promised to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2020 from 1990 levels. But it is now on track for only a 32 percent reduction. Missing the closest target would raise big questions about Germany's far more ambitious goals of slashing emissions by 55 percent by 2030 - and by up to 95 percent by mid-century.

'Climate sweet talk'

The Greens, in the lead-up to September elections, had promised to immediately shutter Germany's 20 most polluting coal plants, and to phase out coal and fossil fuel-powered cars by 2030. But last week, in the face of harsh opposition from their negotiating partners, the party dropped those specific deadlines. The pro-business FDP - which has in the past blocked reform plans for the EU carbon market and railed against wind farms during the campaign - has suggested Germany could simply scrap its emission targets. Merkel's conservatives also oppose rapid action on coal, given the more than 20,000 jobs involved, many of which are in the ex-communist east where the far-right AfD party has already made major inroads. —AFP



Jailed in UAE over Tramadol, Indian workers seek mercy

Tanzanian domestic workers raped and abused in Gulf

JAGTIAL, India: When Lakshmi Motam sent 20 tramadol tablets from her south Indian village to her laborer husband in Dubai, she didn't realize the pain relief pills would land him in jail. Tramadol, a synthetic opioid painkiller that her husband used for his aches and pains was among nearly 400 drugs the United Arab Emirates banned in 2010 for their addictive nature. "He worked as a coolie and often asked me to send the medicine. This was the third time I sent the tablets to him. They were for his personal use," Motam told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The drug, readily available in India for less than 8 rupees (12 cents) a tablet, last year landed her 35-year-old husband with a 24-year jail sentence. "Before, he would call every day, and wire money home every few months. I wire him money now so that he can call us," she said. "He calls once in two months. He was crying on the phone the last time we spoke."

Indian migrant workers in Gulf states, often find themselves in a cycle of poverty and pain - they put in long hours in the searing heat and then pop painkillers to keep going and ensure their wages are not docked. Lured by illegal agents with the promise of a free ticket to Dubai, or a well-paying job, many find themselves smuggling the drugs to the Gulf in their luggage, ignorant of the fact they are breaking the law.

Tramadol is described by the World Health Organization as a "relatively safe analgesic", but is banned in various parts of the world. The drug is the most common illegal medication smuggled into the UAE where it is widely used by recreational users, according to local media reports. The drug's illegal trade has led to strict checks and severe punishments, campaigners said. Many Indian migrant workers who were caught using or possessing the drug in the Gulf are serving terms in prison.

"Most of these people (caught in drug cases) are poor and illiterate. They are unskilled and come to UAE with big dreams," said Anuradha Vobbilisety, an advocate in Dubai who deals with cases of Indians jailed for carrying the drug. "Tramadol is the most common banned drug found on Indians who have sought legal help from me."

Srinu Pusula spent his childhood grazing sheep and stepped out of his village Tadpakal in Telangana for the first time eight

years ago when he boarded a flight to Dubai to work as a laborer. He visited India last year when he got married. Before he left home, his agent gave his new wife a packet of medicines he said Pusula must deliver to his relative in Dubai. She packed them in his bag and forgot to mention it to her husband. Pusula was arrested at Dubai airport for carrying half a kilogram of tramadol and convicted in September and sentenced to seven years in prison.

"We built this house with our son's earnings. We never had power supply before. Now we do," Srinu's mother Posani Pusula, 55, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Her only hope now is a mercy petition Indian activists in Dubai will file on Nov 15. "Agents are running the racket and targeting laborers," said Krishna Donekeni, founder of Gulf Workers Awareness Centre by phone from Dubai.

Donekeni has met Pusula a few times and lobbied officials at the Indian embassy in Dubai about his case. "He is young, and away from his family. He hasn't seen his child who was born after he left. He is scared," Donekeni said. Another migrant rights activist, Bhim Reddy, said Pusula is the third person from Jagtial district who has been convicted in a drug case in the last three years.



Workers in Gulf in cycle of poverty and pain

Officials in India's foreign ministry said help in drug and alcohol use cases is difficult as UAE has strict laws on them. "But our consular officers meet them (those arrested in drug cases) and suggest names of empanelled lawyers to fight their cases in the labor court," said M C Luther, India's protector general of emigrants. Luther said migrant workers going through government-authorized employment agents are given pre-departure training where they are advised against carrying the banned medicines.

But a sizeable number of workers go through illegal agents and have no idea about the medicines they cannot carry or use. A spokesperson of the UAE embassy in New Delhi said poor and illiterate migrant workers are entitled to free legal aid. Motam, whose husband is in a Dubai jail, knows the road ahead is difficult. She has met various ministers, including India's minister of foreign affairs Sushma Swaraj, to plead her husband's case.

"When he left for Dubai, I thought our life would improve with his earnings. But now I roll 600 beedis (traditional Indian cigarettes) for 70 rupees every day. That is our only source of income," she said. Tears streaming down her cheeks, she touches the feet of anyone - activist, journalist, village elder - who visits her, mumbling: "Please help me."

Tanzanian workers face abuse Separately, Tanzanian domestic workers in the Gulf are beaten, sexually assaulted and deprived of pay, rights campaigners said yesterday as they called for an end to abusive employment rules. Thousands of Tanzanian women work in the Middle East, often lured by promises of salaries 10 times higher than they could earn at home. But visa-sponsorship rules in

Oman and the United Arab Emirates, known as the kafala system, mean they cannot change jobs without their employer's consent and can be charged with "absconding" if they flee, Human Rights Watch said.

Most of the 50 women interviewed for a report called "Working Like a Robot" were made to work 15 to 21 hours a day and had their passports confiscated, HRW said. More than half were underpaid and some said they were not paid at all. Around two in five reported physical abuse and the same proportion said they were sexually harassed or assaulted.

"Many Tanzanian domestic workers in Oman and the UAE are overworked, underpaid, and abused behind closed doors," said Rothna Begum, a women's rights researcher with the New York-based watchdog. "Workers who fled abusive employers or agents told us the police or their own embassy officials forced them to go back, or they had to relinquish their salaries and spend months raising money for tickets home."

Most migrant domestic workers in the Gulf region come from Asian countries. But rights groups say recruiters are increasingly turning to East Africa where protections are weaker. HRW said employers often got away with paying East Africans far less than Asians. It called for reform of the kafala system, the introduction of a minimum wage and an end to wage discrimination. "Workers said they were paid less than promised or not at all, were forced to eat spoiled or leftover food, shouted at and insulted daily, and physically and sexually abused. Some of these cases amount to forced labor or trafficking into forced labor," HRW said.

One Tanzanian woman employed in Oman told researchers how her employers attacked her when she returned from hospital after fainting. She said she was raped by her employer after being stripped and beaten by two women in the family. "They took the money I earned ... I was scared, traumatized, and didn't know who to speak to," she was quoted as saying. Another woman, who worked 17-hour days, said she fled after being sexually assaulted. But when she tried to file a complaint with the police they told her she faced charges for running away and said she must pay a fine of more than \$500 or spend time in jail. — Agencies

Kuwait supports Lebanon sovereignty...

Continued from Page 1

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, he met King Salman and powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman yesterday. The patriarch and the king "reviewed fraternal relations between the kingdom and Lebanon and confirmed the importance of the role of different religions and cultures in promoting tolerance, renouncing violence, extremism and terrorism," the state-run Saudi Press Agency said. Separately, Saudi Gulf affairs minis-

ter Thamer Al-Sabhan said the Maronite patriarch's visit "stresses the kingdom's approach for peaceful coexistence, closeness and openness for all sections of Arabic people."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has said France was "worried by the situation in Lebanon" and wanted to see the government there "stabilise as quickly as possible". Le Drian is set to visit Riyadh tomorrow. France joined Germany on Monday in calling for an end to external interference in Lebanon - buffeted for decades by conflicts between bigger players in the region such as Iran and Syria. Last week, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson also warned other countries against using Lebanon for "proxy conflicts", adding that he had no evidence that Hariri was being held against his will in the oil-rich kingdom. — Agencies



RIYADH: Lebanon's resigned prime minister Saad Hariri meets Lebanon's Christian Maronite patriarch Beshara Raï yesterday. — AFP

Amir, Erdogan hold key talks, seal...

Continued from Page 1

of Kuwait's Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Dr Meshaal Al-Sabah and president of Turkey's Investment Support and Promotion Agency Arda Ermut.

A protocol for cooperation between Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and Turkey's Scientific and Technological Research Council was also signed,

where KISR's Director General Dr Samira Omar and the president of the Turkish national agency Prof Dr Arif Ergin put their names on the dotted line. Turkey and Kuwait's military chiefs of staff also held talks on the "developing and strengthening" military cooperation, according to KUNA. The Turkish president, who has called for the lifting of the sanctions against Qatar, is scheduled to visit Doha today.

Separately, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah received HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Amiri airport terminal yesterday after Sheikh Nawaf returned following successful medical checkups in the US. The Amir was accompanied by senior officials and sheikhs. — Agencies

Qatar leader hails Amir's efforts, says...

Continued from Page 1

Sheikh Tamim expressed deep gratitude to HH the Amir for his mediation among the GCC countries and admiration of his robust will, wisdom and keenness on the GCC's future.

Sheikh Tamim also said his country also planned to hold elections for the Shura Council, whose 45 mem-

bers are currently appointed by the emir. The world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, Qatar has claimed it can cope with the demands of the dispute, despite the boycott being put in place by former regional allies and major trading partners.

Moody's has estimated that Qatar used \$38.5 billion - equivalent to 23 percent of its GDP - to support the economy in the first two months of sanctions. Qatar, which is scheduled to host the 2022 World Cup, insists that it is economically strong enough to survive the crisis. Doha this month said it was investigating an alleged attempt to manipulate its currency the Qatari riyal early on in the crisis by an international company partly owned by United Arab Emirates investors. — Agencies

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Sports

Poisson hit tree in training crash death

PARIS: French skier David Poisson, a downhill bronze medallist at the 2013 world championships, died after he lost a ski and hit a tree after falling heavily in training, the French ski federation said. "According to information currently available to the French ski federation, David Poisson fell heavily after losing a ski during a shared training session with other countries which took place yesterday (Monday) in Nakiska, Canada," the federation said. "David Poisson reportedly hit a tree after passing through the safety nets." The Nakiska resort in Canada is used by many teams for preparation ahead of the World Cup events at Lake Louise on November 25-26. "The French ski federation has since last night been in contact with David's family to support and accompany it in this terrible moment," the federation added. —AFP



UCLA players depart China after Trump asked for help

MANILA/SHANGHAI: Three UCLA basketball players detained in China on suspicion of shoplifting were headed back to the United States yesterday after US President Donald Trump said he had sought the help of Chinese President Xi Jinping in the case. Staff for Delta Air Lines Inc confirmed that the players had boarded a Delta flight from Shanghai to Los Angeles. "What they did was unfortunate," Trump told reporters earlier in Manila. He said the trio, who have been held since last week, could have faced long prison sentences, and described Xi's response as "terrific." "They're working on it right now," Trump said. Trump had raised the issue with Xi during a dinner held during the US leader's Nov. 8 to 10 state visit to Beijing. Trump was in the Philippines capital for a summit of Asian leaders. Asked about the trio and Trump's discussing the issue with Xi, China Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a daily news briefing in Beijing: "Until now, I have not received any update, so I am unable to provide any further information." —Reuters

Former England star Sinclair arrested

LONDON: Former England and Manchester City winger Trevor Sinclair has been arrested on suspicion of assaulting a police officer after being held for allegedly drink driving. Sinclair was arrested on suspicion of drink driving, common assault and criminal damage on Sunday after a woman suffered minor injuries when she was hit by a car. He was later arrested on Monday on suspicion of a public order offence and assaulting a police officer. The 44-year-old has been released under investigation pending further inquiries. A Lancashire Police spokesman said they attended a disturbance at a house on Victory Boulevard in Lytham at 8.45pm on Sunday. "Officers attended the property and found a man had already left the property in his car, a Tesla X60D," he said. "A short time later officers found the vehicle which had been involved in a collision with a woman pedestrian on Clifton Drive." —AFP



England boss Jones axe George Kruis ahead of Australia clash

Marler returns after three-week ban

LONDON: England boss Eddie Jones has axed George Kruis for Saturday's showdown with old rivals Australia. Kruis started England's 21-8 victory over Argentina on Saturday, but the second row forward has paid the price for a disappointing performance.

The 27-year-old Saracens star was released on Tuesday in the latest blow for a player who has suffered a number of form and injury setbacks this year. Kruis was viewed as a key member of the England team as recently as last year's Six Nations, but he has failed to maintain that progress and was dropped following an error-strewn performance in the first Test of the British and Irish Lions tour to New Zealand.

Jones has decided to include Charlie Ewels instead of Kruis in the 25-man training squad gathered at their Bagshot base ahead of the Australia Test. Meanwhile, Joe Marler is set to feature against the Wallabies at Twickenham after Ellis Genge was among the 10 players released by Jones.

Marler returns after completing his three-week ban for striking with the elbow and will either start or be named on the bench against Australia, depending on whether Jones decides to reduce Mako Vunipola's workload.

Alex Lozowski has also been dropped despite appearing as a second-half replacement on Saturday. Lozowski's exit means that his Saracens colleague Owen Farrell is likely to be involved against the Wallabies after being rested for Argentina alongside Maro Itoje, who is also poised to make his comeback.

Mike Brown is present among the 25 despite being likely to miss out as he follows the return to play protocols for concussion, as is Jonny May who has made a full return to training following his recovery from a hamstring strain. Jones is due to name his starting line-up tomorrow. — AFP



Genge among 10 players released by Jones



LONDON: England's lock George Kruis claims the ball from a line out during the Autumn international rugby by union test match between England and Argentina at Twickenham Stadium in southwest London. —AFP



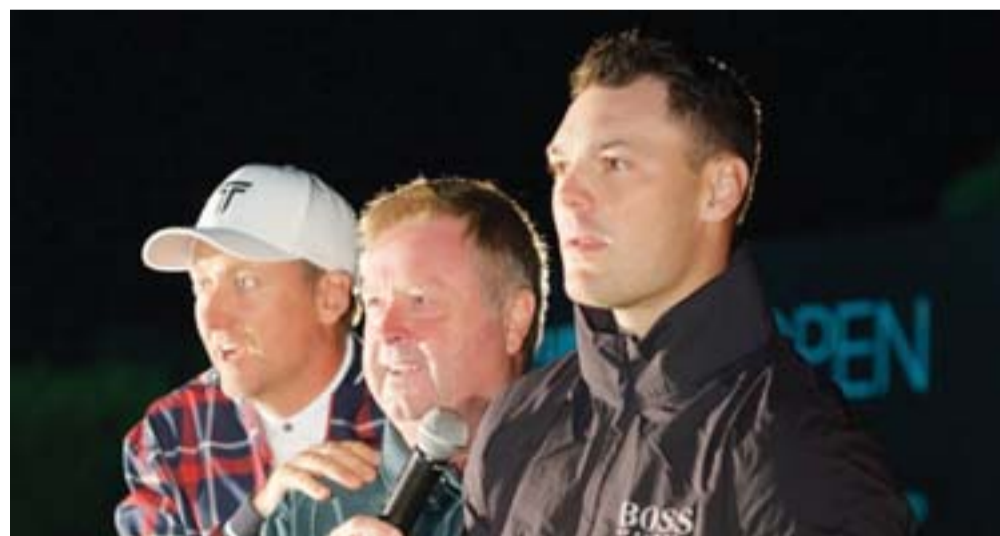
Martin, Lowry crowned Turkish Airlines' second Drone Golf Champions

ANKARA: The Turkish Airlines Open took place at the Regnum Carya Golf and Spa Resort in Belek, from Nov 2 to Nov 5. Martin Kaymer and Shane Lowry warmed up for the prestigious European Tour tournament with a drone victory, by beating Ian Poulter and Henrik Stenson 2-1 and taking the title from the last year's winner, the first Turkish Airlines' Drone Golf Champion, Lee Westwood. The course was once again set out on the Regnum's iconic 16th hole, which has a tee on the roof of a villa, with players having to guide their drone through hazards before dropping the ball on to the green.

Poulter and Stenson won the first hole with a birdie two but Kaymer and Lowry levelled with a three when Stenson needed four putts to make a five on the second attempts.

Having the honour, Lowry holed out for a four after Kaymer had dropped the ball in the water from the drone but Poulter ran out of time as he attempted to drop on the green.

Kaymer and Lowry follow in the footsteps



of Lee Westwood, who won the inaugural title last year, and they were presented with Turkish Airlines Business Class tickets by Turkish Golf Federation President Ahmet Agaoglu.

Former world number one Kaymer said: "It's a trophy that I always wanted in my house and finally I've won it, with a great partner in Shane. Next year we should do it again and hopefully Ian can drop the ball out of the cup as well. "It doesn't feel quite right how we did it but a win is a win and it's a great start to the week."

Stenson said: "It was extremely difficult to get the ball out of the cup underneath the drone and we got that slow play penalty at the end and Martin and Shane took the victory." Turkish Airlines' Senior Vice President,

Corporate Communications, Seda Kalyoncu, said: "Congratulations to Kaymer and Lowry on becoming our second ever Drone Golf champion. He clearly has piloting skills to go along with his golfing ability! Once again, it was a lot of fun for the players involved and the perfect way to get ready for another exciting Turkish Airlines Open."

Turkish Airlines is sponsoring the Turkish Airlines Open, the third last tournament of the European Tour season, for the fifth time, with 78 players competing for the \$7 million prize fund. The airline's commitment to golf also includes unrivalled corporate amateur series, the Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup, backing a Challenge Tour tournament and ladies golf, as well as allowing customers' golf clubs to travel for free.



HAINAN ISLAND: China's Feng Shanshan (C) celebrates after winning the Blue Bay LPGA golf tournament at Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course. — AFP

Top-ranked Feng aims to inspire China generation

SHANGHAI: Feng Shanshan hopes to inspire a generation of Chinese golfers after becoming the first player from the country to reach world number one. No man or woman from China had ever sat atop the golf rankings, but that changed on Saturday when the 28-year-old Feng triumphed on home soil at Hainan Island to claim a second successive LPGA Tour victory. Her ascension to number one was confirmed this week, underlining China's growing influence in a sport that was

banned under Mao Zedong. "It's the longest day in my life to wait for the update of the world ranking," Feng told LPGA.com.

"When I finally see the Chinese flag on top of the ranking I feel all the efforts over the past 18 years on golf is worth it. "I really enjoy the moment and hopefully this could encourage a younger generation in China to go for this sport."

Feng's nervy one-shot victory on the southern Chinese island followed her successful defence of the Japan Classic title a week earlier. Victory in the Blue Bay LPGA in Hainan propelled her from three in the world to top spot at the expense of South Korean rookie Park Sung-Hyun, who held the honour for just one week.

Feng, the 2016 Rio Olympic bronze medallist, now boasts nine LPGA victories, one of them a major. She is the fifth player to hold the number one place in 2017, following New Zealand's Lydia Ko, Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand, Ryu So-Yeon of South Korea and her compatriot Park. — AFP

Coetzee defends ill-disciplined Springboks

PARIS: South Africa coach Allister Coetzee sprung to the defence of his misfiring Springboks insisting they are trying their best. The tourists slumped to a record 38-3 defeat to Ireland in Dublin on Saturday, just under two months since New Zealand gave them a 57-0 thrashing.

But Coetzee put down their abject showing to a lack of experience and ill-discipline that allowed Ireland to open up a lead through penalties. "The crux of the matter is we were ill disciplined. We didn't realise penalties will hurt you so much and the three points in the northern hemisphere is almost like a score (try)," said Coetzee.

"We've got to make sure our discipline is intact. We need to have patience." But he denied that there was a lack of effort or application from his team. "The Irish, what they did well, they stayed very patient in their kicking game. They didn't do anything spectacular. "(There was) one lineout where they got a line break where we tackled in there but they got the inside.—AFP

Sports

Mark Jankowski, Versteeg lead Flames to wild 7-4 win over Blues

Teravainen scores 3 in third as Hurricanes beat Stars

CALGARY: Patience is starting to pay off for Mark Jankowski. The rookie had two goals and an assist, Kris Versteeg scored the winner with 5:31 left and the Calgary Flames scored five times in the third period to beat the St. Louis Blues 7-4 on Monday night.

The Flames are finally getting secondary scoring with the line of Jankowski, Jaromir Jagr and Sam Bennett leading the way in their third game together. "We've got a few games under our belts with my two linemates now and we're really clicking," Jankowski said. "We know we were getting our chances and the goals would come if we kept playing that way."

In a wild third period, the Flames took the lead twice only to see the Blues come back to tie it each time. Calgary finally went in front for good when Versteeg's shot off the wing beat goalie Jake Allen.

"Big win for us. We knew how good they've been playing," Versteeg said. Bennett scored his first of the season for Calgary, and Micheal Ferland got his fourth goal in four games. Johnny Gaudreau and Michael Frolik also scored as the Flames finished 5-2-0 on their longest homestand of the season. Gaudreau had two points to extend his point streak to seven games (five goals, seven assists). Vladimir Tarasenko scored twice for St. Louis (13-5-1), and Jaden Schwartz and Alexander Steen also scored. "We got what we deserved tonight," Blues coach Mike Yeo said. "We just weren't ready to play and that was evident right from the drop of the puck. We were very fortunate to tie the game up in the third period on a couple occasions - very, very fortunate."

Bennett put the Flames in front 3-2 to open the third-period barrage when his backhand of Jankowski's shot slipped through Allen's pads. Steen tied it at 11:46 and then Ferland's power-play goal restored Calgary's one-goal lead at 12:31. But 12 seconds later, Tarasenko one-timed a pass from Schwartz to tie it again.

"We just played sloppy the whole time. We played into their hands and we were just very careless," Blues center Paul Stastny said. "We did a good job of coming back and being resilient after we let up what was a questionable goal on the penalty, but we came right back and scored a big goal. Then, just made two careless turnovers. It was just what we did all night."

Mike Smith, who has started 16 of Calgary's 17 games this season, left after the first period with an

undisclosed injury. Eddie Lack played the final 40 minutes, stopping 13 of 15 shots for his first win with the Flames. "It's just very nice to get that first win," Lack said. "It's obviously not the way that I thought it was going to be, for sure, and I didn't play my best game, but I felt I made a huge save when it mattered the most there in the third."

St. Louis had a great chance to tie it with just more than five minutes left when Lack robbed Dmitrij Jaskin on a backhand in front. Allen stopped 30 of 36 shots. St. Louis opened the scoring 3:32 in on its first shot. Colton Parayko crossed the blue line and dropped the puck to Tarasenko, who beat Smith from 40 feet on a high wrist shot over his blocker.

Jankowski scored the next two goals to give Calgary its first lead of the night. With the teams playing four skaters aside, he hammered a slap shot over Allen's glove at 4:54. Jankowski then took a slick pass from Jagr and scored on deke at 13:45.

"Time to tighten up. I think we're giving them all their opportunities," Blues defenseman Alex Pietrangolo said. "Most of them are just puck errors. Our goalies can only stop so many great opportunities." In Raleigh, Teuvo Teravainen had a natural hat trick in the third period and an assist, leading the Carolina Hurricanes to a 5-1 victory over the Dallas Stars. Sebastian Aho added his first goal of the season and two assists, and Jordan Staal's four assists gave him 201 with the Hurricanes. Jeff Skinner scored the other Carolina goal in the closing seconds.

Scott Darling stopped 25 shots in the victory. Alexander Radulov scored for Dallas, which won the previous meeting at home 4-3 on Oct. 20. The Stars came out on top in their previous three trips to Raleigh.

Aho's first goal came in his 14th game of the season, two earlier than last season when he finished with 24 goals. Carolina took the lead on a rush at 8:07 of the first period as Aho beat Ben Bishop through the legs after Staal's pinpoint centering pass from the left wing.

Radulov tied it by working hard in the slot on a power play at 8:44 of the second. But the Hurricanes went ahead again on a power play at 2:39 of the third, with Teravainen scoring on a rocket from the left point. Staal and Aho had assists on Carolina's first power-play goal this month. Teravainen made it 3-1 at 6:51 from the high slot, getting the puck past Bishop with Aho providing a screen. Bishop finished with 23 saves. — AP



CALGARY: Sam Bennett #93 of the Calgary Flames skates with the puck past Scottie Upshall #9 of the St. Louis Blues during an NHL game at Scotiabank Saddledome in Calgary. — AP

NHL results/standings

Calgary 7, St. Louis 4; Carolina 5, Dallas 1.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
St. Louis	13	5	1	62	51	27	Tampa Bay	14	2	2	71	46	30
Winnipeg	9	4	3	52	46	21	Toronto	12	7	0	72	63	24
Nashville	9	5	2	45	46	20	Ottawa	8	3	5	59	53	21
Dallas	9	8	0	48	48	18	Detroit	8	8	2	49	51	18
Chicago	8	8	2	53	49	18	Montreal	8	9	1	46	61	17
Colorado	8	7	1	54	55	17	Boston	6	6	4	44	51	16
Minnesota	7	7	2	46	44	16	Buffalo	5	9	3	40	60	13
							Florida	5	9	2	53	62	12
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division							
Los Angeles	11	4	2	55	41	24	New Jersey	11	4	2	61	54	24
Las Vegas	10	5	1	57	46	21	Columbus	10	7	1	55	50	21
San Jose	10	6	0	44	36	20	Washington	10	7	1	53	53	21
Calgary	10	7	0	51	50	20	Pittsburgh	9	7	3	50	68	21
Vancouver	8	7	2	43	46	18	NY Islanders	9	6	2	60	55	20
Anaheim	7	7	3	48	50	17	NY Rangers	9	7	2	60	59	20
Edmonton	6	9	2	38	52	14	Carolina	7	5	4	46	44	18
Arizona	2	14	3	45	75	7	Philadelphia	8	7	2	50	45	18

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

England unfazed by Australian banter ahead of Ashes opener

SYDNEY: England cricket captain Joe Root has dismissed suggestions his team "feared" Australia's fast bowlers, saying his players were fully prepared for a hostile Ashes series. Root said some English players had been taken aback by the level of aggression shown by their hosts when they lost 5-0 on their last tour of Australia four years ago, but insisted they were ready this time.

"Last time that caught us out, but we are a bit wiser this time," Root said yesterday on the eve of England's third and last warm-up match for the first test in Brisbane. "It's making sure we are absolutely prepared for any scenario and absolutely ready for that first game, whatever they do throw at us," Root said. "We expect it to be hostile. We expect it to be a very loud and rowdy atmosphere at the Gabba."

"We are in a good place and ready for that. We have got our heads around what to expect," Root also brushed off suggestions the Australians planned to specifically target him after he managed just one half-century and averaged less than 28 with the bat on his previous tour of Australia in 2013-14.

In 2015, Root made amends with two centuries and an average of more than 57 as England bounced back on home soil to regain the Ashes. "I've heard a lot of chat about targeting me, in particular," Root said. "From our point of view, we'll be targeting every single one of them - we won't be singling any one out. But you want that competitive element to it, and those little in-house rivalries."

England is unbeaten in its two warm-up matches so far in Australia and aiming to continue its bright start during the four-day game against a Cricket Australia XI, starting in Townsville today. With the first test starting on Nov. 23, the tourists have made no secret of their plans, sticking with the same top six batsmen they used in the previous game. Mark Stoneman will again open with Alastair Cook, with James Vince batting at three ahead of Root.

Dawid Malan comes in at five with wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow at six. Allrounder Moeen Ali returns at seven. Cricket Australia yesterday said it would announce a squad for the first two tests on Friday, amid growing speculation about the makeup of the team. Several positions appear undecided with most questions surrounding who will open the batting with Dave Warner, who will bat at No. 6 and who will be picked as wicketkeeper. — AP

Red Sox great Bobby Doerr dies at 99

GRANTS PASS: Bobby Doerr, the Hall of Fame second baseman dubbed the "Silent Captain" of the Boston Red Sox by long-time teammate and life-long friend Ted Williams, has died. He was 99.

Doerr died Monday, the Red Sox said yesterday in a statement. "Bobby Doerr was part of an era of baseball giants and still stood out as one himself," Red Sox owner John Henry said in the statement. "And even with his Hall of Fame achievements at second base, his character and personality outshined it all. He will be missed."

Signed out of the old Pacific Coast League on the same scouting trip that brought Williams to Fenway Park, Doerr played 14 seasons with the Red Sox and joined his fishing buddy in the Hall of Fame in 1986. He had a .288 lifetime average, helping the Red Sox to the 1946 World Series, and in the first All-Star Game played at night he hit a three-run homer

that gave the AL the lead for good.

The nine-time All-Star often forgave his more accomplished friend for his storied anger and impatience. "Ted couldn't understand mediocre, see. And I was in that mediocre class," Doerr told The Associated Press on his 90th birthday in 2008, which the governor of Oregon declared Bobby Doerr Day. Doerr's modesty was belied by his stats: He finished with 2,042 hits, 223 home runs and 1,247 RBIs and he once went 414 games without an error - a record at the time. His six seasons with at least 100 RBIs was not matched by another second baseman for 25 years.

Doerr was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1986 by the Veterans Committee and the Red Sox retired his No. 1 jersey in 1988. The Red Sox honored Doerr with a 2004 World Series ring after breaking their 86-year championship drought. As a hitter, Doerr said he was always looking for the fastball, figuring he couldn't do much with a breaking ball unless it was a hanging curve.

"I didn't like to hit guys like Bob Feller," Doerr told the AP. "He had a big motion and was a little on the wild side. You just had to bow your neck and stay in there."

He frequently led AL second basemen in double plays, putouts and assists, crediting his fielding skill to endless hours spent bouncing a rubber ball against the front steps of his family's Los Angeles home.

S Lanka unlikely to break Test duck in India

MUMBAI: Sri Lanka have never won a test in India and with Virat Kohli's men on a run of near-flawless home form the visitors are unlikely to break their duck in a three-match series starting in Kolkata tomorrow.

In a bumper home season, which started in September 2016, India won 10 of 13 Test matches, with their solitary defeat coming against Steve Smith's Australia.

Even on home ground Sri Lanka have struggled against India, losing 9-0 across all three formats in July and August. Under Kohli, the world's top-ranked test side have won eight consecutive series dating back to 2015, and Sri Lanka look incapable of stopping them from winning a ninth to tie England and Australia for the record for most consecutive test series wins.

After being hammered at home by India,

Sri Lanka then won a two-test series against Pakistan 2-0 in the United Arab Emirates but subsequently lost all eight limited-overs matches against the same opponents. Their Test record in India inspires little confidence as they have failed to record a single victory in 17 matches, the last of which was played eight years ago. Former captain Angelo Mathews and spin spearhead Rangana Herath were the only two current squad members who played a part in that 2009 series and Sri Lanka will lean on them heavily once again. Sri Lanka coach Nic Pothas hopes the players have learned from the recent home series whitewash but wants them to focus on their own strengths instead of the Indian threat.

"The mistake you can make here is come and be infatuated with the Indian side and concentrate too much on them," Pothas said on the team's arrival in India. "We know they are a good side. We only played them a month ago. We have to concentrate on our strengths and jobs, and if we can execute them well it will be a challenging series." "The series against India was a huge learner for us. I also mentioned that if we didn't learn from a very good team then that would have been the biggest error."

While Sri Lanka's bowling attack must find a way to stop the likes of Kohli and



COOPERSTOWN: File photo, Hall of Famer Bobby Doerr waves during Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in Cooperstown, NY. Doerr. — AP

He helped the Red Sox win the AL pennant in 1946 - the only time his teams got past the Yankees - but they lost Game 7 of the World Series to the St. Louis Cardinals when Enos Slaughter scored the winning run from first on a single. Doerr long maintained that with just one more strong relief pitcher, they could have won more pennants. Forced

to retire by a bad back in 1951, Doerr lived out his retirement in Oregon, which he adopted as his home after spending a winter fishing for steelhead on the Rogue River and meeting his future wife. When Doerr retired, he picked up a bamboo fly rod Williams designed and named for him - but Doerr still had to pay for it. — AP



KOLKATA: India's Shikhar Dhawan, right, and Cheteswar Pujara attend a practice session prior to their first Test cricket match against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, India, yesterday. — AP

Cheteswar Pujara from scoring heavily, their batsmen will have to contend with India's dual spin threat of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. Most sides have found off-spinner Ashwin and left-

armer Jadeja too hot to handle but Sri Lanka might be in for an even rougher ride with the pair likely keen to prove a point after being overlooked by selectors for India's limited-overs sides. — Reuters

Sports

Newton, Panthers hammer Dolphins

45-21 for third straight victory

Game turned with 41 seconds left in the first half

CHARLOTTE: Cam Newton was tired of the Carolina Panthers' defense getting all of the glory. Newton took it as a challenge when the defense vaulted to the league's No. 1 ranking last week, saying it was time for the offense to strive to match them.

Newton did his part on Monday night, throwing for 254 yards and four touchdowns and running for 95 more as the Panthers piled up a franchise-record 548 yards in a 45-21 rout of the Miami Dolphins.

"It's nice to see them have this type of breakout game," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said of the offense, which had 30 first downs and converted 11 of 14 third downs. Said Newton: "I still feel like we are scratching the surface of our potential in this offense. We have to trust in our ability to execute our coach's plan."

Newton improved to 5-1 in Monday night games, while averaging 270.5 yards per game with 15 touchdowns and four interceptions. "There is something about this stage with him," Rivera said. "He played a tremendous game."

Jonathan Stewart ran for a season-high 110 yards, and Newton had a 69-yard jaunt on a read option as the Panthers racked up 294 yards on the ground. It was Stewart's first 100-yard game since last December at Washington. Rookie Christian McCaffrey scored touchdowns rushing and receiving, and Devin Funchess caught five passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns as the Panthers (7-3) remained a half-game behind the NFC South-leading Saints heading into their bye week.

Newton had his share of fun on the field. After being tackled on his 69-yard run, an exhausted Newton laid on the ground smiling and shaking his body as if trying

to get feeling back into his legs. Teammates joked with Newton that backup quarterback Derek Anderson could have scored on the play.

"When you ain't got no gas left and your check engine light is on and blinking, get gas at the next stop or so, man, you just have to try to celebrate when you can celebrate, brother," Newton said. "I was just hoping coach didn't come back with another run play for me."

He tiredly handed off on the next two plays. "Everything was fun out there," said Funchess, who became the team's No. 1 receiver when Kelvin Benjamin was traded to Buffalo two weeks ago.

Jay Cutler had 213 yards passing with two touchdowns and one interception for the Dolphins (4-5), who have lost three straight. Jarvis Landry and Julian Thomas both caught TD passes for Miami.

The game turned with 41 seconds left in the first half, when Luke Kuechly made a leaping interception along the sideline with Carolina leading 10-7. Four plays later, Newton connected with tight end Ed Dickson on a 7-yard touchdown pass. That opened the floodgates as the Panthers scored touchdowns on five straight possessions in their most explosive outburst of the season.

"In an eight-minute span, the game got away from us," Dolphins coach Adam Gase said. "It snowballed. We couldn't prevent the big runs once they got going."

The Panthers had entered the game 21st in the league in total offense and 24th in scoring. "We get to watch them - that's the fun part," Kuechly said of the offense. It was a big game for Stewart, who fumbled twice in last week's 20-17 win over the Atlanta Falcons.



CHARLOTTE: Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton (1) runs past Miami Dolphins' Xavien Howard (25) in the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte. — AP

"He might have been playing with a chip on his shoulder, but we just wanted to get him to that second level," Panthers offensive tackle Matt Kalil said. The

Dolphins have put themselves in a difficult situation in a tight AFC playoff race. "There are pieces in the locker room. I truly believe that," Cutler said. — AP

“Everything was fun out there”

Goffin beats Nadal in ATP Finals thriller

LONDON: Rafael Nadal was stunned 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-4 by David Goffin in his opening match at the ATP Finals on Monday in a major blow to his hopes of winning the trophy for the first time. The Spanish world number one came into the tournament with doubts swirling over his fitness after pulling out of the Paris Masters with a knee injury, but initially showed no obvious ill-effects during the round-robin encounter. The loss is not fatal to his hopes of triumphing at London's O2 Arena but heaps the pressure on Nadal for his remaining two group matches and makes a mouthwatering clash with his ageless rival Roger Federer less likely. "It was a tough fight until the end," said a relieved Goffin after the encounter, which lasted more than two-and-a-half hours. "Rafa is one of the strongest players mentally on the tour. I am so happy to finally find the key to win this match. It is so special to do it here."

"I don't know how I picked myself up after losing the four match points. I had no regrets and I just wanted to keep going and try to enjoy every point."

Nadal, 31, struggled to find his range early in front of a raucous crowd rooting for him and was broken twice in the first set by the Belgian seventh seed, who had lost their previous two encounters. The Spaniard appeared to have earned a psychological edge when Goffin double-faulted while serving for the set and the match went into a tie-break but the Belgian re-found his focus to come out on top. The second set went with serve until the eighth game, when Goffin broke and served for the match, but Nadal dug deep to earn a break point of his own and Goffin double-faulted to allow the Spaniard back into the set. Goffin had a golden chance to seal the match in Nadal's next service game but failed to put away a mid-court forehand on match point and the left-hander levelled at 5-5.

The Belgian composed himself to hold and then earned three more match points but Nadal, showing incredible grit and playing right at the limit, saved all three to take it to another tie-break, which he won. In the decider, Nadal appeared to feel discomfort in his right knee as he went two breaks down but still he refused to admit defeat, recovering a break before eventually succumbing. Nadal has won 75 singles titles in his illustrious career, including 16 Grand Slams and 30 Masters events but he has yet to triumph at the ATP Finals, played on quick indoor courts rather than his favoured clay.

DIMITROV WIN

Earlier, also in the Pete Sampras



LONDON: David Goffin of Belgium celebrates after winning his singles tennis match against Rafael Nadal of Spain. — AP

group, Grigor Dimitrov held his nerve to beat Dominic Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 7-5. The elegant Bulgarian had the edge for most of an enthralling contest of one-handed backhands but admitted he felt "pretty nervous" in his first appearance at the end-of-season showpiece.

The sixth seed, who has enjoyed the best season of his career, looked wobbly as he blew his chance to serve for the match at 5-4 in the decider only to hit back immediately as Thiem himself faltered and going on to seal victory on his third match point.

"I'm not going to lie-I was pretty

field. Donovan Mitchell scored 24 points to lead the Jazz (6-8), who lost for the fourth time in their last five home games. Utah fell behind 33-14 heading into the second quarter.

WARRIORS 110, MAGIC 100

Kevin Durant had 21 points, a season-high eight assists and seven rebounds, Shaun Livingston scored a season-best 16 points in place of injured Stephen Curry, and Golden State pulled away in the second half to beat Orlando for its seventh straight win. Draymond Green had a season-high 20 points, five assists, four rebounds and two steals as the Warriors completed a 4-0 homestand. Nikola Vucevic scored 20 points, Evan Fournier had 16 and Aaron Gordon added 10 points and 10 rebounds in the Magic's fourth defeat over six games. Livingston also had six assists on a night when the Warriors were without Curry as the two-time MVP nursed a bruised right thigh.

76ERS 109, CLIPPERS 105

Joel Embiid scored 32 points, Robert Covington added 31 and Philadelphia handed Los Angeles its sixth consecutive loss. Ben Simmons had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers. Embiid grabbed a game-high 16 boards. Lou Williams led Los Angeles (5-8) with 31 points off the bench, and Blake Griffin had 29. The Clippers started the season 4-0 but have lost eight of nine. Philadelphia trailed 101-100 when Covington hit his fifth 3-pointer to give the Sixers (7-6) the lead for good with 33 seconds remaining. The 76ers out-rebounded the Clippers 51-34 to snap a two-game skid.

TRAIL BLAZERS 99, NUGGETS 82

CJ McCollum and Jusuf Nurkic had 17 points apiece as Portland beat Denver to stop a two-game skid. The Trail Blazers built an 86-66 lead early in the fourth quarter and cruised the rest of the way. Damian Lillard had 15 points and seven assists, and the Blazers led by

as many as 23. Paul Millsap led the Nuggets with 18 points, including a season-high five 3-pointers. The win was a boost for the Blazers, who were coming off consecutive close losses at home to Memphis and Brooklyn. The Nuggets were coming off a 5-1 homestand but shot just 35 percent as their three-game winning streak was snapped. Denver was without starter Gary Harris because of right shoulder soreness.

PELICANS 106, HAWKS 105

Darius Miller hit four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, when he scored 14 of his 21 points, and New Orleans overcame a sloppy performance to beat struggling Atlanta. DeMarcus Cousins had 22 points and 16 rebounds, and Anthony Davis added 13 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots for the Pelicans, who have won five of six. E'Twaun Moore tied a career high with 24 points for New Orleans. Kent Bazemore scored 22 points for the Hawks, who led by 14 before fading to lose their fourth straight. Bazemore also missed a critical free throw with 37.1 seconds left. Atlanta still had a chance to take a late lead, but Dennis Schroder's errant pass toward Tyler Cavanaugh sailed out of bounds with 3.2 seconds to go.

BUCKS 110, GRIZZLIES 103

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points and nine rebounds to lead Milwaukee over Memphis. Khris Middleton and John Henson had 17 points apiece as the Bucks won their third straight. Tyreke Evans scored 14 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter for the Grizzlies, and Dillon Brooks added 19 points. Evans scored nine consecutive points to pull Memphis into an 84-all tie early in the fourth quarter.

LAKERS 100, SUNS 93

Jordan Clarkson scored a season-high 25 points and Los Angeles pulled away late to beat Phoenix. Devin Booker had 36 points, his second consecutive game of

No Rodriguez, no problem for Colombia

CHONGQING: A Colombia side missing James Rodriguez punished China 4-0 away in a friendly yesterday as coach Jose Pekerman made wholesale changes from the team defeated in acrimony in South Korea.

Edvin Cardona, who was accused of making a racist gesture in Friday's 2-1 loss at South Korea, was again named among the substitutes for Colombia, who unlike China have qualified for next summer's World Cup in Russia.

One of the changes by Pekerman saw Felipe Pardo start and the Olympiacos winger scored after five minutes, drilling past Yan Junling after finding himself unmarked in the box, with Miguel Borja hitting a second-half brace and Carlos Bacca getting the other. In a first half of few chances in the western Chinese city of Chongqing, the hosts gave Colombia's attacking midfielder Giovanni Moreno, who plays for Chinese side Shanghai Shenhua, some roughhouse treatment.

Twice in quick succession he was scythed down as his side headed into the break a goal ahead. The 26-year-old attacking midfielder Rodriguez was absent after he chose to head back to Bayern Munich—where he is on loan from Real Madrid—after the defeat to South Korea.—AFP

James, Korver lead Cavs' charge to top NY Knicks

NEW YORK: LeBron James had 23 points and 12 assists, Kyle Korver scored 19 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter to spark a huge comeback, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the New York Knicks 104-101 on Monday night. James also had a technical foul after a first-quarter altercation with Frank Ntilikina and Enes Kanter, which seemed to charge up the Knicks as they built what became a 23-point lead late in the third quarter. But the Cavaliers made nine 3-pointers in the fourth after hitting just seven through three quarters, charging back for their eighth straight victory at Madison Square Garden. Tim Hardaway Jr. had 28 points and 10 rebounds, and Kanter added 20 points and 16 boards. But Kristaps Porzingis shot only 7 for 21 while scoring 20 points as the Knicks blew their chance to beat the Cavs for the second time this season. New York led by 15 after three but the Cavs surrounded James with plenty of perimeter shooting and the Knicks couldn't contain them. Cleveland tied it on Channing Frye's 3 with 2:15 to go before James made it 100-97 on another 3 with 1:23 left.

TIMBERWOLVES 109, JAZZ 98

Karl-Anthony Towns had 24 points and 13 rebounds, and Jimmy Butler added 21 points and 10 assists to help Minnesota get past Utah. Jeff Teague scored 22 points for the Timberwolves, and Taj Gibson had 15 points and 10 rebounds. Minnesota (8-5) snapped a two-game skid after shooting 52.1 percent (37 of 71) from the



NEW YORK: Frank Ntilikina #11 of the New York Knicks passes the ball as Cedi Osman #16 and Channing Frye #8 of the Cleveland Cavaliers defend at Madison Square Garden in New York City. — AFP

at least 35, for the Suns. Brook Lopez and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 15 apiece for the Lakers, who snapped a three-game losing streak and won in Phoenix for the second time this season. Lakers rookie Lonzo Ball, coming off his first career triple-double on Saturday night, did not play in the fourth quarter, when the Lakers pulled out the victory. He had seven points on 3-of-10 shooting, five rebounds, five assists and four turnovers in 28 minutes.—AP

13 England boss Jones axe George Kruis ahead of Australia clash

14 Red Sox great Bobby Doerr dies at 99

15 Goffin beats Nadal in ATP Finals thriller



MILAN: Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura, left, consoles Gianluigi Buffon at the end of the World Cup qualifying play-off return leg soccer match between Italy and Sweden in Milan. — AP

Italy suffer WCup ‘apocalypse’

Buffon quits, four-time champs miss out finals in 60 years

MILAN: A tearful Gianluigi Buffon quit international football as four-time champions Italy sensationally missed out on their first World Cup finals in 60 years after a playoff defeat to Sweden. Coach Gian Piero Ventura also said he would consider his future after the Azzurri drew 0-0 on Monday in the second leg of their tie with Sweden, who qualified 1-0 on aggregate.

Distraught Italian fans reacted with shock and disbelief while the Italian press called it an “apocalypse” for the team, who last failed to qualify for the 1958 World Cup and have played every other edition apart from the inaugural tournament in 1930.

“I’m not sorry for myself but all of Italian football, because we failed at something which also means something on a social level,” said an emotional Buffon as he confirmed his retirement. The 39-year-old goalkeeper, who lifted the 2006 World Cup in Germany, who had been hoping to compete in a record sixth World Cup. Buffon, who has 175 international caps, had already announced that the World Cup finals in Russia would be his last.

But Ventura made no announcement about his position despite failing to lead the 1934, 1938, 1982 and 2006 winners to their 19th World Cup.

‘RESIGN? I DON’T KNOW’
The former Torino coach said he would first talk to the Italian federation president before making a decision on his future. “Resign? I don’t know. I have to evaluate an infinity of things. I have not yet spoken to the president,” said Ventura. “It doesn’t depend on me, I’m not in the state of mind to face this question.”

“It’s a very heavy result to bear, because I was absolutely convinced that we had this ferocious desire to overcome the obstacle.” Italian fans were struggling to come to terms with the prospect of a World Cup without their national team.

“It is really very sad because watching the World Cup was something that really brought us together as Italians,” said recent graduate Stefania Pusateri, heading for the exit after watching the match in a Rome bar. “But what is sure is that the shock will be even worse for my father. He is 54 years old and he has never had

to go through something like this.” Another Rome resident Enrico Doddi summed up the national disappointment, saying: “You cannot have a good World Cup without Italy.” The game at Milan’s San Siro stadium witnessed a generational shift for Italy, with Buffon and fellow 2006 veterans Andrea Barzagli and Daniele De Rossi all quitting the team, while Giorgio Chiellini also hung up his Azzurri jersey.

“The era of four or five veterans comes to a close, the one of the hungry young players coming through begins and that’s how it should be,” said Ventura, who took over from Chelsea coach Antonio Conte in 2016 with a contract until June 2020.

‘INTOLERABLE’ SHAME
Italy dominated possession but struggled to create enough clear-cut chances, as Sweden secured a first appearance at the finals since 2006 courtesy of Jakob

Johansson’s first-leg strike in Stockholm.

Ventura had made changes from Friday’s defeat with Brazil-born Jorginho making his Italy debut and Alessandro Florenzi and Manolo Gabbiadini also handed starts, although Napoli’s in-form winger Lorenzo Insigne was again left on the bench.

As the clock ticked down, De Rossi was asked by Ventura to warm up but he pointed at Insigne instead. “I just said we were near the end and had to win, so send the strikers to warm up,” said De Rossi. “I pointed to Insigne too. I just thought perhaps it was better that Insigne come on instead.”

Buffon even came up for two corners in a final desperate gamble but Italy fell desperately short, leading to damning headlines in the Italian press. “Italy, this is the apocalypse,” ran a headline on the website of sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport.

“Wasted chances, a bit of bad luck but zero goals in 180 minutes against the Swedes, who will go to Russia,” Gazzetta commented. Corriere dello Sport, said it will be painful for the country to be on the sidelines when the World Cup kicks off in Russia in June. “It is an intolerable football shame, an indelible stain,” the newspaper said. “It is over. Apocalypse, tragedy, catastrophe.” — AFP

Gulf Cup deadline passes with no response

DOHA: A deadline given by Gulf Cup organisers asking Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to play in next month’s tournament, hosted by Qatar, has passed without response.

Organisers told AFP yesterday that they would now meet later this week to decide whether to go ahead with the tournament. However, it looks increasingly like the Gulf Cup will become the first major sporting casualty of a crisis in the region which has seen the 2022 World Cup host politically and diplomatically isolated by its neighbours since June.

“There was no response, we didn’t receive any

responses at all,” said Gulf Cup Football Federation general secretary Jassim al-Rumaihi. “A decision will be made on the 16th.” Asked if he thought any tournament was likely, Rumaihi responded: “I hope so. Let’s be optimistic on this.” The tournament could still take place but just be played between Qatar, Iraq, Oman, Kuwait and Yemen. The deadline passed on November 13. A letter had been sent to the federations in Saudi, UAE and Bahrain urging them to play in the eight-team tournament due to begin in Doha on December 22.

Question marks have been placed over their involvement as Qatar has been isolated for the past five months in a bitter dispute with neighbours, including Saudi, UAE and Bahrain. These three are among a group of countries which accuse Qatar of supporting extremism and fostering ties with Iran, charges Doha denies. Everything now depends on Kuwait. Gulf Cup organisers have said they will only go ahead if Kuwait take part, but to add to the uncertainty, Kuwait’s football association remains suspended by FIFA and it is unclear if its team can play in the tournament.—AFP

La Liga to introduce VAR next season

MADRID: La Liga plans to introduce video assistant referees (VAR) next season, the league’s president Javier Tebas said yesterday. Spain’s top flight is the only one of Europe’s top five leagues which has so far shunned the use of goalline technology, much to the frustration of the teams.

While the only use of goalline technology is to determine whether the ball has completely crossed the goalline, VAR can be used to determine goals, red cards, penalties as well as cases of mistaken identity.

Last season Barcelona were not awarded a goal despite television replays showing the ball had crossed the line during a 1-1 draw with Real Betis.

“Next season there will be VAR in La Liga, without a doubt,” Tebas said at a news conference in Madrid yesterday. “We are making lots of progress in meetings about it right now and it will be ready very soon.”

On the opening day of this season, two other incidents also highlighted the need to introduce the technology. Sevilla defender Clement Lenglet’s goal against Espanyol was allowed to stand despite replays confirming the ball had not crossed the line, while Getafe were denied a goal against Athletic Bilbao even though Jorge Molina’s strike appeared to have gone over the line. Spanish newspaper Marca reported on Sunday that the technology will be tested out in a King’s Cup game between Atletico Madrid and Elche on Nov. 29, although the Spanish soccer federation (RFEF) could not confirm whether or not the trial would take place when contacted by Reuters.—Reuters

Business

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18 US oil and gas 'resurgence' expected as demand grows**21** Honda Alghanim launches the All-new 2018 Honda Odyssey**22** Rise in teen suicide, social media coincide; is there link?

DUBAI: A Gulf Arab watches the United Arab Emirates' Al-Fursan display team perform during the Dubai Airshow yesterday in the Gulf emirate. — AFP

Wataniya Airways adds 25 A320 aircraft to fleet

Golden Falcon Aviation signs MoU with Airbus

DUBAI: Golden Falcon Aviation, the exclusive aircraft provider of Wataniya Airways, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to acquire 25 new Airbus A320neo Family aircraft. The agreement was signed at the 2017 Dubai Airshow by Dr Hamad Al-Tuwajri, Chairman of Golden Falcon Aviation, and John Leahy, Chief Operating Officer of Airbus Commercial Aircraft, in the presence of Ali Al-Fouzan, Chairman of Wataniya Airways.

The A320neo Family will contribute to Wataniya Airways' strategic vision to become the fastest growing and leading airline in the country.

Wataniya Airways' Chairman, Ali Al-Fouzan, commented on this admirable feat, "We are looking forward to upgrading and enhancing our fleet. The A320neo Family will offer our customers the most comfortable and modern cabins with 18-inch wide seats while ensuring profitability and efficiency. The addition of the aircrafts will enable us to further strengthen our network as we continue

to serve our valued customers."

"This new addition of 25 A320neo Family aircraft demonstrates the confidence in our leading single-aisle aircraft," said John Leahy, Chief Operating Officer of Airbus Commercial Aircraft. "Its operational efficiency and unrivalled passenger comfort make it the perfect choice for Wataniya Airways' fleet expansion and growth plans."

The airline, which resumed operations in July 2017 after a six-year pause, currently operates a fleet of two A320neo aircraft serving several destinations in the Middle East and Europe from its home base in Kuwait.

According to the airline, "the A320neo Family incorporates the very latest technologies including new generation engines and Sharklets, which together deliver at least 15 percent fuel savings at delivery and 20 percent by 2020."

"With more than 5,200 orders received from 95 customers since its launch in 2010, the A320neo Family has captured nearly 60 percent of the market," it added.

“We’re looking forward to upgrading our fleet”



DUBAI: Dr Hamad Al-Tuwajri, Chairman of Golden Falcon Aviation, and John Leahy, Chief Operating Officer of Airbus Commercial Aircraft, in the presence of Ali Al-Fouzan, Chairman of Wataniya Airways during the signing of the MoU. — KUNA

Venezuela in 'selective default': S&P

CARACAS: Venezuela faced the first of what could be a cascade of defaults on its \$150-billion foreign debt yesterday as Standard and Poor's declared the crisis-torn South American country in "selective default". S&P's move came after Vice President Tarek El Aissami met with creditors in Caracas Monday, but offered no way out of the impasse.

In the meantime, China said its massive financing of Venezuela was "proceeding normally", and Russia was expected to sign an agreement as early as today to restructure \$3 billion of Caracas's debt, according to sources in Moscow familiar with the matter. Beijing and Moscow have emerged as Venezuela's most reliable sources of funding, with China owed \$28 billion and Russia \$8 billion.

S&P declared Venezuela in "selective default" after it failed to make \$200 million in payments on two global bond issues by the end of a 30-day grace period on November 12. "We have lowered two issue ratings to 'D' (default), and we lowered the long-term foreign currency sovereign credit rating to 'SD'

(selective default)," the agency said, adding that \$420 million in payments on four other bonds were also overdue, but still within the grace period.

Venezuela's debt crunch comes as no surprise, as the government cuts back on imports to service its debt, leaving the population struggling with shortages of food and medicine. Caracas has less than \$10 billion left in hard currency reserves, but must make \$1.4 billion in debt payments before year-end, and another \$8 billion next year.

Creditors meet

President Nicolas Maduro has formed a commission to restructure Venezuela's sovereign debt and that of state oil company PDVSA. But participants in a first meeting in Caracas on Monday said officials had come up with no concrete proposals for restructuring the debt.

"They didn't give any concrete details on their plans, on what they hope to get," Geronimo Mansutti, from the Rendivalores brokerage, told AFP. About 70 percent of Venezuelan bondholders are North American, according to government figures.

S&P said there was "a one-in-two chance that Venezuela could default again within the next three months." "We would very likely consider any Venezuelan restructuring to be a distressed debt exchange and equivalent to default given the highly constrained external liquidity," it said.

Vice-president El Aissami blamed US

sanctions for delays to Venezuela's debt repayments.

Restrictions include a ban on US entities buying any new Venezuela debt issues—usually a required step in any restructuring. The US has designated vice president El Aissami himself a drug kingpin with whom US entities are barred from dealing.

Decision postponed in New York

A committee of the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) is weighing whether holders of PDVSA debt with default insurance—credit default swaps—can collect payment.

The Maduro government had said it would make a \$1.2-billion payment on a PDVSA bond on November 2, but it was unclear if the funds ever reached creditors. A committee of 15 financial firms met in New York "to discuss whether a Failure to Pay Credit Event had occurred" with respect to PDVSA, but ended up postponing a decision until Tuesday. Adding to the pressure on Maduro was the European Union's announcement of sanctions.

Maduro defiant

But Maduro remains defiant, insisting on Sunday that his country would "never" default and pointing to ongoing negotiations with China and Russia. Nevertheless, his options are very limited. A default can be declared either by the major ratings agencies, big debt-holders or by the government itself. — AFP

Abu Dhabi extends concession at major oilfield to boost output

ABU DHABI: The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) said yesterday it had signed an agreement with US and Japanese oil firms to extend their concessions and boost output at the emirate's biggest oilfield. ADNOC said in a statement it signed the agreement with US giant ExxonMobil and Japan's INPEX to raise output at the Upper Zakum offshore field by around 350,000 barrels per day to one million bpd by 2024. The agreement extended the concession of the two companies by a decade to end by 2051. Located 83 kilometres (52 miles) northwest of Abu Dhabi, Upper Zakum is the world's fourth-largest oilfield and the second-

largest offshore, containing almost half of the United Arab Emirates' proven reserves—nearly 100 billion barrels.

"This agreement is another milestone in our efforts to forge partnerships that bring technology, expertise and capital aimed at delivering greater economic value and levels of recovery from our resources," ADNOC CEO Sultan Al-Jaber said. The agreement is part of efforts by ADNOC to push UAE production capacity to 3.5 million bpd from about 3.2 million bpd currently.

Japan's INPEX began the partnership with ADNOC to develop Upper Zakum in 1978. They were joined by ExxonMobil in 2006. No financial details were given for the agreement but the ongoing project is estimated to cost around \$10 billion. ADNOC has 60 percent of the concession, ExxonMobil 28 percent and INPEX 12 percent. ADNOC yesterday also signed an agreement with a subsidiary of China National Petroleum Co. (CNPC) to raise the onshore Bab field's production by 30,000 bpd to 450,000 bpd by 2020. On Monday, ADNOC said it will float a minority stake in its petrol station subsidiary in the first privatization of the totally state-owned oil sector. — AFP

Business

US oil and gas 'resurgence' expected as demand grows

Grim news for officials at climate talks

LONDON: Oil will continue growing as a source of energy for over two decades, with the US set to become the undisputed leader in crude and gas production, the International Energy Agency said yesterday.

The report from the Paris-based agency will come as grim news for officials attending global climate talks in Bonn, Germany, as they grapple with ways to contain carbon emissions. Scientists just this week said that emissions of the heat-trapping gas rose this year after three years of not growing.

The IEA said oil production will be driven by continued growth in energy-hungry industries. Though solar power is set to become the cheapest source of new electricity generation and the boom years for coal are over, oil and gas will continue to meet the bulk of the world's energy needs, the IEA said.

Oil demand is forecast to keep rising until 2040, with natural gas growing by a sharp 40 percent. A more widespread use of electric cars will not be enough to consign oil to the past, said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

"It is far too early to write the obituary of oil, as growth for trucks, aviation, petrochemicals, shipping and aviation keep pushing demand higher," said Birol.

Total energy demand is expected to have grown by 30 percent by 2040 - and would be growing twice that without efforts to improve energy efficiencies. The price of oil has risen over 30 percent since June to a two-year high of around \$57 a barrel in New York trading amid evidence of stronger economic growth around the world. But analysts expect the price to not rise much further in coming months as the US ramps up production.

The IEA echoed that view, saying it expects the US to

see a resurgence in its oil and gas industries and become the world's biggest net exporter by the end of the 2020s. Asian countries will become the biggest net importers of oil and gas, taking in 70 percent of imports by 2040 as their economies expand at a fast clip. Environmental activists decried the IEA forecasts as discounting any efforts by countries to limit emissions as part of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

"None of its core scenarios for the future of energy provide a reasonable chance that the world will avoid climate catastrophe," said Adam Scott, senior advisor at Oil Change International.

Norway Arctic oil
Meanwhile, Norway's plan for Arctic oil exploration is unconstitutional because it violates the right to a healthy environment, a lawyer for

Greenpeace and the Nature and Youth environmental group told an Oslo court yesterday.

The case is the first of its kind in Norway and says a 2015 oil licensing round in the Arctic that gave awards to Statoil, Chevron and others violates the constitution. Norway signed the 2016 Paris accord, which aims to end the fossil fuel era this century. The country is Western Europe's largest oil producer and oil and gas are its most important exports. Government lawyers say the case is a publicity stunt that would cost jobs if it is successful.

But it is part of an emerging branch of law worldwide in which plaintiffs invoke a nation's founding principles in a bid to bring about policy change to limit global warming.

"We argue that these licenses are not allowed under the law as per the Constitution," Cathrine Hambro, representing the plaintiffs, told the court in her opening argument of

“Oil production will be driven by energy-hungry industries”



SACRAMENTO: In this photo, Christian Rodriguez fuels his vehicle in Sacramento, Calif. The price of oil has risen by about one-third since the summer, but many experts think the surge won't last. They point to growing US production. —AP

a case likely to last two weeks. "We ask the court to make a quality check of these decisions, which have large and irreversible consequences." The state is represented by Attorney General Fredrik Sejersted, which underlines the

gravity of the case. In another sign of its high profile, former Supreme Court judge, Ketil Lund, is advising the plaintiffs on behalf of Norwegian Grandparents Against Climate Change, who are co-plaintiffs. —Agencies

Jazeera Airways waives change fees for customers in Beirut

KUWAIT: Following the call for all Kuwaiti citizens to depart Lebanon by the Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jazeera Airways responded on Friday that it had waived all change fees on Kuwait-

bound bookings from Lebanon until further notice. Jazeera Airways will also facilitate their departure from Lebanon ahead of the scheduled date in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Kuwait in Beirut and other concerned parties.

Jazeera Airways will provide all the necessary information to the citizens through its office in Beirut, noting that its staff is ready to provide support and answer the inquiries of citizens within 24 hours. Jazeera Airways said its flights to and from Beirut are running on a regular schedule.

Gulf Bank continues to drive bank-wide operational risk reduction and efficiency

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing commitment mitigating and preventing operational risk, Gulf Bank concluded another session in its series of trainings for a wide cross section of senior management. The training session, entitled "Internal Control Enhancement: Management Responsibility, Culture, and Oversight" was conducted by Fitch Learning at the JW Marriott hotel.

The one-day training session highlighted key aspects of sound internal controls, as well as regulatory and management oversight. During the training, the causes and impact of operational risk were discussed, as well as strategies for combatting it, in addition to the importance of building an operational risk culture bank-wide.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank

commented on the session saying: "Gulf Bank's positive record of growth is sustained and accelerated by its prudent policies and procedures and a strong adherence to risk controls. In order to achieve this success, we place high value on empowering our staff and as such are pleased to have offered this training to increase our team's awareness of possible threats to Gulf Bank's mandate, and to focus on sound international control practices to further align the organization's operational risk awareness culture. We were happy with the active participation of our staff who shared specific viewpoints from their departments on how best to continue building an effective operational risk culture framework."

Raghunandan Menon, Chief Risk Officer and General Manager of Risk Management at Gulf Bank added: "Ensuring compliance with the Central Bank of Kuwait's standards and reducing the risk of internal control lapses are top priorities for Gulf Bank. Our internal controls aim to protect our assets and the integrity of our banking processes based on international standards of risk controls. The results of the session included additional approaches to reducing risk and better empowering executive to mitigate future risks."

The one-day training session delivered by Fitch Learning will foreseeably support the bank's growth in the upcoming period, whilst taking into consideration current and future risks in the banking environment. Fitch Learning is part of Fitch Group and is a platform that provides knowledge and skills training. Fitch Group is a global leader in financial information services with operation in more than 30 countries.

India's Airtel sells \$508m stake amid Jio fight

MUMBAI: Indian telecom giant Bharti Airtel sold a half-billion-dollar stake in its mobile tower business yesterday to help shrink its debts as it reels from a price war sparked by rival Reliance Jio. Airtel, which recently reported a 77 percent slump in quarterly profits, said in a statement that it had sold 83 million shares worth 33.25 billion rupees (\$508 million) in Bharti Infratel.

"Bharti Airtel will primarily use the proceeds from this sale to reduce its debt," the company said in a filing to the Bombay Stock Exchange in India's financial capital Mumbai.

The shares were bought by global

investors and fund managers, the statement added. It came a day after Idea Cellular and Vodafone India announced the sale of 20,000 mobile phone towers to American Tower Corp for 78.5 billion rupees as it seeks funds to fend off Jio, which is owned by India's richest man. Idea and Vodafone's Indian unit are currently merging in a move that will see them overtake Airtel as India's largest telecoms operator with more than 400 million subscribers.

India's multi-billion-dollar telecoms industry has been in a state of flux since Mukesh Ambani launched Jio in September 2016, promising reduced tariffs and free voice calls for life.

Jio's arrival has sparked a rush to market consolidation as competitors try to match the deep pockets of Jio, which is backed by Ambani's hugely wealthy energy-to-chemicals conglomerate Reliance Industries. Last month Airtel reported that its consolidated net profit for the quarter ending September had fallen 77 percent on-year. It said its debt stood at 914.8 billion rupees. —AFP



EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.674
Indian Rupees	4.625
Pakistani Rupees	2.875
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Nepali Rupees	2.936
Singapore Dollar	223.630
Hongkong Dollar	38.886
Bangladesh Taka	3.662
Philippine Peso	5.935
Thai Baht	9.195

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.947
Qatari Riyal	83.372
Omani Riyal	788.332
Bahraini Dinar	806.030
UAE Dirham	82.645

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.700
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.170
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218
Tunisian Dinar	123.060
Jordanian Dinar	428.040
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.022
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.479

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.350
Euro	356.130
Sterling Pound	399.360

Canadian dollar	239.240
Turkish lira	788.900
Swiss Franc	306.100
Australian Dollar	233.280
US Dollar Buying	302.150

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer Selling Rate

US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	239.540
Sterling Pound	399.145
Euro	354.630
Swiss Franc	303.680
Bahrain Dinar	804.185
UAE Dirhams	82.885
Qatari Riyals	83.710
Saudi Riyals	81.660
Jordanian Dinar	428.645
Egyptian Pound	17.208
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973
Indian Rupees	4.642
Pakistani Rupees	2.873
Bangladesh Taka	3.704
Philippines Peso	5.906
Cyprus pound	18.030
Japanese Yen	3.665
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.913

Malaysian Ringgit	72.220
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.005
Thai Bhat	10.145
Turkish Lira	78.895

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

British Pound	0.392016	0.399516
Czech Koruna	0.005822	0.017822
Danish Krone	0.043492	0.048492
Euro	0.348374	0.355874
Georgian Lari	0.113140	0.113140
Norwegian Krone	0.033065	0.038265
Romanian Leu	0.059096	0.075946
Russian ruble	0.005098	0.005098
Slovakia	0.009051	0.019051
Swedish Krona	0.032115	0.037115
Swiss Franc	0.297713	0.308713
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.223073	0.235073
New Zealand Dollar	0.201754	0.211254
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.232531	0.241531
US Dollars	0.299250	0.303670
US Dollars Mint	0.299750	0.303670
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003306	0.003890

Chinese Yuan	0.044183	0.0476833
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036789	0.039539
Indian Rupee	0.004109	0.004750
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002583	0.002763
Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068404	0.074404
Nepalese Rupee	0.003027	0.003197
Pakistan Rupee	0.002653	0.002943
Philippine Peso	0.005762	0.006062
Singapore Dollar	0.217349	0.227349
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001646	0.002226
Taiwan	0.009926	0.010106
Thai Baht	0.008823	0.009373
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.797647	0.806147
Egyptian Pound	0.014548	0.020264
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207	0.000267
Jordanian Dinar	0.423250	0.432250
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.023606	0.047606
Omani Riyal	0.781604	0.787284
Qatar Riyal	0.079033	0.083973
Saudi Riyal	0.079807	0.081107
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001508
Tunisian Dinar	0.117283	0.125283
Turkish Lira	0.073428	0.083728
UAE Dirhams	0.081166	0.082866
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986	0.001066

Business

Boeing inks \$1.3bn Ethiopian Airlines deal for 777 freighters

Bombardier wins \$2.2bn CSeries orders from EgyptAir

DUBAI: Boeing Co inked a \$1.3 billion deal yesterday to sell four 777 freighters to Ethiopian Airlines as an aircraft provider to a Kuwaiti carrier resuming operations tentatively agreed to buy 25 Airbus A320neos. Chicago-based Boeing and Ethiopian, Africa's largest cargo operator, made the announcement at the biennial Dubai Air Show, which continues through tomorrow.

Boeing 777 freighters have a list price of \$325.7 million. However, airlines and manufacturers typically negotiate discounts on such deals. Later yesterday, Airbus announced the tentative sale of the A320neos to Golden Falcon Aviation, the exclusive airplane provider to Wataniya Airways. Wataniya, a private company, resumed operations in July after the company folded in 2011 over financial difficulties amid the Arab Spring protests that gripped the Mideast.

At last price, the 25 A320neos would be worth \$2.7 billion. Two-engine, single-aisle A320neos can seat a maximum of 180 passengers. This year's air show has seen less sales than in past years. The only major deal announced so far came Sunday, when long-haul carrier Emirates purchased 40 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners in a \$15.1 billion deal.

So far, there's been little news for Airbus, which has pinned hopes of continuing production of its A380 double-decker jumbo jet on Emirates, the world's largest operator of the aircraft. Reports circulated before the air show that a major A380 sale would be coming.

Airbus employees even filled a news conference on Sunday, expecting the A380 sale, instead to find state-owned Emirates making the deal with Boeing in front of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

Emirates now relies solely on the Airbus 380 and the Boeing 777 for its flights, making it the largest operator of both. It now has 165 Boeing 777s in its fleet today and took possession of its 100th A380 earlier this month.

EgyptAir deal

Canadian aircraft maker Bombardier said yesterday it had agreed to sell up to 24 CSeries aircraft to EgyptAir for a total price tag of nearly \$2.2 billion. According to a letter of intent signed between both companies, the Egyptian carrier placed 12 firm orders for CS300 planes and took out purchase rights for another 12, Bombardier said in a statement released during the Dubai air show.

"We undertook a thorough evaluation process of our fleet and realised that the CS300 would fit perfectly into our business plans and growth strategy," EgyptAir CEO Safwat Musallam said in the statement. Bombardier Commercial Aircraft President Fred Cromer said the deal "confirms the need for right-sized aircraft in the Middle East. We are confident that our small single-aisle C Series is ideally-suited to serve the hot temperature environments of the region". The deal is the second firm order for Bombardier aircraft since last month's announcement that European plane maker Airbus would take over Bombardier's CSeries program.

The previous sale covered 31 aircraft for an unidentified European client. Bombardier's single-aisle CSeries program covers the 100 to 150-seat segment and is comprised of the CS100 model and the larger CS300. EgyptAir, founded in 1932, is the oldest airline in the Middle East and Africa, and Egypt's national airline, flying to 70 destinations in 60 countries. Bombardier in October ceded control of the CSeries to Airbus, abandoning hope of ascending into the top echelons of passenger aircraft manufacturing alongside rivals Airbus and Boeing, but securing US market access for its new jetliners.

The European aircraft manufacturer took a 50.1-percent stake in the CSeries program in exchange for using its sales and marketing heft to lift CSeries sales. The CSeries is the first new design in the 100 to 150-seat category in more than 25 years, and only recently started to roll off assembly lines. —Agencies



DUBAI: Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum (right), looks at an Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jet during the Dubai Airshow yesterday in the United Arab Emirates. —AFP

Services boost US producer prices; inflation firming

WASHINGTON: US producer prices rose more than expected in October, driven by a surge in the cost of services, leading to the biggest annual increase in wholesale inflation in over 5-1/2 years. Yesterday's report from the Labor Department also showed steady gains in underlying producer prices, which support expectations of a gradual increase in inflation and keep the Federal Reserve on track to raise interest rates in December. The producer price index for final demand increased 0.4 percent last month after a similar gain in September. In the 12 months through October, the PPI jumped 2.8 percent, the largest increase since February 2012.

The PPI rose 2.6 percent year-on-year in September. Economists had forecast the PPI edging up 0.1 percent last month and increasing 2.4 percent from a year ago.

Prices for services advanced 0.5 percent last month after increasing 0.4 percent in September. A 24.9 percent surge in margins for fuels and lubricants retailing accounted for almost half of the increase in the cost of services last month. That helped to offset a 4.6 percent drop in the cost of gasoline. Wholesale gasoline prices soared 10.9 percent in September in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, which struck Texas in late August and reduced refining capacity in the Gulf Coast area.

Gasoline prices are falling amid ample crude oil supplies. Last month's rise in prices received by the nation's farms, factories and refineries was also driven by rising costs for goods such as pharmaceutical preparations, fresh and dry vegetables, meat and tobacco.

The dollar pared losses against a basket of currencies after the data, while prices for US Treasuries fell. A key gauge of underlying producer price pressures that excludes food, energy and trade services rose 0.2 percent last month. It has increased by the same margin for three straight months. The so-called core PPI increased 2.3 percent in the 12 months through October after advancing 2.1 percent in September. A weakening dollar could gradually lift core PPI. The dollar has this year lost 5.4 percent of its value against the currencies of the United States' main trading partners. Inflation has remained stubbornly



In this Oct 27, 2017 photo, a worker helps assemble a Ford truck at the Ford Kentucky Truck Plant, in Louisville, Ky. Yesterday, the Labor Department reported on US producer price inflation in October. —AP

low, despite the labor market nearing full employment. The main inflation measure tracked by the Fed has remained below the US central bank's 2 percent target since mid-2012. Despite moderate price pressures, the Fed is expected to raise interest rates next month. There is cautious optimism that tightening labor market conditions will spur faster wage growth next year.

The Fed has increased borrowing costs twice this year. October's consumer inflation data scheduled for release today could shed more light on the future course of monetary policy.

Last month, food prices rose 0.5 percent after being unchanged in September. Core goods increased 0.3 percent after a similar gain in the prior month. Prices for passenger cars were unchanged last month. The government introduced new motor vehicle pricing models into the survey in October. The cost of healthcare services gained 0.3 percent after being unchanged in September. Those costs feed into the Fed's preferred inflation measure, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index excluding food and energy. —Reuters

British inflation steadies at 5-year high in October

LONDON: Britain's annual inflation rate steadied at a five-year high of 3.0 percent in October as rising food prices offset falling motor fuel costs, official data showed yesterday. The Consumer Prices Index 12-month rate was unchanged from the level in September, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. Analysts' consensus forecast had been for a slight rise in CPI to 3.1 percent.

Inflation has soared this year as a Brexit-hit pound ramped up import costs, which led the Bank of England to raise its key interest rate for the first time in a decade at a meeting earlier this month. The BoE tightened borrowing costs to 0.50 percent from a record-low of 0.25 percent, with Britain's inflation far above the central bank's 2.0-percent target rate. Separately yesterday, data from research group Kantar showed that UK grocery price inflation for the quarter ending November 5 stood at 3.4 percent, the highest level in four years.

Further rate hike?

At three percent overall, "inflation looks like it has peaked and... the Bank of England will tread carefully", ING bank economist James Smith said following yesterday's data, adding that another rate rise next year remained a possibility.

"Brexit negotiations will be a big determining factor and there are a lot of hurdles to overcome over the next few months," he added. British Prime Minister Theresa May begins a major parliamentary battle over Brexit yesterday. MPs will have their first chance to scrutinize the EU Withdrawal Bill, which would formally end Britain's membership of the European Union and transfer four decades of EU legislation into UK law. Britain is on course to leave the bloc in March 2019. —AFP

Eurozone growth, eclipsing US economy, set to be best in decade

BRUSSELS: The eurozone's annual economic growth rate outstripped that of the United States in the third quarter setting up 2017 as the best year for the currency area since financial markets crashed a decade ago. Germany was a major factor, but even some of the bloc's laggards, such as Italy, showed signs of revival. Eurostat, the European Union statistics office, confirmed a preliminary estimate that euro zone gross domestic product (GDP) grew 0.6 percent from July to September from the previous quarter and on a year on year basis was 2.5 percent higher.

This was higher than the 2.3 percent year-on-year rate for the US economy, which had been growing faster than the euro zone. The US quarterly numbers were slightly better than the eurozones at 0.7 percent, however. "A robust labor market recovery, growing export markets, an accommodative monetary stance, improving lending conditions and modest inflation are but a few of the tailwinds that the euro zone economy is experiencing," ING economist Bert Colijn said.

"Because of that, this could well be its strongest year for growth since 2007. The eurozone will likely outpace both the U.S. and UK in terms of GDP growth in 2017," he said. Euro zone GDP grew 3.0 percent in 2007, and reached 2.1 percent in 2010 and 2015.

Partly as a result of the growth, euro zone investments have turned in one of their best years since the single currency was born in 1999, confounding many who had bet on the bloc to be the disaster play of 2017. The strong eurozone growth was powered by

the biggest economy Germany, which shifted into an even higher gear in the third quarter, propelled by buoyant exports and rising company investments in equipment. Seasonally adjusted German GDP rose 0.8 percent on the quarter, beating a consensus forecast of 0.6 percent, which was also the second-quarter growth rate.

Second biggest France grew 0.5 percent on the quarter and 2.2 percent in annual terms and the third biggest Italy beat expectations with a 0.5 percent quarterly, and 1.8 percent annual growth, supported by exports and domestic demand. The Netherlands, the fifth biggest economy, grew an expected 0.4 percent on the quarter after a record jump of 1.5 percent in the previous three months, putting it on track for a 3.3 percent expansion this year, the strongest since 2007.

Outside the bloc, euro zone growth also exceeded that of Britain, the EU's second-ranked economy which will leave the bloc in March 2019. The British economy, affected by a drop in the pound against the euro since last year's Brexit vote, expanded 0.4 percent on the quarter in sterling terms and just 1.5 percent annually.

Separately, Eurostat said eurozone industrial production fell by 0.6 percent month-on-month in September as expected by markets but rose 3.3 percent year-on-year, slightly beating economists' average forecast of a 3.2 percent increase. "The outlook for production in the fourth quarter remains strong," ING's Colijn said. "New orders for manufacturing surged in August and businesses are reporting large backlogs of work according to the PMI survey."

"That should result in continued strength in industry in the final quarter of the year, adding to the possibility that our estimate for GDP growth in 2017 of 2.3 percent could still be too low," he said.

The stronger growth supports the European Central Bank's decision last month to start weaning the euro zone off ultra-loose money by saying that from January it will halve the amount of bonds it buys every month to 30 billion euros (\$35.1 billion). It nevertheless promised years of stimulus and left the door open to backtracking. —Reuters

UK regulator clears Tesco's £3.7bn Booker takeover

LONDON: Britain's competition regulator has given the green light to supermarket giant Tesco's £3.7-billion takeover of wholesaler Booker, it said yesterday. The takeover, worth \$4.8 billion or 4.2 billion euros, has been provisionally cleared by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), it announced in a statement. Tesco launched the blockbuster deal earlier this year in a bid to become the nation's top food business, slash costs and take on German-owned discount retailers.

The regulator ruled yesterday that the pair do not compete head-to-head in most of their activities.

"The CMA has provisionally concluded that Tesco's purchase of Booker does not raise competition concerns," it said. The news sent Tesco's share price surging 6.36 percent to 188.25 pence in afternoon trade on the rising London stock market.

However, shares have still shed around ten percent in value since the deal was unveiled in late January on fears it was overpaying. "Tesco will be hoping that its sheer size and buying power will help it fend off others in the sector and restore it as the nation's favorite supermarket," said analyst Graham Spooner at stockbroker The Share Centre.

"The jury is likely to still be out for some time on that," he added. Booker is the country's largest cash-and-carry operator and sells goods to more than 503,000 customers—including grocers, pubs and restaurants. It also owns convenience store chains Budgens, Londis and Premier, as well as trade-facing Makro and Booker Wholesale. "The CMA found that Tesco as a retailer and Booker as a wholesaler, supplying to caterers, independent and symbol group retailers including Premier, Londis and Budgens, do not compete head-to-head in most of their activities," the regulator added yesterday. "In particular, Tesco does not supply the catering sector to which Booker makes over 30 percent of its sales." In a brief statement, Tesco welcomed the CMA news, adding that it expected the takeover to complete in early 2018. "We look forward to creating the UK's leading food business, bringing together our combined expertise in retail and wholesale," it said.

"This merger has always been about growth, and will bring benefits for independent retailers, caterers, small businesses, suppliers, consumers, and colleagues," Tesco is Britain's biggest retailer but has been troubled in recent years by an accounting scandal and fierce domestic competition from German discount chains Aldi and Lidl.

In October however, the supermarket group revealed it had rebounded into first half net profits—and announced it would resume dividend payments to shareholders. Tesco is the world's third-biggest supermarket chain after France's Carrefour and global leader Wal-Mart of the United States. —AFP

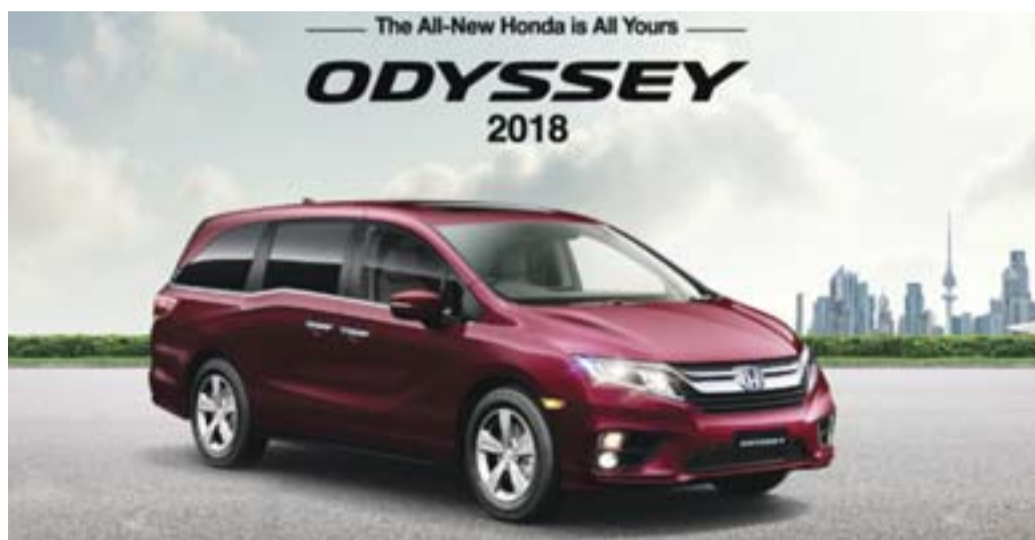


This file photo taken on January 27, 2017 shows a combination of pictures created in London on January 27, 2017 from pictures taken in London on January 27, 2017 shows the signage on the front of a branch of a Tesco (top) supermarket in London and signage on the front of a branch of Booker (bottom) food wholesale store in London. —AFP

Business

Honda Alghanim launches the All-new 2018 Honda Odyssey

A completely redesigned exterior with two new colors



KUWAIT: Honda Alghanim launched the all-new 2018 Honda Odyssey, bringing the most popular MPV globally, with over 2.7 million units sold across 4 generations, to Kuwait. The fifth generation 2018 Odyssey comes with a variety of features and the world's first technologies, such as CabinWatch, CabinTalk, 10 Speed AT and Magic Slide 2nd row seats.

Sophisticated and Modern New Exterior Styling

The exterior of the Odyssey has been redesigned to portray sophisticated and modern new styling that incorporates a signature flying wing front grille with halogen headlights (in LX and EX-L) and LED headlights (in Touring) with auto on-off timer making it energy efficient. The Odyssey's signature lightning bolt beltline makes it look elegant and the design cleverly hides the sliding door tracks in the lower side of the rear door. A wraparound side and rear glass portrays a floating roof structure, which adds elegance to the design. Rear taillights with integrated LED light bars (standard in all grades) enhances its sporty and dynamic profile. A distinct feature of the Honda Odyssey in the EX-L and Touring grade is the Height Adjustable Power Tailgate feature, which makes it easy to customize for drivers of all heights and protects the tailgate from damage in areas with lower ceiling heights. In addition, the Touring grade has the Handsfree Assist feature, which allows you to open and close the tailgate with a simple kick action under the rear bumper when your hands are full.

Spacious and Luxurious Interior Styling and Features

The Odyssey is comfortable and versatile when it comes to interior styling and cabin envi-

ronment with different convenience features and state of the art technologies, and can easily accommodate up to 8 passengers and a multitude of cargo in different shapes and sizes.

With the centre seat removed, the Magic Slide 2nd-Row seats can move to the centre and forward allowing for convenient access to the 3rd row. The 2nd Row magic slide seats can be customized into four different positions

* Full Mode: In this mode, the Odyssey can accommodate 8 passengers comfortably with ample head and leg room.

* Wide Mode: With the centre seat removed and two outboard seats in their outer most positions, this mode provides a wide centre walkthrough the third row.

* Super Mode: With the centre seat removed, the outboard seats slide laterally through five selectable positions allowing for easy access to third row with one or two rear facing child seats installed in the second row. The centre most seat also slides forward to allow easy access of the child for the front seat.

* Buddy Mode: With the centre seat removed, the outboard seats are next to each other in the centre of the vehicle, putting two people in close proximity and within easier reach of the front seat occupants.

The third row features a 60/40 Split Magic Seat configuration that folds down into the large recess in the cargo floor by pulling a single strap on each side creating a flat-floor cargo area.

The Odyssey boasts a new and soft touch instrument panel, which includes a full color, interactive 8-inch Display Audio Touchscreen, Stop Start button, Electronic Parking Brake with Brake Hold function, ventilated seats and a new push button gear selector. In addition, a new 7-

inch digital driver information interface with direct sight to the driver ensures that relevant information such as the phonebook, fuel consumption, remaining distance, select app control, turn by turn direction when using the navigation and even Honda Sensing (touring grade only) are accessible and easy to read. Cruise Control, illuminated vanity mirrors (driver and asst), map lights, ambient console lighting, rear window defroster, conversation mirror with sunglass holder, driver's seat with 8-way power adjustment, front passenger's seat with 4-way power

or 8-inch display audio touchscreen offers the latest in device connectivity and acts like a command centre allowing the driver and the front seat passenger to customize the vehicle according to their preference. It even has the Apple CarPlay app, a physical knob for volume control and Multi-Zone Audio, which allows you to choose which audio plays in which zone.

* Honda CabinWatchTM: A camera with nightvision allows the driver and the front passenger to view the rear passenger's on the Display Audio Touch Screen.

* Honda CabinTalkTM: It allows you to easily talk with the passengers in the 2nd and the 3rd row seats. Using the vehicle's speaker systems or the wireless headphones it also overrides the headphones plugged into the 3rd row seats of the rear entertainment system.

* Rear Entertainment System: Passengers in the 2nd and 3rd rows can enjoy engaging content on a 10.2-inch screen using HDMI input to connect major media devices or through the BluRay DVD/CD player. To keep the children occupied, it even has the "How Much Farther" app, which provides a fun way to track remaining kilometers and travel time to a destination. Five different themes can be selected by a simple press of the remote providing hours of entertainment

* Premium Audio System: The Odyssey comes with eleven premium speakers including a subwoofer for increased durability at higher output, delivering crisp and clear sound.

* Wireless Charging: Phones supporting wireless charging can be easily charged using the wireless charging platform in the centre console on the Touring grade.

* Multi-Angle Rear-view Camera with Dynamic Guidelines: It provides three different angles - normal, top-down and wide for a better view of what is behind you whenever you shift into reverse. The dynamic guidelines help to ensure you park quickly and safely, in those tight spots.

Safety and Performance

The all new Honda Odyssey is equipped with some of the best specs for active and passive safety. It is equipped with the Advanced Compatibility Engineering (ACE(tm)) body structure, which is a Honda-exclusive body design that enhances occupant protection and crash compatibility in frontal collisions. The body structure consists of 59 percent High Strength Steel and is 34 kilograms lighter than the outgoing model. This improves body stiffness and rigidity by 44 percent, providing excellent dynamic capabilities

The Odyssey is equipped with multilink rear suspension, and a low center of gravity chassis, with a revised damper and steering geometry settings, making the Odyssey excellent for normal school runs and even better on those long journeys fully loaded at the weekend.

With dual pinion steering, and variable gear ratio, the Odyssey is easy to park, providing excellent steering feedback on highways.

The Odyssey is equipped with dual stage multiple threshold front airbags, front side airbags, three row side curtain airbags, drivers and front passengers knee airbags to ensure maximum safety. Other Honda active safety features include Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) with Traction Control Systems (TCS), Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS), Electronic Brake Distributor (EBD), Agile Handling Assist, Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS), and Hill Start Assist (HSA).

Now available in three grades: LX, EX-L and Touring



adjustment, ventilated front seats and power windows are standard in all grades. Moreover, the Active Noise Cancelling System, acoustic windshield and thicker door glass, makes the Odyssey the quietest in its class.

Audio and Connectivity

The all new Honda Odyssey is a technologically advanced vehicle, offering the latest features in technology and connectivity. Some of the features on the Touring grade include:

* 8-inch Display Audio Touchscreen: Full col-

Burgan Bank launches new Visa Signature credit card

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank recently launched new Visa Signature Credit card as the bank continues to enhance its portfolio of premium products to customers in Kuwait, offering an extensive suite of exclusive travel and entertainment benefits.

The product is a seamless fit for the premium affluent segment and merges great rewards with delightful travel experience across the globe.

Holders of the new Burgan Bank Visa Signature Credit card can look forward to being rewarded wherein they can earn cash back up to 1.5 percent on their spends and also enjoy a relaxing, stress free journey with unlimited access to over 650 worldwide airport lounges. Additionally, cardholders are entitled to dining delights with a variety of discounts at restaurants locally and internationally as well as a range of premium benefits from Agoda.com, Hotels.com and Visaluxuryhotels.com.

Furthermore, customers would be entitled to other value-added benefits provided by the

bank such as free valet parking at multiple malls across Kuwait and free local and International concierge service offering a range of personal services including courier service, airport transfers, limos for occasions, and efficient car registrations amongst others.

Staying true to a customer-centric business model and ensuring rich personalized experiences, the new card is also equipped with the convenience of "Tap & Pay" service, allowing the cardholder to pay by just tapping their card at any NFC-enabled point of sale terminals.

Amit Vij, Visa Country Manager for Kuwait, commented: "Visa's premium card propositions combine the highest levels of security and flexibility with the most rewarding package of benefits and privileges. The new Burgan Bank Visa Signature card has been designed around the lifestyle needs of the cardholder and is an impressive new addition to Kuwait's payments landscape."

Raed Al-Haqhaq, Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait of Burgan Bank commented: "The launch of Burgan Bank Visa Signature credit card is another step in our ongoing endeavor to provide our clients with innovative financial solutions that reward their lifestyles. Holders of this card will gain attractive benefits such as top of line cash back, free global airport lounge access to over 650 lounges, personal accident travel insurance alongside a host of lifestyle privileges including dining, travel and luxury hotel accommodation.

To purchase the new card and enjoy its many advantages, customers are urged to visit the nearest branch.

Behbehani Tire Center (Pirelli) awards 5 winners

KUWAIT: In the end of the "Win a Dream Trip to Attend the Formula 1 Race with Behbehani Tire Center - Pirelli" Campaign, the big draw was held on Thursday: 9th of



November 2017 at 10:00 am in Behbehani Tire Center (Pirelli) Al-Rai in the presence of representatives of the company and representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The company has dedicated 5 special travel packages for the winners that include an economic airplane ticket with two nights stay in Abu Dhabi and entrance ticket to attend the most exciting race in the world the Formula 1 that will be held in Ferrari World track in Yas Island Abu Dhabi on the 26th of November 2017. Five winners were awarded at the draw and they are:

- 1- Ali Abdulaziz Ali Aziz
- 2- Zaid Mubarak Al-Adwani
- 3- Aisha Al-Nighaimsh
- 4- Faisal Bahman
- 5- Abdulrahman Abdullah Hassan

It is worth to mention that the campaign has achieved huge customer attraction on the Pirelli Corner in the Avenues Mall Phase 3 in front of Prestige entrance that had a real Formula 1 Vehicle Model. Customers enjoyed getting a closer look on the model, taking



pictures and playing the Formula 1 race game through the digital screen provided, where it made them experience a real moment of driving on speed race tracks.

The participants have qualified to the draw through a special coupon that was given to them for purchasing any tire from Pirelli Tires are available in all specifications and sizes that are suitable to all different American, Japanese, European and Korean brands, sports and Luxury cars.

For all cars that require special specifications and motorcycle tires, Behbehani Pirelli Tire Center provides the biggest tires variety

for motorcycle in Kuwait. Pirelli also provides tires for trucks with special centers for changing and fixing tires.

Pirelli tires is distinguished for its superior performance, strength, stability and its ability to bear with tough climates, high temperatures and speed therefore, it is perfect to function in the Gulf Climates and in Kuwait in particular. Pirelli tires are also available in convenient prices and appropriate for all budgets. Moreover, the tires last longer and have greater capabilities to resist damages and erosions which in turn save money for clients on the long run.



Technology

Microsoft Kuwait showcases game-changing technologies

EGOV5 addresses digital transformation and ICT innovation

KUWAIT: In line with its commitment to support the government of Kuwait to drive digital transformation across different sectors, Microsoft announced yesterday that it has participated as the platinum sponsor at the 5th E-Government Forum that was held from the 5th to 7th November 2017, at the Arraya Ballroom, Courtyard Marriott hotel, Kuwait. EGOV5 is patronized by His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad AL-Sabah. Khaled Nasser Abdullah Al-Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs inaugurated the event and its accompanying technology exhibition.

EGOV5 addresses key topics such as the growing ability of technology to drive digital transformation forward and the role of governments in encouraging ICT innovation and utilization of new tech solutions. Microsoft highlighted the importance of driving digital transformation through its unique set of technology solutions empowering governments to drive productivity, increase mobility and innovate new digital services across government agencies and to a broader set of citizens and stakeholders.

During the event, Microsoft showcased a range of tools to help accelerate E-Services in the government sector as well as health, education, financial services, manufacturing and retail industries. The company demonstrated innovative solutions spanning across cloud computing, productivity, business intelligence, security, mixed reality, artificial intelligence and internet of Things - aimed at empowering enterprises to better compete in a cloud centric, digital era market.

"The government of Kuwait is actively working towards realizing the vision of 'New Kuwait', in efforts of boosting the economy and diversifying productivity by providing a set of solutions aimed at modernizing govern-

ment services," said Qussai Al-Shatti, acting Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology. "Microsoft has been a long-standing partner in supporting the Government of Kuwait in the journey of this transformation, as we move forward towards empowering our government agencies with technology to better serve the citizens of the country."

Illustrating the scale of digital disruption seen today, Microsoft team at the forum demonstrated how cloud intelligence can be leveraged to drive business efficiency and cater to industries in different stages of digital transformation.

"Kuwait has a history of exploration and innovation, and is fast advancing towards an era where the region is

on the verge of becoming pioneers of digital transformation. We at Microsoft are committed to assist the government of Kuwait in realizing this transformation, meeting their national vision through smart initiatives centered on the expansion of the digital ecosystem" Said Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait. We continue to view Kuwait as a key market and our participation in EGOV5 for the fifth consecutive year reiterates our support to the government of Kuwait, in empowering them to transform the ICT sector, improving efficiencies in organizations and revolutionizing the way people work."

As governments leave behind old processes, disparate systems, and paper-based methods, to move to a digital future, the need for improved data security increases. Supported by an ecosystem of expert government partners, Microsoft is enabling governments to better serve and protect citizens and build more secure, productive nations by connecting people, systems, and information resulting in more impactful outcomes.



EGOV5 held in Kuwait November 5-7

Rise in teen suicide, social media coincide; is there link?

CHICAGO: An increase in suicide rates among US teens occurred at the same time social media use surged and a new analysis suggests there may be a link.

Suicide rates for teens rose between 2010 and 2015 after they had declined for nearly two decades, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Why the rates went up isn't known. The study doesn't answer the question, but it suggests that one factor could be rising social media use. Recent teen suicides have been blamed on cyberbullying, and social media posts depicting "perfect" lives may be taking a toll on teens' mental health, researchers say.

"After hours of scrolling through Instagram feeds, I just feel worse about myself because I feel left out," said Caitlin Hearty, a 17-year-old Littleton, Colorado, high school senior who helped organize an offline campaign last month after several local teen suicides.

"No one posts the bad things they're going through," said Chloe Schilling, also 17, who helped with the campaign, in which hundreds of teens agreed not to use the internet or social media for one month.

The study's authors looked at CDC suicide reports from 2009-15 and results of two surveys given to US high school students to measure attitudes, behaviors and interests. About half a million teens ages 13 to 18 were involved. They were asked about use of electronic devices, social media, print media, television and time spent with friends. Questions about mood included frequency of feeling hopeless and considering or attempting suicide.

The researchers didn't examine circumstances surrounding individual suicides. Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said the study provides weak evidence for a popular theory and that many factors influence teen suicide.

The study was published yesterday in the journal *Clinical Psychological Science*.

Data highlighted in the study include:

- Teens' use of electronic devices including smartphones for at least five hours daily more than doubled, from 8 percent in 2009 to 19 percent in 2015. These teens were 70 percent more likely to have suicidal thoughts or actions than those who reported one hour of daily use.

- In 2015, 36 percent of all teens reported feeling desperately sad or hopeless, or thinking about, planning or attempting suicide, up from 32 percent in 2009. For girls, the rates were higher - 45 percent in 2015 versus 40 percent in 2009.

- In 2009, 58 percent of 12th grade girls used social media every day or nearly every day; by 2015, 87% used social media every day or nearly every day. They were 14% more likely to be depressed than those who used social media less frequently.

"We need to stop thinking of smartphones as harmless," said study author Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University who studies generational trends. "There's a tendency to say, 'Oh, teens are just communicating with their friends.' Monitoring kids' use of smartphones and social media is important, and so is setting reasonable limits, she said.

Dr. Victor Strasburger, a teen medicine specialist at the University of New Mexico, said the study only implies a connection between teen suicides, depression and social media. It shows the need for more research on new technology, Strasburger said.

He noted that skeptics who think social media is being unfairly criticized compare it with so-called vices of past generations: "When dime-store books came out, when comic books came out, when television came out, when rock and roll first started, people were saying 'This is the end of the world.'" With its immediacy, anonymity, and potential for bullying, social media has a unique potential for causing real harm, he said. "Parents don't really get that," Strasburger said.—AP



CHICAGO: In this Sept. 16, 2017, file photo, a person uses a smart phone in Chicago. A new analysis suggests that increased social media use could be one factor contributing to a rise in teen suicide. —AP

Al Mulla Exchange conducts cybercrime and protection seminar

KUWAIT: The advent of new technologies and an ecosystem of digital incorrectness has enabled an increase in the volume of cybercrime. Today, anyone can be a victim of cybercrime be it individuals or companies. Keeping customer safety as a priority Al Mulla Exchange organized a seminar on Cybercrime and Protection on 13th November 2017 at Holiday Downtown Hotel.

The event began with a welcome note from Praveen Singh, Divisional General Manager of Al Mulla Exchange who highlighted that according to statistics available worldwide the global costs of cybercrime will reach \$2 trillion by 2019, a threefold increase from the 2015 estimate of \$500 billion and thus it is imperative that CEOs, business owners, and decision makers are highly vigilant.

The speaker for the evening was Sourabh Sharma, Director at Ernst and Young, Kuwait, who gave his valuable inputs on the current prevailing cyber threats and how it is affecting businesses globally. He shared some live examples and case studies to the audience making it quite simple for them to grasp the details of the presentation. He also provided simple but effective tips on ways to counter e-crime and emphasized best practices on passwords security, email security, storage security and malware protection.

The seminar was followed by a Question & Answer session where each of the audience questions were answered in detail. The customers thanked Al Mulla Exchange for organizing such an informative session which enlightened them with the current situation and on ways of how to combat cybercrime.

Uber comes of age with SoftBank tieup

SAN FRANCISCO: Uber's tieup with Japanese tech giant SoftBank suggests the ridesharing giant is set to come of age in the business world, but it still faces a long road ahead. The deal is giving the world's most valuable startup an additional \$1 billion in capital and could allow SoftBank to acquire as much as 14 percent of Uber over time.

While Uber has become a global phenomenon operating in more than 600 cities and dozens of countries, it is trying to move past a series of scandals and missteps that have included executive misconduct, a toxic work atmosphere and potentially unethical competitive practices.

One step toward the future was the hiring of chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi earlier this year, which left founder Travis Kalanick in the background. But Uber needs to clean up its governance and other practices if it intends to meet its goal of a 2019 stock market debut that will open up the privately held firm to greater scrutiny.

"The SoftBank investment suggests Uber is becoming far more mature, however momentum is against the company at the moment, so there is some risk it will be too little and too late," said analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle



Group, who follows Silicon Valley. Enderle said Uber's agreement with SoftBank is "a great start, but just that, and the truly hard work is still to be done."

Under Kalanick, Uber reached an eye-popping valuation of \$68 billion, unprecedented for a private firm. But at the same time it has faced resistance from traditional taxi operators and regulators, and faces a possible ban in cities like London for failing to live up to local rules.

The deal with SoftBank is aimed at getting past the clashes between Kalanick and early investors like Benchmark Capital, which has sued the former CEO. SoftBank is expected to buy up shares from some investors by pumping in as much as \$9 billion, in a so-called tender offer to Uber stakeholders. Rajeiv Misra, CEO of SoftBank Investment Advisors, said

some details are not yet final. "By no means is our investment decided. We are interested in Uber but the final deal will depend on the tender price and a minimum percentage shareholding for SoftBank," Misra said in a statement.

Uber called the SoftBank deal "a strong vote of confidence" in the company's long-term potential.

"Upon closing, it will help fuel our investments in technology and our continued expansion at home and abroad, while strengthening our corporate governance," it added. But Uber has other issues as well. It is in court facing Waymo, the former Google Car unit, which has alleged the theft of trade secrets on autonomous vehicle technology, in a case pending in California. Uber's use of software aimed at thwarting rivals like Lyft has also hurt its image, and could create further legal woes.—AFP

China maintains reign over world supercomputer rankings: Survey

BEIJING: China now has more high-performance supercomputers than ever before, again besting the United States in global rankings, a supercomputer tracking organization said.

The standing corresponds with China's growing reputation as the global leader in supercomputers, as the Asian power prepares to launch in June 2018 a prototype exascale computing machine—a "super supercom-

puter". Some 202 of the world's fastest supercomputers are in China—compared with 143 in the US—according to Top500, a site that has tracked supercomputer development for more than two decades.

The list, produced twice a year, rates supercomputers based on speed in a benchmark test by experts from Germany and the US. "It is the largest number of supercomputers China has ever claimed on the Top500 ranking," the survey said on Monday. "With the US presence shrinking to its lowest level since the list's inception." Supercomputers are vital tools for advanced scientific work because of their ability to perform rapid calculations for everything from weather forecasts to missile development.

China has not only overtaken the

US in sheer numbers, but also in aggregate performance. Two of the fastest machines on the list—the Sunway TaihuLight and Tianhe-2 (Milkyway-2)—are in China. Located at China's national supercomputer centre in the eastern city of Wuxi, the Sunway TaihuLight is used for climate modelling and life science research.

Taking the third and fourth slots on the performance list are supercomputers from Switzerland and Japan, respectively, while the American "Titan" sits at fifth. The US led with 169 systems to China's 160 just six months ago, but its performance fell while China's improved in a "reversal of fortunes", the survey said. However, it remained well ahead of third-place Japan, which has 35 machines on the list.—AFP

Space Delivery: Astronauts get ice cream, make-own pizzas

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla: Astronauts got a mouth-watering haul with Tuesday's Earth-to-space delivery - pizza and ice cream. A commercial supply ship arrived at the International Space Station two days after launching from Virginia. Besides NASA equipment and experiments, the Orbital ATK capsule holds chocolate and vanilla ice cream for the six station astronauts, as well as make-your-own flatbread pizzas.

Astronauts always crave pizza in orbit, but it's been particularly tough for Italy's Paolo Nespoli. He's been up there since July and has another month to go. Nespoli used the space station's robot arm to grab the cargo ship, as they zoomed 260 miles above the Indian Ocean.

Besides flatbread, the capsule contains all the makings of a good Earth pizza: sauce, cheese, pepperoni, anchovy paste, tomatoes, pesto, olive oil and more.

Astronauts also get a hankering for cold treats, thus the big frozen shipment of ice cream cups, ice cream sandwiches, ice cream bars and frozen fruit bars.

In all, the capsule contains nearly 4 tons of cargo. It's named the S.S. Gene Cernan in honor of the last man to walk on the moon, who died in January. The experiments include mealworms and micro clover, sent up by high school students. The supply ship will remain at the space station until the beginning of December, when it's cut loose with a load of trash. It will hover close to the orbiting lab as part of an experiment, then several mini satellites will be released and it will burn up in the atmosphere on re-entry.

SpaceX, NASA's other prime shipper, will make a delivery next month.—AP



The Cygnus cargo spacecraft moves towards the International Space Station yesterday, 260 miles (418 km.) above the earth. The commercial supply ship arrived at the International Space Station yesterday two days after launching from Virginia. —AP

Health

Unloved vultures fight for their survival in Pakistan

White-backed vulture facing extinction

CHANGA MANGA: Once a common sight in the skies of Pakistan, today the white-backed vulture is facing extinction—its population devastated by the use of industrial drugs to breed the cattle whose carcasses they traditionally feed on. Bird numbers have plummeted by more than 99 percent since the 1990s, according to the local branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which is desperately attempting to ensure the species does not die out. “Once vultures were found in a very good number in Pakistan,” explains Warda Javed, coordinator for the WWF backed Vulture Restoration Project. But due to several threats—principally the use of the anti-inflammatory drug Diclofenac, which causes kidney failure the birds are dying out.



Bird numbers plummet by over 99%

In a vast screened enclosure in the eastern forest of Changa Manga, about 100 kilometers from Pakistan’s cultural capital Lahore, some 20 Gyps Bengalensis—or the white-backed vultures—wait patiently for their dinner, traditionally made of donkey and goat meat. With plumage of white and ash grey, their powerful beaks fitted to long pink necks, they watch from their wooden perches, some ten meters above the ground. They boast a wingspan of two meters and weigh up to 7.5 kilograms. Locked up, at least they are safe: The goal is to keep the species alive until outside conditions improve enough for them to be released.

Diclofenac is used as a painkiller by livestock breeders

in Pakistan. Vultures consume the meat off the carcasses of the cattle and so ingest the drugs, which wreak havoc with their systems. The WWF is lobbying authorities, veterinarians and pharmaceutical companies for the replacement of Diclofenac with an alternative, Meloxicam, which is safer for the birds. Diclofenac was banned in neighboring India in 2006 after it was also blamed for destroying the vulture population there, which went from millions to just a few thousand in little more than a decade, but it remains in use in Pakistan.

Symbols of death

At the Vulture Restoration Project in Changa Manga they are playing the long game. Four vulture babies were born in the last two years through the centre’s breeding program, but it will be years before they are released into the wild. “Up till 2020, we don’t have any release plans

until we have a controlled environment outside this centre as well,” Javed explains, warning that even if Diclofenac is banned in Pakistan, other drugs used in cattle breeding can cause problems for the birds. There are eight species of vultures in Pakistan, two of which—the white-backed vulture and the Indian vulture—are critically endangered.

Principally scavengers that feast on carcasses, the birds have long been associated with death. An issue compounded on the Indian subcontinent as they have also been used to dispose of human remains as part of the centuries-old tradition of Dakhma, the funeral process



CHANGA MANGA, Pakistan: White-backed vultures in their enclosure at the Vulture Conservation Centre run by World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-P) in Changa Manga, about 80km from Lahore. — AFP

of the Zoroastrian community known as the Parsis. Bodies were first put on top of mountains and later on placed on top of specially-built structures known as ‘Towers of Silence’, where the flesh was devoured by the birds. But the Parsi community is dwindling in India and Pakistan, and the custom is fading. The association with death and misfortune, however, still lingers making it hard to galvanize public sympathy for the creatures’ dire plight. Fatima

Arif of WWF-Pakistan concedes that for most people, vultures evoke negative emotions, but is hopeful the charity can help them improve their image. “We are trying to gather the general public to let them know that the myths that are generally associated with this species are not really based on any fact but they are just folklore,” she says. Arif adds: “Vultures are very shy birds, they are very caring parents.” — AFP

Fears mount over killer superbugs

ROME: Imagine a world where a small cut on your finger or a routine hip replacement surgery could prove fatal. This is the future humanity is facing unless the use and abuse of antibiotics is curbed in both humans and animals, experts have warned. “The world is running out of antimicrobials,” said Maria Helena Semedo, deputy director-general at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). “Without global action, lives and livelihoods could be under threat.”

Antimicrobials are drugs, including antibiotics, that destroy dangerous pathogens and are essential for human and animal health and the production of food. But infections resistant to drugs due to their overuse could kill as many as 10 million people a year by 2050 - posing the greatest threat to human health, says the World Health Organization. The use of antibiotics on farms in populous nations such as China and India is expected to soar, and the more antibiotics are given to

animals the more likely drug-resistant bugs will affect people’s health.

The good news, experts say, is that simple steps can mitigate the spread of antimicrobial resistance from animals to humans. “It’s very costly to get new medicine on the market so we have to preserve the ones that we have, or we can do better on animal husbandry practices and the environment,” said Juan Lubroth, FAO’s chief veterinary officer. This means better nutrition, better sanitation and better procedures to protect farms from pests and diseases - washing hands and changing shoes before entering a farm, buying and selling healthy animals and vaccinating them regularly.

These measures could fend off diseases and reduce the need to use antibiotics, Lubroth told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Raising awareness on the proper use of drugs and the dangers of misusing them is also vital, said Tim Petersen, head of animal welfare at the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. “Only sick animals should be given antibiotics,” he said. In 2010, when Denmark set limits on how much antimicrobials pig farmers can use, awareness of drug resistance was very low, Petersen said. Since then, their use has fallen by a quarter with no negative impact on productivity, he said.

Solutions

The animal health industry is developing solutions such as vaccinations and animal-only antibiotics with the private sector in the vanguard of innovations, said Carel du Marchie Sarvaas, head of the Brussels-based industry group HealthforAnimals. “No government is going to come up with new antibiotics or vaccines, and no government is going to have the scale and scope,” du Marchie Sarvaas said. This month, the World Health Organization urged farmers to stop using antibiotics to promote growth and prevent disease in healthy animals because the practice fuels dangerous drug-resistant superbug infections in people.

The UN’s health body says the bulk of antimicrobials administered worldwide are for animals, with around 80 percent of total consumption of medically important antibiotics coming from the animal sector in some countries. But du Marchie Sarvaas said there was not enough data to pinpoint how and where the agricultural sector is contributing to antimicrobial resistance in humans. “There’s no link actually shown yet in terms of how (cutting antibiotic use in farming) is reducing antimicrobial resistance in humans,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. “Use in the agricultural sector is likely contributing to that but there’s actually little data of how that happens.” — Reuters

Four sperm whales die in beach rescue

ACEH BESAR: Four sperm whales stranded on a beach in Indonesia have died, a local official said yesterday, despite frantic efforts to save the massive mammals. The whales were among a pod of 10 spotted by locals stranded along Ujong Krueng beach in Aceh province Monday, with one seen farther out in the water. Rescuers tried to push the nine beached whales back out to sea as hundreds of curious locals looked on, some snapping pictures.

Five were pushed back and survived but four died, some with their mouth agape as small waves crashed over their giant bodies. Rescuers tied ropes to the tails of some of the mammals to pull them to deeper water. “We had problems evacuating them due to a lack of experience and equipment,” Aceh nature conservation agency head Sapto Aji Prabowo said.

“But this is a good lesson for us because Aceh is a crossing point for marine mammals so in the future we should be prepared to deal with situations like this.” An official autopsy will be conducted on the whales to determine the cause of death, but Prabowo said the giant gray creatures may have followed their leader to shore or lost their way. “Usually, sperm whales will avoid going into deep water if they’re sick. Two of them were sick. So, we assume the leaders were sick and the others automatically followed them to the beach,” Prabowo said.

One whale had wounds that suggested it had been injured by a coral reef, he said, adding that the four dead will be buried close to the beach. This is the second time in the last few years that sperm whales have been found beached in northernmost Sumatra island, with one found dead on a beach in Banda Aceh in 2016. Also last year, eight pilot whales died after a mass stranding on the coast of Indonesia’s main island of Java. They were among a group of more than two dozen short-finned pilot whales that had come ashore during high tide. — AFP

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What's On

Nag'at Al-Kout to host students at Al-Kout's Thriving Fishing Wharf

Weekly event to educate youth on Kuwait's fishing and sailing heritage



Nag'at Al-Kout, part of Al-Kout - the largest waterfront retail and leisure destination in Kuwait - is currently hosting 'A Day with a Fisherman' for school students aged 8-12 years, to teach them the traditional values of the country's fishing heritage in a fun and engaging educational manner.

To be held every Tuesday this month starting October 10th, 'A Day with a Fisherman' is part of Al-Kout's continuous effort to provide unique education experiences and to give back to the local community. Nag'at Al-Kout invites school children to learn more about fishing and sailing the traditional Kuwaiti dhow in a memorable way. The schools participating in this activity are the Indian International School, Fahaeel English School and American United School.

The program took the students through the entire fisherman's experience from the wharf to the seas and the fish market providing an impressionable education of Kuwait's rich fishing history. They were first welcomed in the Fishermen's Diwaniya followed by a presenta-

tion on the history of fishing in Kuwait, its importance in Kuwaiti heritage, the type of Dhows and equipment used, as well as the traditional clothing the fishermen wore. This was followed by the event's highlight, a tour of an actual Dhow, during which the students gained a deeper understanding of life at sea for the fishermen, their roles on the Dhow and the different methods of fishing used back then as well as today.

The students then had the opportunity to tour the fish market where they learned about the different types of fish, fishing methods and equipment used for each kind of fish. The students also had the chance to participate in a live auction, which was a loud boisterous affair filled with excitement and wonder at experiencing something so different and unique.

Nag'at Al-Kout is one of the rare areas in Kuwait which has retained its authenticity and evokes a nostalgic sense of pride towards Kuwaiti heritage from the Dhows to the fishing methods and the diverse trading mechanism. Till

this day fishermen go out to the sea and bring in their catch of the day which is sold in the daily auctions at 8:00am and 4:00pm. Al-Kout has over the years maintained this tradition and still plays a major role in the modern community by enlightening children and youth about their history by showcasing the country's history and connecting the next generation with their roots.

Al-Kout boasts a rich tapestry of retail and leisure experiences along a 1.6km stretch of immaculate beachfront, including Al-Kout Mall with an eclectic variety of international brands. The six diverse experiences include Souq Al-Kout - the community hub of southern Kuwait with its performing fountains and stunning sea views; Marsa Al-Kout - the luxurious, marina and yacht club that accommodates 150 boats and yachts; Nag'at Al-Kout, the area's traditional fishing wharf where local fishermen ply their trade; the 5-star Al-Kout Rotana Hotel, and Sahel Al-Kout, the perfect setting for exercises, walks and relaxation offering beautiful views of the Arabian Gulf.



New Kuwait Philippines International School students visit Kuwait Times



Kuwait Times welcomed journalism students from the New Kuwait Philippines International School yesterday for a field trip. The students visited various departments of the newspaper and toured the printing press to learn about the newspaper industry in Kuwait. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Cadillac Alghanim organizes test driving event at Box Hill College



Kuwait - Cadillac Alghanim, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, held a test driving event at the Box Hill University, during which it reached out to female students, showcasing the superior performance, luxury designs, advanced technology and safety features that make Cadillac an ideal car to own.

During the event, Cadillac Alghanim stressed on the importance of raising awareness among the youth on how to choose their next car, assess its performance and enjoy a safe and luxurious experience at once. A key element presented to students as well is the level of after-sale services, which make the Cadillac a long-term investment worth the value and more.

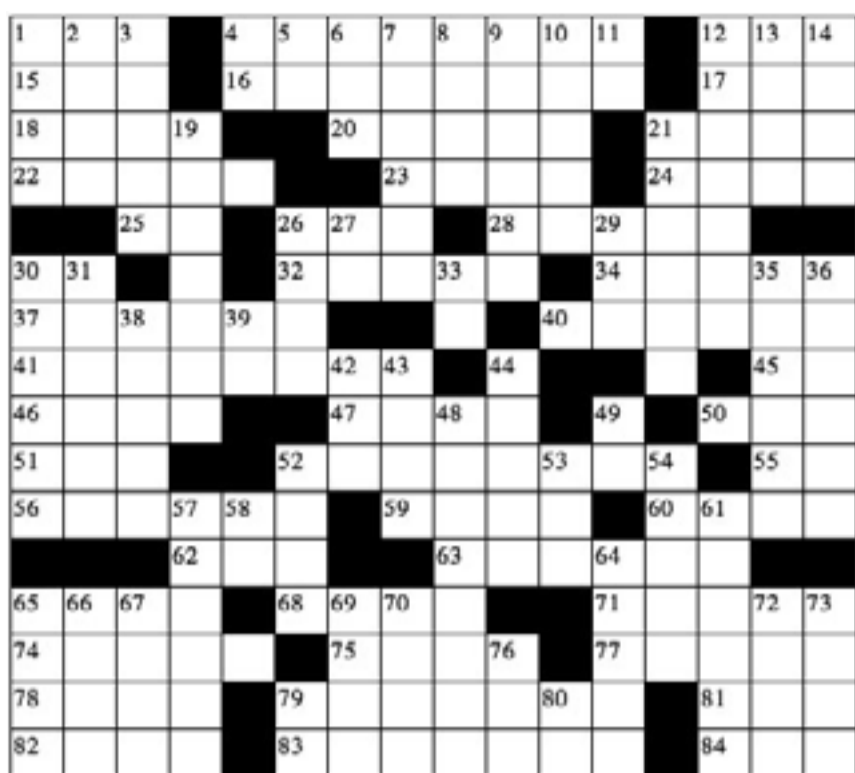
Students were invited to test drive two of the leading car models offered in the local mar-

ket, the ATS and XT5, the first a sedan and the second a crossover. Both these cars are ideal for young drivers, providing them with stability, bold designs, entertainment features and safety standards that are unmatched in the market. In support to the start of their professional life, Cadillac Alghanim offered students who have test driven one of the vehicles a \$1,500 special discount on their next purchase from the large range of premium and new Cadillac vehicles.

On the sidelines of the event, Cadillac Alghanim held a draw among students who have test driven the vehicles. The winner left with a KD500 gift card from Bloomingdales. The event took place during a full day during which delicious catering was provided by Wendy's, as well as treats like cotton candy, popcorn and more were provided to the students.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1762



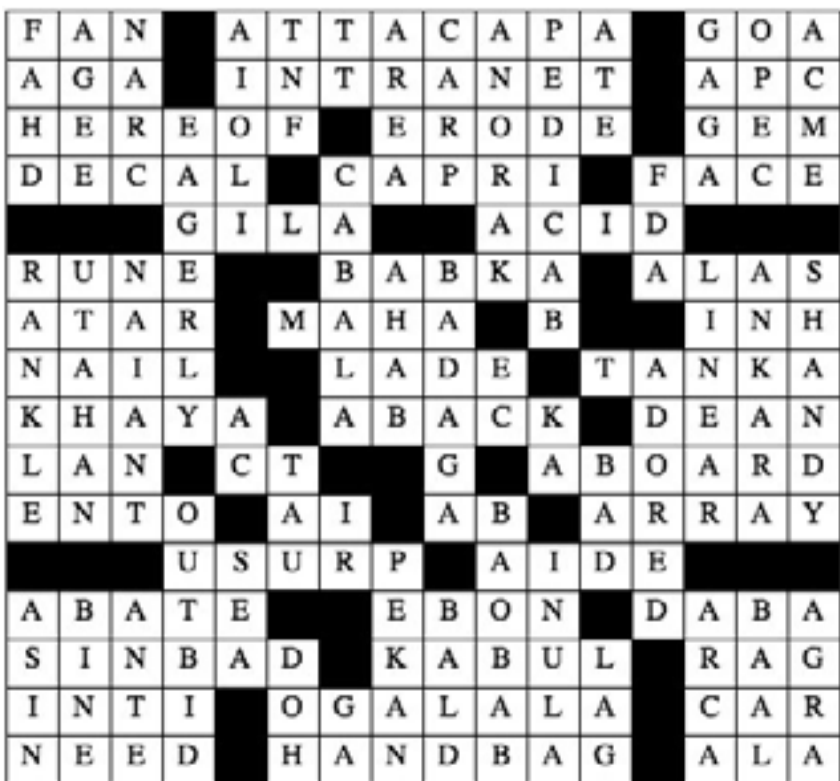
ACROSS

1. 100 puls equal 1 afghani.
4. Move out of an unsafe location into safety.
12. Gone by.
15. The United Nations agency concerned with the interests of labor.
16. A river that rises in northeastern New Mexico and flows eastward into Oklahoma where it becomes a tributary of the Arkansas River.
17. (Irish) Ancient Irish god (probably a god of the sun).
18. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
20. Any of various types of fold formed by doubling fabric back upon itself and then pressing or stitching into shape.
22. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
23. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
24. A French abbot.
25. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
28. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
30. Informal terms for a mother.
32. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
34. A homeless child who has been abandoned and roams the streets.
37. Be against.
40. Shrub bearing oval-fruited kumquats.
41. Any plant of the genus *Bergenia*.
45. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
46. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
47. Any of various small biting flies.
50. A republic in central Europe.
51. (informal) Of the highest quality.
55. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
56. A historical region on northwestern India and northern Pakistan.
59. The act of traveling by foot.
60. French filmmaker (1908-1982).
62. Greenwich Mean Time updated with leap seconds.
63. A Japanese woman trained to entertain men with conversation and singing and dancing.
65. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
68. Structural member consisting of a continuous horizontal timber forming the lowest member of a framework or supporting structure.
71. A hidden storage space (for money or provisions or weapons).
74. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
75. The time during which someone's life continues.
77. Port city of Denmark in eastern Jutland.
78. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
81. An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
82. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
83. The holy city of Shiite Muslims.
84. Roman goddess of night.

DOWN

1. French cabaret singer (1915-1963).
2. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
3. Relating to or applicable to or concerned with the administration of a city or town or district rather than a larger area.
4. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
5. Denoting a quantity consisting of six items or units.
6. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
7. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
8. The chief solid component of mammalian urine.
9. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
10. Constituting the full quantity or extent.
11. Half the width of an em.
12. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
13. Antelope with white markings like a harness and twisted horns.
14. Look at with amorous intentions.
19. A mystical or allegorical interpretation (especially of Scripture).
21. The occurrence of a change for the worse.
26. Chief port of Yemen.
27. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
29. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
31. A short synopsis.
33. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
35. A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
36. Large Indian antelope.
38. Clean with one's bill, of birds.
39. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
42. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
43. Again but in a new or different way.
44. The usually cylindrical central vascular portion of the axis of a vascular plant.
48. Moving or still pictures in contrasting colors that appear three-dimensional when superimposed.
49. An expression of greeting.
52. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
53. Narrow wood or metal or plastic runners used for gliding over snow.
54. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
57. The southern part of the ancient Palestine succeeding the kingdom of Judah.
58. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
61. A city in western Germany near the Dutch and Belgian borders.
64. A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.
66. Dearly loved.
67. (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
69. The content of cognition.
70. A girl or young woman who is unmarried.
72. French poet and novelist and dramatist.
73. Type and only genus of the family Escocidae.
76. The syllable naming the fifth (dominant) note of any musical scale in solmization.
79. Diabetes caused by a relative or absolute deficiency of insulin and characterized by polyuria.
80. A state in midwestern United States.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your mind is very sharp today; take care to think through your response to others. You may be impatient and eager for new experiences. Work, achievement and completing unfinished tasks take center stage most of this day. You have a need for psychological security and absolute truth in all matters. This cuts through most chitchat and settles on matters of substance. Ideas and thoughts have greater meaning and form just now. At home, you want communication. Perhaps this concerns that energetic relative that wants to join you in your business. This evening would be a good time to become involved in clear communications. Also, this is a great time for open communication with your young friends or family members. Tonight is for loved ones.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The minute you walk into your office this morning, you are most likely to be catapulted into schedules and meetings and potential problems that may be a little more frustrating than usual... But you love it. You organize and ask a few questions and take control with little difficulty. The good life and all that is fine and luxurious may be what you value just now. Your ability to control the day is one step closer to where you want to be. You enjoy finding solutions to whatever problems you find. Moving forward is the big issue of the day. You do not play favorites and are quite impersonal when it comes to your responsibilities. You may enjoy working with some sort of healing or police services. Your relationships deepen.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A high pressure but very lucky day is ahead of you now. You could make a few changes with your routine and find that you have a whole different job title. This will probably be temporary but will help you to show off your skills. An instance of being able to speak up and pitch in and help when others will not help is commendable and higher-ups are impressed. Good advice from a guide or older person is available if you need it today. You are just plain witty when it comes to a group discussion this afternoon—ideas roll off your tongue. Communicating by phone, by letter or in person is an important ingredient for the afternoon. A sense of support for whatever plans you may have this evening makes this a happy time.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great time, when good fortune and plain old luck surround you. It is certainly not a time to stay home—you are in a work mode and in the mood to accomplish much. It is easy for you to make correct decisions, find the right path and move forward where career and success are concerned. Stay away from sensitive communication with loved ones until after the sun goes down—there are disturbing energies floating around this afternoon. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your point of view. Communication with others is important so do not close yourself off from receiving the input that casual conversation with friends and loved ones can bring. Steer clear of the sensitive subjects for now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing this day but realities demand that you tend to business. After the workday is over you may find yourself in fun conversations with friends. You may discover that you are more intuitive now than in the past. You may sense and feel things that others do not. It is not a time when you are at your most practical but you are quite passionate and love the company of friends as well as family. Everything works together to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands you and is supportive of your new positive self. You could come up with new solutions or inventions. You may enjoy probing into your inner workings this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your income is accented. Someone that has not supported your ideas before today may come around to your way of thinking. You can expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. You have a need to be respected, and there are opportunities to create that respect today. You may be helping a group of people become organized. Perhaps this is a citizen's group that gathers information for publishing. You are able to pull in some extra money at this time. Perhaps you have a part-time job or perhaps you have found a way to apply your skillful ways and gain a paycheck at the same time. A difficult relationship is on the mend. There are breakthroughs regarding better budgeting techniques.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are very focused on your career and your finances lately and that is a good thing. You are proud of the progress you are making. Events at work may make it easy for you to be original, have breakthroughs and find new solutions to old problems. You could discover yourself through creativity and self-expression. A more outgoing manner may be enjoyed now. You demonstrate your ideas and put them into practice. Your analytical powers are superb and you enjoy finding new avenues of inner growth. You and a romantic partner grow closer now. You may sense correctly that you can open up and share your deepest feelings—the feeling is mutual. New and unusual ways of appreciating and loving may be possible now.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are up early this morning—ready to conquer the world. High hopes are great, but applied effort is the key to success now. This is a great time to work with others. You may be sought after as the right person for a particular job. Gossip is disturbing this afternoon and you try your best to stay away from those that gossip. You may have to say a few words. Everything works together to show you at your most elegant, particularly in a social situation this evening. You have a grasp for abstract and spiritual ideas and you are able to communicate your views very well. Close relationships offer a lot of potential for growth at this time. Optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are where your energies are now.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have a lot on your mind this morning but may feel a strong need to communicate and gather ideas in order to gain a focus. Good practical job-related thoughts and ideas are available and as a result you will find business matters fall into place very well. A great deal of mental activity and energy has begun now. You have the ability to communicate with superiors or describe what you see; higher-ups will listen. Co-workers may even describe you as the go-between. This may be the perfect opportunity to visit a nearby park and if the weather is good, a bit of exercise with a loved one or friend may be just what is needed this afternoon. Sympathy and understanding for siblings or young people may come into play this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A period of great mental activity begins now. Opportunities flourish and you may find yourself wanting to do almost everything. Take the time to weigh the pros and cons carefully when it comes to changing jobs just now. If you move too quickly, you may find yourself in a job that runs against your best talents and abilities. Do not sell yourself short. A little errand in your neighborhood this afternoon begins to feel like an adventure. Complications happen when we are not paying attention to the details. This may include activities such as stepping into a volunteer program without finding out the requirements or substituting at a part-time job without negotiating the working hours. This is truly a time when your energy is high.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

A friend or loved one may tend to put the damper on what you say or think, or in some way manage to restrict your ability to communicate. You may have thoughts that differ with someone close to you. Communication in the business world, however, seems to go your way. Positive things are happening and your career depends on your own ambition and drive, which are strong now. You are able to use good common sense, feel the trends and make the right moves. This is a time to get ahead by taking action. You love all that is new and different and you are an expert at sharing your thoughts on new ideas. That person that is not willing to communicate just now may only need a little space to meditate for now. Time grows an understanding.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There may be obstacles in your path today but if you keep your eyes open you will have very little problem navigating through the day. It pays in the long run to be patient with others. Extra work will bring extra money and that is the good news for this day. You become more direct, less interested in frills and more able to cut through to the real business at hand. Your ability to be and act on the spot is strengthened—much intensity. This afternoon you may be shopping for special items around your living area. You may even want to purchase a little plant or other items for some repair jobs you may have previously postponed. A healing between family members is possible this evening. An honest and kindly conversation clears the air.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Back to School

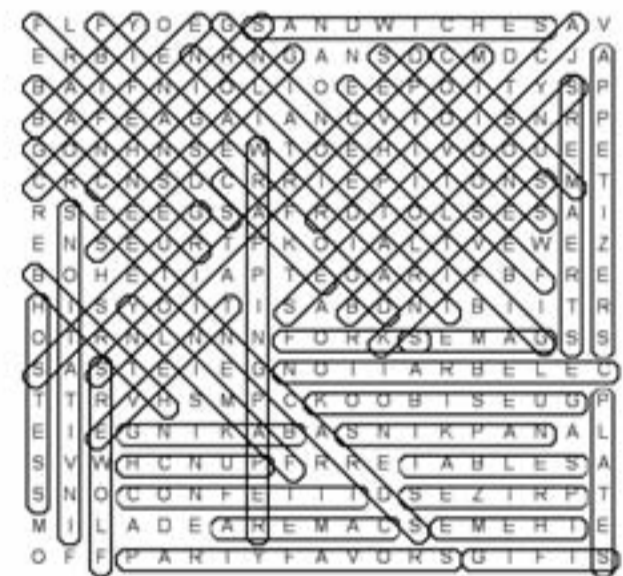
Find and circle all of the School related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Mark Twain quotation.



- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| ASSIGNMENTS | ERASER | LUNCHROOM | ROLL CALL |
| BACKPACK | EXAMS | MATH | RULES |
| BATHROOM | FIRST DAY | NEW FRIENDS | SCHOOL BUS |
| BELL | GYMNASIUM | NOTEBOOK | SCHOOL OFFICE |
| BINDER | HALLWAY | NURSE | SCHOOLYARD |
| CAFETERIA | HOMEWORK | OLD FRIENDS | SCIENCE |
| CHALKBOARD | INTERCOM | PADLOCK | SECRETARY |
| CLASSROOM | JANITOR | PAPER | SEPTEMBER |
| CLOCK | LANGUAGE ARTS | PENCILS | SOCIAL STUDIES |
| COURSES | LEARNING | PENS | STUDENT |
| DESK | LIBRARY | PRINCIPAL | STUDY |
| DOORS | LOCKER | QUIZZES | TEACHER |
| ENROLL | | | |

Yesterday's Solution

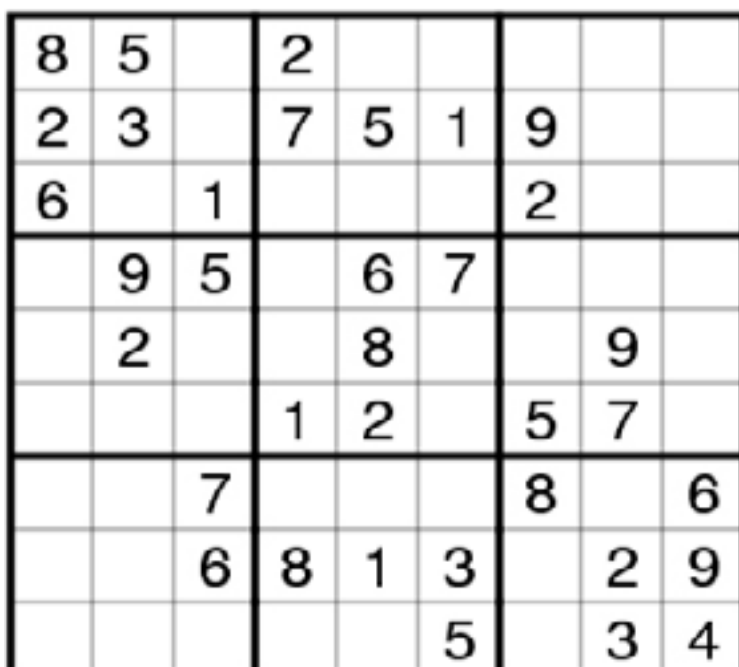
Baby Shower



- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| ACTIVITIES | CONFETTI | GIFTS | PARTY FAVORS |
| APPETIZERS | DECORATIONS | GLASSES | PLATES |
| BABY | EVENT | GREETING CARDS | PRIZES |
| BAKING | FAMILY | GUESTBOOK | PUNCH |
| BALLOONS | FESTIVE | GUESTS | SANDWICHES |
| BANNER | FINGER FOOD | HOSTESS | SPOONS |
| BIRTH | FLOWERS | INVITATIONS | STREAMERS |
| CAKE | FORKS | KNIVES | TABLES |
| CAMERA | FRIENDS | MOTHER | THEM |
| CELEBRATION | GAMES | MUSIC | TRADITION |
| CHAIRS | GIFT OPENING | NAPKINS | WRAPPING PAPER |
| COFFEE | | | |

The hidden message is: LOVE AND JOY ARE WHAT BABIES ARE MADE OF

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Wednesday, November 15, 2017



STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



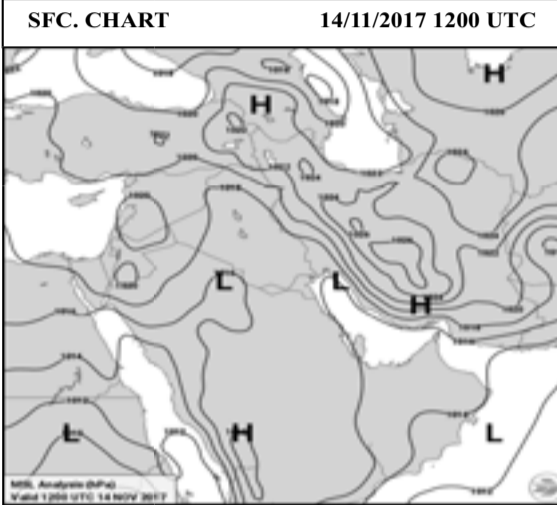
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Cool with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

BY DAY: Mostly Sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	29 °C	15 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27 °C	12 °C
ABDALY	27 °C	10 °C
BUBYAN	28 °C	13 °C
JAHRA	28 °C	10 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	27 °C	13 °C
SALMIYAH	26 °C	15 °C
AHMADI	27 °C	17 °C
NUWAIISIB	29 °C	11 °C
WAFRA	28 °C	10 °C
SALMY	26 °C	08 °C



DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	11/15	Mostly Sunny	28 °C	12 °C	NW-N	08 - 28 km/h
Thursday	11/16	Mostly Sunny	28 °C	13 °C	NW	10 - 30 km/h
Friday	11/17	Mostly Sunny	27 °C	12 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 28 km/h
Saturday	11/18	Clouds will increase gradually	27 °C	10 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:49
Sunrise	06:11
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:32
Sunset	16:53
Isha	18:13

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	28 °C
MIN. Temp.	14 °C
MAX RH	54 %
MIN. RH	13 %
MAX. Wind	NW 43 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

CHANGE OF NAME
I Silveira Natividade Custodio S/o of Custodio Felipe Silveira, holder of Indian Passport No. G7279123 & Civil ID No. 266092503366, hereby changed my name to Natividade Silveira hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5361) 15-11-2017

ACCOMMODATION
One room available for rent in C-AC flat airport road Khaitan for couple/ working lady/ one bachelor. Rent KD 85. Contact: 66253647, 51614467. (C 5359) 13-11-2017

EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**



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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 15/11/2017				Departure Flights on Wednesday 15/11/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
KAC	102	London	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:55	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	WAN	341	Sohag	00:35
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	FDB	072	Dubai	01:00
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	142	Doha	01:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	363	Colombo	02:00
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45
FEG	931	Alexandria	03:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40
KAC	796	Madinah	03:50	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55
MSR	618	Alexandria	03:50	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	FEG	934	Sohag	04:15
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	MSR	619	Alexandria	04:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	KAC	103	London	05:00
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:05
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:20	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	KAC	165	Rome	08:15
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:45
BAW	157	London	07:10	BAW	156	London	08:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	KAC	691	Muscat	08:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	08:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	117	New York	09:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	101	London	09:45
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	617	Tehran	10:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	JZR	356	Mashhad	10:20
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	10:30
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	RSB	7863	Baghdad	11:00
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
KIS	6032	Mashhad	13:00	IRA	664	Shiraz	11:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	786	Riyadh	12:00
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:20	WAN	953	GYD	12:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:30
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30
KAC	692	Muscat	14:15	VIZ	201	TQD	12:30
KAC	618	Doha	14:15	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:20	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:25	WAN	435	Al Najaf	13:00
KAC	412	Bangkok	14:35	FDB	076	Dubai	13:45
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:40	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00



Gigi Hadid doesn't have life 'figured out'

The 22-year-old fashion model - who is dating former One Direction star Zayn Malik - received the Woman of the Year prize at the Glamour Women of the Year Awards at the Kings Theatre in Brooklyn on Monday, and Gigi used her acceptance speech to say that just because she appears to have a perfect life, she still suffers the same self-doubts as other people. After collecting her award from tennis ace Serena Williams, Gigi said: "I think my biggest responsibility, standing here, is to all the young women who are watching. I want to let you know that just because I'm standing here, winning this award, doesn't mean that I have it all figured out. "I'm so grateful for every opportunity, but that doesn't mean that I wake up feeling like the Gigi the world expects me to be on a daily basis." The blonde beauty explained that although she experiences her fair share of doubt and heartache, it's important to remember that "a small idea" can transform her outlook. The model continued: "If you don't feel strong every day, that's okay, and it's normal. "Every day, something new can inspire you, and a small thought or idea or action can change the course of your day, your week, your month, your year. You're never alone, and you're never stuck, no matter how down you feel." Gigi also advised her fellow females to look to one another in their times of need.

Kaling thrilled to leave show on her 'own terms'

The 38-year-old actress, who first starred as the successful doctor back in 2012, took to Twitter to pay her own tribute to the show - which aired for six seasons - ahead of its finale on Monday night. She wrote: "Six years ago I created a show called #TheMindyProject and got to play the lead. Not the sassy friend or nagging wife. It completely changed my life. 117 episodes later, it's ending, on my own terms. That's so rare, and I just want to say how grateful I am. Love forever, MK (sic)" Mindy also paid tribute to her collaborators on the show, crediting them with helping her to hide her real-life pregnancy from TV viewers. Prior to the finale, the actress - who announced she was expecting her first child in August - wrote on the micro-blogging website: "I shot the entire last season pregnant and @MrSalPerez hid it so well! As did Michael Spiller and our cinematographer, Marco Fargnoli. The finale I was almost 7 months along and it was a heat wave. See if you can tell... (sic)" Later, the American star revealed she'd been busily reading fan reaction to the show, but explained that because of her pregnancy, she felt too tired to respond to all of her well wishers.



Jessica Alba 'prepared' for the arrival of third child



The 36-year-old actress and her husband Cash Warren are currently looking forward to welcoming their first baby boy into their family, and Jessica - who is also the co-founder of The Honest Company, which sells non-toxic household products - has revealed she now feels more prepared than ever to have another child. The brunette beauty - who already has daughters Honor, nine, and Haven, six - said: "It's my third time, so luckily I have a company that provides everything that I could possibly want. I didn't have it with Honor or Haven." The Hollywood star explained that the arrival of her second daughter was complicated by the launch of her company. By contrast, Jessica now feels in a calm place ahead of having her baby boy. Recalling her previous pregnancy experiences, she told Us Weekly: "I [had] just launched the company with Haven. It was stressful because I was always questioning ingredients and wanting to get a safe environment, and it was hard to navigate the world of what to really do and how to really prepare." Jessica added: "I'm actually pretty prepared, but I haven't bought anything." Last month, the 'Sin City: A Dame To Kill For' actress - who tied the knot with Cash in 2008 - revealed she's recently found herself craving Japanese food. Jessica has also been dreaming about eating unhealthy desserts - but the American star is determined to resist the temptation because she doesn't want to gain weight during latest pregnancy.

Hudson bans kids from using phones at the dining table

The 38-year-old actress - who has two sons, Ryder, 13, and Bingham, six - insists on sitting down for a family meal at least once a week and when they're eating, Kate does her best to ensure her boys aren't distracted by their mobile devices. The Hollywood star explained: "I started to turn off the television and take the phones away and iPads away. "It doesn't come without the, 'Ugh, Mom.' But those times are just priceless." Kate loves nothing more than cooking for her family, and the award-winning actress revealed that when she's not in the kitchen, it means she's not happy. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "Cooking, entertaining, baking, I mean, it's one of those things that when I'm not doing it, it's usually because I'm not happy in my life." She revealed, too, that her obsession with baking pies can be traced back to her pregnancy with her son Ryder. Kate - who has her eldest son with her ex-husband Chris Robinson, the frontman for The Black Crowes - recalled: "I started making pies when I was pregnant with Ryder. That's when ... my hormones, I don't know, took me right to the pantry and I started baking. "Then, slowly, pies kind of became something that I really loved to do." Meanwhile, Kate admitted last month that she finds it hard to leave her family for work. The 'Almost Famous' star has decided to take a step back from her acting career over the past few months because nothing has convinced her to spend an extended period of time away from her sons.

Topher Grace has become a father for the first time

The 39-year-old actor and his wife, 28-year-old Ashley Hinshaw, welcomed a little girl into the world on November 1, E! News reports. The couple have named their daughter Mabel Jane. It was revealed in July that the pair - who married in May 2016 after two years together - were expecting their first child and last month, the 'Chicago Med' actress celebrated her impending new arrival at a baby shower in Beverly Hills with her friends and family. She shared a number of pictures from the celebration on her Instagram account and wrote: "We all got fancy today thanks to @nessiefelice and the fabulous tea party she organized for baby Grace (sic)" While the low-key couple are both regular users of the photo-sharing website, they don't have any pictures together on their accounts and are not often seen in public together. The new parents will be able to turn to their friends Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis for advice on raising on their baby. Topher previously admitted he thinks the fact his former 'That '70s Show' co-stars went on to marry and have their children Wyatt, now three, and Dimitri, 11 months, is the "greatest thing" to ever happen. He gushed: "It's the greatest thing that ever happened. It's like two of your great friends from high school got together after high school and had a baby. And they're such a lovely couple. "They're the greatest. I love those guys. It's great to know they're together. You want to all stay together when you're on a show like that. They get to stay together forever."



Alexa Chung doesn't 'love fashion', but she 'likes clothes'



The 34-year-old model has admitted she is "very serious about collecting clothes", but she is "not sure" whether she is as passionate about the industry, which she calls "fash-wahn", because she thinks the business is "all about image". Speaking to Chelsea Handler in an interview with Refinery29, the brunette beauty said: "I obviously like clothes a lot. I'm not sure that I love fashion. We actually called it 'fash-wahn' in my office when things get too 'fash-wahn.' I'm very serious about collecting clothes. But I'm probably not that serious about fashion as an industry. "Fashion is all about image. And obviously, you have to be a bit po-faced if you're wearing fluffy slippers and a huge feather hat - otherwise they're just going to laugh you out of the room because you look like 'Zoolander'. But it's all an act." But the style icon has admitted her interest in fashion is also a "curse" because she ends up with a "weird mishmash" of items from different seasons sprawled across her home. She said: "I was just saying to someone: Wherever I go on the planet, there's always a fucking pile of clothes that follows me around. I can't be bothered to do another suitcase, so I just empty out whatever previously happened. And that could be a trip to a wedding in Norway or Paris Fashion Week, and then I'm going to LA or something where you need to be scantily clad. That's the curse of liking fashion too much: There's always a weird mishmash of different seasons just staring at me from a chair."

Sarah Harding slams ex-boyfriend Chad Johnson

The 35-year-old singer and 'The Bachelor' star began dating after meeting on 'Celebrity Big Brother' in the UK, but their relationship has since collapsed and now, during her appearance on TV3's new reality show 'Living with Lucy', Sarah has accused Chad of being spineless. Speaking of her then-boyfriend, Sarah told presenter Lucy Kennedy: "He's lovely, he was very laid back in the house but American men are very different, they're a lot more hard work. "The dressing down I gave him last night after I found out he decided to rearrange his Instagram without telling me. "He took off a couple of photos and then it's all over the press saying that we're splitting up." The former Girls Aloud star then revealed she'd taken to calling Chad a "b***h" because of how he'd responded to the situation. Sarah explained to Lucy: "I was like, 'What was going through your mind? Don't give me that sh*t, you little b***h'. But it's only because he can be a little b***h." Sarah recently confirmed that she and Chad are no longer together. In a statement, the blonde beauty cited the distance between them as the reason for their separation, while she also wished her ex-boyfriend well for the future. Sarah - who had another boyfriend when she first met Chad on 'Celebrity Big Brother' earlier this year - said: "It is with sadness that I can now confirm my relationship with Chad is over. "The distance has proved too much of an obstacle even though we both tried to make it work. "I wish him all the best for the future and thank him for the memories we shared during a very interesting summer."



Jimmy Fallon paid emotional tribute to his late mother

The 43-year-old presenter fronted the show for the first time since Gloria Fallon died from undisclosed causes on November 4, and Jimmy began by explaining that he had been absent from TV because he's been spending time with family, before he shared a childhood story. Of his beloved mother - who died at the age of 68 - a visibly emotional Jimmy said: "She was the best audience, she was the one I was always trying to make laugh. She was such a fan of the show and everything I did." The American star also explained how one of his most cherished childhood memories convinced him that his mother was in "trouble" when he visited her in hospital. He recalled: "When we were little, my mom would walk us to the store - me and my sister - and we would hold hands. And she would squeeze my hand three times and say, 'I love you,' and I would squeeze back, 'I love you too.' "Last week I was in the hospital, at her side, and I grabbed her hand and I squeezed 'I love you,' and I just knew we were in trouble." Jimmy subsequently thanked his fans for the support they've shown him since the passing of his mother. But he concluded the segment by speaking directly to his mother. Jimmy - whose comeback show also featured a surprise performance from Taylor Swift - said: "Mom, I'll never stop trying to make you laugh." — Bangshowbiz



Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Film Review

Increasingly predictable 'Roman' wastes Washington

It's getting close to Oscar season and that means it's time for an early prediction. Ready? Here goes: The Academy Award for Worst Title of a Motion Picture will surely go to "Roman J. Israel, Esq." This complex, untidy but ambitious film starring a brilliant Denzel Washington deserves better. At one point it was called "Inner City," which might actually be worse. But just labeling it after its quirky and fictional lead character is a cop out, like calling a film "Andy Kaufman" instead of "Man on the Moon" or "Vincent Van Gogh" instead of "Lust For Life."

The difficulty may be because this is an unusual character journey that chews on huge issues not frequently tackled on film. Directed and written by Dan Gilroy, "Roman J. Israel, Esq.," traces the fall from grace of a man not in the predictable way when he hits rock bottom but how a broken person actually rises in wealth and esteem. But Gilroy, who has written dark indies like "Nightcrawler" and big budgets like "Kong: Skull Island," seems to struggle with what film to make. It often feels like a small, intellectual film is rattling around inside the bones of a more predictable Hollywood legal thriller, mirroring the film's conflicted lead.



How a broken person rises in wealth and esteem

encouraged to avoid," he confesses. When his cocoon is finally broken, Israel must fend for himself and try to keep his principles, which becomes harder when he falls into the orbit of a slick defense attorney (Colin Farrell, wonderfully understated), who offers a new, snazzy lifestyle. Carmen Ejogo plays a community organizer - the angel to Farrell's devil. Which will Israel choose? He admits he's "tired of doing the impossible for the ungrateful." Can idealism be bought?

Washington has done everything he can to inhabit this odd man. He shambles along with a heavy gait, lugging a heavy case and constantly pushes his glasses up with a finger. As he

criminal defense firm until he's called upon to step forward. He's somewhat ill-equipped to do so - his ratty suits are ill-fitting, his glasses are unfashionable and he listens to an iPod with those old orange-foam headphones.

Yet Israel is an old-school civil rights warrior who is a lonely genius - someone calls him a "savant" and another says he's a "freak" (both sound about right.) He prefers to pore over legal briefs in his humble apartment while eating peanut butter sandwiches than drive around in a flashy car. (He walks everywhere, which in Los Angeles signifies borderline insanity). Thrust into the real world, Israel struggles. He may have the entire California legal code memorized, but he's blunt and unsocial and doesn't know how to find his email. "Public speaking is usually something I'm



changes, Washington does, too - flashing a forced smile, losing his ties. Set against a Los Angeles that seems in constant flux thanks to never-ending construction, the film mirrors the remaking of its lead character.

Gilroy has peppered the script with some great lines - "Purity can't survive in this world" and "My lack of success is self-imposed" - that Washington almost whispers. The film is also wonderfully scored, with 1960s and '70s soul songs as rich as the dialogue - Al Green, Marvin Gaye, The Spinners and George Clinton. But there



are frustrations, too. Israel is stubbornly lost in the '70s, but has an iPod and a flip phone, a transparent attempt by the filmmakers to have their cake and eat it, too. And if he's such a savant, why can't he figure out better choices? (You'll be able to see how this film ends 10 minutes before it happens.) His love interest seems tacked on and the film also raises questions it never really answers - like, can the old civil rights strategies really work in today's fragmented identity politics?

Washington gives us another astounding performance of a deeply idiosyncratic man, but the

film around him often isn't as skillful, meandering in places and gradually becoming more like a lot of other films. Soon, an unconventional character is starring in a conventional film. And then there's that title. Don't get us started.

"Roman J. Israel, Esq.," a Sony Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language and some violence." Running time: 122 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. MPAA definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. — AP

Can idealism be bought?

Washington plays Israel, an attorney in modern-day Los Angeles who for decades has been the quiet, backroom brains of a two-person

YEARS MELT AWAY AS BENING AND BELL PLAY UNLIKELY LOVERS



Actor Annette Bening (L) and honoree Jamie Bell, recipient of the New Hollywood Actor Award for "Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool," pose in the press room during the 21st Annual Hollywood Film Awards. — AFP

She was an Oscar-winning femme fatale and co-star of James Stewart, Robert Mitchum and Frank Sinatra. He was a stage actor 29 years her junior from a British housing project. Four-times married Gloria Grahame's unlikely love affair with Peter Turner ought to have been the stuff of Hollywood legend and yet it is a story that has largely been ignored-until now.

"Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool," a major new movie starring Annette Bening and Jamie Bell, chronicles their profound but heartbreaking relationship in the years before Grahame's death at the age of just 57. Reversing the trend for graying Lotharios playing opposite actresses decades younger, 59-year-old Bening and former child star Bell, 31, share passionate love scenes in the biopic, which has earned both actors widespread acclaim.

Bening told AFP she hadn't worried about the age difference between her and her young co-star, who shot to fame at the age of 14 as a pint-sized ballet dancer in "Billy Elliot" (2000). "I've played opposite men that were older than me my whole life," she said on the red carpet for a gala screening of the movie as part of the American Film Institute's AFI Fest in Hollywood on Sunday. "Very rarely have they been the same age," she said, describing Bell as "a pro who has gravitas as a human being, a really good man."

Seductress

Bening, married to octogenarian Warren Beatty for 25 years and, like Grahame, a mother of four, went out of her way to praise director Paul McGuigan, screenwriter Matt Greenhalgh and the many other men in the cast and crew. "We did have a great group of men working on this movie and I just wanted to bring that up because men are getting a lot of flak these days," she said. Bell, too, said the age gap between him and his four-time Oscar-nominated co-star had been of little concern, although he admitted being intimidated by her acting pedigree. "It makes you raise your game when you are working with someone you know is in a different league," he said. "You know that you have to go an extra mile just to be on level terms with them, so I was very grateful for her trust and support."

Despite appearing early in her career in feel-good classic "It's A Wonderful Life" (1946), Grahame was often cast as an affluent seductress or gangster's moll in film noir. The one-time neighbor of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall won an Oscar for a nine-minute supporting role in "The Bad and the Beautiful" in 1952, a record at the time for the shortest performance to take the statuette.

Her best known work came in the early-to-mid 1950s with an acclaimed turn opposite Bogart in "In a Lonely Place," as well as roles in "Sudden Fear," "The Big Heat" and "Oklahoma!" In the end her glittering silver screen career was damaged by poor movie choices and stories of bad behavior on set, and was largely over by the time she met Turner, as she was appearing on stage in London. — AFP

Former Louis CK manager apologizes for 'not listening'

Louis CK's longtime manager is apologizing for not taking complaints of his client's sexual misconduct more seriously. Dave Becky says in a lengthy statement Monday that he misunderstood the nature of the allegations brought forth by a female comedy duo in 2002 who claimed CK masturbated in front of them without their consent. The allegations by Dana Min Goodman and Julia Wolov were among several included in a New York Times report last week about CK's history of misconduct. Becky said he misinterpreted the women's complaint and sought discretion for what he considered an issue of infidelity for his then-married client. At the time, he said, he did not consider the women's interaction with CK as "threatening or non-consensual."

"If I had, I would have taken this event as seriously as it deserved to be, and I would have confronted Louis, which would have been the right thing to do," Becky said in his statement. "I now comprehend that my response was perceived as a threat to cover-up sexual misconduct. This is not an excuse. What I did was wrong, and again, I am extremely sorry." Becky and 3Arts Entertainment dropped CK as a client after the New York Times detailed allegations of sexual misconduct from five women against the comedian. CK has since said the allegations are true.

Becky maintains in his statement that he was unaware of his client's behavior beyond the 2002 incident. "I have come to realize my status wielded an atmosphere where

such news did not reach me, or worse yet, that it seemed such news did not matter to me," Becky wrote. "It does. It matters tremendously." Becky also represents such entertainers as Amy Poehler, Kevin Hart, Issa Rae, Maya Rudolph and Aziz Ansari.

Becky's apology comes as fallout from the Hollywood sexual harassment scandal continues to spread through the entertainment and media industries. A flood of allegations against various powerful men have surfaced since the New York Times published its expose last month about decades of harassment and cover-ups by movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The group editor of DC Comics was fired Monday amid allegations of sexual harassment reported last week by BuzzFeed.

In this June 25, 2016 file photo, Louis CK attends the premiere of "The Secret Life of Pets" in New York. — AP



Warner Bros and DC Entertainment said editor Eddie Berganza was fired and that the organizations are "committed to eradicating harassment." BuzzFeed reported last week that included on-the-record accounts of Berganza sticking his tongue in the mouth of one female employee and repeatedly trying to kiss another female employee. — AP

Franco hopes 'Disaster Artist' conveys passion of the worst film ever made

When James Franco set out to direct "The Disaster Artist," a faux behind-the-scenes look at the making of 2003's "The Room," often called one of the worst films ever made, he said it was not to poke fun at the "Room" creator Tommy Wiseau. Franco, who also stars as the eccentric, strangely accented Wiseau in "The Disaster Artist," said he believed the film conveyed Wiseau's passion for the medium, despite "The Room" being critically panned.

"He is an artist in that sense, so ('The Room') is a disaster and it's a piece of art," Franco said in an interview at Sunday's premiere of "The Disaster Artist" at the American Film Institute (AFI) festival in Los Angeles. Franco recruited his brother Dave Franco to star as Wiseau's co-star and friend Greg Sestero, who co-wrote the book "The Disaster Artist: My Life Inside The Room, The Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made," which

Franco's film is based on. "We never wanted to make fun of 'The Room' or 'Tommy Wiseau,'" said Dave Franco.

"On the contrary, we wanted to celebrate Tommy and we wanted to celebrate this movie and celebrate people who have dreams and don't take no for an answer," he added. In "The Disaster Artist," rolling out in US theaters from Dec. 1, Wiseau and Sestero become disillusioned with Hollywood and decide to make their own film, which Wiseau funded, directed and starred in.

The film shows that even now, nobody knows Wiseau's age, where he is originally from and how he had \$6 million to create the "worst film ever made." "People would make fun of 'The Room' but 15 years later it's still selling out cinemas across the world," Sestero said. "At this point, how can you call it the worst movie? It's a success, you know." — Reuters



A screenshot from James Franco's 'The Disaster Artist'.



Singer Jesse Hughes (L) and guitarist Dave Catching of Eagles of Death Metal perform at Paris 11th district town hall on November 13.

Eagles of Death Metal mark Bataclan attack

Two members of Eagles of Death Metal, the US rock band who were on stage at the Bataclan during the Paris attacks, played a brief concert nearby Monday to mark the second anniversary of the massacre. Singer Jesse Hughes and guitarist Dave Catching were surprise guests at an event in the east of the French capital organized by survivors of the attack, in which 90 people died after jihadist gunmen burst into the concert hall and opened fire.

The pair sang two songs before handing white roses to the crowd gathered outside the town hall of the 11th district, a short walk from the concert hall where French President Emmanuel Macron had

led a ceremony to remember the victims. A highly emotional Hughes threw kisses to the crowd before launching into "Save a Prayer," the last song the band finished before the shooting started.

"It is difficult to not to remember the people who were taken from us like our friend Nick Alexander (the band's merchandise manager) and so many others," Hughes later told reporters.

"We watched people give their lives for their friends and we were able to bear witness to that, and now we have a burden of responsibility to make certain that everyone knows that kind of love exists in this world," he added.

The flamboyant singer was turned away

from the Bataclan when it reopened last year for suggesting that the security guards were in on the attack. Although he subsequently apologized for his comments, the venue's co-director Jules Frutos said staff had saved lives during the bloodbath. "There are things you can't forgive," he told AFP. Eagles of Death Metal initially enjoyed wide sympathy in the wake of the attacks. But Hughes' provocative remarks led to two leading French festivals cancelling appearances by the band in the summer of 2016. Hughes, a rare right-wing rocker and supporter of US President Donald Trump, also said without evidence that Muslims had celebrated outside the hall during the siege. — AFP

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This Nov 3, 2017 file photo shows "Justice League" cast members Jason Momoa, from left, Ezra Miller, Gal Gadot, Ben Affleck, Ray Fisher and Henry Cavill at a photo call for the film in London. — AP photos



Jason Momoa, from left, Gal Gadot, Ezra Miller and Ray Fisher in a scene from "Justice League".

In 'Justice League,' DC looks beyond Batman and Superman

Peace never reigns in the pages of DC Comics. There's always a world to be saving, a cataclysm to avert. The making of the DC superhero team-up film "Justice League" was hardly any more tranquil. Made in the wake of the disappointment surrounding its predecessor, "Batman v Superman," and the critically-panned "Suicide Squad," "Justice League" was, like a jetliner given new wings in midair, retooled on the fly. Warner Bros. sought to lighten the tone of Zack Snyder's grandiose and muscle-bound DC universe - a much-publicized pivot that came just as tragedy was striking.

Snyder, the "300" filmmaker, had overseen this latest series of DC movies starting with "Man of Steel," but he stepped down after "Justice League" had been shot following the death of his daughter. Joss Whedon, the "Avengers" director known for snappy dialogue who had already been helping to punch up the script, was brought in to steer the film through post-production and two months of reshoots. (He's credited as co-writer.) Writer Geoff Johns and producer Jon Berg had already been brought in to brighten "Justice League" and overhaul the wider DC slate with a more optimistic tone.

But that's not been all. Ben Affleck, who stars as Batman, withdrew from directing a stand-alone Batman film, while also combating criticism over his behavior with women in the past. Whedon, himself, was called a hypocrite for espousing feminist ideals by his ex-wife, Kai Cole. Jason Momoa had to apologize for a 2011 joke about rape and "Game of Thrones." And just weeks before release, Warner Bros. severed ties with one of the film's chief financiers, Brett Ratner's RatPac-Dune company, after sexual assault allega-

tions were leveled against Ratner. Gal Gadot, who plays Wonder Woman, has reportedly insisted Ratner have no connection with any future Wonder Woman film.

Something dark

"Justice League" is the kind of production that, one suspects, its makers will celebrate the release of with a stiff drink. "I've probably had a stiff drink along the way," producer Charles Roven says, chuckling. "It's been different in

“ It's been an incredibly positive experience ”

the sense that we've had some sadness along the happy-joy of making the movie. But for the most part it's been an incredibly positive experience."

Now, Warner Bros and DC are hoping that the finished "Justice League," which opens Friday, doesn't show any Frankenstein-like scars from its tumultuous creation. "The goal is to make sure when you're watching the movie, it all feels cohesive," says Roven, the veteran producer of "The

Dark Knight" trilogy. "That imprint that Joss had, some aspect of it is going to come out in the direction, but the actors are already pretty much down the road on their arcs. Let's just say 80, 85 percent of the movie is what was originally shot. There's only so much you can do with other 15, 20 percent of the movie." In interviews, Roven and cast members pledged their loyalty to Snyder and his vision for the franchise, one they say incorporated a changing tone before Whedon's involvement. (Neither filmmaker was made available for interview. Each has stayed silent publicly since Snyder's departure.)

"Zack from the time that I first met with him said, 'Look, Batman makes the DC world dark. The DC world has to be created as something dark,'" says Ezra Miller, who plays Barry Allen aka the Flash. "He said what's great now is that the League gets to bring Batman out of this darkness. That was always Zack's vision. That was the intention from the beginning." The film, Miller says, has "a wonderful collision of tone" that he considers "a testament to both the strength of Zack's vision and the generosity of Joss's commitment."

New enemy

It's also a turning point in the larger DC cinematic world. "Justice League" finds Affleck's Bruce Wayne, in the wake of Superman's apparent death, gathering together the League to fight a new enemy. That means pushing not just Wonder Woman to the fore, but also Miller's Flash, Momoa's Aquaman and Ray Fisher's Cyborg. "It was very clear that the tone of the movie was different than 'Batman v Superman,'" says Gadot. "Henry (Cavill), Ben and I had a wonderful addition with Ezra and Jason and Ray (that) just



Ben Affleck reappears as the Batman in "Justice League".

stirred everything up." Gadot and "Wonder Woman" are a big reason for optimism in the franchise, following its critically acclaimed, zeitgeist-grabbing \$412.6 million box office success domestically. Though the epicenter of DC Comes has always revolved around Batman and Superman, that's starting to change. Matt Reeves has taken over the Batman movie, but he's starting fresh on the screenplay, making a release date several years off. That leaves open the possibility of further changes, even potentially Affleck's casting. "From everything I know, he's going to play that Batman," said Roven. "They're retooling the script, so I can't really say anything for certain." The Superman sequel "Man of Steel 2" also isn't coming anytime soon, if at all. Roven says there's no script but "various story ideas" are being kicked around. On the front burner, however, is "Aquaman," scheduled for release in December 2018, a Wonder Woman sequel due in 2019 (with director Patty Jenkins returning) and a Cyborg movie. Whedon is also prepping a Batgirl movie.

"Justice League," a team-up movie, will be followed by solo efforts. "One of the things that's really important to us with all of these DC movies is making sure that while they make sense, one from the other because they're in a certain way linked so we also want to make sure that the audience is hopefully excited by the fact that you don't know exactly where you're going to go." — AP

A QUICK WORD WITH EZRA MILLER ON BECOMING THE FLASH

Ezra Miller brings an electric energy to the superhero team-up film "Justice League," pinballing off the more imposing presences of Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot and Ben Affleck. They are mighty. He is fast. Miller was first cast as Barry Allen, aka The Flash, several years ago, but "Justice League" is his most front-and-center performance yet as the fastest man alive. He's also the best thing in the film, adding a hyper, insecure liveliness that has often been lacking from many recent, more grandiose DC Comics films.

As played by the 25-year-old, Barry is a motor-mouthed loner who, when asked by Bruce Wayne to join the League, is mostly happy to just have some friends. Miller, who has been credited as the first out LGBT person to play a lead role in a major superhero film, has distinguished himself by playing hyper-verbal outcasts in movies big ("Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them") and small ("We Need to Talk About Kevin," "The Perks of Being a Wallflower"). Speaking by phone from London, Miller spoke with verbal gymnastics that even the Flash might struggle to keep up with.

AP: From "City Island" to "Fantastic Beasts" you seem to be drawn to playing outsiders.

Miller: I'm definitely interested in what I would call Barbara McClintock's discovery of the rebellious gene. Things advance by mutating away from their point of origin. I do think that happens on not just a cellular or genetic level but within civil society. A lot of the people who have shaped ideas and science on planet Earth have been outsiders. I feel



often like an outside. It's a fascinating type of person to portray. And I think ultimately everyone has an element of that in their experience even if their life doesn't fully present that on first look. I think everyone can feel alienated and can both benefit by that and know the harm of that.

AP: You seem a quick-witted person. Do you identify with the Flash?

Miller: A cool idea about the Flash is that he, as he starts to move quicker and quicker with his body, he must also speed up mentally. When we shoot something in slow-motion, like we might on a Flash-inclusive movie, the way that's done is by rolling the camera faster. You shoot more frames per second when you want to slow down the image. In the same way, the Flash, as he moves faster, has to speed up to his brain in order to slow down his perception. That's all well



and good when he's in superhero-mode, but one of the questions of our film asks is how does that play out in social circumstances? I think there are qualities that have been detrimental to his social capacity.

AP: Were you at all concerned that a big production like this would leave less room for the kind of acting you practice?

Miller: I feel personally that if I'm struggling for integrity, I'm already lacking in it. I come from a place where instead of trying to manufacture my standards of integrity I'm trying to work in such a way that I trust in that inherently when I step to any project, whatever the scale. I want to maintain the integrity of my process. Outside of that, forget about it. It's anyone's game.

AP: But was there some appeal in bouncing off the more

archetypal performances by Cavill, Gadot and Affleck?

Miller: Yeah, that's one of the great joys. In a situation like this to have the immense gravity of everything - which I think is really maintained in this film - but then be in a situation where I can improvise. I can play. I can react in the way that I feel Barry might, in a way that can feel deeply human. That was exciting to me, the idea that in the age of superhero films in their absolute crescendo, you have this character who's sort of a fan who appreciates what he's witnessing. And to have someone who's having really human reactions to what's going on - to see a villain and have a panic attack - I connect with that. I think people connect with that. I think that's where we are. In terms of realizing our true potential as superheroes, the species on the planet, we're in amateur, novice stages. We are tripping over our own feet like Barry in this movie. — AP

Study: More LGBTQ characters on TV, but fewer women

TV series are including more LGBTQ characters and adding gender-nonconforming ones, but there's a need for richer, more complex stories about them, according to the media advocacy group GLAAD. LGBTQ depictions increased in the current season across broadcast, cable and streaming platforms, the group's annual Where We Are on TV study released Thursday found. Shows contributing to the change include NBC's reboot of "Will & Grace" and "The Deuce" on HBO.

"While we're pleased to see numbers on the rise, consideration of how LGBTQ characters are woven into story lines and whose stories are making it to screen is crucial for judging progress of the industry. And there is still work to be done," Megan Townsend, GLAAD's entertainment research and analysis director, said in a statement. Of the 901 characters set to appear regularly on prime-time network series in the 2017-18 season, 6.4 percent are identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender or queer. That's the biggest percentage on network shows found in the study's



This image released by NBC shows, from left, Eric McCormack, Debra Messing, Sean Hayes and Megan Mullally in "Will & Grace." — AP

22 years, topping last year's record-high of 4.8 percent. The numbers also are up on cable and streaming platform series, although the study found fewer depictions of LGBTQ characters of color on streaming as well as broadcast. For the first time, GLAAD counted "non-binary" characters - those that don't identify strictly as male or female. It found four non-binary characters across all TV platforms, including actor Asia Kate Dillon's Taylor Mason on Showtime's "Billions."

The study also looked at how women fare on TV and found it wanting. While women make up an estimated 51 percent of the U.S. population, they're 43 percent of the regularly appearing characters on broadcast TV - a 1 percent drop from last season, GLAAD said. Among regular and recurring LGBTQ characters on broadcast networks, lesbian representation rose to 24 percent on broadcast and 21 percent on cable, both representing a 7 percent increase after the 2016-17 season in which a number of lesbian or bisexual female characters were killed. — AP

Lifestyle | Features



A man checks his mobile phone while sitting in the shade at Sassoon Dock, one of the oldest fishing docks in Mumbai. — AFP photos



A fisherwoman walks past a wall painting of the St+art Festival at Sassoon Dock.



A worker cleans the viewing area in front of a photo mural of the St+art Festival.

ART TRANSFORMS HISTORIC MUMBAI FISHING DOCK

Indian fishermen unload their morning catch as sari-clad women carrying buckets on their heads walk past street art that has transformed one of Mumbai's oldest fishing docks into an exhibition space. Thirty artists from around the world have given the bustling 142-year-old Sassoon Dock, home to Mumbai's traditional Koli fishing community, a colorful makeover as part of the St+art Urban Art Festival.

"The artworks range from mixed media to graffiti to street-art styles to installations, from using paints to wood to fishing objects," Arjun Bahl, co-founder and festival director, told AFP. Exhibits include large portraits of Koli fisher-folk believed to be Mumbai's original inhabitants and whose goddess "Mumbadevi" lends her name to the city—and brightly painted murals representing women from the community.

One installation, entitled "Parfum Sassoon", alludes to the dock's notoriously pungent fishy smell while another has a clear environmental message with its depiction of plastic bottles floating through the ocean. The Sassoon Dock



A man pushes his cart load of fresh fish past the main venue of the St+art Festival.



Volunteers walk past an installation mural of the St+art Festival.

project is part of the seventh edition of the St+art Urban Art Festival which aims to make art accessible to everyone by transforming a public space. "The whole idea was to bring art to a certain sect of the community who usually don't interact with art," explains Bahl, as dock workers push trolleys loaded with fish and boats bob gently in the harbor.

Sassoon Dock was built in 1875 and is home to one of Mumbai's largest fish markets. It is situated in the district of Colaba, in the south-

ern tip of India's financial capital. The exhibition, which is free to view, opened to the public on November 11 and runs until December 30.

It will also feature screenings, talks and tours. Another feature of the festival is a giant, multi-colored mural on the nearby Churchgate railway station showing India's independence movement leader Mahatma Gandhi stepping down from a train. It was painted by popular Brazilian street artist Eduardo Kobra. — AFP

AMAZON TO PRODUCE 'LORD OF THE RINGS' TELEVISION SERIES



A screenshot from Peter Jackson's 'Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King'.

Amazon.com Inc has bought the global television rights to "The Lord of the Rings," the company said on Monday, in what may be its biggest and most expensive move yet to draw viewers to its streaming and shopping club Prime. Amazon said it will produce a multi-season series that explores new storylines preceding author JRR Tolkien's "The Fellowship of the Ring," the first installment in the famed fantasy trilogy.

Three movies made of the trilogy in the early 2000s, filmed in New Zealand by director Peter Jackson, garnered nearly \$3 billion at the box office and 17 Academy Awards. Amazon acquired the rights from the Tolkien Estate and Trust but did not say how much it paid for them. The estate, HarperCollins and the films' distributor New Line Cinema will help Amazon produce the television series.

The project underscores a shift in Amazon's video programming. Its studio started in 2010 with a focus on unique shows beloved by critics, such as "Transparent," about a father coming out as transgender to his family. That was a winning formula for attracting Hollywood talent, awards and buzz, though not Prime subscribers around the world.

Now, Amazon is looking for a dramatic show that could be a hit globally, much like HBO's popular fantasy series "Game of Thrones." It is going head to head with Netflix Inc, Hulu and others to bid for top content. This puts Amazon in uncharted territory, with higher production costs expected. Amazon justifies its spending on programming as a way to draw new sign-ups to Prime, whose members buy more goods more often from the world's largest online retailer.

"Amazon Prime heads to Middle Earth," Chief Executive Jeff Bezos said in a Twitter post. Although "The Lord of the Rings" is the most famous work to emerge from Tolkien's pen, he wrote much else, including prequel "The Hobbit" - also made into a movie trilogy by Jackson - and the denser "The Silmarillion." The Amazon series will delve into some of Tolkien's work that the movies did not explore. "Amazon is committed to producing super high quality, recognized, branded entertainment," said Wedbush Securities industry analyst Michael Pachter. "That's a departure from shows like "Transparent" and "Catastrophe." "By definition this will be expensive," he added. — Reuters

A look at travel books to inspire trips or to give as gifts

Travel books can get you dreaming. They can provide practical information for your trips. And they can also just tell a good story. Here are a few books out this season to consider buying for your own use and entertainment, or to give as a gift for Christmas, Hanukkah or whatever you might be celebrating in the coming months.

COFFEE-TABLE BOOKS

They're way too big and heavy to tuck in your suitcase. But these beautifully illustrated volumes with big themes will get armchair travelers smiling and real-world travelers planning.

- "The Cities Book: A Journey Through the Best Cities in the World" from Lonely Planet looks at 200 cities from Abu Dhabi through Zanzibar, offering everything from the best time to visit to ideas for a perfect day.



The book lists Lonely Planet's picks for best countries, regions, cities and trends in travel for the new year.

- "Great Hiking Trails of the World" covers 80 trails in 38 countries on six continents, including Peru's Inca Trail, Japan's Shikoku Pilgrimage and the US "triple crown" of hiking, the Appalachian, Pacific Crest and Continental Divide trails.

- "Timeless Journeys: Travels to the World's Legendary Places" from National Geographic explores 50 once-in-a-



This coffee table-style book offers photos and descriptions of 80 trails in 38 countries on six continents around the world.

lifetime destinations, from places that offer a window on lost worlds, like Pompeii in Italy, to living wonders like a Tanzania game preserve.

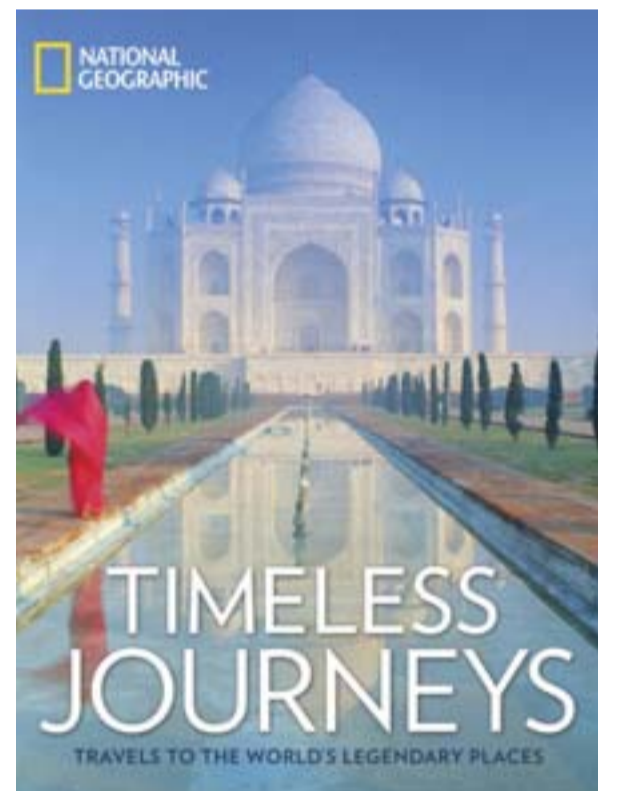
PRACTICAL INFO

Moon Travel Guides has a new series, City Walks, exploring neighborhoods in seven cities: Berlin; Amsterdam; Barcelona, Spain; London; New York; Paris; and Rome. The walks include descriptions, maps, attractions, dining and shopping.

FOR FUN AND INSPIRATION

These books about places and travel offer laughs, eye candy, a good read or some combination thereof. And some of them just might make you jealous in that "why didn't I think of doing this?" way.

- For New Yorkers, former New Yorkers and wannabe New Yorkers: "Going Into Town: A Love Letter to New York" by cartoonist Roz Chast is absolutely laugh-out-loud hysterical. It's an illustrated memoir about city life told through the eyes of a native New Yorker who moved to the suburbs, billed as an "ode/guide/thank-you note to Manhattan." Gems include this aside: "Sixth Avenue and Avenue of the Americas are the same thing. But no one calls it 'Avenue of the Americas,' because GIVE ME A BREAK." Topics include "stores of mystery" and "the ancient landmarks."



This coffee table-style book explores 50 once-in-a-lifetime destinations around the globe. — AP photos

- "Van Life: Your Home on the Road" by Foster Huntington grew out of the author's three-year adventure traveling around North America in a Volkswagen van. The photos showcase all kinds of funky vehicles parked in picturesque locations, along with peeks at a few interiors, crowd-sourced from the author's Tumblr account, Vanlife.net. The book also offers interviews with travelers who have lived the van life.

- "Ultimate Journeys for Two: Extraordinary Destinations on Every Continent" by Mike and Anne Howard grew out of the writers' five-year adventure across seven continents as "the world's longest honeymooners," an experience they chronicled on their blog HoneyTrek.com. The book includes 75 featured destinations; top 10 lists of day hikes, festivals, beaches and more; and travel advice.

- "Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God," by Lori Erickson is part memoir and part travel guide as the author reflects on her pilgrimages to 12 sites around the world, from Our Lady of Lourdes in France to Machu Picchu in Peru. The book also recounts her meetings with spiritual leaders, including the chief priest of the Icelandic pagan religion Asatru and a Lakota Indian man who directs a retreat lodge at the holy site of Bear Butte in South Dakota.

BEST OF 2018

The folks at Lonely Planet don't just publish a list for where to go in the new year, they've published an entire book: "Best in Travel 2018," with the travel media brand's picks for best countries, regions, cities and trends in travel for the new year, along with suggestions on what to see and do there. — AP

Puma accused of defacing Indian heritage

Global sportswear giant Puma was accused yesterday of irreversibly damaging 17th-century architecture in Delhi's historic quarter as part of an advertising stunt to promote a new line of shoes. The facades of several buildings in Old Delhi have been spray-painted with large colorful murals for the shoe campaign that Puma said "captures the grit of Indian streets" on its website. But the stunt-dubbed "Suede Gully" after the shoe material and the Hindi word for street-had infuriated conservationists who accused Puma of defacing the centuries-old quarter built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

"It's a heritage area. You can't just go and paint what you like," Swapna Liddle from the Indian

National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage told AFP. "Permanent damage has been done to the carved sandstone, limestone plaster and Lahori bricks. Those who made and approved this advertisement, those who stood by while this was done, are all responsible for this insensitive treatment."

Puma in a statement said it was unaware that the building had heritage value, and has promised to restore the facades to their original condition.

"The owner wasn't aware that his property is protected as a heritage property and hence we were not made aware," a spokesperson said on Tuesday. In an advertising video for the Puma campaign, Indian rappers and hip-hop

dancers perform at graffiti-covered locations including trains in the financial capital Mumbai. Rules to protect Delhi's neglected heritage sites from destruction are widely ignored, conservationists say. Laws specifically forbidding advertising on historic buildings is rarely enforced by Delhi's cash-strapped authorities, who struggle to uphold measures designed to conserve the city's crumbling icons. The owner of one Delhi building spray-painted for the Puma campaign had defended the decision as his only to make. "This is a private property and the graffiti is making the area look more beautiful. The area is looking better now, it is more lively," Arun Khandelwal told the Indian Express. — AFP

Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017



Tourists take pictures of the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur on November 13, 2017. — AFP

Morocco's blue tourist town is turning green

Huddling against a hillside in northern Morocco is a tourist town famed for the striking blue of its buildings, and now the mayor is mixing in another color—green. Chefchaouen—known locally as Chaouen—wants to become a model for sustainable development at a time when the north-west African kingdom has shone a spotlight onto its commitment to the environment and a greener future. Take Aziz, a local council employee in his forties. He whizzes silently around town on an electric bicycle doing his job as an inspector of building sites.

"It's a practical and eco-friendly way of getting around!" he says. "It respects the environment and allows us to get around easily without using polluting modes of transport," Aziz says, wearing a fluorescent safety vest and with a helmet firmly on his head. Mohamed Sefiani, mayor of the town of some 45,000 residents where visitors come to admire hundreds of hues of blue, says Chefchaouen began to go green more than seven years ago. "In April 2010, the municipal council took a unanimous decision aimed at transforming Chaouen into an ecologically sustainable town," he says.

Local political commitment to the project is strong, the mayor says, but much still needs to be done. "Chefchaouen isn't an ecological town yet, but it certainly has the will to become one," says a smiling Sefiani. "We are in a transition phase. At a Moroccan and African level, we're among the most advanced towns in this respect."

Raising awareness

A newly inaugurated municipal swimming pool equipped

with solar energy is near an "ecology centre" built from recycled containers where the town's green projects, funded mainly by the European Union and backed by several NGOs, are highlighted. France's GERES-Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity was asked to help transform Chefchaouen. "It was at the town's request that we came here to support its energy and climatic transition," says the NGO's Virginie Guy, who is coordinating the project.

Among the initiatives is an "info-energy" centre to raise awareness about energy savings, photovoltaic panels at several sites, such as the municipal library, that contribute to electricity production, and an environmentally oriented museum is also nearly complete. The info-energy centre's Houda Hadji explains the basics of eco-construction, energy efficiency and the benefits of energy-saving lightbulbs, among other green topics.

"There's very strong interest" from visitors to the centre, says the young guide, her hair concealed under an elegant veil. "This is the first initiative in Morocco working on energy upgrading in buildings, and providing information about savings, targeting both businesses and individuals," she adds. Chefchaouen is one of 12 southern Mediterranean locations to benefit from a European program that has granted it around 10 million dirhams (\$1 million, 900,000 euros) and declared the town "a model and initiator of change in sustainable energy management". But not everything is green yet in the little blue town. "The public dump is not yet up to standard," Mayor Sefiani concedes. "We're working on a landfill and recovery centre, and I think that by 2021, we will have ironed out all the problems."

With "green" mosques, solar and wind farms, electric bus-



A woman walks in the Medina of the northwestern Moroccan city of Chefchaouen, in the northern Rif region. — AFP photos

es and a ban on plastic bags, Morocco has been forging ahead with environment-friendly policies over the past few years. It regularly trumpets its proactive strategy in terms of green energy, instigated by King Mohammed VI. Late last year, in the southern city of Marrakesh, the country hosted the COP22 international climate conference, and has begun an ambitious plan to develop renewable energy.

In a country devoid of hydrocarbon resources, the aim is to increase the share of renewable energies nationally to 52 percent by 2030 (20 percent solar, 20 percent wind, 12 percent hydro). A massive flagship project was inaugurated by the king in February last year. The Noor solar power plant is

on the edge of the Sahara desert, some 20 kilometers outside Ouarzazate. Spread over an area equivalent to more than 600 football pitches, the plant's half a million metal mirrors follow the sun as it moves across the sky and store the energy collected from its rays.

Despite pushing its green credentials, Morocco still has many environmental hurdles to clear on its way to cleaner horizons. A recent World Bank report covered by Moroccan media spoke of "alarming" peaks of atmospheric pollution in the country's major cities. And a number of eco projects announced to great fanfare during the 2016 COP22 conference remain just that—announcements. — AFP



Local political commitment to the project is strong



A view of the steps in the Medina.



Children play on the steps in the Medina.



A woman walks in the Medina of the northwestern Moroccan city of Chefchaouen.