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30% drop in expats visiting public medical facilities

Domestic workers, bedoons exempt from new health charges

By B Izzak and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Public hospitals recorded a 30 percent drop in the number of expatriate patients since new charges for health services were introduced at public medical facilities on Sunday. Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said yesterday. He added domestic helpers and bedoons whose security IDs have expired have been exempted from the new medical charges.

Harbi said the old medical charges for domestic helpers will remain, but the new fees will not be applied to them. Bedoons or stateless people whose security identification cards have expired by not more than one month will also be exempted along with other bedoons who carry those IDs, the minister said.

The ministry of health raised medical fees for expatriates from the beginning of October. In some cases, the increase is more than fivefold. Expatriates have already been paying fees for a wide range of medical services at public hospitals and clinics, but the government decided to impose the huge increase in the face of slumping oil prices. Kuwaitis continue to receive medical services completely free of charge.

Harbi also said expatriate children under 12 years of age suffering from cancer or birth defects will be treated free of charge, and that spouses of Kuwaitis and their children are also exempt. Directors of hospitals and head of concerned sections can also exempt expatriates suffering from cardiac diseases and intensive care unit charges, the minister said.

Meanwhile, MP Rakan Al-Nasef said the National Assembly report on the deal to buy around 28 Eurofighter jets at a cost of around \$9 billion will be completed next month. The lawmaker made the comments after a parliamentary committee following up issues raised in the grillings of the prime minister met yesterday with the defense minister to discuss the deal.

Continued on Page 11

Zain, Nuqat to introduce creative new education program for children

KUWAIT: Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced the establishment of an innovative new educational program in collaboration with Nuqat, a not-for-profit organization established in Kuwait in 2009.

Together, the two organizations are set to introduce a development initiative dubbed IN•DIG•GO, which is an alternative thematic-based educational program for children between the ages of 6 and 11 years. The program is aimed at strengthening the understanding of the participants, expanding their knowledge, and developing their soft and learning skills.

The program, the first-of-its-kind in the region, will initially be launched as a pilot supporting children of Zain employees in Kuwait. The initial engagement will last for 12 weeks from January until April 2018 and this will act as a learning platform for all stakeholders. Thereafter the intention is to roll out the program on a larger scale.

The collaboration is a result of the shared belief between Zain and Nuqat that an educational program capable of equipping future generations with skills and



KUWAIT: Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi is seen with IN•DIG•GO Program Director Maha Al-Essa, Head of Youth Empowerment, Zain Group, Maryam Saif and Knowledge Director of Nuqat Husna Al-Humaidhi.

methodologies necessary to face the challenges that lie ahead is pivotal.

Commenting on the collaboration, Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO said, "Youth development and education are central themes to our corporate sustainability and building capacity activities, and we are firm believers that preparing youth for the future is not just our responsibility, it is our duty."

Al-Kharafi continued, "Zain believes in the talent and

enthusiasm of young people in Kuwait and across the region, and wherever we can lend a hand to improving their circumstances and prospects, we shall do. We are pleased to be cooperating with an organization with the passion and foresight of Nuqat, and together I am confident we shall be able to achieve remarkable results in sowing the seeds to create future entrepreneurs and business leaders."

Continued on Page 11

Kuwait workforce up 3.6% in June

KUWAIT: The Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) said yesterday the workforce in Kuwait, excluding housekeepers, hit 2,009,071 in June. The figure reflects an increase by 70,828 or 3.6 percent from the corresponding month last year, according to the CSB's quarterly report that surveyed the period ending on June 30, 2017.

The total workforce, including housekeepers, hit 2,684,334, increasing by 83,929 or 3.2 percent in this period, with the private sector remaining the main employer. The private sector absorbed 60.3 percent of the total workforce, but Kuwaiti workers represented only 4.4 percent of such workers. The Kuwaiti workforce grew from 348,792 to 358,854, an increase of 2.9 percent from June 2016, with the public sector employing 80 percent of them. The number of Kuwaitis employed by the public sector went up 3.3 percent from 277,935 to 287,236 in the period surveyed.

The number of female workers rose by 3.9 percent and male workers by 1.6 percent. Meanwhile, the ratio of Kuwaiti workforce to the total workforce went slightly down - from 18 percent in June 2016 to 17.9 percent in June. The number of non-Kuwaiti workers went up by 3.8 percent from 1,589,451 to 1,650,217. The report noted that there were no remarkable changes in the structure of various groups of nationalities working in Kuwait.

Expats from Asian non-Arab countries continue to be the largest group of workers in Kuwait, accounting for 50.3 percent, followed by those from the Arab countries, who represent 30.1 percent. The number of Indian workers in Kuwait went up by 6.6 percent, from 519,466 in June 2016 to 553,781 in June 2017, while the number of Egyptians grew by 2.4 percent to 463,804. The percentage of Kuwaiti workers with bachelor degrees went up from 35.1 to 36.8 percent, while the percentage of non-Kuwaiti workers with bachelor degrees rose from 20.5 to 22.7 percent.

According to the latest statistics of the Public Authority for Civil Information, expatriates make up 69.7 percent of the total population of Kuwait of 4.5 million with 3.1 million residents. Kuwaitis form 30.2 percent of the populace with 1.3 million citizens. — KUNA

Defiant Qatar emir meets Iran's Zarif

DOHA: Iran's foreign minister held talks with the emir of Qatar yesterday aimed at strengthening "co-operation," nearly four months into a Saudi-led blockade against the Gulf emirate. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Iran's Mohammad Javad Zarif met at a time of heightened Gulf tensions, with Qatari officials warning the ongoing Arab blockade would only drive Doha towards regional powerhouse Iran.

Qatar's state news agency said the pair discussed the impasse in the region, which has seen Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Doha over its ties with Iran and accusations that it supports extremists. "During the meeting, they reviewed relations of cooperation between the two countries in various fields as well as exchanged views on the current situation in the region," read the statement



DOHA: Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani greets Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif yesterday. — AFP

from Qatar News Agency.

The meeting also comes as a new academic survey published this week suggests that the average citizens in the Arab nations of the now-fractured Gulf Cooperation Council do not see Iran

Continued on Page 11

Kurdish leader and ex-Iraqi president Talabani dies

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq: Ex-Iraqi president and Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani died on Tuesday in Germany, officials in his party told AFP. Talabani, 83, was Iraq's president from 2005 to 2014 and a key figure in Iraqi Kurdistan, where voters last week overwhelmingly backed independence in a disputed referendum. "Our leader died in Germany," an official with Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said.

A family member said Talabani's health had taken a turn for the worse and had been transported to Germany, along with his wife and two children, before the referendum. "We pray to God that his death will help to bring back good relations between the brothers of Iraq," Iraqi Kurdish lawmaker Zana Said



Jalal Talabani

paid tribute to Talabani as "the only president whose death saddens Arabs, Kurds and all other ethnicities". "We pray to God that his death will help to bring back good relations between the brothers of Iraq."

Talabani's death, following a decades-old struggle for Kurdish statehood, came after Iraq's Kurds voted 92.7 percent in favor of independence in the Sept 25 referendum.

Continued on Page 11

US mourns Las Vegas massacre victims as shooter motive sought

LAS VEGAS: America mourned the victims of the worst gun massacre in recent US history yesterday as investigators probed the motive behind a so far apparently senseless attack on Las Vegas concertgoers. US President Donald Trump branded the attacker - who raked a crowd of thousands with gunfire from a 32nd-floor hotel room, leaving 59 dead and at least 527 injured - a "demented man".

But beyond that diagnosis, authorities were at a loss as to why a 64-year-old gambler and retired accountant had hauled a vast arsenal of weapons to the hotel and launched his assault. Meanwhile, a grim parade of victims began to be identified in the media, each new name stirring emotions as America once again grappled with calls for reforms to its permissive firearm control laws and angst over its pervasive gun culture.

Trump, questioned by reporters as he left the White House to survey hurricane relief in Puerto Rico, was not ready to suggest answers. "What happened in Las Vegas is in many ways a miracle," he said. "The police department has done such an incredible job, and we'll be talking about gun laws as time goes by." US officials have reacted cautiously to a claim by the Islamic State jihadist group that the shooter, Stephen Craig Paddock, had carried out Sunday night's massacre on its behalf.

Experts cautioned that the group - under pressure in its Syrian and Iraqi heartlands - may be trying to rally its supporters with a false claim. In a statement, IS claimed Paddock was one of its "soldiers" but the FBI said it had found no such connection so far and the local sheriff described him as a lone "psychopath". (See Page 8)



LAS VEGAS: People attend a candlelight vigil at Las Vegas City Hall on Monday after a gunman killed at least 59 people and wounded more than 500 others when he opened fire on a country music concert late Oct 1, 2017. — AFP

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Local

Speaker Ghanem to meet Bush Sr



KUWAIT: Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem headed to the US yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem headed to the US State of Maine on a short visit to meet with former President George H.W. Bush, said a statement by a media source yesterday. According to Al-Destor (the constitution) TV channel, Speaker Ghanem is expected to deliver a written letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Bush.

The source affirmed that Ghanem would also convey greetings from the Kuwaiti people to the former President for his historic stance during the Iraqi invasion

in 1990 and the subsequent liberation of Kuwait in 1991. The visit came on an invitation from Bush who wanted to express his gratitude to the Kuwaiti National Assembly for its support during the health setback he suffered recently, said the television channel.

Speaker Ghanem is expected to head to Geneva, Switzerland, afterwards to meet with the International Parliamentary Union's (IPU) President Saber H Chowdhury ahead of the union's conference to be held in Saint Petersburg in mid-October. — KUNA

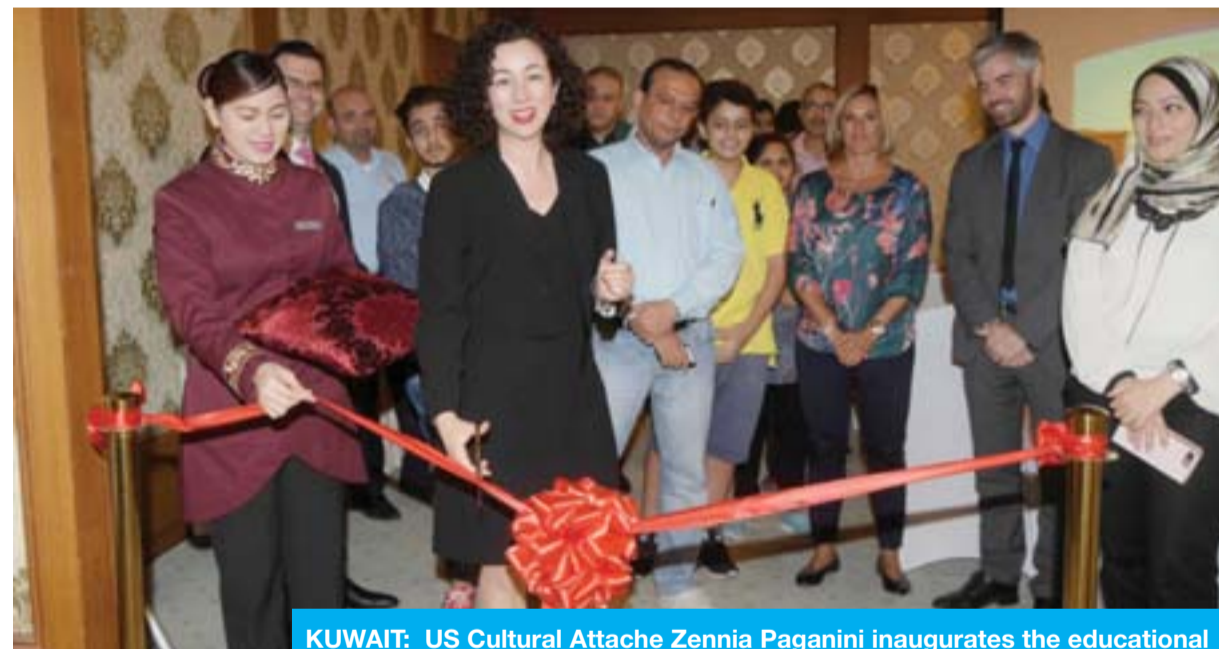
Kuwait asks for time to revise Gulf War compensations

GENEVA: Kuwait yesterday requested a grace period from the United Nations Compensation Commission tasked with Iraq's dues, after its occupation of Kuwait,

to evaluate payment options for a remaining \$4.6 billion. Baghdad, in August, asked Kuwait to consider receiving the amount through four options, the UNCC head and Kuwaiti representative Khaled Al-Mudhaf told the commission's 83rd session.

These include the sale of natural gas at an "agreed price" between the two countries, negotiating the decrease of Iraqi oil and derivative imports, lessening the dues according to the Paris Club sustainable solutions or transforming the amount to a bilateral debt. Kuwait is committed to reaching an agreement with the Iraqi government, while taking into account an agreed extension of a deadline for the handover until 2018, added Mudhaf. — KUNA

International Student Network holds education fair in Kuwait



KUWAIT: US Cultural Attache Zennia Paganini inaugurates the educational fair. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: The International Student Network (ISN) in cooperation with the US Embassy in Kuwait, hosted an educational fair at the Regency Hotel on Monday. Cultural Attache Zennia Paganini inaugurated the event. The fair include representatives from seven US colleges and universities who provided information about their schools and answer questions from students and parents about educational opportunities in the United States.

The following universities attended the event: Jackson College, Grand Valley State University, Adelphi University, West Virginia University, Bradley University, Snow College and Drury University. EducationUSA advisers were there to answer students' questions about higher education in the US, including



Students listen to an explanation from the representative of one of the participating US universities.

Filipino envoy thanks Kuwait for aid to hapless nations

KUWAIT: Kuwait has never failed to assist needy nations across the world with effective and timely aid, the Filipino ambassador to the country said yesterday. After meeting with the deputy chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Anwar Al-Hasawi, Renato Villa told the press that Kuwait has set an example for

philanthropic work through the gracious aid it has given countries mired in conflict. The Filipino envoy added that his encounter with Hasawi acquainted him with the Kuwaiti charity's latest activities. Meanwhile, KRCS' deputy president promised that the charity's altruistic endeavors would continue unabated.

In other news, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah discussed with the Ambassador of France to Kuwait Christian Nakhle about the bilateral cooperation. "The defense minister endorsed the deep-rooted ties between the two nations, and discussed with the French diplomat issues of common interest and means to boost and enhance them," the ministry said in a press release. — KUNA

Amir receives new envoys' credentials

Amir condemns terror attack in Bahrain

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the credentials of a number of Arab and foreign diplomats. The credentials were handed in by the newly appointed ambassadors of Belgium, Nigeria, Jordan, Burkina Faso, Czech, as well as the United Kingdom to Kuwait.

The ceremony was attended by Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Undersecretary at the Amiri Diwan Ibrahim Al-Shatti, head of His Highness the Amir's office Ahmad Al-Fahad, Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Abulhassan, head of Amiri protocols Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Dahri Al-Ajran, and head of the Amiri guard authority brigadier.

Culture and science

Later yesterday, His Highness the Amir received Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares and the newly-elected Director of the Arab League Education, Culture, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Dr Saud Al-Harbi. His Highness the Amir congratulated Dr Harbi on winning the trust of ALECSO's members during the meeting. He said that the win reflects Kuwait's reputation as a center for culture and science.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad, as well as Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah.

Terror attack

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent Monday a cable to Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa over the terrorist attack that hit the fellow Gulf country earlier in the day. In the



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the newly appointed ambassador of the United Kingdom. — KUNA

cable, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah displayed Kuwait's strongest condemnation towards the attack that led to the injury of five security personnel in the capital, Manama.

His Highness the Amir also said that Kuwait will stand against those eager to cause terror and instability in Bahrain, affirming that Kuwaitis were standing in solidarity with the Bahraini leadership and people. His Highness the Crown Prince and

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables to the Bahraini Monarch. Also, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent cables to Speaker of Bahrain's Council of Representatives Ahman bin Ibrahim Al-Mullah and President of the Consultative Council Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, in which he strongly denounced the terrorist attack. — KUNA

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, Management and Staff

convey their deepest condolences to

Owayed Ayed Al-Salili Al-Enezi

Kuwait Journalist Association (KJA) Board member

on the sad demise of his **Mother**

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her

Local

Kuwait City records 'moderate' air quality

KUWAIT: Kuwait City recorded an air quality score that is considered unhealthy for members of sensitive groups yesterday afternoon, according to a new monitor installed by the US Embassy in Kuwait.

The US Embassy in Kuwait installed an air quality monitor (AQM) on embassy grounds in Bayan, as part of an initiative by the US Department of State and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the embassy said in a message sent to US citizens in the country yesterday.

According to the EPA AirNow website, Kuwait City recorded the highest air quality index (AQI) reading at 2:00 pm yesterday, which is 112 AQI. This reading ranks under 'unhealthy for sensitive group' in the level of health concern, which means 'members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.' Otherwise, the state's capital recorded moderate AQI readings throughout the day, except for

1:00 pm (106) and 3:00 pm (102). The US Embassy's air quality monitor is just one health resource for the US citizen community.

The monitor measures Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 particulates on and near the embassy compound. PM 2.5 is a standard recognized by the US EPA and allows us to compare against US standard measures. Particulates less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM 2.5) are referred to as "fine" particulates and are believed to pose the largest health risks—those risks are likely to be more severe for sensitive populations, including people with heart or lung disease, children, and older adults.

The US EPA has developed a formula to convert PM 2.5 readings into an air quality index (AQI) value that can be of assistance in making health-related decisions. For example, an AQI value of 50 represents good air quality with little potential to affect public health, while an AQI value over 300 represents hazardous air quality.

| Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern | Numerical Value | Meaning |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Good | 0 to 50 | Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk |
| Moderate | 51 to 100 | Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. |
| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups | 101 to 150 | Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected. |
| Unhealthy | 151 to 200 | Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects. |
| Very Unhealthy | 201 to 300 | Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected. |
| Hazardous | 301 to 500 | Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects. |

Three hurt in Salwa house fire

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Fire broke out in a house in Salwa, prompting South Salmiya and Mishrif fire stations to respond. The fire was on the ground floor, and was put out quickly. Three people suffered smoke inhalation and were treated on site by paramedics. Meanwhile, fire broke out on the seventh floor of a Salmiya building, prompting Salmiya and Hawally fire stations to respond. The building was evacuated, and the fire extinguished. No injuries were reported.

Environmental laws

Acting Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt. Gen. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah said the Coast Guard of Borders Security Sector and environment police are carrying out their duties in implementing laws issued by the Environment Public Authority, as well as the Public



Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources. He reiterated that concerned authorities at the Interior Ministry implement laws protecting the environment and fish resources.

KPI, Japan's Idemitsu to open Vietnam's 1st service station

TOKYO: State-run Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and Japan's leading refiner Idemitsu Kosan Company are set to jointly begin operating a service station business in Vietnam next Thursday, Idemitsu said in a press release yesterday. KPI and Idemitsu will run the business in the capital Hanoi through Idemitsu Q8 Petroleum, their 50-50 joint venture, the Tokyo-based firm said, adding that it will be Vietnam's first wholly foreign-owned service station.

"This service station will differentiate itself from local competitors through proactively adopting and firmly establishing operations expertise based on Idemitsu's experiences operating service stations in Japan and KPI's experiences operating service stations under the Q8 brand in Europe," it said.

The service station is located inside Hanoi's Thang Long

Industrial Park, home to the facilities of numerous Japanese firms, according to the press release. "Starting with this service station, Idemitsu Q8 Petroleum first will build a sales channel by opening a network of service stations concentrated on the area," said Idemitsu.

The two companies are major investors in the Nghi Son Refinery and Petrochemical Project is 35.1 percent evenly owned by KPI and Idemitsu, 25.1 percent by state-owned PetroVietnam and 4.7 percent by Japan's Mitsui Chemicals Inc. KPI's parent company Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) will supply all the feedstock for the facility, which will also include petrochemical units, energy facilities, a pipeline

and storage systems, along with an information management system.

Crude exports

In other news, Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan declined 2.3 percent in August from a year earlier to 6.18 million barrels, or 199,000 barrels per day (bpd), for the first fall in four months, government data showed. But Kuwait overtook Qatar to become Japan's third-biggest oil provider, supplying 6.2 percent of the Asian nation's total crude imports, the Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency said in a preliminary report.

Japan's overall imports of crude oil edged down 0.1 percent year-on-year to 3.21 million bpd for the first decline in two months. Shipments from the Middle East accounted for 87.8 percent of the total, up 3.1 percentage points from the year before.

Saudi Arabia remained Japan's number one oil supplier, with imports from the kingdom jumping 38.4 percent from a year earlier to 1.35 million bpd, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 879,000 bpd, up 7.4 percent. Qatar ranked fourth and Russia fifth, respectively. Japan is the world's-third biggest oil consumer after the US and China, importing virtually all its fossil fuels. —KUNA

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, Management and Staff

convey their deepest condolences to

Al-Radhwan Family

on the sad demise of

Khadija Radhwan

Mohammed Al-Radhwan

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her



Journal uses Kuwaiti's photo of US solar eclipse

LONDON: The British Astronomical Association yesterday published a photograph taken by Khaled Al-Jamaan from Kuwait of the August 21 solar eclipse in the United States. The image was featured in a BAA Journal report about the total solar eclipse, which crossed the complete width of the US from east to west. The report explained that Jamaan took the picture in Charleston, South Carolina, with high precision, allowing it to reveal the lunar detail. The Kuwaiti's work was displayed ahead of the work of several international astronomers. Established in 1890, BAA has gained an international reputation for the quality of its observational and scientific work in astronomy. "Its membership is open to all persons interested in astronomy," BAA said on its website. —KUNA

No Kuwaitis harmed in Vegas mass shooting

WASHINGTON: Kuwait's General Consulate in Los Angeles on Monday said no Kuwaitis were harmed in the mass shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Some 58 people have been killed and more than 500 injured after a man opened fire on a crowd attending a country music concert in Las Vegas, in what is now branded the deadliest mass shooting in modern history of the United States. However, the Consulate in a statement advised Kuwaitis in Las Vegas to follow instructions issued by local authorities. The Consulate said it had contacted the state authorities over the safety of Kuwaitis, which in turn assured none of them were harmed. It also urged citizens to contact the Consulate in case of emergency through the numbers: 3105560300 or 3102793644, or through the email: kuwaitconsulate@info.org. —KUNA

Fundraiser to help bedoon students pay tuition fees

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched a fund raising campaign till October 12, to help bedoon students pay their tuition fees. KRCS have received 13,000 applications to join its 'Educate for a brighter Kuwait' campaign which was launched last Saturday at the Avenues designed to raise funds to educate the children from needy families in Kuwait. KRCS's human resources development manager, Lama Al-Othman said that 2,500 students will be selected from those who match the conditions to pay part of their tuition fees. She added that many citizens and expats have already started donating for this project.

Contracts terminated

High-ranking sources at the Ministry of Information stressed that contracts of a number of typists and technicians working at the news and political programs sector had been terminated as part of the ministry's policy of terminating contracts with non-ministry employees. The sources added that the decision helps Kuwaitize all jobs in the sector that is highly capable of dealing with any job-related problems.

Competitiveness index

The Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017 issued by the World Economic Forum ranked Kuwait fifth amongst Arab states and 52nd Worldwide on its competitiveness index. The index that included 137 countries had Switzerland on top of the list followed by the United States in second place and Singapore in third place. The index uses 12 indicators in ranking countries according to their institutions, infrastructure, general economic environment, health, basic education, high education and training, goods market efficiency, labor market efficiency, developing stock markets, readiness for technology, market size, business development and creativity.

Refinery employees

Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries Company (KIPIC) announced that the third and last batch of former Shuaiba refinery employees including 160 team heads, engineers and operators have joined the company. KIPIC's CEO, Hashim Hashim stressed that this last group will be an important addition to the company and will play a major role in operating Al-Zour refinery. Al-Zour refinery's Deputy CEO Hatem Al-Awadhi said that the group includes people with major skills and that they be subjected to special training programs at Mina Abdullah and Al-Zour units.

Local

CRIMES

Weapons cache found in Um Al-Haiman

KUWAIT: Workers in the Um Al-Haiman desert found weapons and ammunition in bags while they were digging. The weapons included six AK-47s, a pistol, a smoke grenade and a box of bullets, besides 1,000 loose rounds. State security and criminal detectives were informed, and investigations are underway.

Gun stolen

An officer told police that his personal pistol (a 9 mm Colt) was stolen from his car, which he had left unlocked. A security source said the officer may be charged with negligence. Forensics officers collected evidence and detectives are working on the case.

Breach of trust

A citizen accused an Egyptian of putting her in trouble after a car rental agency complained against her for not returning a car she rented years ago. The agency claimed the woman rented the car in 2011 and stopped payments two years ago. She also refused to return the car, the agency claimed, and filed charges of breach of trust. Detectives who handled the case found the woman was about to leave the country, so they went to the airport and arrested her. The woman said she rented the car in 2011, but when it broke down in 2015, she asked an employee at the agency to take it back, but he told her to keep it for a while and promised not to add any charges. The employee will be questioned.

No evidence

Police had to release a bedoon woman for lack of evidence after her Gulf national husband accused her of forging official documents and having an Iraqi passport. A security source said the Gulf national claimed his wife told him she is from a Gulf country, but he discovered she is of Iraqi origin. When he questioned her, she confessed and showed him her passport. The wife, meanwhile, claimed this was a malicious accusation and that she is a bedoon. The enraged husband said he will file a complaint at the public prosecution.
—Translated from the Arabic press



ABK, Royale Hayat partner for breast cancer awareness

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced its partnership with Royale Hayat Hospital, to

raise awareness of breast cancer during October. In the spirit of encouraging screening during this special month, ABK female cardholders are offered two packages. The breast screening package which is a general checkup and suitable for everyone includes a mammogram and an ultrasound for the price of KD 20 only, a discounted rate from an original cost of KD 45. The second offer is the breast imaging package which includes a mammogram and an ultrasound has further diagnostic analysis and is offered to those who have history or pain for the value of KD 35, a discounted rate from an original cost of KD 75. ABK supports the month of cancer through numerous campaigns including breast cancer awareness and a number of other cancer related campaigns focusing on prevention and awareness.

الانباء Al-Anbaa

Singers' squadrons

By Saleh Al-Shayeeji

I am not so fond of the songs sung by Iraqi singer Kathem Al-Saheer, neither his voice. I might not even know any of his songs except for one of his first ones: 'Abart Ash-shat Ala Modak' (I crossed the river for your eyes). Contrarily, I hated him and his songs at a certain age. I still remember when I was living in Cairo, Egypt in 1992 or 1993 after Kuwait was liberated and my driver played a song and I asked who the singer was. The man mentioned Kazem El-Saheer's name and I immediately ejected the cassette tape and threw it out of the car into the street leaving my driver in shock as he only knew that the man was a good singer who had made a considerable number of fans in Egypt.

As we had just liberated Kuwait and were still overwhelmed by grievance and the stories of POWs and tortured Kuwaitis, I blamed him for having a tape for a singer who belongs to a country that invaded mine, destroyed, killed and took many as POWs. I am mentioning this introduction after hearing news about inviting Saheer to sing in Kuwait with all the reactions this invitation has already created, as many citizens reject it on grounds that Saheer has sung glorifying Saddam Hussein and, since the latter invaded Kuwait, he is our enemy and all our enemy's friends are our enemies.

Well, these groups seem to have forgotten that many Kuwaitis had supported, loved and praised Saddam in certain situations before he invaded their country. And if Saheer praised Hussein in his songs, he was nothing more than an Iraqi citizen who could not sing away from other flocks or squadrons that included all Iraqi singers in and outside Iraq. Accordingly, I see that inviting Saheer to sing in Kuwait must be alienated from such tragic political past as he was not the culprit or the one who applauded it.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

TAKAUD hosts second MENA Pensions Conference in Nov

MANAMA: TAKAUD, the specialist provider of savings, investment and pension solutions for the MENA region, yesterday announced that it will hold the second MENA Pensions Conference on November 28, 2017, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Manama, under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain. The themes of the 2017 Conference will focus on enhancing pension benefit sustainability through Public-Private Partnerships, and saving and investing for the long term.

Pension benefits are under strain globally. The success stories of public-private partnerships (P3) internationally may be useful for the GCC and MENA region and will be examined at the Conference. P3 has greatly enhanced several sectors, including pensions in many countries. Now is the time to explore these kinds of options so that pension systems in the region can become more robust and economically sustainable going forward.

"Global experience shows that pensions require multiple pillars—among the government, corporate and individual sectors—to be more sustainable. The crucial role of corporations in the future well-being of employees, and the responsibility individuals have for their own retirement security need to be emphasized in this region. Building effective local models and institutional frameworks for pensions would be key prerequisites to move in this direction, which is the focus of this conference," said Ebrahim Ebrahim, TAKAUD's Chief Government Business and Communications Officer.

The Conference brings together representatives of public pension funds and financial institutions in the region, as well as global asset managers and private pension providers, so that all can contribute to the examination of issues and the crystal-

lization of workable solutions.

Integral to the challenge of sustainable pension solutions is the art and science of investing for the long term. This is vital to both institutional and individual investors. With retirement being a very long time away for most people, pension investments must always take the long view. This focus will be of particular interest to pension funds, fund managers, trustees of corporate savings schemes and individual investors saving for retirement.

"Economically speaking, no government can do the job of providing pensions security on their own forever, especially if we're talking about providing adequate income replacement during a retirement period that can easily extend to three decades and more," added Ebrahim. "The 2017 MENA Pensions Conference is about creating awareness, broadening the focus to include both the public and private sectors, and facilitating wider participation by companies and individuals. "It is certainly time for the region to create a wider framework for more sustainable retirement options for people," added Ebrahim.

This year's conference will also feature an exhibition of participants within the pensions ecosystem, including private pension scheme administrators, asset managers, trust providers, Fintech application vendors and related financial services providers. The Conference is being co-sponsored by a number of institutions, including Allianz Global Investors (a global asset manager), Robeco (a global asset manager), FIS Global (the world's leading Fintech company), and Intertrust (a global corporation in fund and corporate services) amongst others. Additional sponsors and more details will be announced in the coming weeks.



Ebrahim Ebrahim

Professor participates in theater award

KUWAIT: Associate Professor at the Drama Critique and Literature at the Higher Institute for Dramatic Arts Dr Nermin Al-Houti said she is glad to participate in Khalid bin Hamad Award for Youth Theater in its 3rd edition, which is designated for an important group of the society, the youth, as well as people with special needs.

Dr Houti said that she wishes to see Kuwait's Ministry of Youth Affairs pay more attention to youth people, who represent the majority in the Kuwait society, adding that she believes that the ministry should pay greater attention to people

with special needs and integrate them in all cultural and sports fields. Dr Houti added that she hopes the Kuwaiti government provides them with activities that develop their skills, and have that in practice, not just in press statements.

Dr Houti received an invitation to attend the festival of Khalid bin Hamad Award for Youth Theater 2017 for national clubs and the handicapped, which started yesterday and concludes in October 21, 2017. It is organized by Bahrain's youth ministry. Dr Houti will comment on the 'We Did Not Start' play for Director Jassim Talaq, which will be performed on stage tomorrow.



Dr Nermin Al-Houti

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International

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017



Bizarre attacks in Havana hit American spy network

Las Vegas shooting, the bloodiest in modern history

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WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump along with Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen Pence take part in a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas shootings, on the South Lawn of the White House. — AFP

For many hotels, terror risks make tight security a routine

Hotel operators deploying armed guards, barricades, x-ray machines

HONG KONG: Across the globe, risks of terrorism and other violence have made tight security at hotels and resorts routine, even in countries where strict gun control laws may help prevent the kind of shooting attack that occurred Sunday night in Las Vegas. Security varies widely from place to place: in many cities luxury hotels have entrances that open straight into shopping malls. Hotel lobbies often serve as a refuge from noisy, chaotic city streets, and are generally easily accessible.

But increasingly, hotel operators are deploying armed guards, vehicle barricades, x-ray machines and other security devices to reduce risks. The most recent major incident in Asia, at the Resorts World Manila casino in the Philippines, shared similarities with the Las Vegas attack. The attacker in that case was a man with a gambling addiction who got past hotel security with an ammunition vest and assault rifle, carrying out an arson attack that left 37 dead, mostly from smoke inhalation. The attacker later killed himself.

Afterward, Resorts World said it had hired a security contractor, Blackpanda, and established new emergency,

safety and security protocols. A nearby casino resort, City of Dreams, also said it had tightened security. Even before the attack, visitors to Resorts World, like many other hotels, office complexes and shopping malls in Manila, were required to pass through metal detectors and have their bags checked in x-ray scanners to enter.

Such precautions are not the rule across Asia, but luxury hotels in the region generally are on the alert for terrorist attacks and other violence. In 2009, attackers in Indonesia smuggled explosives past security guards and metal detectors, setting off a blast at the Marriott and the Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta that killed eight.

Six years earlier, terrorists set off a car bomb at the Jakarta Marriott, killing 12. In India in 2008, terrorists targeted two luxury hotels, a train station and restaurant in a 60-hour siege in Mumbai that left more than 160 dead.

Hotel chains operating in India including Accor, Hyatt and Marriott now use handheld trace detectors and x-ray scanners to check for explosives and contraband. The upscale Lemon Tree Hotel at New Delhi's airport brought in a facial recognition system to keep track of

visitors. "Both Indonesia and India have strengthened hotel security since these events and others in the region too," said Mario Hardy, CEO of the Pacific Asia Travel Association. "Vehicles are checked and many hotels have added X-ray scanners at the entrances of the hotels and CCTV monitoring." He added that, "as consumers we may sometime see those as nuisance; but I think events such as these remind us all the importance of security measures."

'Bump-stocks'

The gunman who unleashed hundreds of rounds of gunfire on a crowd of concertgoers in Las Vegas had two "bump-stocks" that could have converted semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic ones, officials said. The devices have attracted scrutiny in recent years from authorities. California Sen Dianne Feinstein has long railed against them. Several years ago, she told The Associated Press she was concerned about the emergence of new technologies that could retrofit firearms to make them fully automatic.

"This replacement shoulder stock turns a semi-automatic rifle into a weapon that can fire at a rate of 400 to 800 rounds per minute," she said. A semi-automatic weapon requires one trigger pull for each round fired. With a fully automatic firearm, one trigger pull can unleash continuous rounds until the magazine is empty. The purchasing of fully automatic weapons has been

significantly restricted in the US since the 1930s. In 1986, the federal National Firearms Act was amended further to prohibit the transfer or possession of machine guns by civilians, with an exception for those previously manufactured and registered.

Numerous attempts to design retrofits failed until recent years when bump stocks came on the market. The device basically replaces the gun's shoulder rest, with a "support step" that covers the trigger opening. By holding the pistol grip with one hand and pushing forward on the barrel with the other, the shooter's finger comes in contact with the trigger. The recoil causes the gun to buck back and forth, "bumping" the trigger. Technically, that means the finger is pulling the trigger for each round fired, keeping the weapon a legal semi-automatic. Las Vegas shooter Stephen Paddock had 23 guns in his hotel room. Two officials familiar with the investigation told the AP that Paddock had two bump stocks. They are investigating whether those stocks were used to modify weapons used in the massacre, according to the officials, who were briefed by law enforcement and spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still unfolding. Paddock killed 59 people and wounded hundreds more at a country music festival near his hotel. Police stormed his 32nd floor hotel room and found that he had killed himself after committing the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history. — Agencies



Gunman's device turns a weapon into automatic

Witches buried and burned for land in princely India state

BHILWARA: Gulabi Kumawat was an elderly widow living in a modest home in India's Rajasthan state, until the day she was branded a witch by fellow villagers and her life went catastrophically wrong. Beaten. Buried. She was set alight and left for dead. Somehow Kumawat escaped the pit and lived to tell the tale, first fleeing her Borda village for the safety of a relative's home and then onto Bhilwara city, where she now lives. Fourteen years later and she remains landless. Her plot - little more than an acre (4,046 sq m) - and her home of almost 50 years are both gone. "They tried to grab my land and sell it without my consent. When I confronted them, they called me a "dayan" (witch), blamed me for many bad things in the village and nearly killed me," said Kumawat, 95, her voice rising barely above a whisper. "They have known me all their life. How did I suddenly become a dayan?" she said, her gaunt face etched with sadness.

Blame the women

Kumawat's story is not unusual in Rajasthan, a state better known for stately forts and grand palaces than witch hunting. Scores of women have been brutally attacked after being branded a witch over the last few decades; several have died. The Mewar region, a former

princely state that includes Bhilwara and the popular lake city of Udaipur, is particularly notorious, accounting for most cases in Rajasthan. Activists say women have been beaten, knifed, sexually assaulted, stripped naked and paraded, thrown into wells, buried alive, set alight or disfigured with acid. Others are killed.

In most cases, the victims were poor, lower-caste, single women who either had no sons or lived alone. Most had land or property coveted by a relative or higher-caste person. The practice of blaming "witches" for everything from inadequate monsoon rains and failed businesses to infertility, illness or a sudden death, is widely prevalent across several Indian states, and dates back centuries. In such cases, villagers consult with a shaman or godman, who often blames a witch for some misfortune. Family members are also complicit, and often use this as a way to settle scores, often over land, or to throw a female relative out of the house. "The feudal system, a rigid caste hierarchy and patriarchy encourage the practice, with illiteracy and superstition also to blame," said activist Tara Ahluwalia, who has recorded 88 cases of witch hunting in Bhilwara since 1982. "We file reports, but no action is taken," said Ahluwalia, who keeps meticulous records of each case in a folder with photographs, hospital statements and related police reports.



NEW DELHI: Indian workers remove religious offerings and frames of the idol of goddess Durga which were immersed in the Yamuna River after the Durga Puja festival yesterday. — AFP

Living corpse

The practice of witch hunting is not unique to India. Instances have been recorded elsewhere in Asia and in Africa. Thousands of elderly Tanzanian women have been strangled, knifed to death and burned alive over the last two decades after being denounced as witches, usually for their land. In India, nearly 2,500 murders related to witchcraft have been recorded since 2000, according to official data. Victims are often expelled from their homes and villages. Those who stay are isolated and live in constant fear.

Despite a 2015 state law banning the practice, there have been no convictions in Rajasthan, such is the reluctance of local officials and police to check the custom, activists say. "We fought for a law for 25 years, but the law is not being implemented. What is the point of the law if it cannot protect these women?" Ahluwalia told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The case is forgotten, and only the victim continues to suffer. Once you are branded a witch, the stigma is for life, and it slowly kills her; she is like a living corpse," she said. — Reuters

International

US-led coalition airstrike kills 18 civilians in Raqqa

Israel sees Assad winning, urges more US involvement

BEIRUT: A US-led coalition air strike killed at least 18 civilians yesterday in the Islamic State group's former stronghold of Raqqa, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said. "International coalition planes targeted water wells where a group of civilians were gathered in the north of Raqqa city, killing at least 18 civilians," Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said. The Britain-based group said four children were among the dead.

The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, an alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters, broke into Raqqa in June and has since wrested 90 percent of the city from IS. But activists say coalition strikes in support of the operation have killed hundreds of civilians and caused enormous damage. The coalition says it takes "extraordinary care" to avoid civilian casualties in its strikes and that it investigates credible claims of civilian deaths.

In late September, the coalition acknowledged the deaths of 735 civilians in its strikes on Syria and Iraq since 2014. But activists say the toll is much higher. Raqqa has faced water shortages for months because of damage to pipelines caused by suspected coalition strikes. Even in the early days of the Raqqa assault, residents said they feared being caught in air strikes or shelling when they ventured to wells or the Euphrates River that runs south of the city to draw water.

Meanwhile, Israel's defense minister said yesterday President Bashar Al-Assad was winning Syria's civil war and urged the United States to weigh in as Damascus's Iranian and Hezbollah allies gain ground. Avigdor Lieberman's comments marked a reversal for Israel, where top officials had from the outset of fighting in 2011 until mid-2015 regularly predicted Assad would lose control of his country and be toppled. "I see a long international

queue lining up to woo Assad, include Western nations, including moderate Sunnis. Suddenly everyone wants to get close to Assad. This is unprecedented. Because Assad is winning, everyone is standing in line."

In late 2015, Russia helped Assad turn the tide with a military intervention that put Moscow's forces in the field alongside Israel's most potent foes - Iran and the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah - opposite Syrian rebels. The United States has focused its Syria operations on fighting rebel jihadis like Islamic State - dismaying Israel, which has tried to persuade both Washington and Moscow that Iran's expanding clout is the greater threat.

In its decades under Assad family rule, Syria has been an enemy of Israel, with their armies clashing in 1948, 1967, 1973 and 1982. While largely keeping out of the Syrian civil war, Israel has tried to sway the world powers involved in the conflict and cautioned it could strike militarily to prevent Iran and Hezbollah entrenching further on its northern front.

Drone strike kills eight Hezbollah fighters in Syria

"We hope the United States will be more active in the Syrian arena and the Middle East in general," Lieberman said. "We are faced with Russians, Iranians, and also the Turks and Hezbollah, and this is no simple matter to deal with, on a daily basis." Lieberman did not elaborate on what actions he sought from the Donald Trump administration, which Israel has been lobbying for reassurances that Iranian and Hezbollah forces will not be allowed to deploy near its border or set up bases within Syria. "The United States has quite a few challenges of its own, but as a trend - the more the United States will be active, the better it will be for the State of Israel," Lieberman said.

Also, a drone strike killed at least eight members of the powerful Hezbollah militia in Syria, where the Lebanese group is fighting alongside the regime, a Britain-based



RAQQA, Syria: Members of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), Syrian fighters backed by US Special Forces, search newly taken areas near the central hospital of Raqqa. SDF are battling to clear the last remaining Islamic State group jihadists holed up in their crumbling stronghold of Raqqa. —AFP

monitor said. An unidentified "drone hit a Hezbollah position near the town of Sukhna (in central Homs province) killing eight fighters, and injuring more than 20," said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor. A source on the ground confirmed the strike, giving a toll of seven dead from Hezbollah, and said it was still unclear who had carried out the attack. Hezbollah is a key force multiplier for Syrian President

Bashar Al-Assad, and has fought alongside his troops across the country against rebel forces. Assad's forces and allied fighters are currently waging a campaign in Syria's vast Badiya desert region against the Islamic State group.

The campaign backed by Assad ally Russia has captured large swathes of territory from the jihadists, but they have launched deadly counterattacks on regime positions. —Agencies

Kurdistan region plans to hold elections Nov 1

ERBIL: Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region plans to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on Nov 1, the Erbil-based Rudaw TV said yesterday, as the Kurdish leadership cements its case for independence. A referendum held on Sept 25 in the country's Kurdish-held northern regions delivered an overwhelming 'yes' for independence, raising fears in Iraq and abroad of ethnic strains and a weakening of a US-backed campaign against Islamic State.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday Turkey would impose further sanctions on northern Iraq over the vote. Powerful neighbors Ankara and Tehran fear it could fuel Kurdish separatism within their own borders. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), however, has not declared independence and the elections are for the parliament and presidency of the region, not for an independent state.

Baghdad retaliated to the referendum with an international flights ban on Kurdish airports, while Iran and Turkey launched joint military drills with Iraqi troops at their borders with Iraqi Kurdistan. The Shiite Arab-led Iraqi government has rejected a KRG offer to discuss independence. It demanded Kurdish leaders cancel the result of the referendum or face continued sanctions, international isolation and possible military intervention.

Saddam overthrow

Masoud Barzani, the heir of a dynasty who has led a Kurdish struggle for independence for over a century, has held the KRG presidency since its establishment in 2005, two years after the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

His tenure was extended beyond his second term, in 2013, as fresh turmoil engulfed the region and Islamic



ERBIL: An Iraqi Kurd waves the Kurdish flag as they celebrate the independence referendum in the streets of the northern city of Erbil. —AFP

State overran, in 2014, about a third of Iraq, threatening the Kurdish region. It was unclear whether Barzani would or could stand in the November poll as Kurdish law says a president cannot stay in office for more than two terms.

Campaigning for the two elections will start on Oct 15. Rudaw TV cited the High Elections and Referendum Commission chief Hendrean Mohammed. Islamic State's self-declared "caliphate" effectively collapsed in July, when their stronghold in Mosul, west of the KRG capital

Erbil, fell to a US-backed Iraqi offensive with the participation of Kurdish Peshmerga fighters. The Kurdish push for independence is meant to capitalize on their key contribution to the war on Islamic State after the group overwhelmed Iraqi forces in 2014.

The US administration, which had strengthened its alliance with Iraq's Kurds during the war on Islamic State, is taking the side of Baghdad in the crisis, in refusing to recognize the outcome of the referendum. —Reuters

Egyptian security forces arrest dozens in anti-gay crackdown

CAIRO: Egypt has arrested 22 people in the past three days as part of a crackdown on gays after a rainbow flag was raised at a concert, activists and rights groups said yesterday. At least 33 people have been arrested since Sept 23, after a group of people were seen raising the flag the day before in a rare public show of support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights in the conservative Muslim country.

The public prosecutor announced an investigation after local media launched a highly critical campaign against those who raised the rainbow flag at a Mashrou' Leila concert, a popular Lebanese alternative rock band whose lead singer is openly gay. On Monday police arrested Ahmed Alaa and Sarah Hegazy, the latter being the first woman involved in such an incident in years, in relation to the case, their lawyer said.

They were both charged with "joining a group formed in contrary to the law" and "propagating that group's idea". Hegazy faced a further charge of "promoting sexual deviancy and debauchery" and the Supreme State Security Prosecution ordered them detained for 15 days, lawyer Amr Mohamed said. Two men had been arrested earlier in relation to the flag incident but one was released.

The remaining arrests were unrelated to the incident but have all been over the perceived sexual orientation of the defendants and came after it.

At least 10 men were arrested between Sept 28-30 and six others earlier that week, judicial sources said. All 16 went on trial on Sunday charged with "promoting sexual deviancy" and "debauchery", euphemisms for homosexuality. A verdict is due on Oct 29. One man has been sentenced to six years in jail over similar charges. Mashrou'

Crackdown sparked by raising of rainbow flag

Leila released a statement on Monday condemning the arrest campaign and calling for solidarity with those arrested. "We denounce the demonization and prosecution of victimless acts between consenting adults. It is sickening to think that all this hysteria has been generated over a couple of kids raising a piece of cloth that stands for love," the band said. Although homosexuality is not specifically outlawed in Egypt, it is a conservative society and discrimination is rife. Gay men are frequently arrested and typically charged with debauchery, immorality or blasphemy. Those arrested are subjected to anal examinations to determine whether they have had gay sex, which rights groups Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch say amounts to torture. — Reuters

News in brief

UAE jails Iranian

ABU DHABI: A United Arab Emirates Appeals Court has upheld a 10-year jail sentence against an Iranian convicted of breaching international sanctions against Tehran, state media reported yesterday. The State Security Court upheld the man's conviction on charges of "sharing intelligence with Iran, importing electricity generators and devices used in the Iranian nuclear program from the United Kingdom and attempting to illegally re-export these devices to Iran," the official WAM news agency reported. The man, whose identity has not been disclosed, was found guilty by a lower court in April and sentenced to 10 years in jail to be followed by deportation. Nuclear-related international sanctions on Iran were lifted following a landmark deal reached between Tehran and major powers in 2015. But the UAE and other Sunni-ruled Gulf Arab states remain deeply opposed to the influence of Shiite-dominated Iran in the Middle East.

UK to limit acid sales

MANCHESTER: Britain will limit sales of sulphuric acid and outlaw the sale of such corrosive substances to children after a steep rise in attacks, Britain's interior minister said yesterday. "We are going to stop people carrying acid in public if they don't have a good reason," Home Secretary Amber Rudd told party activists at the Conservative Party Conference in the northern English city of Manchester. "Acid attacks are absolutely revolting," Rudd said. "Furthermore, given its use in the production of so-called 'mother of Satan' home-made explosives, I also announce my intention to drastically limit the public sale of sulphuric acid."

Homemade bomb found

PARIS: French police arrested five people, including one on a terror watchlist after discovering a suspected home-made bomb in one of Paris's most exclusive neighborhoods at the weekend, officials said. Police discovered two gas cylinders in the hallway of a building in the city's western 16th district in the early hours of Saturday morning and two others on the pavement outside. A mobile phone attached to the cylinders is being investigated as a possible detonator, a security source said late Monday. Speaking to Franceinfo radio yesterday, Interior Minister Gerard Collomb revealed that one of the arrested men was on a police terror watchlist. "That shows that the threat level in France is extremely high," added the minister, who said the incident and a knife attack in Marseille on Sunday that left two women dead underlined the importance of a tough new security law.

US envoy meets Putin

MOSCOW: The new US ambassador to Russia presented his diplomatic credentials to President Vladimir Putin at a ceremony yesterday in the Kremlin, a move that marks the formal start of Jon Huntsman's work in Russia. Huntsman, who has twice served as a US ambassador, arrived in Moscow on Sunday to take over from John Tefft, who left after serving in Russia for three years, a period that was marred by a deep and rapid deterioration of ties, unseen since the end of the Cold War. The US-Russia relationship has soured even further in recent months following a series of expulsions of diplomats and closures of diplomatic missions. In his address to Huntsman, Putin offered Russia's condolences over Monday's deadly shooting attack in Las Vegas and expressed hope for better ties with the US.

Fleeing offensives, where are the IS militants going?

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group is under attack across the remaining parts of its self-proclaimed caliphate, but what happens to its thousands of fighters as their group loses grip on territory? Facing multiple offensives, the jihadist group has lost the Libyan city of Sirte, Iraq's Mosul and Ramadi, and is now on the verge of being ousted from its former Syrian stronghold Raqqa. At its peak IS counted tens of thousands of fighters among its ranks, with US officials estimating as many as 40,000 foreign fighters travelled to join the jihadists over the years.

How many have been killed, arrested? Forces attacking IS have regularly reported the deaths and arrests of large numbers of jihadists, but their figures are often vague and cannot be independently verified. "We can't give an exact number of those arrested but we can say that there are a good number of them being detained by our forces," said Mustafa Bali, spokesman for the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces currently battling IS in Syria. In Iraq's Mosul, journalists saw the bodies of jihadists killed in fighting on the streets, but they numbered no more than a few dozen at any time, far less than the hundreds authorities often said had died in combat.

Other IS fighters may have been arrested and then executed. In July, the Human Rights Watch group accused a unit of Iraq's army of carrying out summary executions of suspected jihadist prisoners. —AFP

International

Las Vegas mass shooting, the bloodiest in modern history

Police seek clues; over 500 injured, some trampled in panic

LAS VEGAS: Police sought clues yesterday to explain why a retiree with a penchant for gambling but no criminal record set up a sniper's nest in a high-rise Las Vegas hotel and poured gunfire onto a concert below, slaying dozens of people before killing himself. The Sunday night shooting spree from a 32nd-floor window of the Mandalay Bay hotel, on the Las Vegas Strip, killed at least 59 people before the gunman turned a weapon on himself. More than 500 were injured, some trampled, in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

The gunman, identified as Stephen Paddock, 64, left no immediate hint of his motive for the arsenal of high-powered weaponry he amassed, including 34 guns, or the carnage he inflicted on a crowd of 22,000 attending an outdoor country music festival. Paddock was not known to have served in the military, or to have suffered from a history of mental illness or to have registered any inkling of social disaffection, political discontent or radical views on social media.

US officials also discounted a claim of responsibility by the militant Islamic State group. "We have determined to this point no connection with an international terrorist group," Aaron Rouse, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation field office in Las Vegas, told reporters on Monday. Police said they believed Paddock acted alone but were at a loss to explain what might have precipitated it. "We have no idea what his belief system was," Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo told reporters. "I can't get into the mind of a psychopath."

Although police said they had no other suspects, Lombardo said investigators wanted to talk with Paddock's girlfriend and live-in companion, Marilou Danley, who he said was traveling abroad, possibly in Tokyo. Lombardo also said detectives were "aware of oth-

er individuals" who were involved in the sale of weapons Paddock acquired. Still, the closest Paddock appeared to have ever come to a brush with the law was for a traffic infraction, authorities said.

Itinerant existence

The death toll, which officials said could rise, surpassed last year's record massacre of 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, by a gunman who pledged allegiance to Islamic State. Paddock, however, seemed atypical of the overtly troubled, angry young men who experts said have come to embody the profile of most mass shooters. Public records point to an itinerant existence across the US West and Southeast, including stints as an apartment manager and aerospace industry worker. But Paddock appeared to be settling in to a quiet life when he bought a home in a Nevada retirement community a few years ago, about an hour's drive from Las Vegas and the casinos he enjoyed.

Arsenal of 34 weapons, ammo, explosives found

His brother, Eric, described Stephen Paddock as financially well-off and an avid enthusiast of video poker games and cruises. "We're horrified. We're bewildered, and our condolences go out to the victims," Eric Paddock said in a telephone interview from Orlando, Florida. "We have no idea in the world." Las Vegas's casinos, nightclubs and shopping draw more than 40 million visitors from around the world each year, and the Strip was packed with visitors when the shooting started shortly after 10 pm local time on Sunday.

Bloodshed, pandemonium

The gunfire erupted during the Route 91 Harvest music festival as country music star Jason Aldean was performing. The musician ran off stage as the shooting progressed.



RALEIGH: An employee of North Raleigh Guns demonstrates how a 'bump' stock works at the Raleigh, NC shop. — AP

Video of the attack showed throngs of people screaming in horror and covering on the open ground, hemmed in by fellow concert-goers, as extended bursts of gunfire strafed the crowd from above from a distance police estimated at more than 500 yards. Those at the edges of the crowd fled as best they could, many trampled or hurt jumping over fences while the shooting went on, by some accounts, for about 10 minutes.

The bloodshed ended after police swarming the hotel

closed in on the gunman, who shot and wounded a hotel security officer through the door of his two-room suite and then killed himself before police entered, authorities said. Police said 23 guns were found in Paddock's suite, along with more than 10 suitcases. Lombardo said a search of the suspect's car turned up a supply of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer compound that can be formed into explosives and was used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing of a federal office building that killed 168 people. — Reuters

Cameroon crackdown fueling Anglophone independence push

DAKAR: A once-fringe separatist movement in Cameroon's Anglophone regions is gaining ground after a year of state repression that has undermined moderate voices and raised concerns the majority French-speaking nation may face a prolonged period of violence. Soldiers shot dead at least eight people and wounded others in the two English-speaking regions on Sunday, the anniversary of Anglophone Cameroon's independence from Britain.

Amnesty International said on Monday at least 17 people had died in the clashes. The growing influence of the separatists, who include armed radical elements, is one of the most serious threats to stability in the central African oil producer since President Paul Biya took power 35 years ago. "Last year, separatists couldn't rally people on the streets. But people have seen family members arrested and killed, and they have switched over," said Tapang Ivo

Tanku, an Anglophone activist based in the United States.

Like many moderates who say they are marginalized by Biya's Francophone-dominated government, Tanku has campaigned for a peaceful solution: a two-state federation - one French speaking, the other Anglophone - under one president. "I am in the minority now," he told Reuters from New York.

The strife began in November, when English-speaking teachers and lawyers in the Northwest and Southwest regions, frustrated with having to work in French, took to the streets calling for reforms and greater autonomy. Six people were killed in those protests, and in the months that followed, the government deployed thousands of police and elite soldiers, implemented a blanket internet blackout and arrested dozens of activists, dubbing them "terrorists".

“
We need our own country
”



BAMENDA, Cameroon: Demonstrators march during a protest against perceived discrimination in favor of the country's francophone majority in Bamenda, the main town in northwest Cameroon and an anglophone hub. — AFP

The thousands who protested on Sunday around the country were no longer calling for reform, but for a separate state for Cameroon's nearly five million English speakers. "We told them our problems. They responded with force, killing us," said a young student in Bamenda, one of the largest Anglophone cities. "We need our own country." The true size and influence of the movement remains hard to gauge. Many leaders are in jail or exile, and it's unclear how strong alliances are between a multitude of factions with competing visions of how to achieve their goals. Few analysts believe a split is imminent.

There is no doubt the separatists' popularity and ability to stir turmoil has grown, however. Separatists told Reuters that they were responsible for an improvised bomb that last month wounded three policemen in Bamenda. "Nothing great can be achieved by using verbal excesses, street violence and defying authority. Lasting solutions to problems can be found only through peaceful dialogue," Biya said in a statement on Twitter following Sunday's violence. An uprising by Biafran separatists in neighboring Nigeria in the 1960s sparked a civil war that killed around 1 million. — Reuters

New 'walls' now divide Germany, president says

BERLIN: Germany's Sept 24 national election has shown the country is divided by new, less visible "walls", President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said yesterday, the anniversary of German reunification. Speaking 27 years after East and West Germany were reunited following the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, Steinmeier said the election, which saw the far-right enter parliament, had exposed "large and small cracks" in society and he called on democratic lawmakers to work together to fight any return to nationalism.

"On September 24th, it became clear that other walls have arisen, less visible, without barbed wire and death-strips, but walls that stand in the way of our common sense of 'us'," Steinmeier said in a speech in the western city of Mainz. Chancellor Angela Merkel won a fourth term in office in the election, but the vote brought a far-right party into parliament for the first time in more than half a century. A fractured vote means she will have to govern with a far less stable coalition. Steinmeier, a centre-left Social Democrat who was foreign minister before taking up the largely ceremonial presidency role in March, said that Germany now has "walls between our living environments". — Reuters

United in sadness over police violence, Catalans seek dialogue

BARCELONA: For or against independence, Catalans are reeling from police violence during an independence referendum banned by Madrid but far from locking horns with the Spanish government, they call for dialogue. At the entrances to their offices, in front of press kiosks, in cafes and in queues at the market, the talk of the town in Barcelona is Sunday's vote that was marred by police use of force. Madrid was against the referendum and had long told Catalan separatist leaders they could not go ahead with it, but they did anyway. Riot police moved in on polling stations in towns and cities across Catalonia to stop people from voting, in some cases baton-charging and firing rubber bullets to disperse crowds.

'Really pained'

Antoni Crespo, 85, chats to a friend at the University of Barcelona, where this retired shoemaker is studying for a masters in philosophy. "I'm really pained, really sad, really anxious, really disillusioned, really concerned about what happened," Crespo, a supporter of independence said. Footage of police grabbing those who were preventing them from closing polling stations, dragging some by the hair or hitting them with batons have spread through the media and social networks. According to regional authorities, close to 900 people received medical attention. The interior ministry said close to 40 police agents also needed medical aid. "This has hurt this country's spirit, I don't want to say it was a



BARCELONA: Protesters gather during a demonstration at the Placa de la Universitat square during a general strike in Catalonia called by Catalan unions in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP

humiliation because that's a very serious word... but we're hurt, those in favor of the 'yes' and those for the 'no,'" Crespo adds.

He was referring to the question of the referendum: "Do you want Catalonia to become an independent state in the form of a republic?" "What happened yesterday has no name, it's a disgrace," says Sergi Capell, 50, the boss of a design studio and communications agency, at the entrance to Barcelona's Real Circulo Artistic, an arts institute where he is about to speak at a conference. He was taking photos on the streets on Sunday, and while he says he isn't for independence, he

feels "indignation." Some Catalans who weren't thinking of voting in the referendum changed their mind when they saw how police acted. It's the case of Julia Mayayo, a 26-year-old nurse, who returned to Barcelona a week ago after three years working in Britain. "I don't believe in an independent Catalonia outside of the European Union," she says. "Coming from England, from Brexit, it was like coming back and making the same mistake." But on Sunday she saw her two sisters, 16 and 18, terrorized over the possibility that police could erupt into the polling stations where they were working as volunteers. — AFP

International

Bizarre attacks in Havana hit America's spy network

Intelligence operatives - the most severely affected victims

HAVANA: Frightening attacks on US personnel in Havana struck the heart of America's spy network in Cuba, with intelligence operatives among the first and most severely affected victims, The Associated Press has learned. It wasn't until US spies, posted to the embassy under diplomatic cover, reported hearing bizarre sounds and experiencing even stranger physical effects that the United States realized something was wrong, individuals familiar with the situation said.

While the attacks started within days of President Donald Trump's surprise election in November, the precise timeline remains unclear, including whether intelligence officers were the first victims hit or merely the first victims to report it. The US has called the situation "ongoing." To date, the Trump administration largely has described the 21 victims as US embassy personnel or "members of the diplomatic community."



That description suggested only bona fide diplomats and their family members were struck, with no logical motivation beyond disrupting US-Cuban relations. Behind the scenes, though, investigators immediately started searching for explanations in the darker, rougher world of spycraft and counterespionage, given that so many of the first reported cases involved intelligence workers posted to the US embassy.

Element of mystery

That revelation, confirmed to the AP by a half-dozen officials, adds yet another element of mystery to a year-long saga that the Trump administration says may not be over. The State Department and the CIA declined to comment for this story. The first disturbing reports of piercing, high-pitched noises and inexplicable ailments pointed to someone deliberately targeting the US government's intelligence network on the communist-run island, in what seemed like a bone-chilling escalation of the tit-for-tat spy games that Washington and Havana have waged over the last half century.

But the US soon discovered that actual diplomats at the embassy had also been hit by similar attacks, officials said, further confounding the search for a culprit and a motive. Of the 21 confirmed cases, American spies suffered some

of the most acute damage, including brain injury and hearing loss that has not healed, said several US officials who weren't authorized to speak publicly on the investigation and demanded anonymity. They heard an unsettling sound inside and in some cases outside their Havana homes, described as similar to loud crickets. Then they fell ill.

Over time, the attacks seemed to evolve. In many of the more recent cases, victims didn't hear noises and weren't aware an attack was occurring, identifying the symptoms only later. That has raised concerns among investigators that the attacks may be getting more sophisticated and harder to detect, individuals briefed on the investigation said.

Though the State Department has called all the cases "medically confirmed," several US officials said it's unclear whether all of the victims' symptoms can be conclusively tied to attacks.

A bone-chilling escalation of the spy games

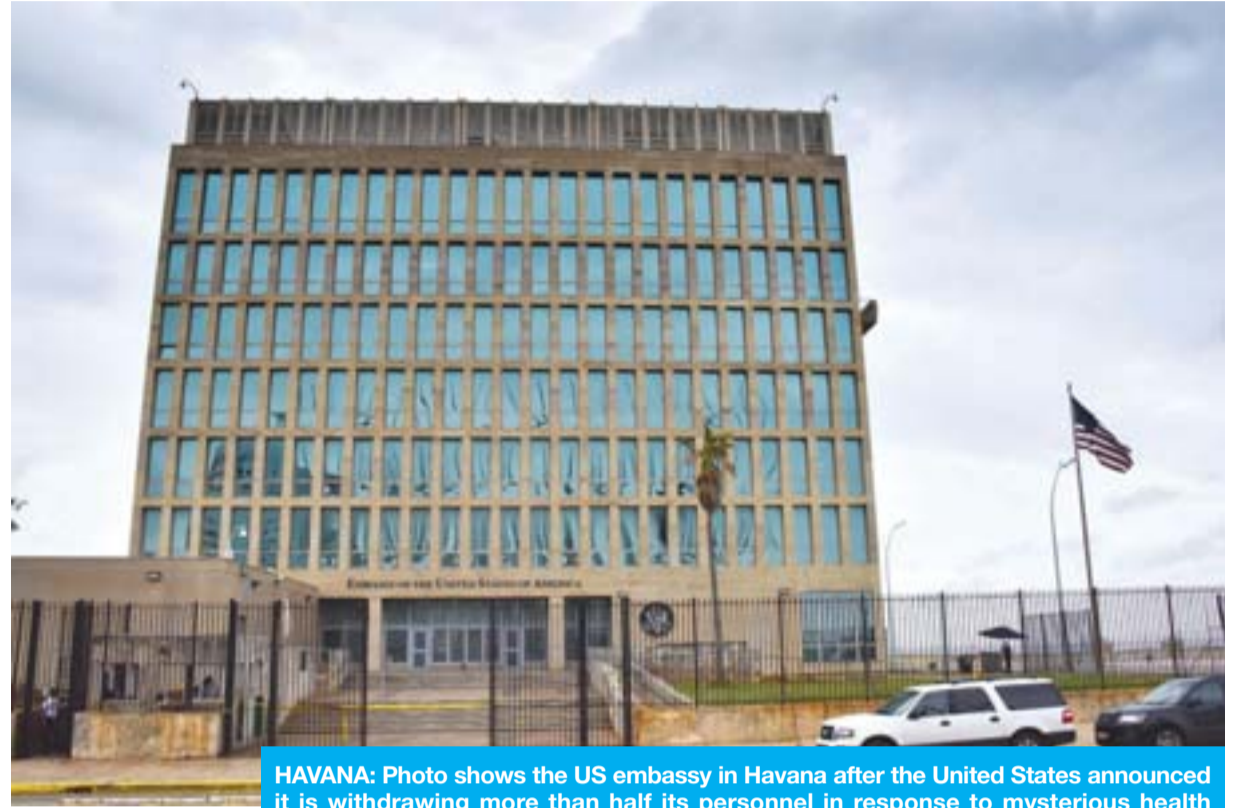
Havana pushed their rivalry to unprecedented levels of covert action.

Bitter history

The former enemies tracked each other's personnel, turned each other's agents and, in the case of the CIA, even mounted a failed attempt to overthrow the Cuban government in the 1961 "Bay of Pigs" invasion. There were hopes, though, that the two nations were starting to put that bitter history behind them after renewing diplomatic relations in 2015. When the attacks first occurred, the US and Cuban governments were hard at work on clinching new commercial and immigration agreements. No new spat among intelligence services was publicly known.

Eleven months on, the US cannot guarantee the threat is over. Last week, the State Department warned Americans to stay away from Cuba and ordered more than half the embassy staff to leave indefinitely. The US had previously given all embassy staff the option to come home, but even most of those struck by the mysterious attacks had opted to stay, individuals familiar with the sit-

uation said. For those staying and new arrivals, the US has been giving instructions about what to watch and listen for to identify an attack in progress. They're also learning steps to take if an attack occurs that could mitigate the risk, officials said.



HAVANA: Photo shows the US embassy in Havana after the United States announced it is withdrawing more than half its personnel in response to mysterious health attacks targeting its diplomatic staff. — AFP

But the US has not identified whatever device is responsible for the harm. FBI sweeps have turned up nothing. So to better identify patterns, investigators have created a map detailing specific areas of Cuba's capital where attacks have occurred, several individuals familiar with the matter said. Three "zones," or geographic clusters of attacks, cover the homes where US diplomats live and several hotels where attacks occurred, including the historic Hotel Capri. Since first disclosing the situation in August,

the United States had generally avoided the word "attacks." It called them "incidents" instead until last Friday. Now, the State Department deems them "specific attacks" targeting Americans posted in Havana, without saying what new information, if any, prompted the new-found confidence they were indeed deliberate. The most obvious motive for attacking Americans in Havana would be to drive a wedge between the US and Cuba. If that's the case, the strategy appears to be succeeding.

Last week's embassy drawdown added to the growing friction between the nations. And an accompanying new travel warning deemed Havana's hotels unsafe for visitors, threatening to drive down tourism, a backbone of Cuba's economy. —AFP

US, North Korea: To talk or not to talk?

WASHINGTON: Now is not the time to talk to North Korea, the White House declared yesterday, as President Donald Trump appeared to undermine efforts to force Pyongyang to the table. Until this weekend, Washington's plan to counter Kim Jong-Un's increasingly sophisticated nuclear arsenal seemed to be to employ sanctions and diplomatic pressure to convince him to talk. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson confirmed this on Saturday in Beijing when he told reporters Washington is using diplomatic channels to probe Kim's willingness to discuss disarmament.

But then Trump tweeted, telling his "wonderful" chief diplomat that he was "wasting his time" trying to negotiate with Kim's regime. Many commentators and former diplomats in Washington saw this as a snub—even a humiliation—for Tillerson, and rumors that the secretary might resign surfaced once again. Tillerson's aides dismissed such talk, insisting that Trump's tweets were a message to Kim that time was running out for him to respond to Tillerson's overture or face tougher action. Then on Monday, Trump's spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders stated bluntly: "We've been clear that now is not the time to talk."

Sanders told reporters the only reason to talk with Kim's regime would be to seek the release of three Americans held in North Korean jails. "There is a difference between talking and putting diplomatic pressure—and we strongly support putting diplomatic pressure on North Korea which we're continuing to do—but now is not the time simply to have conversations with North Korea," she said. This would seem to contradict what Tillerson had said on Saturday, when he was asked how he would know if and when North Korea is prepared to discuss denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. "We are probing, so stay tuned," he said.

"We ask. We have lines of communications to Pyongyang. We're not in a dark situation, a black out," he added. "We can talk to them, we do talk to them." The State Department was quick to point out that these overtures had not revealed any sign that Kim is in fact ready for dialogue, but Tillerson had at least confirmed that channels are open. This had been widely suspected in Washington policy circles, but by making it front-page news Tillerson seems to have irked Trump. "The main channel is the so-called New York channel, the connection to North Korea's diplomatic mission to the UN," explained Jim Schoff, a former head of North Korea strategy at the Pentagon.

Multiple attempts

Washington's chief envoy for dealing with the North Korea crisis, Ambassador Joseph Yun, used this channel to Pyongyang's diplomats in New York to negotiate the release of US student Otto Warmbier—who died after his return. "There have been, as I understand, multiple attempts for several months by that channel to try to initiate general dialogue both on the remaining Americans held there and expressing openness to talk about denuclearization," Schoff said. Schoff, now a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said those connections had indeed proved "unfruitful" but warned that Trump's dismissive tweets had weakened Tillerson's hand. "It does hurt the secretary's credibility," he said. "They agreed upon a North Korean policy and strategy, and it contains an openness to dialogue. —AFP

Rebels storm Indian paramilitary camp in Kashmir; 4 killed

SRINAGAR: A group of rebels fighting Indian rule stormed a paramilitary camp near the airport in disputed Kashmir yesterday, in a brazen attack targeting one of the region's most strategic and well-guarded zones that left at least four dead. Police said the militants breached multiple layers of high security outside and inside the camp while exchanging intense gunfire with government forces for nearly nine hours.

At least three suspected militants and one border guard officer were killed, police Inspector General Muneer Ahmed Khan told reporters in Srinagar, the region's main city. At least three soldiers were injured, police said. The rebels, dressed in military uniforms, began the attack by hurling grenades and spraying automatic gunfire at the camp, which houses a battalion of India's Border Security Force, police said. Nearby residents said they heard dozens of blasts and gunfire.

Previously, the camp served as one of several notorious interrogation centers where authorities detained, questioned and allegedly tortured suspected rebels and their sympathizers. The camp sits on a plateau next to Srinagar's main airport, separated only by barbed wire. Officials said the airport, which is run and controlled

by the military, was safe. Still, authorities suspended flights for about four hours before resuming operations around noon.

At least one early morning flight from New Delhi was canceled and three others delayed. Counterinsurgency police and paramilitary commandos rushed to the scene and armored vehicles dotted the road leading to the airport. One militant was killed in the initial firing, a police officer said. The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with department policy, said two other militants were killed inside the main building of the camp where they had taken refuge and were firing out at the soldiers.

Many top former bureaucrats, police officials and politicians have residences in the area. India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the soldiers, saying in New Delhi that "it was a good operation that they have conducted," the Press Trust of India news agency reported. Officer Khan said the militants entered the camp after they cut barbed wire, and blamed the Jaish-e-Mohammad militant group for the attack. However, no anti-India rebel group immediately commented on the fighting.

Most attacks target military and paramilitary convoys or police outposts, but rebels have staged similar attacks in



SRINAGAR: Smoke and dust rises from an Indian Border Security Force (BSF) building that was held by suspected militants, after it was hit by explosives fired by government forces in Srinagar yesterday. —AFP

recent months, including one attack in August in which four police officials, four paramilitary soldiers and two suspected militants were killed after rebels stormed a police camp, triggering daylong fighting.

Last year, the rebels mounted their deadliest attack on a military base in recent years after militants sneaked into a crucial Indian military base and killed at least 19 soldiers. The four attackers were also killed. India later retaliated, saying its special forces conducted a "surgical strike" against militants inside the Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir. Islamabad rejected the Indian account, saying it was routine cross-border fire. Since then, the nuclear-

armed rivals have engaged in regular firing along their de facto frontier.

Anti-India rebels in Muslim-majority Kashmir have been fighting for independence or a merger with Pakistan since 1989, with the violence and subsequent Indian military crackdown claiming at least 70,000 lives since then. The region is divided between India and Pakistan, with both claiming the territory in its entirety. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, which Pakistan denies. Anti-India sentiment runs deep in the region, and most people support the rebels' cause while also participating in civilian street protests against Indian control. —AP

'Ernesticos' keep cult of Che alive in Cuba

SANTA CLARA: Santa Clara has been associated with Ernesto "Che" Guevara ever since he won the final battle of the Cuban revolution here. Now, 50 years after his death, the boys who bear his name carry the torch of perpetuating his legacy. Every year on June 14, a special honor is bestowed on the first boy born at the town's Mariana Grajales maternity hospital. The proud parents are asked if they assent to give the revolutionary hero's name to their boy.

Thus, 24 little Ernestos or "Ernesticos" have been baptised without ever the honor being declined. In Santa Clara—which Che's forces captured in a decisive battle in December 1958 - it's an offer you can't refuse. "'El Che' is emblematic here. He is in us, and drives us," said Noris Cardenas Martinez, director of the city's Che Guevara Memorial. The 1958 battle cemented Guevara's status as a hero of the Cuban

revolution and effectively meant the end of the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. It was little surprise that when his remains were brought back from Bolivia in 1979, Fidel Castro dedicated a mausoleum to Che in this central city. The site will host the main commemorative ceremonies for the 50th anniversary of his death on October 8.

Privilege and duties

Every morning across Cuba, schoolkids in the nation of 11 million take the oath of the pioneers, vowing to "be like Che." But for the Ernesticos of Santa Clara, the commitment takes on much greater meaning. Lazaro Ernesto is only 12. But despite his tender age, he said he has taken pride in strict personal conduct ever since he became aware of the legacy he carries. "I have to behave, study, be honest and be good with my classmates—and my family," he said in his parents'



SANTA CLARA, Cuba: Cuban Lazaro Ernesto, one of the so-called 'Ernesticos' -named in honor of Argentine-Cuban guerrilla fighter Ernesto 'Che' Guevara- visits the Che Guevara Mausoleum, in Santa Clara city. —AFP

modest house under the watchful eye of his mother Mayelin Moran Contreras. Shy, a fan of the soccer star Lionel Messi - born, like Guevara, in Rosario, Argentina-Lazaro Ernesto said he is "proud to be named" for Che. Buy he gets still nervous every June 14 when his classmates congratulate him on his birthday, thus reminding him of his special

responsibility, he said. Daniel Ernesto handles his moniker more coolly. At 24, he is the oldest of the Ernesticos still residing in Santa Clara. An IT technician at the town's pediatric hospital and a fervent collector of Che T-shirts, Daniel Ernesto is used to being recognized from articles in the newspapers or TV interviews. —AFP

Analysis

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FOCUS

Trump, Tillerson doing 'good cop', 'bad cop'?

If US President Donald Trump and his top diplomat are playing "good cop, bad cop" with North Korea, it doesn't appear to be working: Entreaties of diplomacy aren't yielding meaningful talks, and military threats aren't scaring Pyongyang into halting its nuclear advance. Instead, America's mixed messaging may be increasing the risk of miscalculation by the isolated, communist government, which lacks insight into the Trump administration's thinking and could mistake brinkmanship for an overt threat of war.

Although American military action could invite devastating consequences for its South Korean ally, Trump has threatened to use military options and offered sometimes apocalyptic visions of the North unless it ends its nuclear and missile testing. North Korea has launched intercontinental ballistic missiles that can potentially strike the US mainland and a month ago conducted its largest ever underground nuclear explosion. It has threatened to explode another nuclear bomb above the Pacific.

Amid all the threats, however, some level of US-North Korean diplomacy has survived. Speaking last weekend in China, which wants Washington to resume a full dialogue with Pyongyang, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson fueled speculation of a new diplomatic effort, acknowledging open channels of communications between the two countries. Hours later, Trump chimed in. "I told Rex Tillerson, our wonderful Secretary of State, that he is wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man," Trump tweeted Sunday, once again deploying his pet name for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. "Save your energy Rex, we'll do what has to be done!"

The jarring tweet fueled a narrative that Trump was undermining his chief interlocutor with the world. But officials close to Tillerson insisted that the pair were on the same page, and that Trump was merely sending a message to North Korea that it would have to show up in serious negotiating mood to any diplomatic talks. Whatever the intent, confusion was the result. And on Monday, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders compounded the impression that the White House views diplomacy as a dead end.

The only conversations the US is willing to have with North Korea are about the fate of the three Americans being held there, she said. Back-channel talks in the spring led to the release of college student Otto Warmbier, who returned home with brain damage and died days later. "Beyond that there will be no conversations with North Korea at this time," Sanders said.

Lack of Results

While the episode represents the latest example of the president appearing to step on his top diplomat's toes, even if advertently, perhaps more concerning for the United States is the lack of results Trump's hardnosed approach or Tillerson's softer tack have produced. Trump's "bad cop" may have galvanized action by China, the North's traditional diplomatic protector and main trading partner, which has agreed to tough new UN sanctions on its ally's primary sources of revenue for weapons development. The measures include banning imports of North Korean coal, iron ore and textiles, and new limits on crucial oil and petroleum supplies.

But none of the economic pressure has forced Kim's government to even slow down a nuclear acceleration that could soon put the entire United States within range. Tillerson's "good cop" has hardly fared better. The North professes to not even be interested in diplomacy unless the US abandons its "hostile policy". During his meetings in Beijing, the Chinese assured Tillerson they would implement the UN sanctions and press their local authorities near North Korea's border to stamp out banned activity, according to a State Department official familiar with the talks.

China wants the North to halt its nuclear and missile tests, however remote the goal, and is eyeing the winter months when there are no US-South Korean military exercises that often exacerbate tensions on the divided Korean Peninsula. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity. Even that appears a remote possibility. Analysts and even governments in between say Trump is making it increasingly difficult for the North to have confidence in any diplomatic effort with the United States, given his threats to demolish a 2-year-old arms control pact with Iran.

And back-channel diplomacy between senior US and North Korean diplomats - primarily aimed at freeing detained Americans - hasn't helped repair any trust. In fact, the two sides have barely communicated for the last couple of weeks and there is no sign North Korea wants to re-engage, according to officials with knowledge of the discussions. The "good cop, bad cop" ploy is unlikely to work, said Evans Revere, a former State Department official who took part in unofficial talks in Switzerland with North Korean officials last month. The North, he said, wants only to speak to Washington as "one nuclear power to another". —AP



Should Puerto Rico be a US state?

The hurricane that leveled Puerto Rico last month has given fresh impetus to a decades-old argument on the island: That the US territory would fare better financially as a US state. For Fermin Seda, 68, a retiree in the southern city of Salinas, there is no doubt. "I want statehood," Seda said. "I think it would be better than what we are now." Puerto Rico's status as a US commonwealth means its 3.5 million American citizens do not pay federal taxes, vote in presidential elections or receive proportionate federal funding on programs like the Medicaid health insurance system for the poor.

For Jose Fuentes, chairman of Puerto Rico Statehood Council, a pro-statehood organization in Washington, Puerto Rico would have been in a better position to handle the blow from Hurricane Maria if it had the income and political power of a state. Becoming a state would strengthen the political standing of the island, which currently has only a single non-voting member of Congress, and increase its eligibility for federal aid. Fuentes said.

Maria was the strongest storm to hit Puerto Rico in 90 years and her devastation

"really bolsters the case for equal treatment for Puerto Rico," said Jake Johnston, an international research associate at the Washington think tank Center for Economic and Policy Research. Puerto Rico's stagnant economy and mounting debt have left the island with old, vulnerable infrastructure and buildings and a limited capacity to rebuild, Johnston said. The creaky infrastructure was no match for Maria's fierce winds and water and likely hampered the emergency response, as officials struggled with a near-total power outage, and a lack of water, fuel and communications, he said.

Vote in Favor

Changing the statehood question has been a hotly debated topic. Puerto Ricans

voted overwhelmingly in favor of statehood in June, with 97 percent support, although the turnout was less than a quarter of eligible voters. "How can we still have a colonial territory with more than 3.5 million US citizens without access to equal rights or have the same political power?" Governor

Ricardo Rossello said on Monday. Rossello, who campaigned on a push for statehood, had said in June that Congress should act on the vote.

Making the non-binding vote reality requires action from Congress, but the Republican-controlled House of Representatives and Senate is not likely to act for a territory that leans Democratic. The amount of federal funds flowing in and out of the island would change dramatically if it were a state: It would receive as much

as 76 percent more federal funds for the four biggest US programs impacted under statehood, including Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income, according to a 2014 analysis by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). However, in turn, Puerto Ricans would have to pay federal income tax.

One thing that would not change with statehood is Puerto Rico's standing with the Federal Emergency Management Agency: FEMA's obligations to Puerto Rico are the same as to a state. Democratic leaders in Congress and some residents in Puerto Rico have accused the Republican administration of being more sluggish in its response than it would to a disaster on the US mainland. But FEMA has defended its aid effort for the island.

"I go to bed every night knowing that I have done the best I can to marshal all of these federal resources" to the island, FEMA administrator Brock Long told CNN last week. With our without statehood, FEMA said in a statement it "will be here for years to come, helping Puerto Rico not only in its response, but also its recovery." —Reuters

Spanish police attacks - mistake or part of plan?

Spain's image on the world stage has been tarnished by the worldwide broadcast of images showing its police attacking would-be voters in Catalonia, and those tactics have not slowed the Catalan government's march toward independence. So the question lingers: Why, in the age of the smartphone, would Spain use force this way in order to quash a disputed independence referendum? Why not just declare the vote illegal and ignore it? Why hand the independence movement a public relations victory by using police to attack women, children and the elderly?

Analysts say the Spanish government apparently felt so threatened by the accelerating independence movement that it believed a show of force was needed to make it abundantly clear that even harsher tactics would be used if needed to keep Spain intact. The government was also confident, apparently with reason, that European Union leaders would not condemn the tactics Spain used to help prevent more splintering of the 28-nation bloc.

Chatham House director Robin Niblett said the Spanish government felt it had to act despite the consequences because it could not let the vote, suspended by the Constitutional Court, proceed. "I'm sure they expected it to get ugly," he said. "I'm sure they knew there was a real risk of it looking like democracy was being suppressed. But they know they have support in the rest of Spain, so the political risk domestically was worth taking."

He conceded the cost was high because of the disturbing images that emerged. "They didn't want shots of police pulling women by the hair," he said. "That's stupid, that's really frustrating to them. In a way that becomes the story." Spain's leaders have not backpedaled or apologized for the use of force, an indication they are willing to take whatever international opprobrium comes their way. In fact, criticism from Europe's leaders has been relatively light, coming mostly from opposition figures.

Andrew Dowling, a specialist in Catalan history at Cardiff University in Wales, said "any government in the world" would have taken similar action if under direct threat. "The Spanish government felt it had to stop the vote because they knew within 48 hours the Catalan Parliament would declare independence and then there is a really big crisis," he said. "They knew a 'yes' vote in favor of independence was guaranteed because most 'no' voters weren't going to participate. I think the very strong policing was used to send a message."

The Spanish government, he said, was counting on the Catalan police to remove people from voting places, but



Spanish police officers immobilize some people outside a polling station in Barcelona on Oct 1, 2017 on the day of a referendum on independence for Catalonia banned by Madrid. —AFP

the regional officers "just stood by with their arms folded." So authorities sent in Spanish riot police, who had been brought in on ships for just such a possibility. Dowling believes some police officers had been bored by their long confinement on the ships in the Barcelona port and took out their frustration on the public. "Some of the violence was pretty shocking, unrestrained, and it didn't take into account age or gender," he said. "In the age of the iPhone, it gives vivid testimony."

The global broadcasting of the images, and the front-page display of the photos, may have strengthened the hand of independence movement leaders in their quest for international support, even if there is little appetite for breaking up a major European state at a time of rising instability in many parts of the world. There is also strong anecdotal evidence, based in part on AP interviews, that some who had planned to sit the referendum out, or to vote to remain part of Spain, instead voted for secession because of anger about police tactics.

Elisa Arouca said she was waiting to vote outside a Barcelona school when police yanked her and other prospective voters out of the way, smashed open the

school door, and seized the ballot boxes inside. "I was always against independence, but what the Spanish state is doing made me change my mind," she said before seeking out another place to vote - this time in favor of independence.

By this yardstick, the Spanish government's approach was not successful. "They increased the independence vote by sending the police in," said Nafees Hamid, a research fellow at Artis International who has written extensively about Catalonia. "It definitely hurt them. If the independence movement was trying to malign the image of the Madrid government, they accomplished that goal. There were some who wanted just that, that was their strategy, and it really paid off."

He does not believe, however, that the police violence was widespread. He said he spent voting day touring Barcelona and did not witness any abuses. "I saw police everywhere," he said. "They were not attacking buildings or stopping people from voting. It could be that the vast majority of thousands of police did not intervene, but there were some that did. It could be more at the level of individual police captains." —AP



Mount Agung volcano is seen at sunrise from Amed beach in Karangasem on Bali island yesterday. Thousands of residents who fled a rumbling volcano on Bali are refusing to leave evacuation centers after being told to return to their homes outside of the immediate danger zone. — AFP

Defiant Qatar emir meets Iran's Zarif

Continued from Page 1

as an existential threat in the same way their leaders do. "None of the regional crises have a military solution," Zarif said at the meeting, according to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency. All sides should "give priority to regional initiatives for restoring collective stability and security".

Yesterday's visit was notable as it was Zarif's first since Qatar's political isolation began on June 5. The Iranian foreign minister on Monday visited Oman - which has remained neutral on the Gulf crisis - meeting with Sultan Qaboos in Muscat. Qatar's relationship with Shiite-dominated Iran, seen as the major rival to Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, is one of the major factors underpinning the crisis between Qatar and its former allies.

Last week, Qatar's foreign minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani warned that the political and economic boycott imposed on Qatar was pushing Doha closer to Tehran. "They accuse Qatar of being close to Iran but with their measure... they push Qatar towards Iran. They are giving Qatar like a gift to Iran," Sheikh Mohammed said in a speech in Paris.

Doha in Jan 2016 had pulled its ambassador from Tehran in solidarity with Saudi Arabia over attacks on its diplomatic mission there - attacks spurred by Riyadh's decision to execute a prominent Shiite cleric in the kingdom. But in August, Qatar announced it was restoring full

diplomatic relations with Iran by returning its ambassador. Qatar and Iran share the world's largest natural gas field - which Doha calls the North Field and Iran South Pars - and which has been responsible for the emirate's dramatic transformation over the past 20 years.

Leaders in the Sunni Arab countries of the Gulf, those in Saudi Arabia and the UAE especially, view Iran with suspicion after its advances on the battlefields of Iraq and Syria against the Islamic State group. They also worry about Iran's nuclear program and the 2015 deal that Tehran struck with world powers over it.

But face-to-face surveys of over 4,000 GCC citizens conducted in recent months found that with the exception of Bahrain, the spread of extremist organizations like the Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda represented their biggest worry, said Justin Gengler, a senior researcher at the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute at Qatar University.

Gengler said the survey, funded by the Qatar National Research Fund before the diplomatic crisis began and conducted along with researchers from the University of Michigan, was conducted in every GCC country except the UAE. Gengler first published his results Monday in Foreign Affairs. The margin of error was below 4 percent among the surveys in each country.

Asked about the results, Gengler said Iran offered a convenient foe for Gulf nations struggling with internal problems and low global oil prices. "If it's not the case that people feel threatened militarily by Iran, how is it that governments continue to talk about it?" Gengler told AP. "At the end of the day in the Gulf, regime stability is the No. 1 priority guiding every decision rulers make. ... Elites have their objectives and citizens have their own priorities in daily life and they don't always match up." — Agencies

30% drop in expats visiting public medical facilities

Continued from Page 1

He said the committee heard the technical opinion over the deal in order to help the panel prepare its report, especially with regards to the response of the ministry to remarks made by the Audit Bureau. Nasef said the minis-

ter of defense and the ministry team reaffirmed their trust in the procedures of the deal and the final decision.

MP Faisal Al-Kandari meanwhile claimed that Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq has called for a crucial meeting of the board of directors of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) to take a number of "suspicious" decisions. The lawmaker said that the meeting is expected to change leading positions at the four major oil companies and then ask the boards of those companies to approve the changes. Kandari warned the minister against taking these suspicious and illegal decisions and threatened to grill him at the start of the next term, starting on Oct 24. The lawmaker warned that the political cost of the anticipated decisions will be too high and the minister will not be able to bear it.

Zain, Nuqat to introduce creative new education program for children

Continued from Page 1

Maryam Saif, Head of Youth Empowerment, Zain Group, firmly believes this is a long-term vision stating, "The notion of instilling creativity and critical thinking into the youth will absolutely support the future generations become prepared leaders. By developing the 4 C's in children, we are preparing them to overcome mental blocks that will support them throughout both their academic journey and career path."

Hussa Al Humaidhi, Knowledge Director of Nuqat, commented, "Creative education sits at the core of what

we do as an organization. Nuqat is thankful and honored to work with Zain on this exciting pilot program. Our beliefs are strongly aligned that only through equipping our future generations with the right skillset and ambition, will we be able to progress as a community and as a nation."

Maha Al Essa, IN•DIG•GO Program Director said, "Nuqat has earned a track record in developing and facilitating skill-building and learning programs. However, what makes this program unique is two key elements. The first being the fact that it engages school teachers and creative professionals, the second being its thematic-learning approach where each student will be able to develop their 4C's of Creativity, Communication, Critical Thinking and Collaboration."

Nuqat has a successful track record of conducting workshops for all ages across a wide array of creative disciplines. The Nuqat team will oversee and coordinate the development and implementation of IN•DIG•GO with a group of creative professionals who will be supported by school teachers from different backgrounds and subjects. Together they will craft the program, with the creative professionals instructing the courses.

Kurdish leader and ex-Iraqi president Talabani dies

Continued from Page 1

The vote, rejected by Baghdad as illegal, has put deep strain on ties between the Kurds and central Iraqi authorities, who have cut off international flights to the region and threatened further action. Talabani was an avuncular politician and a skilled negotiator, who spent years building bridges between the country's divided factions, despite his efforts for Kurdish independence.

His wife and companion in political struggle, Hero, and his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party voiced only lukewarm support for the Sept 25 referendum. Unlike Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) leader Massoud Barzani of the rival Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), the PUK has had traditionally good ties with Iran and Iranian-backed Shiite groups which are effectively ruling in Baghdad. The Baghdad government, Iran and

Turkey all strongly opposed the referendum.

Born in 1933 in the mountain village of Kalkan, Talabani studied law at Baghdad University and did a stint in the army before joining the KDP of Mullah Mustafa Barzani, father of current Kurdistan regional president Massoud. Talabani took to the hills in a first uprising against the Iraqi government in 1961 but famously fell out with Barzani, who sued for peace with Baghdad, and joined a KDP splinter faction in 1964.

Eleven years later, he established the PUK after Barzani's forces, abandoned by their Iranian, US and Israeli allies, were routed by Saddam Hussein's army. He became president in April 2005 after the first post-Saddam election in Iraq and continued in the post until 2014, when he was replaced by the current president, Fuad Masoum. Iraq's head of state plays a largely ceremonial role and is elected by members of parliament.

In Aug 2008, the married father of two underwent successful heart surgery in the United States, then in 2012 he was flown to Germany after suffering a stroke, casting doubt over his ability to ever return to Iraq. He did go back in July 2014, with Iraq in crisis after the Islamic State group had taken control of swathes of the country, and was replaced by Masoum following a parliamentary election. — Agencies



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Sports

Bale ruled out of WCup qualifiers

LONDON: Wales forward Gareth Bale has been ruled out of their crucial last two World Cup qualifiers against Georgia and Ireland due to a calf injury, The Football Association of Wales (FAW) said yesterday. Bale, who missed Real Madrid's weekend league game against Espanyol, had arrived with the rest of the Wales squad on Sunday and attended an awards dinner in Cardiff. "But following dialogue with Real Madrid, Bale was sent for a scan and results confirmed that he wouldn't be fit to feature," the FAW said in a statement. "Barnsley striker Tom Bradshaw will now join up with the rest of the squad later today." Bale is the most high-profile player in the Welsh side and the country's hopes of qualifying for next year's World Cup in Russia are still hanging in the balance. Chris Coleman's team are second in Group D, four points behind leaders Serbia and one clear of Ireland in third. They play in Georgia on Friday and host Ireland the following Monday in their final qualifier. —Reuters



Weary All Blacks in race to recover for Springboks test

CAPE TOWN: World champions New Zealand face a difficult battle to squeeze in time for recovery and preparation ahead of their last game in this year's Rugby Championship against South Africa at Newlands on Saturday, hooker Dane Coles said. The majority of the squad arrived on Monday after a long trip from Buenos Aires where they beat Argentina 36-10 on Saturday to secure the annual southern hemisphere competition's title for the fifth time in six years. "I think this is the toughest week we have but we are pretty lucky we've got a lot of guys who have done this trip before," he told a news conference on Tuesday as the All Blacks rested at their team hotel ahead of Saturday's test. It takes three separate flights over more than 24 hours to get from the Argentine capital to Cape Town. New Zealand have only had a regeneration session in the pool since and will probably not take to the practice field before Thursday, some 48 hours before the game. "It's a shorter week, we are not on the field that much and there are a lot more meetings and emphasis on recovery." — Reuters

Boxing chief appeal for IOC intervention

LAUSANNE: Opponents to amateur boxing chief Wu Ching-Ko have appealed to IOC president Thomas Bach to intervene to protect the "financial stability of world boxing". Wu's position has been challenged by the AIBA's executive committee, who claim the Taiwanese had led the sport to the brink of bankruptcy. In a letter to Bach dated September 29, the executive committee (EC) said Wu "has kept hidden... the fact that auditors KPMG are unhappy with AIBA accounts and will not approve them". "We therefore asked President Wu for a full and open accounting of AIBA finances, which we believe are on the brink of technical bankruptcy or insolvency. President Wu has refused to reply to us," the committee said in the letter. The committee members suffered an initial setback last week when a Lausanne court confirmed Wu as president following a motion of no-confidence against his leadership. —AFP



England set to lose Ashes, with or without Stokes: Greg Blewett

Stokes was initially named in the 16-man squad

ADELAIDE: An Ashes series shorn of Ben Stokes would be a great shame for cricket but England are heading for defeat with or without the troubled all-rounder, former Australia batsman Greg Blewett has said. Test vice-captain Stokes and opener Alex Hales have been suspended from international cricket indefinitely, pending an investigation into an altercation outside a nightclub in Bristol last week.

Stokes was initially named in the 16-man squad for the Ashes tour starting in November but the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) rowed back on the decision a day later Blewett, who struck a century on his test debut during the 1994-95 Ashes series, cast doubt on Stokes's chances of playing a full part in the series.

"I'm sure they will (sanction him). They are having their internal investigation. That will play out," Blewett, a 46-test righthanded batsman, told Reuters in an interview in Adelaide yesterday. "It would be a shame if he's not out here. I think everyone wants to play against the strongest possible team."

"It would be a shame if he doesn't come out because he's a bit of a drawcard, he's a world class all-rounder and will leave a massive hole in their team. "But even if he was (to come), I think Australia are going to be too good at home anyway. With or without Ben Stokes I don't see a different result but I think England would love to have him in their side." The Sun newspaper published footage of what it said was a brawl between the player and two other people, one clutching a bottle. The authen-

ticity of the images could not be verified by Reuters.

Media reports said Stokes, who suffered a minor fracture of a finger on his right hand, apologised to the ECB for his arrest on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm and described his state of mind as 'fragile and devastated'. Blewett, who was Australia's fielding coach until stepping down in August, has taken on assistant roles with Sheffield Shield side South Australia and the Adelaide Strikers in the 'Big Bash' domestic Twenty20 competition.

Also coach of South Australia's men's under-19 side, Blewett said he would take a dim view of any player out drinking in the early hours of the morning and days before a match. "I wouldn't be over the moon, put it that way, because I did see the footage and it's not great," Blewett said, referring to the video posted by The Sun. "I'm sure he's got his side to the story which we haven't necessarily heard yet. "Yeah, you would be disappointed, I think they were only a couple of days away from the next one-day international so I think any coach would be disappointed with that sort of behaviour."

The Stokes incident has revived the debate as to whether curfews should be enforced during series, but Blewett said he was against such measures. "Generally, you'd say players these days are a hell of a lot more professional than what we used to be," said the 45-year-old.

"These things don't pop up all that often these days, but when they do, obviously you need to address it." The poten-



LONDON: File photo shows England's Ben Stokes during the third One Day International against West Indies at Bristol County Ground, England. — AP

tial absence of Stokes would heap further pressure on England's bowlers and a batting order featuring players like opener James Vince and Dawid Malan who are yet to establish themselves.

Blewett said Australia and the team's formidable pace attack led by Mitchell Starc would provide the toughest of initiations. "Two or three of those guys in the squad haven't had a great start to their

careers," he said. "It's not going to get any easier when they come out here. "And it's looking like Australia are going to be full strength with their bowling attack so (they) are going to be up against it." — Reuters

NASCAR champion owner, engine maker Robert Yates dead at 74

CHARLOTTE: Robert Yates, a pioneering NASCAR owner and engine builder who with Dale Jarrett won the 1999 Cup title, has died at 74. He was voted into the Hall of Fame in May and will be inducted next year.

Yates had liver cancer and son Doug Yates announced the death Monday night on Twitter. "He was a leader and inspired everyone around him to do their best and to take it to a new level," Doug Yates said in a post by Roush Yates Engines. Roush Yates also posted to its social media accounts that Yates died "surrounded by his family and loved ones."

Robert Yates Racing won 57 races and 48 poles. Yates was a noted engine builder who helped guide Bobby Allison to the 1983 Cup title, with Daytona 500 victories for Davey Allison in 1992 and Jarrett in 1996 and 2000.

"First and foremost an engine guy, Robert will be remembered as a person who helped build the sport with dedication and hard work," said Edsel B. Ford II, a board member of Ford Motor Co. "His legacy at NASCAR will be defined by his roles as an engine builder, championship team owner, co-founder of Roush Yates Engines and ultimately by the

innovation that he brought to all of these endeavors and more.

"Much like my great-grandfather, Henry Ford, Robert was a tinkerer. They both leave behind a legion of admirers and friends who benefited from their mentorship and their passion." Yates' son took over Roush Yates Engines, which powered Kurt Busch to the Daytona 500 victory in February. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. also drove Yates engines to victories at Talladega and Daytona this year.

Tony Stewart, who moved from Stewart-Haas Racing to Ford and Yates engines this season, said the sport "lost one of the most inventive minds and kindest personalities." The team honored Yates with a throwback paint scheme on Danica Patrick's car at Darlington.

"I'm glad I got to know him and proud our race team was able to honor him this year at Darlington," Stewart said. "He leaves a strong legacy that is carried on by his son, Doug, and all of their employees at Roush Yates Engines." — AP



Robert Yates, left, with Winston Kelley.



Robert Kubica

Kubica to test with Williams after seven-year absence

LONDON: Polish driver Robert Kubica will test with Williams this month as he chases a Formula One comeback after a seven-year absence. The former world champions have yet to finalise their 2018 lineup, with Brazilian veteran Felipe Massa's place potentially at stake.

While there was no official comment from Williams, media reports yesterday said the 32-year-old would have an initial run out at Silverstone after this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix. He will then have a fuller assessment at Budapest's Hungaroring in a 2014 car, with the team's British reserve driver Paul di Resta also featuring in the two-day test for comparison.

A well-placed source confirmed to Reuters that the reports were accurate but emphasised it was not a question of a "shoot-out" between the two for the seat. Kubica partially severed his right forearm in an horrific

2011 crash during a rally that he had entered for fun before the start of the Formula One season, and there are lingering doubts about his arm movement.

The Pole is being assisted in his bid to return to the sport by Germany's 2016 world champion Nico Rosberg, who started his grand prix career with Williams in 2006 before moving to Mercedes. He completed 142 laps of the Hungarian Grand Prix circuit in August in a test with Renault.

The French team have opted to replace under-performing Briton Jolyon Palmer with Spaniard Carlos Sainz instead, however. Williams are the only top-five team still with an undecided lineup and Kubica's only realistic chance, given that Sauber are expected to take on Ferrari-backed drivers and Toro Rosso's focus is on young talent coming through the Red Bull programme.

Renault said after that August test that they had not seen any "obvious roadblocks" to the former race winner's return but nor had they got all the answers they were looking for. Di Resta, who stood in for an unwell Massa in Hungary at this year's race, is also in the frame for the seat while Massa has said he wants to continue.

The Brazilian, now 36, was due to retire last year but returned when Valtteri Bottas moved to Mercedes in January as Rosberg's replacement. Canadian teenager Lance Stroll, whose billionaire father has been funding a test programme using a 2014 car for his son to gain experience, is sure to stay. — Reuters

Sports

Nadal survives Beijing scare, Halep sets up Sharapova rematch

Pliskova books her spot in round three with victory over Petkovic

BEIJING: World number one Rafael Nadal saved two match points to avoid a shock defeat in the first round of the China Open, seeing off Lucas Pouille in three sets yesterday.

The Frenchman broke Nadal on the way to taking the first set 6-4, and the world number 23 came within a whisker of sealing an upset when the second set went to a tie break.

But Nadal, 31, with the Beijing crowd backing him on the outdoor hard court, held his nerve when twice staring defeat in the face and fought back to win the tie break 8-6.

The pair headed into a final-set shootout and again Pouille refused to buckle, Nadal getting the critical break of serve in the 11th game before serving for the set and match 7-5. Nadal, a 16-time Grand Slam champion, tumbled and lost a shoe at one point, and said afterwards he was fortunate to be in the second round.

"He played well, I think, very aggressive. He's serving well," said Nadal, who lost to Pouille the last time they met, at last year's US Open. "For me it was a little bit difficult at the beginning, then I started to play better. "But still, I didn't have the control of the match for almost all the time. "I am very, very happy to be through." Nadal narrowly avoided the fate of fellow Spaniard and top-ranked Garbine.

Muguruza, who exited in the first round on Monday when she retired from her match with a virus. Also into the second round in the men's draw are Nick Kyrgios, Juan Martin del Potro, the American John Isner and third seed Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria.

SHARAPOVA PRIMED FOR HALEP

Maria Sharapova said her third-round clash with

world number two Simona Halep today would help her gauge progress since returning from a 15-month doping ban.

The Russian former number one, on the comeback trail since April following the ban for taking the banned substance meldonium, had to dig deep as she defeated compatriot Ekaterina Makarova in three sets.

Sharapova, a lowly 104 in the world and on a wildcard at the China Open, has yet to win a tournament since returning to tennis. The five-time Grand Slam champion said she had endured "a few ups and downs" in seeing off Makarova 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

But the 30-year-old is relishing her showdown with the Romanian Halep: "We know each other's games very well, that's no secret.

"They've always been very challenging, tough, competitive, emotional." Sharapova, a crowd favourite in Beijing, added: "But I love the challenge of playing against someone that's number two in the world.

"She's a great player, she's had a great year. "Any time you're able to face an opponent that's done something right and well, it's great to see where you are and where your level is."

The Halep meeting will be a replay of the first-round match between the pair at the US Open in August, when Sharapova made an impressive return to Grand Slam competition before exiting in the fourth round.

Sharapova boasts a 7-0 record against Halep, who made it into the next round after Magdalena Rybarikova retired ill in the second set. Karolina Pliskova, the fourth seed from the Czech Republic, booked her spot in round three with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Andrea Petkovic of Germany. — AFP



BEIJING: Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return during her women's singles match against Ekaterina Makarova of Russia at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

Penguins aim for 3rd straight title as Knights' era begins

LOS ANGELES: The NHL is set for its 100th season of play with a record 31 teams and Pittsburgh looking for the three-peat, but for the first time since 1994 there will be no break for the Olympics. The Penguins, who beat the Nashville Predators in six games to win their second-straight Stanley Cup title, will get the season started today with a banner-raising ceremony at the PPG Arena before they host the St. Louis Blues.

Penguins star Sidney Crosby turned 30 in August but isn't showing any signs of slowing down. He has won three Stanley Cups, two Olympic gold medals and two consecutive Conn Smythe trophies as the MVP of the playoffs. "I feel good, I take care of myself," he said. "But I am still trying to get faster, whether that happens or not, we will have to wait and see." NHL players have taken part in the last five Winter Olympics but that won't happen this time around. The league announced they would not be going to Pyeongchang, South Korea and that means there will be no break in the regular season schedule like they have done in the past. Several players including Russia's Alex Ovechkin have vowed to take part in the Games anyway.

There is hope for Olympic participation in the future though. The NHL did go overseas for two pre-season games last month between the Vancouver Canucks and Los Angeles Kings in China, the host of the 2022 Olympics. The Chinese are building state-of-the-art rinks and attracting new players every year and with a population of 1.4 billion people, the NHL would love to tap into that.

"The effort here is to build from the grassroots up and to try to grow the appreciation for the sport, the understanding of the sport," said deputy commissioner Bill Daly. "We've certainly made the Chinese Ice Hockey Federation and the Chinese government aware that we're willing to help any way we can as they gear up and prepare for the 2022 Beijing Olympic Games." The league, which began in 1917 with five clubs, added its 31st team when the expansion Vegas Golden Knights were awarded a franchise in June 2016. The Knights begin play this season in the Pacific Division of the Western Conference. The Golden Knights have molded a rag-tag bunch of experienced veterans and promising picks from two drafts into the first expansion team in 17 years. "We are not interested in being anyone's doormat," GM George McPhee said.

SHOCK EXIT

The Blackhawks, still reeling from their shock first-round exit from the post-season by the overachieving Predators, made good on their promise to shake things up in the offseason. But some moves, like bringing back ageing 35-year-old veteran Patrick Sharp appear to be a step backward. Chicago also dealt away star defenceman Niklas Hjalmarsson and forward Artemi Panarin in moves that smack of desperation. "It is a different season. We will be playing for keeps and getting off to a big start," promised coach Joel Quenneville. The Penguins added some much needed muscle and a protector for the concussion-prone Crosby by acquiring enforcer Ryan Reaves from St. Louis Blues for Oskar Sundqvist and a first round draft pick.

Key offseason moves included forward Patrick Marleau joining the Toronto Maple Leafs after 19 seasons with San Jose, Penguins Stanley Cup series hero Chris Kunitz signing a one year deal with Tampa Bay and forward Jordan Eberle being traded by the Edmonton Oilers to the New York Islanders for Ryan Strome. — AFP

NHL stars who grew up with Olympics face season without it

NEW YORK: The NHL became entwined with the Olympics before young stars like Connor McDavid, Jack Eichel or Auston Matthews even pulled on a pair of skates. Nagano in 1998 started a string of five consecutive Olympics featuring NHL players, a tradition that became so routine that young players around the world added dreams of winning a gold medal to their hopes of someday lifting the Stanley Cup.

"I've always been alive in the days where the NHL teams allow their players to go to the Olympics," Eichel said. "I've had a lot of good memories watching the Olympics and seeing a lot of great players play, so it's something you've always looked up to."

There's nothing to look forward to this time: Instead of going to South Korea this winter to play for their home countries, NHL players face an 82-game season that will keep right on going on during the Olympics. The Games will instead include a mix of players from the minors, colleges and Europe.

"It's going to be weird for everybody," said Colorado Avalanche forward Nathan MacKinnon, who was hoping to make Canada's Olympic team. "It won't feel right watching other guys wear that maple leaf and they're good players, but they're not the best players in the world at that tournament. Whoever wins it, hopefully Canada wins it. That'd be awesome. But it just won't feel the same. They're not world champions, technically, because they're not the best players."

Almost six months since the league announced it would skip the Pyeongchang Olympics, most of the NHL's best players are resigned to their missed opportunity. That Canada won't have Sidney Crosby and Jonathan Toews to go for the three-peat, that McDavid, Matthews and Eichel won't make their Olympic debuts quite yet.

Russian superstar Alex Ovechkin, who was vocal about saying he'd go no matter what, said last month that he and other players have never had to choose between their NHL teams and the Olympics, and "should not have to be in position to make this choice." Washington Capitals teammate Evgeny Kuznetsov said after not making the team for Sochi that he thought about signing in the Kontinental Hockey League so he could play in Korea, while countryman Vladimir Tarasenko simply expressed frustration that a lifelong dream and a chance at Russia's first Olympic gold with NHL players was snatched away.

Upset as injured Uchimura's reign ends at Worlds

MONTREAL: Kohei Uchimura's eight-year reign as the undisputed king of gymnastics came to a dramatic end on Monday after the hobbling Japanese star was eliminated during qualifiers at the World Championships.

Reigning Olympic champion Uchimura, who had been chasing a remarkable seventh straight individual all-around title in Montreal, saw his hopes go up in smoke after the vault rotation.

After a superb jump, the 28-year-old could be seen clutching his left ankle and was in visible discomfort as he limped away from the podium. He bravely grimaced his way through the parallel bars routine but stumbled badly on his landing, clearly struggling with his lower leg. The two-time Olympic champion then scratched from the horizontal high bar, ending his attempted defence of a title he has held since triumphing at the 2009 World Championships in London.

"I feel very sorry for the people who came to support



File photo, Colorado Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon (29) skates past in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Denver. — AP

"It's very disappointing you're not going to have the chance to be there when we have as short of careers as we do," Swedish defenseman and Ottawa Senators captain Erik Karlsson said. "It's going to be some guys' only opportunity to go and they're not going to be able to since it's not our decision to not attend."

That decision belonged to NHL owners, who saw no tangible benefit from stopping the season for over two weeks to let players take part in the Olympics. "The fact of the matter is, we find the Olympics incredibly disruptive with no positive benefit, no opportunity to promote our presence or anything else of the Olympic experience," Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "We have enough experience to understand what the Olympics represents. The people who suggest that somehow this is an opportunity to grow the game, it didn't grow the game in Japan, it didn't grow the game in Italy."

The league believes playing exhibition games in China and regular-season games in Sweden does more to grow the game than the Olympics. But NBC Sports, which has the league's national television rights, will instead be showing the Olympics this February with no NHL games scheduled on its networks between Feb. 8 and Feb. 25, the day of the gold-medal game, and the trade deadline set for Feb. 26. During that time, New York Rangers captain Ryan McDonagh expects teammates to root for their countries. Considering the 13-hour difference from the Eastern time zone (noon ET is 1 a.m. the following day in Pyeongchang),

it may be difficult for players to watch, but many will try. "Like any fan of sport I like to watch the Olympics, so I'll definitely be paying attention to it," McDavid said. Two-time US Olympian Patrick Kane said he will be interested to see which players are chosen.

A lot of players have friends or former teammates in the running to make a national team, which adds a silver lining to the bitter disappointment. "There's going to be a couple guys that I know who are going who maybe would not have had an opportunity to play in the Olympics ever," Rangers defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk said. "I'll be pulling for them, but it's almost going to be like a world juniors situation where you're rooting for your team and you're rooting for your country, but you wish you were there to participate. It's going to be cool to see them in that light, but I wish I was there with them."

The possibility certainly exists that the NHL returns to Olympic competition in 2022 in Beijing and goes again in 2026, especially if the Games are in North America. That's a concern for another year, and McDonagh expects the importance of this season and playoff races will be ample distraction come February.

"It might be a little bit of a unique situation," McDonagh said. "As soon as you get into that game-day routine and stuff, your focus will kind of take over and take care of itself and you'll understand the importance of what's in front of you here and not wishful thinking of what could be." — AP

me," Uchimura told NBC Sports. "I apologise to my teammates," he added, revealing that he feared the worst after the vault. "After the vault, I couldn't even walk," he said. "I just wanted to keep trying to finish the competition."

Uchimura was later seen on crutches as he gave support to his Japan team-mates. Uchimura had foreshadowed his sad exit on the eve of the championships, admitting that after nearly a decade at the pinnacle of his sport he was finding it harder and harder to arrive in peak form. "When I participated at the World Championships for the first time, I was 20 years old, and now I'm 28 now and at my seventh Worlds. So the question of age is a new element," Uchimura had said.

"With age, one loses some muscle tone and also makes mistakes in complicated routines. Maintaining strength and muscle tone requires a completely different kind of preparation beforehand," added Uchimura, who took up the sport at the age of three under the guidance of his parents, who were both competitive gymnasts.

The Japanese star will now turn his attention to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. He has already hinted he may prefer to concentrate on one or two apparatus specialties rather than another all-around title.

With Uchimura out of the reckoning, the leading qualifier for the all-around title which will be settled on Thursday was Cuba's Manrique Larduet with a lead of 86.699. Uchimura's great rival Oleg Verniaiev of Ukraine—who came within a whisker of beating the Japanese star at the 2016 Olympics—was second with a



Kohei Uchimura

total of 85.431. Uchimura's exit on Monday also further deprives the championships of star power. The women's competition is already missing the undisputed queen of the sport, Simone Biles of the United States. Biles has taken a year-long sabbatical following her victory at the Rio Olympics in 2016. — AFP

Sports

Two-time champions Argentina in danger, Syria targets World Cup

Australia meet Syria in first leg of their playoff

PARIS: As qualifying for the 2018 World Cup reaches its climax, Lionel Messi's Argentina find themselves in trouble, Syria face a play-off to keep their remarkable dream alive and European champions Portugal have work to do.

ARGENTINA IN DANGER

Brazil secured their place in next year's finals back in March, but three automatic berths remain up for grabs in South America ahead of the final two rounds of qualifying matches. Two-time World Cup champions Argentina haven't missed the tournament since 1970, but five-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi and his compatriots, runners-up in Brazil three years ago, are currently languishing in fifth place. While that would not spell the end of the road for Argentina, instead sending them into a two-legged play-off against New Zealand, even that is far from assured with Copa America holders Chile lurking just a point behind in sixth.



GERMANY CRUISING, FRANCE ON THIN ICE

Europe will provide 14 of the 32 competing teams in Russia, the hosts included. But so far only Belgium have punched their ticket to the finals going into the last two sets of fixtures.

World champions Germany, who need just a draw in Northern Ireland tomorrow, lead a handful of other sides who can wrap up qualification this week. England are five points clear in Group F, while Serbia are in control of their section and 2010 champions Spain have the edge over Italy in their two-horse race.

The nine group winners progress automatically, while all but one of the runners-up advance to the play-off round to determine the final four qualifiers. Portugal, while sure of at least making the play-offs,

face a critical final match at home to Switzerland as Cristiano Ronaldo and his team-mates look to overturn a three-point deficit in Group B.

France hold a tentative one-point cushion over Sweden in Group A and will be all too aware of the dangers posed by a trip to Bulgaria, the country responsible for their absence at the 1994 World Cup.

NIGERIA AND TUNISIA WITHIN SIGHT

Five places are on offer in Africa, but none as yet have been claimed. Nigeria are closing in on a sixth World Cup appearance, with reigning continental champions Cameroon and Algeria out of the running in a challenging section, but Zambia could still deny the Super Eagles. Tunisia are well positioned to end a 12-year World Cup exile, leading nearest rivals the Democratic Republic of Congo by three points, while Egypt are in control of their destiny.

Nine group winners progress automatically

But other groups remain wide open with just the first-place finishers qualifying for Russia. Ivory Coast top Group C on seven points, but both Morocco (six) and Gabon (five) still harbour genuine hopes. It is a similar situation in Group D after FIFA's decision to annul South Africa's 2-1 win over Senegal from November 2016 — a match manipulated by a Ghanaian referee. Burkina Faso and Cape Verde head the pool on six points, but Senegal trail by just a point with their match against Bafana Bafana to be replayed in November.

WAR-TORN SYRIA HEAD INTO PLAY-OFFS

Iran, Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia will represent Asia in Russia next year, but Syria and Australia will attempt to join them via the play-offs. Syria prolonged their fairytale World Cup campaign with a dra-



Buenos Aires: Argentina's footballers (L-R) midfielder Enzo Perez, defender Gabriel Mercado, forward Mauro Icardi and midfielder Emiliano Rigoni train in Ezeiza, Buenos Aires yesterday ahead of their 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia South American football qualifier against Peru to be held in Buenos Aires tomorrow. — AFP

matic stoppage-time equaliser in their final group match to set up a double-header against Australia on October 5 and 10. The Socceroos are bidding for a fourth straight finals appearance while Syria, who have never reached the World Cup before, have kept their dream alive despite the brutal civil war that has forced them to play all their home games abroad.

They will take on Australia in Malaysia in the first leg before travelling to Sydney for the return. The winner of the tie will meet the fourth-placed team from CON-

CACAF with a spot in Russia at stake.

MEXICO AND WHO ELSE?

Mexico will compete at their seventh straight World Cup next summer, with Costa Rica also on the verge of direct qualification. But a third automatic berth is still in play, while the fourth-placed side can also qualify through the inter-continental play-offs. Panama, in third, lead the United States and Honduras by a single point with two rounds of games still to play. —AFP

From ridiculous to sublime, Tite turns Brazil around

SAO PAULO: Little more than a year has gone by since Tite took over as coach of a Brazil side still reeling from embarrassing exits in the World Cup and Copa America but in that short time he has transformed the team into favourites for Russia 2018.

No one could have imagined just how influential the former Corinthians coach would be but nine wins in 10 World Cup qualifiers are just reward for a return to the form that won them a record five World Cup titles.

"There is no questioning the enormous quality of Brazil's players, Tite and backroom staff," the normally cautious former World Cup winner Tostao wrote before the final two qualifiers against Bolivia and Chile. "The team is ready."

Tite retained several players who had misfired under Luiz Felipe Scolari during the 2014 World Cup and his successor Dunga but he transformed their front line with the introduction of attack-minded youngsters Philippe Coutinho and Gabriel Jesus.

In midfield he recalled Paulinho and Renato Augusto, his former charges at Corinthians. With Real Madrid's Casemiro an automatic choice to anchor the team and Neymar still the undisputed talisman, the side is settled and there are no major disagreements over the first 11 for the first time in years.

Tite's task between now and next June is mostly deciding who will support those leading men. The problem, if there is one, comes with Brazil's almost customary over-confidence. They are the only side to play in every World Cup and even after their 7-1 hammering by Germany in the 2014 semi-finals on home soil, they believe they are special.

Just as in 2006, when Brazil sailed through the qualifiers with players like Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldinho and Adriano, they go to Russia as one of the clear favourites. But Brazil were knocked out at the quarter-final stage by France and over confidence was one of the reasons cited.

Tite is a master of playing down expectations and - crucially in a nation that famously has 200 million coaches - he commands the respect of both players and press. That has given him an authority that few Brazil managers this century have enjoyed and he has used it to warn their outstanding form is no guarantee of success.

"We are at a stage of strengthening, consolidating and growing," he said when announcing his squad for this week's games. "We're not in the comfort zone stage but rather a confidence zone stage." — Reuters

Lithuanian girl, 10, takes women's football by storm

VILNIUS: In basketball-obsessed Lithuania, women's football is gaining new fans after the sensational debut of 10-year-old Zemyna Lekaviciute as the Baltic state's youngest-ever scorer in a second-division match.

After just five minutes on the pitch, Zemyna took a pass and sent the ball past goalkeeper Agne Ratkeviciute, who is more than twice her age, handing her Zalgiris Vilnius reserves team a 10-0 lead over Sesupe. "This was her very first appearance in (second-division) Lyga 1 and she became the youngest scorer in Lithuania," beamed Svajunas Stravinskas, manager of the women's football academy at Zalgiris. Passing the ball to Zemyna was Greta Jaroseviciute, the other youngster on the pitch born in 2006.

Wearing the green shirt of the Zalgiris reserve team, and reaching barely up to her fellow players' shoulders, Zemyna also grabbed an assist for a late goal that pushed the final score up to 11-0.

'MAXIMALIST'

It all started four years ago. "One day, when my dad and I were going home from the kindergarten, we saw an ad inviting kids to play football," says Zemyna, flashing a smile. At seven, when she started elementary school, she also started training with boys. "We strongly encouraged her to play," says her father Evaldas Lekavicius, sitting on the team bench and talking about his passion for football and small teams like Iceland or the Balkan countries.

"Today her greatest advantage is her speed," he says, praising also his daughter's character. "Zemyna is a maximalist. In our family, she has the strongest character," Lekavicius added with a smile. At almost eleven, the girl wearing the number three, which her dad had worn during his amateur career, has become the hope of Lithuanian women's football, together with Jaroseviciute. Zemyna has been practising passes, tactics and skills with much older girls three times a week



Zemyna Lekaviciute (left) with the ball.

on one of the few pitches in central Vilnius since 2016. Speed and ball control are her favourite aspects of the game. "Zemyna plays like a boy of the same age," says her coach Oleg Kricun. "She's a dribbler like no other. Her goal was extraordinary: a child who scores even though the ball arrived at the height of her belly," he added. On the day of the game, Zemyna's parents were not at the stadium. "When Zemyna scored, the coach called us and said 'there you go'," says her 42-year-old father, who works in genetic engineering.

NOT JUST FOOTBALL

In her room, Zemyna displays a cup and 27 medals from other sports. Football is just one of her many passions. There is also scout camp, and she is dreaming

about competing in a biathlon, a winter sport combining cross-country skiing and shooting.

Women's football in Lithuania is suffering from a lack of finances. Zemyna's three weekly training sessions cost 45 euros (\$50), against the average monthly wage of 817 euros. Equipment and transport are in addition. Zalgiris's women's football team is the only Vilnius-based team also playing in Lyga A, the country's top flight division. It has received 3,000 euros in support from the city of Vilnius, while the men's team secured a subsidy of 868,000 euros.

Lithuania's female footballers are now pinning their hopes on the 2018 under-17 European championship hosted by the country to help promote the sport and make life rosier for young players like Zemyna. —AFP

Indians, Dodgers teams to beat as playoffs begin

WASHINGTON: The Cleveland Indians, seeking their first crown since 1948, and the Los Angeles Dodgers, whose title drought only dates to 1988, are the clubs to beat as the Major League Baseball playoffs begin.

Only last year, the Chicago Cubs ended the longest title drought in North American sports history, winning their first World Series crown since 1908 by defeating Cleveland in a dramatic seventh-game showdown.

Now the Indians, who unleashed an American League-record 22-game win streak, are back in the playoffs and with the AL's best record at 102-60, the second-most season wins in club history. Now they own baseball's longest title drought. "From the start of the season, our goal has been to get back to the postseason and then go as far we

can," shortstop Francisco Lindor said. The Indians boast one of baseball's top pitchers in right-hander Corey Kluber, who went 18-4 with a majors-best 2.25 earned-run average and 265 strikeouts this season. And Tribe right-hander Carlos Carrasco of Venezuela went 18-6.

Indians outfielder Jay Bruce, who joined Cleveland at mid-season, could feel the hunger for another chance at the crown the minute he walked into the locker room. "I think the expectations for this year were set from last year's experience and accomplishments and the failure to win game seven of the World Series, although that wasn't a failure by any means," Bruce said. "But every guy in our clubhouse feels like they should have won it last year. I felt that as soon as I got here."

While Cleveland lost the World Series to a team with a championship drought 40 years longer than their own, they could face a team whose title drought is 40 years shorter in the Dodgers, who led the major leagues with a 104-58 mark. Their 57 home wins also topped the majors. And the Dodgers counter with a mound ace of their own in left-hander Clayton Kershaw, who went 18-4 with a National League-best 2.31 ERA, second only to Kluber in the majors, and 202 strikeouts. Los Angeles also features right-handed closer Kenley Jansen, whose 41 saves shared

the NL best. The playoffs open with two one-game wild-card showdowns between the best non-division winners - the New York Yankees entertain Minnesota on Tuesday in the American League while Colorado will visit Arizona today. The Yankees-Twins winner gets a best-of-five series against the Indians that opens at Cleveland on Thursday, the same day the Boston Red Sox visit Houston in the other American League semi-final series. In the National League, the Colorado-Arizona winner visits the Dodgers to open their National League semi-final series while the defending champion Cubs travel to Washington for their opening matchup.

Houston's Jose Altuve, a Venezuelan second baseman, led the major leagues with a .346 batting average. Yankees' slugger Aaron Judge led the AL with 52 home runs and his powerful hitting could spark the 27-time World Series champions to yet another deep playoff run. Washington second baseman Daniel Murphy matched Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner at .322 to share third in the NL batting race and the Nationals also a formidable starting rotation of pitchers paced by right-handers Max Scherzer, 16-6 with a 2.51 ERA and 268 strikeouts, and Stephen Strasburg, 15-4 with a 2.52 ERA and 204 strikeouts. —AFP

13 England set to lose Ashes, with or without Stokes



14 Nadal survives Beijing scare, Halep sets up Sharapova rematch



15 Lithuanian girl, 10, takes football by storm



KANSAS CITY: Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith (11) tries to avoid Washington Redskins linebacker Ryan Kerrigan (91) during the first half of an NFL football game in Kansas City on Monday. — AP

Butker kicks winning goal in debut

KANSAS CITY: Rookie kicker Harrison Butker booted a 43-yard field goal with four seconds remaining as the Kansas City Chiefs remained the NFL's only unbeaten team with a 29-20 win over the Washington Redskins.

Butker delivered the goods in his first NFL game, connecting on three second-half field goals after missing his first attempt late in the second quarter. His winning blast broke a 20-20 tie. Butker's 26-yard field goal in the final seconds of the third quarter tied the game at 17-17, and his 32-yard kick with 4:55 left in the fourth quarter put the Chiefs ahead 20-17.

Linebacker Justin Houston returned a fumble for a 13-yard touchdown on the last play of the game to cap the scoring. There was a moment of silence before the game for victims of Sunday night's Las Vegas concert massacre.

Washington players linked their arms for the American anthem and the Chiefs players stood for the song with the

exception of Marcus Peters and Kenneth Acker who sat on the bench. Washington's Dustin Hopkins tied the game at 20 by making a 40-yard field goal with 47 seconds remaining before quarterback Alex Smith drove the Chiefs 50 yards in six plays for the winning score.

Rookie Kareem Hunt, the league's leading rusher, carried Kansas City during its comeback from a 10-7 halftime deficit. The NFL's leading rusher collected 101 yards on 21 carries, with 78 yards coming in the second half. Smith gave the Chiefs their first lead of the game midway through the third quarter with a one-yard touchdown run. The Redskins had one last chance to win the game on the final play.

Washington fumbled on a quick succession of laterals on the final play, but Houston recovered the loose ball and went in for the score. Smith completed 27 of 37 passes for 293 yards and one touchdown. Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins was 14 of 24 for 215 yards and two scores. — AFP

Players linked their arms for US anthem



Qatari female jockey gallops into male dominated world

DOHA: A Qatari woman who created ripples by appearing on television without a headscarf has broken new ground as a jockey in the conservative Gulf country, where men usually hold the reins. Maryam al-Subaiey has defied expectation and tradition—as well as any fear of controversy—to pursue her “dream” of racing horses, which even a nasty fall this year could not crush.

“I don’t have to do things that society expects from me as a woman,” Subaiey, 31, told AFP. “I am expected to be a businesswoman and eventually get married and have kids.” She adds: “But being a female athlete, this is not something that is considered Qatari. It’s just not expected. It’s very different.”

RACING AGAINST TRADITION

Subaiey's dream came true on February 24 at Qatar's pastoral Racing and Equestrian Club, a green oasis on the western fringes of the capital Doha. There, on the undercard of an eight-race meeting, she took to the track for the very first time. Subaiey didn't win—she finished eleventh out of 14 runners in the “Thoroughbred Handicap” on her mount “Comedy Night”. But more notable than her final position was the fact she competed at all. Women have raced before in Qatar—indeed there was another non-Qatari female jockey in the same handicap and there are local media reports dating back to 2008 about a 14-year-old amateur riding at the equestrian club. But although records are not conclusive, officials told AFP that Subaiey was the first ever Qatari female jockey to take part in such a ranking event. “I still can't believe that I am here,” she said immediately afterwards. “The importance of my presence here isn't just the fact that I am the first female Qatari jockey—I am here for all female Qataris and all female Khaleejijs,” she said, referring to women from the Gulf.

BACKLASH

Her groundbreaking ride also took many in

attendance by surprise. “To be honest, I didn't think there were female jockeys here,” said one Western racegoer.

Subaiey is well-known among some Qataris. Last year, she appeared on France 24 Arabic television to discuss how Qatari women view their role in society. There was a backlash though as she appeared on screen not wearing a headscarf. One online commenter called her “a bad example” for Qatari women. Another more vehement poster wrote: “Education is no good if it results in disobeying God's orders.”

Subaiey-speaking at the racetrack without a headscarf—responded simply: “I have the freedom to choose what and what not to wear.”

'NOT PRESTIGIOUS'

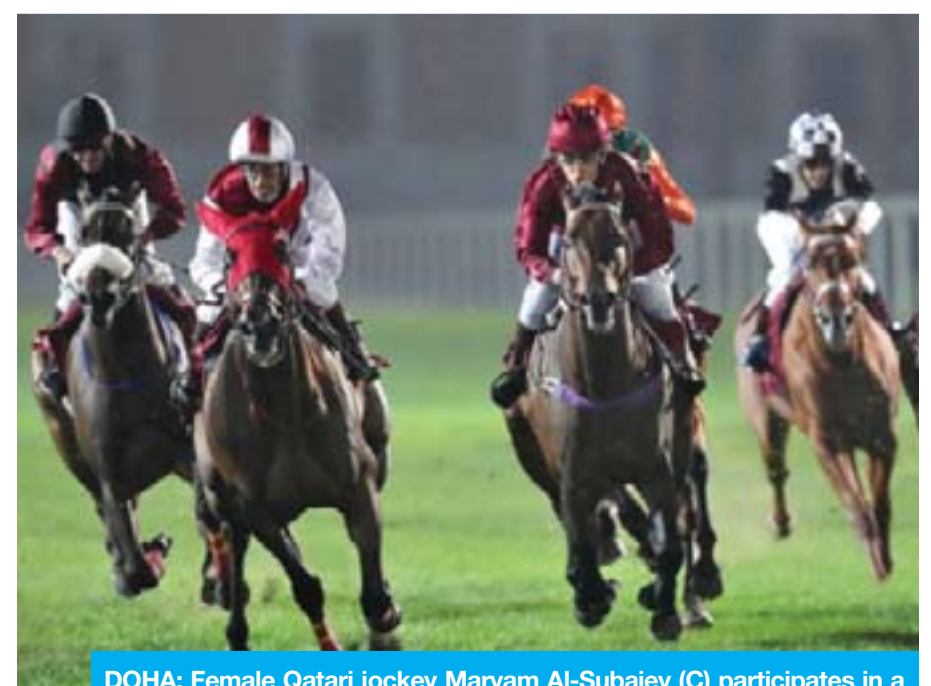
Subaiey's gallop into history began back in August 2014 during what she described as a “very difficult time in my life”. She had lost her job as a video director for a local television station and wanted a change of direction.

Although she had ridden horses as a child she had no experience as a jockey. But she said: “This is something I wanted to do for a very long time. I love horses and I thought, why not?” One of those why nots was social convention in Qatar. — AFP

NFL result/standings

Kansas City 29, Washington 20.

| American Football Conference | | | | | | | National Football Conference | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|-----|----|-----|-----|------------------------------|---------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|------|
| AFC East | | | | | | | NFC East | | | | | | | | |
| W | L | T | OTL | PF | PA | PCT | Philadelphia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 103 | 92 | .750 | |
| Buffalo | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 54 | .750 | Washington | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 91 | 89 | .500 |
| NY Jets | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 92 | .500 | Dallas | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 94 | 97 | .500 |
| New England | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 129 | 128 | .500 | NY Giants | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 95 | 0 |
| Miami | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 57 | .333 | NFC North | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Green Bay | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 81 | .750 |
| | | | | | | | | Detroit | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 99 | 70 | .750 |
| Pittsburgh | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 90 | 59 | .750 | Minnesota | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 79 | 76 | .500 |
| Baltimore | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 80 | .500 | Chicago | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 104 | .250 |
| Cincinnati | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 64 | 67 | .250 | NFC South | | | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 63 | 107 | 0 | Carolina | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 78 | 70 | .750 |
| | | | | | | | | Atlanta | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 104 | 89 | .750 |
| | | | | | | | | Tampa Bay | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 71 | 64 | .667 |
| Tennessee | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 126 | .500 | New Orleans | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 93 | 78 | .500 |
| Jacksonville | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 109 | 74 | .500 | NFC West | | | | | | | |
| Houston | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 110 | 88 | .500 | LA Rams | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 142 | 105 | .750 |
| Indianapolis | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 71 | 136 | .250 | Seattle | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 94 | 77 | .500 |
| | | | | | | | | Arizona | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 74 | 91 | .500 |
| | | | | | | | | San Francisco | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 66 | 94 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AFC West | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kansas City | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 122 | 77 | 1.000 | | | | | | | | |
| Denver | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 74 | .750 | | | | | | | | |
| Oakland | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 91 | 79 | .500 | | | | | | | | |
| LA Chargers | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 72 | 93 | 0 | | | | | | | | |



DOHA: Female Qatari jockey Maryam Al-Subaiey (C) participates in a horse race at the Racing and Equestrian Club in Doha on February 24, 2017. — AFP

Business

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

18 Kuwait's credit growth slows slightly in July to 3.5% y-o-y**19** Al Mulla Group brings Konica Minolta print services to Kuwait**22** Honeywell hosts oil & gas industry leaders

MANCHESTER: Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson delivers his speech on the third day of the Conservative Party annual conference at the Manchester Central Convention Centre in Manchester yesterday. — AFP

Brexit talks still stuck over UK exit bill

UK construction industry jolted by Brexit fears

BRUSSELS/ LONDON: The European Union insisted yesterday that Brexit negotiations with Britain will not move on to the question of future relations until enough progress has been made on divorce issues, such as how much the country's exit bill should be. Britain desperately wants talks to move on to future trade and security arrangements but EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said that more needs to be done on the withdrawal issues first.

Juncker told the European Parliament that "we have not made the sufficient progress needed" and the legislators backed him, approving a resolution underscoring the same point with a vote of 557 to 92 with 29 abstentions. It further underscored the unity of the 27 EU nations as they face off with Britain in the talks. The EU wants London to commit to guaranteeing the rights of EU citizens already in Britain, making sure border posts do not reappear between the UK's Northern Ireland and Ireland itself and pay up for everything it had agreed to while it was a member.

Juncker said "the taxpayers in the EU 27 should not pay for the British decision" to leave, while the bloc's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, said "serious differences remain" on how many bills the U.K. still has to settle. Estimates vary widely from 20 billion euros (\$27 billion) to over three times that amount.

"Serious rifts remain, especially on the financial settlement," Barnier said. "We will not pay at 27 what has

been decided at 28, it is simple as that." The parliamentary resolution called for postponing any move to widen the talks with Britain unless "a major breakthrough" takes place during the fifth round of negotiations in Brussels next week.

Observers said decisive progress was highly unlikely. Yesterday's moves further dampened hopes that the EU leaders might give the green light to an expansion in the talks at a summit on Oct 19-20. Many lawmakers were also dismissive of Britain's Conservative government, which is widely seen as insecure and bumbling.

Meanwhile, fearing their version of Brexit may be losing ground, right-wing members of Britain's ruling Conservatives are using their party conference to speak out-led by a media-savvy traditionalist drawing packed crowds. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson fired the starting gun last month with an article outlining Britain's glorious future outside the EU, followed up last weekend with an interview setting out his "red lines". Accused of disloyalty, he has largely kept a low profile at this week's conference in Manchester,

northwest England, but MP Jacob Rees-Mogg—who has a similar mix of charm and wit—has stepped in. A devout Catholic with a cut-glass accent who only wears suits and takes his nanny campaigning, Rees-Mogg has been espousing the benefits of a clean break with the EU in back-to-back fringe meetings.

"The government has been too coy—ish," he told an overflowing event at Manchester town hall, referring to the pessimistic character in the Winnie-the-Pooh books by A.A. Milne. He said there was "nothing to fear" from leaving the bloc without a deal, and rejected warnings of the economic damage of quitting Europe's single market. "Brexit is a fabulous opportunity for us to prosper," he said to huge cheers. At a crucial time in Brexit talks, when Prime Minister Theresa May has started making concessions that would ease the break with the EU, his upbeat call for Britain to stand firm has resonated.

"People need to be more optimistic. It's all about being proud of our nation," said Lawrence Mitchell, 26, who came on his day off to hear the MP speak.

Meanwhile, Britain's construction companies in September reported the sharpest fall in activity since just after June 2016's Brexit vote, as clients put projects on hold due to uncertainty over the economy.

Although construction makes up just 6 percent of Britain's economy, the survey suggested it was likely to drag on official third-quarter growth figures, just as the Bank of England gets ready to raise interest rates. The IHS Markit/CIPS construction purchasing managers' index (PMI) sank to 48.1 in September from August's reading of 51.1, its lowest since July 2016 and far below all forecasts in a Reuters poll of economists.

Anything below 50 is considered a contraction. Sterling weakened by around a quarter of a cent against the dollar and fell to a day's low against the euro after the data. "The construction sector is entering its own recession," Samuel Tombs of Pantheon Macroeconomics said. "The government's shift to a more accommodating stance in Brexit talks has done little to convince builders that clients will sanction delayed projects soon." Construction - which has long lead times for projects, and relies heavily on labour from the EU - has been particularly hurt. Official data last month showed construction orders fell more than 12 percent year-on-year in the three months to June, and the PMI has shown lower orders for the past three months. Expectations for the future were at their second-lowest level since 2013, yesterday's survey also showed. — Agencies

UAE banks 'more aggressive' about selling Qatar loans

DUBAI: A number of banks in the United Arab Emirates are in talks with international counterparts to sell down their Qatar exposure as the Gulf's diplomatic crisis drags on without resolution. In recent weeks, banking sources say, it has become clear to many UAE bankers that Qatar's isolation could potentially last for years. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic and transport ties with Doha on June 5. At the time,

UAE banks pulled back from new business with Qatari institutions but largely hung on to existing syndicated loans which they had extended to Qatari banks. Some UAE banks did discuss the possibility of selling off their exposure, but very little of any actual business was done and prospective sellers were reluctant to lower the prices of the loans significantly, the sources said.

Now, however, the idea has firmed as mediation efforts

have made no apparent progress. UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said this week that Qatar knew what it needed to do to end the dispute, so the issue was no longer a priority for the four states.

UAE banks holding Qatari loans have become "more aggressive over the past couple of weeks" in offering the loans for sale in the secondary market, said one banker at a European bank specializing in financial institutions. Prospective sellers, including First Abu Dhabi Bank, have been in talks with a select group of potential buyers over the past two weeks to sound out their appetite for Qatari bank loans, the sources said. A spokeswoman for First Abu Dhabi declined to comment.

Qatari banks have traditionally relied heavily on external financing and raised over \$10 billion through syndicated loans since early 2014, Thomson Reuters data shows. A



Industry sentiment at second-lowest level since 2013

large proportion of that total was lent by banks in the UAE, the region's financial center. First Abu Dhabi, the largest bank in the UAE, participated in several syndicated loans to Qatari banks over the past few years, including loans to Ahli Bank, Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ) and Qatar National Bank (QNB).

Loans to QNB, the country's largest lender, and CBQ are among assets now being offered for sale, the sources said. A spokesman for QNB said: "It's a normal practice in the industry that lenders to banks through syndicated loans sell part or all of their exposure in the secondary market. "Nevertheless, as far as QNB is concerned, we can confirm that we have not received recently any unusual requests for our approval to sell any exposure to QNB in the secondary market, which is required. Accordingly, we can confirm that there is no systematic selling by banks who participated in QNB syndicated loans."

Spokespeople for CBQ did not respond to emails and telephone calls seeking comment. While most Qatari loans on offer are to Qatari banks, some corporate and project finance loans are also being offered, the banker at the European institution added. Holders of Qatari debt may find it hard to sell without accepting significant discounts. Credit rating agencies have downgraded Qatar since the dispute erupted and all three major agencies have negative outlooks on the country. Qatar's ratings are still high - Fitch has it at AA-minus - but potential buyers may be especially wary of loans with over a year to run, given the risk of the dispute worsening. — Reuters

Poorer countries' remittances to grow again in 2017: WB

WASHINGTON: Remittances, a major source of revenue for the world's poorest countries, are due to grow again this year after falling two years in a row, the World Bank said yesterday.

Such cash transfers to low and middle-income countries are on course to rise by 4.8 percent in 2017, reaching \$450 billion. Economic expansion in Russia, Europe and the United States will see migrants and families send increasing amounts of cash back to Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, according to a World Bank report.

But growth will be subdued for East Asia and South Asia, home to major recipient countries, the report found. As oil prices fall, Gulf countries, traditionally large sources of outbound remittance flows, are spending less and discouraging recruitment of foreign workers.

"Remittances are a lifeline for developing countries," Dilip Ratha, lead author of the bank's Migration and Development Brief, said in a statement. "This is particularly true following natural disasters, such as the recent earthquakes in Mexico and the storms devastating the Caribbean." — AFP



Gulf dispute continues to drag on

Business

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Kuwait's credit growth slows slightly in July to 3.5% y-o-y

July sees a net decline of KD 143 million in credit

KUWAIT: Credit was down in July, with growth slowing slightly to 3.5 percent year-on-year (y/y). The month saw a net decline of KD 143 million in credit. Most of the weakness in July was from the regular start-of-quarter drop in securities lending, though there was also some softness in other business sectors. By contrast, lending to the real estate sector and households was robust. Private deposits were down, while rates climbed.

Household lending was strong in July, with growth accelerating to 7.2 percent y/y. Personal facilities excluding securities lending added a net KD 119 million during the month, though this followed a flat month. The gains continued to come from installment loans, while consumer loans were off, contracting by 5.3 percent y/y.

Business credit (excluding nonbanks) dropped by KD 281 million, with growth falling to 1.8 percent y/y. The largest decline was in lending for the purchase of securities, which dropped by KD 211 million; this followed a similar increase the month before, part of a regular quarterly pattern. But there was also weakness elsewhere. The construction and oil and gas sectors saw noticeable declines, with the former contracting by 5.7 percent y/y. Most other sectors were flat. As a result, growth in "productive" business sectors (excluding real estate and securities lending), which had been quite strong, slowed to 4.4 percent y/y, though this is also due to some base effects.

Meanwhile, real estate sector credit continued to recover in July. The sector, which had seen its borrowing contract by 3.6 percent during 2016, has recorded posi-

tive credit growth thus far in 2017. Year-to-date, lending to the sector has grown by an annualized 8.1 percent. The July gain, at KD 109 million, was the largest monthly gain thus far this year. This coincides with some stabilization in the real estate market.

Private deposits declined in July, though once again this was partially offset by a rise in government deposits. Private deposits fell by KD 252 million, most of it from a decline in foreign currency deposits. KD sight and savings deposits were also down, though gains in KD time deposits offset some of that. Money supply (M2) growth benefited from some base effects but remained subdued at 1.2 percent y/y. M1 growth was stronger at 7.1 percent y/y.

Household lending still strong

Government deposits rose by KD 113 million, but growth slowed nonetheless to 6.4 percent y/y due to base effects. The banking system's liquid reserves, or "excess liquidity", was steady in July at 7.5 percent of bank assets. Bank reserves (cash, deposits with the CBK, and CBK bonds) increased by KD 62 million to KD 4.7 billion. This coincided with KD 200 million in net issuance of public debt. This increased outstanding domestic public debt instruments (PDIs) to KD 4.17 billion, or an estimated 11 percent of GDP.

Domestic interest rates rose in July in line with June's increase of the overnight repo rate by 25 basis points. The 3-month interbank rate was up 9 basis points in July; rates have been mostly steady since. Customer deposit rates also moved up by 7-16 bps during the month. They are now up by 36-48 bps since December 2016.



Australia keeps rates on hold, sounds dollar warning

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank left interest rates at a record low yesterday with the board upbeat about the economy, while sounding a warning about the strength of the local dollar.

The Reserve Bank has slashed rates by 300 basis points since November 2011 to 1.50 percent as the country wrestles with its transition away from an unprecedented boom in mining investment. But it has left rates on hold since August last year and is yet to show its hand regarding its next move.

RBA governor Philip Lowe acknowledged that the Australian economy had shrugged off the sluggish start to the year, boosted by government and consumer spending, with growth of 0.8 percent in the June quarter. "This outcome and other recent data are consistent with the Bank's expectation that growth in the Australian economy will gradually pick up over the coming year," he said after a monthly board meeting.

"Over recent months there have been more consistent signs that non-mining business investment is picking up. A consolidation of this trend would be a welcome development."

But the bank remained concerned about high levels of housing debt in cities where property prices have soared, at a time when wages growth remains low. It also noted the ongoing strength of the Australian dollar, which was keeping inflation below its target band. "The



SYDNEY: Pedestrians using their phones pass a building site in Sydney on yesterday. Australia's central bank left interest rates at a record low with the board upbeat about the economy, while sounding a warning about the strength of the local dollar. —AFP

higher exchange rate is expected to contribute to continued subdued price pressures in the economy," said Lowe. "It is also weighing on the outlook for output and employment."

"An appreciating exchange rate would be expected to result in a slower pick-up in economic activity and inflation than currently forecast." The dollar fell following the rate announcement, dropping below 78 US cents for the first time since mid-July and remaining at that level by mid-afternoon. AMP Capital chief economist Shane Oliver said the post-meeting statement "continues to imply a neutral short term bias on interest rates".

"Basically the RBA and official interest rates remain stuck between a rock and a hard place," he said. "Improving global growth, strong business confidence and jobs growth, the RBA's own expectations for a growth pick up and already high levels of household debt argue against a rate cut."

"But record low wages growth, low underlying inflation, the impending slowdown in housing construction, risks around the consumer and the strong dollar argue against a rate hike." Westpac Institutional Bank's Bill Evans said he expected rates to remain on hold in 2018 and 2019. —AFP

Erdogan urges Turkey rate cuts despite inflation surge

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday urged the Turkish central bank to cut interest rates despite a jump in inflation to over 11 percent, warning of "calamities" if the rates were not snipped. The Turkish state statistics agency said consumer prices rose 11.2 percent in September from the same period the year earlier, compared with 10.68 inflation in August.

But Erdogan, who is keen to encourage the economic growth that has been the bedrock of his electoral success, warned the nominally independent central bank it was high time to slash rates. "If the interest rates fall, inflation falls. If the interest rate is high, it (inflation) will also be high," Erdogan told ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) lawmakers.

Conventional economic wisdom suggests inflation should, however, go down as interest rates are raised as this softens demand and weakens the money supply growth in an economy.

Central banks such as the European Central Bank have in the past used interest rate hikes as a monetary policy tool to bring inflation down in line with

target levels.

But Erdogan said: "The reduction of interest rates is, unfortunately, I say this openly, still not at the point we want it to be," Erdogan said. "If we cannot secure the fall in interest rates, if we cannot succeed here, then beware- plenty of calamities await us. We must definitely deal with this," he added. But Liam Carson, emerging Europe economist at London-based Capital Economics, said in a note the inflation data meant expected rate cuts were "looking less likely".

Economists say the Turkish central bank has limited room for manoeuvre as the president has previously indulged in repeated verbal assaults against the bank because of its reluctance to lower interest rates. In recent months, it has opted to keep rates steady as inflation remains high. The one week repo rate is currently fixed at 8.0 percent, a level the bank left unchanged as its last meeting in September.

Inflation had been at its highest level for over eight years in April, reaching 11.87 percent before falling to 9.79 percent in July and then rising again.

Turkey is set apart "in a world where few countries are troubled by too-high inflation," said Inan Demir of Normura International. "We see headline inflation climbing towards 11.5 percent over the coming two months, before declining in December due to supportive base effects," he added in a note. The embattled Turkish lira lost 0.4 percent in value against the US dollar, rising to 3.58 lira to the greenback after 0900 GMT yesterday. —AFP

Table 2: Consolidated bank balance sheets

| | Jul-17 | | 1-month change | | 3-month change | | 12-month change | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--|
| | KD mn | KD mn | % | KD mn | % | KD mn | % | |
| Total bank assets | 62,264 | -324 | -0.5 | 1,192 | 2.0 | 2,995 | 5.1 | |
| Core liquid assets | 4,687 | 62 | 1.3 | -154 | -3.2 | -322 | -6.4 | |
| Cash and CBK deposits | 689 | -134 | -16.2 | -325 | -32.1 | -335 | -32.7 | |
| CBK bonds | 3,182 | 61 | 1.9 | 306 | 10.7 | -233 | -6.8 | |
| Time deposits with CBK | 815 | 135 | 19.8 | -135 | -14.2 | 246 | 43.2 | |
| Public debt instruments | 4,197 | 202 | 5.0 | 52 | 1.2 | 1,649 | 64.7 | |
| Interbank deposits | 1,303 | -430 | -24.8 | 211 | 19.3 | -292 | -18.3 | |
| Credit facilities | 35,399 | -143 | -0.4 | 525 | 1.5 | 1,196 | 3.5 | |
| Foreign assets | 12,799 | -7 | -0.1 | 644 | 5.3 | 507 | 4.1 | |
| Other assets | 3,880 | -8 | -0.2 | -86 | -2.2 | 257 | 7.1 | |
| Total bank liabilities | 53,974 | -348 | -0.6 | 1,152 | 2.2 | 2,736 | 5.3 | |
| Total deposits | 42,701 | -544 | -1.3 | 187 | 0.4 | 490 | 1.2 | |
| Private sector deposits | 34,348 | -252 | -0.7 | -374 | -1.1 | 341 | 1.0 | |
| Government deposits | 7,105 | 113 | 1.6 | 364 | 5.4 | 430 | 6.4 | |
| Interbank deposits | 1,248 | -406 | -24.5 | 197 | 18.7 | -280 | -18.3 | |
| Foreign liabilities | 5,200 | 54 | 1.0 | 617 | 13.4 | 1,574 | 43.4 | |
| Other liabilities | 6,074 | 142 | 2.4 | -37 | -0.6 | 1,931 | 46.6 | |
| Shareholder equity | 8,290 | 24 | 0.3 | 40 | 0.5 | 259 | 3.2 | |

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen | 2.680 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.622 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.874 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.975 |
| Nepali Rupees | 2.893 |
| Singapore Dollar | 223.030 |
| Hongkong Dollar | 38.799 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.700 |
| Philippine Peso | 5.930 |
| Thai Baht | 9.064 |

GCC COUNTRIES

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyal | 80.881 |
| Qatari Riyal | 83.304 |
| Omani Riyal | 787.682 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 805.370 |
| UAE Dirham | 82.577 |

ARAB COUNTRIES

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Egyptian Pound - Cash | 19.850 |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 17.136 |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000 | 1.217 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 123.710 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 427.810 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000 | 2.021 |
| Syrian Lira | 0.000 |
| Morocco Dirham | 32.487 |

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer | 303.100 |
| Euro | 357.050 |
| Sterling Pound | 403.880 |

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Canadian dollar | 243.160 |
| Turkish lira | 85.260 |
| Swiss Franc | 311.990 |
| Australian Dollar | 238.390 |
| US Dollar Buying | 301.900 |

GOLD

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 20 Gram | 249.070 |
| 10 Gram | 127.450 |
| 5 Gram | 64.570 |

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| US Dollar | 302.100 |
| Canadian Dollar | 244.875 |
| Sterling Pound | 408.660 |
| Euro | 359.530 |
| Swiss Franc | 293.695 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 801.800 |
| UAE Dirhams | 82.640 |
| Qatari Riyals | 83.465 |
| Saudi Riyals | 81.420 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 427.375 |
| Egyptian Pound | 17.133 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.975 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.631 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.866 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.721 |
| Philippines Peso | 5.947 |
| Cyprus pound | 17.979 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.705 |
| Syrian Pound | 1.590 |
| Nepalese Rupees | 2.902 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Malaysian Ringgit | 72.835 |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 46.145 |
| Thai Bhat | 10.105 |
| Turkish Lira | 85.730 |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| British Pound | 0.394725 | 0.404725 |
| Czech Koruna | 0.005651 | 0.017651 |
| Danish Krone | 0.043550 | 0.048550 |
| Euro | 0.348959 | 0.357959 |
| Georgian Lari | 0.121935 | 0.121935 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.033702 | 0.038902 |
| Romanian Leu | 0.077212 | 0.077212 |
| Russian ruble | 0.005209 | 0.005209 |
| Slovakia | 0.009039 | 0.019039 |
| Slovenian Euro | 0.032912 | 0.037912 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.303266 | 0.314266 |
| Swiss Franc | | |

| Australasia | BUY | SELL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Australian Dollar | 0.227902 | 0.239902 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.210609 | 0.220109 |

| America | BUY | SELL |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Canadian Dollar | 0.236322 | 0.245322 |
| US Dollars | 0.299000 | 0.303420 |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.299500 | 0.303420 |

| Asia | BUY | SELL |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.003250 | 0.003834 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Chinese Yuan | 0.043974 | 0.047474 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.036713 | 0.039463 |
| Indian Rupee | 0.004196 | 0.004884 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000018 | 0.000024 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.002592 | 0.002772 |
| Korean Won | 0.000253 | 0.000268 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.068172 | 0.074172 |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.003024 | 0.003194 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.002749 | 0.003039 |
| Philippine Peso | 0.005848 | 0.006148 |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.216449 | 0.226449 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001600 | 0.002180 |
| Taiwan | 0.009813 | 0.009993 |
| Thai Baht | 0.008710 | 0.009260 |

| Arab | BUY | SELL |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.796984 | 0.805484 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.014228 | 0.020136 |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000085 |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000193 | 0.000253 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.422896 | 0.431896 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.000151 | 0.000251 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.021231 | 0.045231 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.780853 | 0.786533 |
| Qatar Riyal | 0.078964 | 0.083904 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.079740 | 0.081040 |
| Syrian Pound | 0.001285 | 0.001505 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 0.118429 | 0.126429 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.079745 | 0.090045 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.081098 | 0.082798 |
| Yemeni Riyal | 0.000985 | 0.001065 |

Al Mulla Group brings Konica Minolta's optimized print services to Kuwait

Al Mulla Office Automation and Konica Minolta host event



KUWAIT: Managing Director TM & FS of Al Mulla Group inaugurating KM OPS event.



KUWAIT: Al Mulla Office Automation Service receiving three years of continuous best service provider to customers award for Konica Minolta MFP.

KUWAIT: Al Mulla Office Automation, is a division of Al Mulla International General Trading Furniture and Equipment Co, a subsidiary of the Al Mulla Group along with Konica Minolta Business Solutions (Middle East) successfully hosted an event in Jumeirah Messilah Hotel Ball Room, on 19th September. The Seminar was held to enhance user-experiences in Kuwait with OPS (Optimize Print Services). The event was attended by 125 guests from various segments of the government and private sector, including representatives from the Ministry, Oil Sector, Banks, Telecom, Corporate and commercial business houses of Kuwait. A wide range of latest MFPs (Multi-Functional Printers) products and software solutions offered by Konica Minolta, were demonstrated during the event.



Seminar enhances user-experiences in Kuwait with OPS

Reliability of the various Office Automation services offered by the Company remains its core strength. Advanced technologies such as 'Visibility Acquiring Insights' help customers in understanding and managing better their overall printing expenses. To be able to print from any devices, anytime and anywhere, and in the required format, helps its customers in achieving greater internal efficiency, within their organization. OPS provide greater practicality and benefits that result in huge cost savings to any organization by setting the right strategy for

printing, security, documents and talents through optimization, efficiency, security and mobility.

The event was opened by Mohamed Wasel, Group Manager Sales and inaugurated by Hormuzda B. Davar, Managing Director TM & FS of Al Mulla Group. He emphasized the fact that the "Al Mulla Group does not sell just multi-functional copier devices, but sells complete solutions that improve significantly the productivity of its customers, with an end-to-end visibility of the Cost of Ownership".

Larry Leow, OPS Manager at Konica Minolta (Middle East) explained the OPS concept, "by focusing and optimizing our clients print Infrastructure, improving business efficiencies and productivity, companies that have undergone consultation commonly achieved greater business benefits, reducing printing expenses by up to 30 percent." Concluding his speech with the message, "Let Al Mulla Group deliver & manage IT for you so that you, our esteemed customer, can focus on your core business".

During the event Tina Vilaca, Solution Architect Manager, demonstrated Smart Solutions using Konica Minolta's latest cutting-edge technologies such as Work Flow, Print management, Security, Capture via scan, Route content to Document Management Solutions, Print & Copy

with usage tracking reports. Roaming and Secure Print amongst others. As a part of his presentation, Deepu, Marketing Manager Office Products, demonstrated Print Operation through Mobile Devices.

The Office Automation Division of Al Mulla Group has several high-profile customers such as Ooredoo, Aramex and Al Rayan Holdings, who have all recently successfully implemented an OPS strategy within their respective organizations and are enjoying significant cost savings.

Santanu Das, General Manager, Office Automation Division, launched a new Mobile App (Mobile Application) as a part of Al Mulla Group's continuing initiatives in offering high quality services to its customers. The user-friendly mobile App works on both Apple and Android platforms, and offers a variety of user-centric services such as ordering consumables, requesting servicing, renewal of Service Contracts, obtaining quotations and tracking the performance of machines. The Office Automation service center incorporates an Oracle database with a custom made front end based on Developer 2000, a system specifically designed for call center activity. Well trained Arabic and English speaking personnel are designated as work controllers who receive customer calls and dispatch technicians.

Each machine is labeled with a unique computer number enabling easy identification. Every customer call is registered referring to the unique computer number and subsequently the details of call completion are entered in the system database for analysis and future corrective action. With the above facilities:

* It is ensured that 100 percent customer calls are attended within 2 to 4 hrs.



KUWAIT: Fuzio Ymayo Filho, Area Business Manager-Konica Minolta, presenting award to Santanu Das, General Manager - Al Mulla International General Trading Furniture and Equipment Company

* Regular preventive maintenance calls are assigned to the technicians automatically.

* Customer calls are analyzed and (if need be) proper corrective action taken

At the end of the event, Fuzio, Area Business Manager, Konica Minolta (Middle East), presented an award to Al Mulla Office Automation Division in recognition of its continuous outstanding performance over the last three years.

Indian tycoon Mallya appears in UK court on new charges

LONDON: Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya appeared in a London court yesterday after being rearrested earlier in the day amid an ongoing extradition request from India, where he is accused of fraud.

The flamboyant financier, who co-owns Formula One team Force India, appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court after Indian authorities laid further money laundering charges. Dressed in a blue jacket and black trousers, Mallya spoke only to confirm his name and address and to reject the new extradition request, filed to take into account the latest charges.

He was released on bail immediately after yesterday's arrest, and is due to face a full extradition hearing starting on December 4. Mallya left India in March 2016 owing more than \$1 billion after defaulting on loan payments to state-owned banks and allegedly misusing the funds.

He was originally arrested and bailed in April following an extradition request from India in early February. Indian investigators demanded the 61-year-old be brought home to face fraud charges related to the bank defaults.

Mallya insisted he was innocent and denied fleeing the charges in his homeland, following the legal hearing in London in June. "I deny all allegations that have been made and I will continue to deny them," he said outside court. "I have not eluded any court. If it is my lawful duty to be here, I'm happy to be here," he added. "I've given enough evidence to prove my case."



LONDON: Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya leaves Westminster Magistrates' Court in central London yesterday. — AFP

Known for his lavish lifestyle, Mallya made Kingfisher beer a global brand and ran a now-defunct airline with the same name. Mallya stepped down as the director of the Indian Premier League cricket team Royal Challengers Bangalore last year.

His financial dealings are being investigated by the federal Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement

Directorate, a financial crimes agency. Mallya was once known as the "King of Good Times" but dropped off India's most wealthy list in 2014, engulfed by the massive debts of his grounded carrier Kingfisher Airlines.

He has been living in a sprawling \$15 million (13 million euro) mansion in southeast England but has denied absconding. — AFP

'No miracles': Labor shortage set to hit Russia's GDP

MOSCOW: A dearth of young people joining Russia's workforce because of a low birth rate will shave several percent off potential economic growth in the next five to six years, Economy Minister Maxim Oreshkin said. In an interview at the Reuters Russian Investment summit, he said the labor shortage made it hard for technology companies, among others, to recruit staff they need-hurting a sector the government has identified as vital to reviving economic growth.

Russia's birth rate hit a low in 1999 after living standards fell following the Soviet Union's collapse. The impact is being felt now as people born at that time reach school-leaving age. "In countries with a normal demographic pyramid, a new generation comes in with modern skills and takes up jobs in a modern economy and modern industries, and with their arrival the labor market changes in favor of new sectors," he said. In Russia's case, Oreshkin said, this was not happening. "This is a very serious thing. The process is going to continue

for five to six years," he said. Asked if he could measure the downward effect on growth in Russia's gross domestic product, one of the main gauges of economic health, Oreshkin said: "Compared to the 2000s, it will be several percent." He said that forecasts showed the situation would improve from around 2022. Until then, he said, Russia's only solution was to retrain people now in their 30s, 40s and 50s in the new skills required for a modern economy. "To a large extent economic growth depends on how things proceed with the processes of changing people in these middle generations," Oreshkin said.

He did not spell out any other solutions to the problem. The Russian economy grew annually by nearly 7 percent on average between 2000 and 2008 before the global financial crisis caused a slowdown. A slump in global oil prices and Western sanctions imposed over Russia's role in the Ukraine crisis in 2014 contributed to a new contraction before the economy returned to growth in 2016. The official forecast for GDP growth this year is 2.2 percent.

The finance ministry predicts a 4 percent decline in the



Russia birth rate fell after Soviet Union's demise

working population by 2035. Others forecast even tougher times ahead. The Institute for Social Analysis and Forecasting at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) sees the work force shrinking by about 0.8-0.9 million people a year until 2025. "This will be worsening. There won't be any miracles, you cannot fool demography," said Tatiana Maleva, who heads RANEPA. A RANEPA survey showed Russia's labor force,

which has risen since 1999, stood at 76.3 million people in July 2017, down by 1 million a year earlier.

A decline in immigration and fewer people of retirement age staying in the workforce contributed to the dip, Maleva said. The figures make grim reading for President Vladimir Putin, who warned during the 2012 presidential election campaign that Russia risked turning into an "empty space" whose fate will not be decided by us" if its demographics did not improve. Among companies struggling to find enough young people with the right skills is Angstrom, a group of firms that make components for electronic products. — Reuters

KFH announces winners of Hesabi Draw

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of "Hesabi" for Youth draw. The draw was held under the supervision of Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The winners are Hedaya Farhan and Ahmad Alhajery. KFH awarded each winner with a cash prize of monthly KD 200 for a year. KFH launched this draw in an attempt to reward the youth segment of customers by providing them with programs tailored especially for the youth to suit their lifestyles and meet their expectations. Hesabi program has been designed to meet the needs of youth from 15 to 21 years old and to go in line with their active life style. This program presents for youth many exclusive offers and a wide range of privileges including Hesabi ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue Hesabi prepaid card (as per credit regulations of KFH), distinguished offers and discounts etc.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai. KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.



Business

Global stocks rise as Wall St breaks new records

NEW YORK: US stock indexes ticked higher in early trading yesterday and tacked on a bit more to their records set a day earlier. Trading was again very quiet, with only modest moves for bond yields, commodities and other markets. Stock markets were closed in Germany, China and South Korea for holidays.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index inched up by 1 point to 2,530, as of 9:45 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 28, or 0.1 percent, to 22,588, and the Nasdaq composite rose 10, or 0.2 percent, to 6,529. The Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks inched down by less than a point to 1,509. All four indexes set a record on Monday after a reading on US manufacturing growth hit its highest level in 13 years.

Homebuilder Lennar jumped to one of the biggest gains in the S&P 500 after it reported stronger sales and

earnings for the latest quarter than analysts expected. Interest rates remain relatively low, and the strengthening job market is helping to convince more people to buy homes. Lennar rose \$1.72, or 3.3 percent, to \$54.54.

General Motors and Ford Motor were also among the market's leaders after each reported strong sales growth in the United States for last month. GM climbed \$1.03, or 2.4 percent, to \$43.18, and Ford gained 21 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$12.31.

Tesla fell after the car company said production bottlenecks meant fewer of its Model 3 cars are coming off the line than expected. The production miss in the third quarter raises questions about whether Tesla will be able to meet future targets for its much-anticipated car. Tesla fell \$6.38, or 1.9 percent, to \$335.15.

"The global markets trudge on, searching for opportu-

nities, realizing these tragedies are becoming all too commonplace," said Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trading at OANDA. "And as cynical as that may seem, that is the reality we've come to accept," he said. US manufacturing activity rose to its highest level in 13 years last month, making investors bullish about the country's upcoming third-quarter earnings season. Traders noted that President Donald Trump's market-friendly tax reform proposals, including a plan to cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent, have also buoyed the mood of investors.

US crude slides

Benchmark US crude fell 14 cents to \$50.44 per barrel. That follows a \$1.09-per-barrel slide on Monday as worries mount that the world has more than oil available than

it needs. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, rose 10 cents to \$56.22 a barrel. Bonds prices were mixed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note held steady at 2.34 percent. The two-year yield fell to 1.47 percent from 1.49 percent, and the 30-year yield inched up to 2.88 percent from 2.87 percent.

European stock markets edged higher yesterday, underpinned by a firmer opening on Wall Street, as investors built on the new records reached the previous day, traders said.

After Asian stocks had risen strongly earlier, Europe modestly took up the baton, with London and Paris edging higher, while Frankfurt was shut for a German public holiday. Madrid meanwhile fell, but far less sharply than on Monday in the wake of a police crackdown on a banned Catalonia independence referendum. — Agencies

| Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Tuesday 03 October 2017 | | | | | | | | | |
| Index | Change | Closing | Last Closing | | | | | | |
| Price Index | ▼ -0.71 | 6,664.82 | 6,674.53 | | | | | | |
| Weighted Index | ▲ 1.81 | 436.86 | 435.05 | | | | | | |
| KSX 15 | ▲ 4.38 | 1,021.31 | 1,016.93 | | | | | | |
| Trades | | | | | | | | | |
| Security | High | Low | Volume | Value (KD) | Trades | Last | Change | | |
| IPG | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 345 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| NAPESCO | 823 | 823 | 795 | 648 | 1 | 823 | ▲ 2.0 | | |
| ENERGYH | 36.0 | 35.0 | 2,210 | 78 | 5 | 36.0 | ▲ 0.1 | | |
| GPI | 37.4 | 37.1 | 1,674,243 | 62,315 | 55 | 37.1 | ▼ -0.4 | | |
| ABAR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| Oil & Gas | | | 1,677,238 | 63,038 | 61 | 996.47 | ▼ -0.30 | | |
| KFOUC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| BPCC | 874 | 870 | 223,380 | 149,955 | 19 | 874 | ▼ -0.0 | | |
| ALKOUT | 620 | 615 | 7,190 | 4,436 | 2 | 620 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| ALGURAN | 338 | 337 | 80,365 | 20,399 | 16 | 338 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| Basic Materials | | | 290,905 | 174,790 | 37 | 1322.21 | ▼ -0.10 | | |
| KCEM | 459 | 455 | 30,000 | 13,750 | 3 | 459 | ▲ 19.0 | | |
| CABLE | 520 | 517 | 25,001 | 12,956 | 5 | 520 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| SHIP | 217 | 215 | 123,020 | 26,578 | 10 | 215 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| PCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 996 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| PAPER | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 280 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| MRC | 110 | 100 | 101 | 10 | 2 | 110 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| ADICO | 268 | 268 | 5,000 | 1,340 | 1 | 268 | ▼ -2.0 | | |
| HCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 190 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| NICBM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 175 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| EQUIPMENT | 46.9 | 46.0 | 37,700 | 1,737 | 7 | 46.0 | ▼ -1.0 | | |
| NCCI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| GYPSUM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 95 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| SALBOOKH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| ADITY | 914 | 908 | 413,528 | 375,745 | 43 | 914 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| EDU | 310 | 309 | 28,517 | 8,828 | 5 | 309 | ▼ -1.0 | | |
| CLEANING | 52 | 52 | 80,000 | 4,152 | 2 | 52 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| KIL | 63 | 61 | 300,600 | 24,184 | 12 | 62 | ▼ -1.0 | | |
| KPCP | 160 | 160 | 1,000 | 160 | 1 | 160 | ▼ -5.0 | | |
| HUMANSOFT | 4,080 | 4,035 | 93,339 | 378,620 | 23 | 4,080 | ▲ 30.0 | | |
| NAFAIS | 494 | 330 | 191 | 94 | 3 | 330 | ▼ -82.0 | | |
| GFC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| SHOOTING | 25.7 | 25.6 | 3,110 | 80 | 2 | 25.6 | ▼ -0.1 | | |
| COCC | 522 | 506 | 99,991 | 50,464 | 26 | 510 | ▼ -13.0 | | |
| MTCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| UPAC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 680 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| ALAFCO | 362 | 360 | 98,881 | 24,149 | 9 | 362 | ▲ 1.0 | | |
| MUBARRAD | 74 | 74 | 95,528 | 4,843 | 7 | 74 | ▲ 0.2 | | |
| LOGISTICS | 55 | 53 | 8,021,821 | 433,896 | 247 | 55 | ▲ 2.3 | | |
| SCEM | 83 | 83 | 1,000 | 83 | 1 | 83 | ▼ -2.0 | | |
| OCEM | 82 | 80 | 118,097 | 9,495 | 5 | 82 | ▲ 1.4 | | |
| QIC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 99 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| KFCM | 77 | 75 | 135,635 | 10,187 | 6 | 75 | ▼ -2.6 | | |
| RYWJ | 83 | 83 | 8,281 | 685 | 2 | 83 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| SPEC | 94 | 88 | 1,024,200 | 91,890 | 30 | 89 | ▼ -5.4 | | |
| Industrials | | | 10,771,641 | 1,473,964 | 463 | 1744.70 | ▼ -26.90 | | |
| PAPCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| CATTL | 270 | 265 | 11,000 | 2,947 | 2 | 265 | ▼ -5.0 | | |
| DANAH | 71 | 70 | 80,000 | 4,217 | 6 | 71 | ▲ 0.5 | | |
| FOOD | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,980 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| Consumer Goods | | | 71,600 | 7,143 | 8 | 1023.54 | ▼ -12.10 | | |
| ATC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,100 | ▼ 0 | | |
| YIACO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 175 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| Health Care | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | ▼ 0.00 | | |
| KCIN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,340 | ▼ 0 | | |
| KHOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 290 | ▼ 0 | | |
| SULTAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87 | ▼ 0 | | |
| CABLETV | 26.0 | 26.0 | 4,610 | 120 | 1 | 26.0 | ▲ 1 | | |
| IFAHR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 280 | ▼ 0 | | |
| OUAFUEL | 122 | 120 | 164,218 | 19,771 | 28 | 122 | ▼ 0 | | |
| MUNTAZHAT | 83 | 83 | 133 | 11 | 1 | 83 | ▼ 0 | | |
| JAZEERA | 579 | 565 | 14,796 | 8,439 | 4 | 579 | ▼ -1 | | |
| SOOR | 121 | 120 | 90,299 | 8,031 | 15 | 121 | ▲ 1 | | |
| FUTUREKID | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 123 | ▼ 0 | | |
| ALRAI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 125 | ▼ 0 | | |
| Jayd | 46.7 | 46.7 | 1,000 | 47 | 1 | 46.7 | ▼ -3 | | |
| Mazzan | 820 | 793 | 461,352 | 370,940 | 31 | 800 | ▼ -30 | | |
| Consumer Services | | | 696,368 | 405,359 | 81 | 932.72 | ▼ -2.30 | | |
| ZAIN | 521 | 515 | 8,530,135 | 4,422,505 | 355 | 519 | ▲ 4 | | |
| OREDOO | 1,190 | 1,190 | 1,522 | 1,811 | 3 | 1,190 | ▼ 0 | | |
| AAN | 37.0 | 35.9 | 2,394,287 | 86,770 | 86 | 36.8 | ▼ -3 | | |
| VIVA | 806 | 801 | 41,450 | 33,252 | 36 | 806 | ▼ 0 | | |
| Telecommunications | | | 10,967,384 | 4,544,338 | 485 | 612.83 | ▼ -2.90 | | |
| NBK | 790 | 785 | 2,633,767 | 2,071,974 | 162 | 788 | ▲ 3 | | |
| GBK | 250 | 246 | 21,952,489 | 5,462,964 | 240 | 249 | ▲ 4 | | |
| CBK | 400 | 400 | 103,395 | 41,358 | 2 | 400 | ▲ 7 | | |
| ABK | 310 | 308 | 533,472 | 195,409 | 22 | 309 | ▼ 0 | | |
| ALMUTAHED | 419 | 416 | 95,339 | 27,368 | 6 | 417 | ▼ -2 | | |
| KIB | 351 | 349 | 1,471,167 | 368,408 | 48 | 351 | ▲ 1 | | |
| BURG | 263 | 266 | 1,039,653 | 374,773 | 78 | 261 | ▲ 2 | | |
| KFIN | 620 | 615 | 6,529,868 | 4,037,379 | 309 | 619 | ▲ 4 | | |
| BOUBAYAN | 452 | 449 | 490,216 | 220,815 | 41 | 452 | ▼ -1 | | |
| AUB | 214 | 212 | 6,163,100 | 1,308,490 | 177 | 213 | ▼ 0 | | |
| ITHMR | 38.5 | 37.1 | 1,442,276 | 54,359 | 64 | 37.1 | ▼ -1 | | |
| WARBABANK | 252 | 248 | 641,462 | 160,468 | 104 | 251 | ▲ 2 | | |
| Banks | | | 43,166,204 | 14,321,565 | 1,303 | 967.67 | ▲ 1.50 | | |
| KINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 278 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| GINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 800 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| AINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 425 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| WINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| KUWAITRE | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 187 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| FTI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 89 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| WETHAQ | 47.0 | 47.0 | 500 | 24 | 1 | 47.0 | ▲ 4.0 | | |
| BKQWT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 365 | ▼ 0.0 | | |
| Insurance | | | 900 | 24 | 1 | 1131.81 | ▲ 15.00 | | |

| National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------|--------|---------------------|----------------------|--------|--|--|--|
| At 02:00 PM Previous Day | | | | | | | | | |
| Global Stock Indices | | | | | | | | | |
| Index | Previous Close | Last Price | Change | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % | | | | |
| Dow Jones | 22,405.09 | 22,557.60 | 152.51 | ▲ | 0.68 | 14.14 | | | |
| NASDAQ | 6,495.96 | 6,516.72 | 20.76 | ▲ | 0.32 | 21.06 | | | |
| S&P 500 | 2,519.36 | 2,529.12 | 9.76 | ▲ | 0.39 | 12.92 | | | |
| Financial Times | 7,438.84 | 7,448.87 | 10.03 | ▲ | 0.13 | 4.28 | | | |
| DAX | 12,828.86 | 12,902.65 | 73.79 | ▲ | 0.58 | 12.38 | | | |
| CAC 40 | 5,350.44 | 5,361.27 | 10.83 | ▲ | 0.20 | 10.26 | | | |
| Swiss | 9,242.15 | 9,251.87 | 9.72 | ▲ | 0.11 | 12.55 | | | |
| Nikkei 225 | 20,400.78 | 20,614.07 | 213.29 | ▲ | 1.05 | 7.85 | | | |
| Topix | 1,673.62 | 1,684.46 | 10.84 | ▲ | 0.65 | 10.92 | | | |
| Hang Seng | 27,554.30 | 28,173.21 | 618.91 | ▲ | 2.25 | 28.06 | | | |
| Straits Times | 3,262.10 | 3,246.08 | -16.02 | ▼ | -0.49 | 12.68 | | | |
| MENA Stock Indices | | | | | | | | | |
| Index | Previous Close | Last Price | Change | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % | | | | |
| Kuwait | 6,674.53 | 6,664.82 | -9.71 | ▼ | -0.15 | 13.88 | | | |
| Saudi Arabia | 7,224.10 | 7,249.93 | 25.83 | ▲ | 0.36 | 0.19 | | | |
| Dubai | 3,561.20 | 3,570.20 | 9.00 | ▲ | 0.25 | 0.86 | | | |
| Abu Dhabi | 4,427.34 | 4,441.13 | 13.79 | ▲ | 0.31 | -2.62 | | | |
| Bahrain | 1,283.46 | 1,278.07 | -5.39 | ▼ | -0.42 | 5.16 | | | |
| Qatar | 8,301.79 | 8,284.68 | -17.11 | ▼ | -0.21 | -20.46 | | | |
| Oman | 5,1 | | | | | | | | |

Business

Malabar Gold & Diamonds to open 3 outlets on October 5 in Kuwait, Dubai

Jewelry retailer's 190th showroom globally at Al-Salam Mall, Salmiya

KUWAIT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 jewelry retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 185 retail outlets spread across nine countries is launching three new stores on 5th October 2017 (tomorrow). The brand is extending its presence in Kuwait by opening a new showroom in Al-Salam Mall, Salmiya on tomorrow at 6 pm. Having 6 outlets spread across Kuwait, this is Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 7th outlet in Kuwait. By opening the new showroom in Al-Salam Mall, Salmiya, the total number of showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds will jump



Special inaugural offers - win 100 kilos of gold

to 190 globally. Malabar Gold & Diamonds is also opening two showrooms on the same day in Dubai. Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan will inaugurate the new showrooms. This new outlet unveils a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewelry. The exquisite range of collections in the new outlet can hold you spell-bound with their awe-inspiring beauty and classic designs. Like all their other outlets, this outlet also will exhibit a wide range of diverse and trendy designs in gold (18K, 22K & 24K), IGI certified

diamonds and precious gem jewelry from Italy, Singapore, Bahrain and India. New store will participate in the biggest offer in the market which was recently announced by Malabar Gold & Diamonds which is giving an opportunity to win 100 kilos of gold. With every purchase of gold & diamond jewelry worth KD 40, customers get a chance to enter raffle draws to win 1/4 (Quarter) kg gold each in 6 raffle draws. Adding to the above, customers also get two gram gold coin on diamond jewelry purchase of KD 400 and a one gram gold coin on purchase of diamond jewelry worth KD 250. Not only that, customers can protect the gold rate at Malabar Gold & Diamonds by paying 10 percent of the entire amount on the selected gold jewelry until 17th Oct 2017. A true shopper's delight, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled a huge collection of jewelry in gold, diamonds and precious gems from



different parts of the world to enthrall the jewelry lovers. Malabar Group has established its presence in the Kuwait market in a surprisingly short span of time. The group strives to continue embarking on its journey by further expanding in the near future. In Kuwait, Malabar Gold & Diamonds operates in Al-Rai - Lulu Hypermarket, Souk Al-Watya - Maliya, Dajej - Lulu Hypermarket, Fahaheel, Hawally - Grand Hypermarket & Mahboula.

VIVA announces big prize winner of \$30,000 in 9th and final week draw

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the winner of the big prize for September 2017, in addition to the daily prize's winners in 9th and final week of the all new "allo" draw for its prepaid customers. Ruby Jairan Tatlonghari won the big monthly prize of \$30,000 for September 2017. As for the winners of the \$1,500 daily prize, their names were as follows: Fatima Mohammed Ali, Ahmad Majeed Abbas Dashti, Redha Mohammad Ali Abd Al-Hussain, Eloisa Oablo Leabres. Winners will be announced throughout the campaign with a grand total of almost \$150,000 to give

away! VIVA customers can enjoy this wonderful opportunity to win amazing cash prizes of \$1,500 daily and \$30,000 monthly, throughout the campaign by simply buying a new "allo" line or recharging their current line through Direct Debit, VIVA website, VIVA's Kiosks, VIVA App or by calling 102. Every KD 1 spent, earns VIVA customers 10 chances to win, increasing their winning chances the more they spend. VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer-centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions: a state-of-the-art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.

Gulf Bank offers its credit cardholders instant discounts at Slim Chickens Restaurant

KUWAIT: As part of its Dining Program, launched in July 2017, Gulf Bank announced in cooperation with Slim Chickens restaurant, to offer its credit cardholders an opportunity to enjoy instant 15 percent discounts, when purchasing at Slim Chickens restaurant using their Gulf Bank's credit cards. Gulf Bank customers can enjoy various discounts and privileges at reputable and renowned restaur-



ants and coffee shops in Kuwait through Gulf Bank's Dining Program, all Gulf Bank's credit cardholders will get up to 20 percent instant discounts at over 300 of your favorite restaurants in Kuwait. Gulf Bank is committed to providing customers with exceptional value and exciting offers that meet their needs, in addition to presenting them with one of the widest selections of financial products and banking services currently available in Kuwait.

Nikon 100th anniversary

NEW Nikon D850™

opens up a world of limitless creative imaging possibilities

HIGHER RESOLUTION. FASTER SPEED. GREATER VERSATILITY.

The latest FX-format camera by Nikon promises unrivalled versatility by combining high speed and high resolution capabilities in one superior imaging tool that switches seamlessly between first-class photos and 4K videos

Primary Features

1. An effective pixel count of 45.7 megapixels and a new back-side illumination Nikon FX-format CMOS sensor.
2. High-speed continuous shooting at approximately 7 fps/9 fps captures motion
3. Silent photography eliminates the sound of shutter release and mechanical vibrations with capture of 45-MP images
4. Nikon's first digital SLR camera to support full-frame 4K UHD (3840 x 2160) movie recording
5. 5.8K time-lapse video creation that makes the most of interval timer photography

Other Features

- Equipped with a 180K-pixel RGB sensor that greatly increases the precision and accuracy of automatically controlled functions, such as autofocus (AF), auto exposure (AE), and auto white balance (AWB)
- Auto Picture Control, with which the camera automatically fine-tunes images in accordance with the scene
- The new natural light auto white balance option that achieves more accurate color reproduction for a variety of scenes captured under natural lighting
- RAW image size can be selected from large, medium, and small*1 depending upon how images will be used
- A magnification of approximately 0.75x that enables a broad view has been achieved for the optical viewfinder
- The convenient 8-cm/3.2-in., approximately 2359k-dot, tilting TFT touch-sensitive LCD monitor
- A power-saving design that enables capture of approximately 1,840 shots or approximately 70 minutes of movie recording on a single charge
- A focus shift function that makes it easy to acquire the materials (shots) needed for the technique known as focus stacking*4, used to increase depth of field
- A negative digitizer that makes it easy to convert color or black-and-white film negatives to digital data (JPEG)*5
- Support for radio-controlled Advanced Wireless Lighting, which increases the flexibility of multi-flash photography

Kuwait: Professional photographers and serious hobbyists alike will be able to expand their photographic expressions with the latest release of the D850 announced by Nikon Middle East FZE. A highly anticipated successor to the widely popular FX-format D810 released in 2014, the latest addition to Nikon's FX-format DSLR range is engineered with advanced features that deliver versatility and uncompromised performance across stills and video shooting, geared towards the growing segment of hybrid photographers in wedding photography, and also of those in the genres of nature, events, and fashion.

"Technology has transformed content creation today - and Nikon's innovation in evolving our imaging technologies and product range, combined with our heritage of skills and knowledge, has allowed us to offer the photography community more options with stronger performance and superior quality that we are trusted for," says Narendra Menon, Managing Director, Nikon Middle East FZE.

"The D850 offers impressive capabilities with a powerful synthesis of high resolution and high speed from the EXPEED 5 image-processing engine and CMOS sensor, silent photography in both photo and video modes, and a wider viewfinder, giving modern storytellers more versatility. Engineered with this line-up of features and performance enhancements to our FX-format range, this camera truly is a showcase of our dedication to delivering superior photo and video imaging quality that caters to our diverse range of photographers."

This camera delivers both speed and resolution, the key features sought after by the professionals

and creative storytellers. It is equipped with a powerful 45.7-megapixel CMOS sensor that guarantees an unmatched balance of high-speed and exceptional resolution when combined with up to 9-fps/1 continuous shooting mode backed by its EXPEED 5 image-processing engine.

Thanks to a remarkable dynamic range of native ISO 64 to 25600 and an extended low metering limit, auto exposure (AE) shooting is enabled in low-light and a variety of situations. Further complemented by NIKKOR's extensive selection of high-performance interchangeable lenses, be it from the latest AF-S NIKKOR 105mm f/1.4E ED, or the AF-S NIKKOR 14-24mm f/2.8G ED for wide-angle landscapes, or the AF-S NIKKOR 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, photographers are now equipped with the perfect combination of tools to capture crucial moments of subjects in weddings, fashion, nature, events and commercial shoots. Immense flexibility in the selection of RAW size options can also be tailored accordingly to the needs of the user.

Built for hybrid photographers and multimedia creators, the D850 packs superior full-frame 4K UHD video capabilities, 4x and 5x slow-motion videos² in Full HD, and 8K time-lapse movie production³ using interval timer photography. A dedicated movie menu allows fuss-free switching between movie and still functions to enhance efficiency, so photographers and creators will be able to easily select the best visual format to express their creativity. Movies can be recorded in both FX-based and DX-based movie formats, and the option to further make use of wide-angle and fisheye lenses to inspire greater creative expression.

FASHION

COMMERCIAL SPORTS

NATURE

WEDDING

*All photos taken by Nikon D850

Technology

Honeywell hosts oil & gas industry leaders to support Kuwait's vision

Tech summit discusses future direction of oil industry

By Ben Garcia & Agencies

KUWAIT: Honeywell Technology convened a two-day Technology Summit yesterday for Kuwait's oil and gas industry leaders. The summit discussed the future direction of the industry, in support of the country's long-term vision to become a global hub for oil, gas and petrochemicals industry. The event, held under the patronage of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), was attended by more than 300 industry representatives from major local organizations such as Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries Company, EQUATE Petrochemical Company and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

In addition to the distinguished industry guests, the event also welcomed Patricia L. Fietz, Charge d'affaires, US Embassy, State of Kuwait, Fahad Al-Humaidy Al-Daihany, Deputy CEO of Mina Ahmadi Refinery from KNPC commented, "As we work towards our national goals and visions, it is critical that we implement the latest solutions that will help drive growth and achieve greater results. We believe events like these help shape new

Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) or the technology that enable systems to be connected to most of the devices may it be mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction.

IIoT is about connecting assets in a plant, connecting processes and people; it's a core multiplier to help our customers. This is for the industry to help them do their jobs, for example we are doing this in the oil and gas in North of Kuwait for production efficiency. In the coming year or so, it will be adopted on a faster pace. The timing for this year's summit is crucial because it can really help in many ways. Kuwait's plan is to expand the production up to 4 million barrel per day, the challenge is to manage these facilities, and the technological advancement happening on global level is crucial.

"It is a good thing that they are adopting the technology locally. We have projects today, you have thousands of people working there, the people are operating it, how do you ensure that you have the people ready to operate and what the technology can bring you today to enable a productive, safe, complaint operations of these facilities: the tools we are operating now are exhibited in the venue: these are the tools that can support the operation across the board and these are the technology we offer. The Honeywell Company is helping industries to jump to the next level and make it more connected and business oriented to improve business operations," Bou Mitri said.

According to Ujwal Kumar, Honeywell Vice President Global Sales, Kuwait is one of the key growth platforms for Honeywell. "We expect our Kuwaiti customers to invest in digitalization, new service models and we are very excited about the summit. Here we can bring in technology ideas around the globe, share and brainstorm with the leaders, operators and the technical people," he said.

Weather technology

On the issue of whether technology is reducing the use of manpower in a workplace, Kumar said it hasn't. "Technology is helping people get more (production wise) in many ways: it is leveraging the technology to support people by working in a safer environment," Kumar noted. "We are helping Kuwait towards the 2030 vision. We need more people to get ready for the growth," he added.

Honeywell also supports people in developing skills through continues training sessions and workshops to be able to cope up with the fast changing tech-savvy environment. "We still have the traditional way of sending people to places, like London, so as to acquire knowledge and improve their skills and efficiencies, but on other hand we have digital tools or competency management tools to help them: we have that available in hand," he added.

The drive towards digitization in Kuwait forms part of a wider Middle East picture, where digital markets are expanding at an overall compound annual growth rate of 12 percent. It is estimated that digitization could add as much as \$ 820 billion to regional GDP



KUWAIT: Awarding the sponsors during Honeywell Technology Summit.



KUWAIT: George Bou Mitri, Honeywell President (right) and Ujwal Kumar, Vice President Global Sales talking with Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: Honeywell Technology Summit being inaugurated

by 2020. Studies also show that the adoption of digital solutions within the energy sector is increasing as IT spending within the Middle East oil and gas industry grew to around \$1.66 billion last year.

"Kuwait has ambitious plan: Honeywell is here to support them with regards to aligning with Kuwait growth. We are very much committed to sharing them through people and developing local people's competency and skills. They will invest in new areas and we are committed to bringing them new technologies that can help in the new era of technology, we are bringing a new generation of growth through digital tools, we have the solid foundation in gathering data's and analyzing them in the most secure and safest way, we think that cyber security is an integral part of new age era and we are bringing it to them," he reiterated.

"We have invested a lot in people and technology: in the R & D department, we have spent millions of dollars to help them," Kumar said. Honeywell has a long history of supporting Kuwait's industries - including

petrochemicals - through leading-edge technologies, efficient business solutions, local training, and research and development initiatives. Over the last 50 years, Honeywell has delivered more than 2,000 projects for more than 165 customers in Kuwait and is currently involved in supporting the development of several of the country's hospitals, airports, refineries, hotels, and education institutes.

Secure solutions

At the event, Honeywell showcased a complete set of secure, IIoT-ready solutions across all elements of the industrial internet. Along with the Connected Plant technologies, the technology summit presented the latest innovations for the oil and gas industry including: Process Reliability Advisor is part of Honeywell Connected Plant and uses Honeywell UOP process models for ongoing monitoring, early event detection and mitigation of performance issues before they become costly. Maintenance Training Simulator is a hands-on demonstration of the next generation of mixed reality worker training, which can enhance skills and reduce classroom time.

Enterprise ICS Cyber Security Solution combines the ICS Shield™ platform with Risk Manager and other Honeywell cyber security technologies to provide multi-vendor, multi-site cyber security that's scalable to meet customer needs. Safety Manager SC provides an "out of the box" SIL certified safety platform that can be easily configured to meet SIL2 and SIL3 applications across the plant ranging from small packaged systems to large distributed architectures.

Experion Local Control Network (LCN) enables customers to use their TPS/TDC investment as the foundation for incremental process automation upgrades for a secure, seamless integration with Experion PKS. ControlEdge PLC, when combined with Experion, dramatically reduces integration costs for ancillary plant operations, minimizes downtime through unified support, decreases risk with embedded cyber security, and lowers total cost of ownership through extended system lifecycle.

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Huawei to address the future of digital transformation in region

DUBAI: The leading global ICT solution provider Huawei is hosting its second annual Innovation Day, with the theme "Exploration, Lights the Way Forward". Scheduled to take place on the first day of GITEX 2017 at Sheikh Maktoum Hall, DWTC, "Huawei ME Innovation Day" will explore the role of ICT innovations in driving digital transformation and building sustainable knowledge-based economies in the Middle East.

Huawei ME Innovation Day is part of a global initiative to address pioneering issues in the world of ICT. The Middle East version aims to create an industry communications platform, accelerate the digitization process and position the Middle East as leading hub of global innovation.

This year's Innovation Day theme, "Exploration, Lights the Way Forward", highlights the Middle East's rich heritage of innovation, openness and perseverance, values also embraced by Huawei. These shared values are at the heart of the event, and embodies the spirit of partnership Huawei brings to its operations in the region.

Huawei will use the event to encourage an open conversation on the ways in which ICT innovation will shape key sectors and assist countries in achieving their national vision goals. It will also serve as a platform to explore the current and future challenges key sectors face in their pursuit of digital transformation. The agenda falls in line with Huawei's regional vision of

developing sustainable, smart cities through cutting edge technology and strategic partnerships.

As part of the event, Huawei will launch a white paper entitled "Investing in ICT will improve Government KPI's across Economic, Social and Sustainability domains", which studies the impact of digital technologies on the transfor-



2nd 'Huawei Middle East Innovation Day'

mation of economies in the Middle East. The study, developed in collaboration between Huawei and a leading global business consultancy, explores a number of relevant themes, ranging from smart government to mobility, assessing the degree of digital maturity of governments in the region against international best practices. It will also provide a view towards the future, identifying key opportunities for public sector digital development throughout the Middle East.

Way forward

The event will address key topics such as tech's growing ability to drive industries for-

ward, the role of governments in encouraging ICT innovation and meeting the KPI's of national vision agendas, and how vertical industries in the Middle East can take advantage of new technologies. There will also be a keynote speech by Ugo Valenti, CEO of the Barcelona Smart City World EXPO.

The event will include a panel discussion comprised of leaders from a variety of relevant sectors such as education, telecommunications, banking and finance, set to deep-dive into the role of ICT in business development, achieving commercial growth, and innovation's impact on accelerating economies and driving government agendas. "The Middle East is a historic center of exploration and innovation, from the invention of algebra to the creation of the first university. We are now seeing an era where the region is reclaiming leadership in these areas, as pioneers of the digital transformation," said Charles Yang, President, Huawei Middle East.

"We at Huawei are eager to assist our partners in the region in realizing this transformation, meeting their national visions through smart initiatives, the building of knowledge economies and the expansion of the Middle East's digital ecosystem," he continued. "Huawei continues to view the Middle East as a key market where we contribute to the development of the ICT sector through transforming industries, improving efficiencies, and revolutionizing the way in which people here live their everyday lives.

At Innovation Day this year, we will explore these advances as enablers of exploration and innovation for the future." Huawei ME Innovation Day is expecting several hundred attendees, including UAE government officials, key Huawei channel partners, industry opinion leaders and influencers, and selected students from Huawei's Seeds for the Future CSR program.

European court asked to rule on Facebook data transfers

LONDON: The European Court of Justice has been asked to consider whether Facebook's Dublin-based subsidiary can legally transfer users' personal data to its US parent, after Ireland's top court said yesterday that there are "well-founded concerns" the practice violates European law.

In a case brought after former US defense contractor Edward Snowden revealed the extent of electronic surveillance by American security agencies, the court found that Facebook's transfers may compromise the data of European citizens.

The case has far-reaching implications for social media companies and others who move large amounts of data via the internet. Facebook's European subsidiary regularly does so.

Ireland's data commissioner had already issued a preliminary decision that such transfers may be illegal because agreements between Facebook and its Irish subsidiary don't adequately protect the privacy of European citizens. The commissioner asked the High Court to refer this finding to the European Court of Justice because the data sharing agreements had been approved by the European Union's executive Commission. Ireland's data commissioner "has raised well-founded concerns that there is an absence of an effective remedy in US law for a EU citizen whose data are transferred to the US where they may be at risk of being accessed and processed by US state agencies for national



DUBLIN: Max Schrems faces the media after leaving the High Court in Dublin, Ireland, yesterday. — AP

security purposes in a manner incompatible" with the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights, the High Court said yesterday. Austrian privacy campaigner Maximilian Schrems, who has a Facebook account, challenged this practice through the Irish courts because of concerns that his data was being illegally accessed by US security agencies.

In an earlier ruling in the case, the European Court of Justice found that the so-called Safe Harbor regime, which Facebook previously relied on when transferring data to the US, violated EU law because it didn't provide effective legal remedies. The Safe Harbor regime had been established in 2000 by the EU executive Commission, which found that US data protection laws were adequate to protect the rights of EU citizens. The Irish Data Commissioner decided to seek judicial review of standard contractual clauses in part because of "the very significant commercial implications arising from the value of data exchanges to EU-US trading relationships."

The US government and three other parties were allowed to file friend of the court briefs in the case. — AP

Health

US trio wins Nobel Physics Prize for spotting wrinkles in cosmos

‘It is already promising a revolution in astrophysics’

STOCKHOLM: US astrophysicists Barry Barish, Kip Thorne and Rainer Weiss were awarded the Nobel Physics Prize yesterday for the discovery of gravitational waves, offering a sneak peak at the Universe's very beginnings. Predicted by Albert Einstein a century ago as part of his theory of general relativity, gravitational waves are "ripples" in space-time—the theoretical fabric of the cosmos. They are the aftermath of violent galactic events, such as colliding black holes or imploding massive stars, and can reveal events that took place billions of years ago.



Historic culmination of decades of research hailed



A combo made of file photos shows (L to R) Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish and Kip Thorne, who won the Nobel Physics Prize 2017. — AFP

The first detection of gravitational waves happened in September 2015 at the US-based Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO), where the three Nobel laureates worked. "Their discovery shook the world," said Goran K Hansson, the head of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences which selects the Nobel laureates. Announced in February 2016 to great excitement in the scientific community, the discovery was hailed as the historic culmination of decades of research. It has clinched numerous astrophysics prizes.

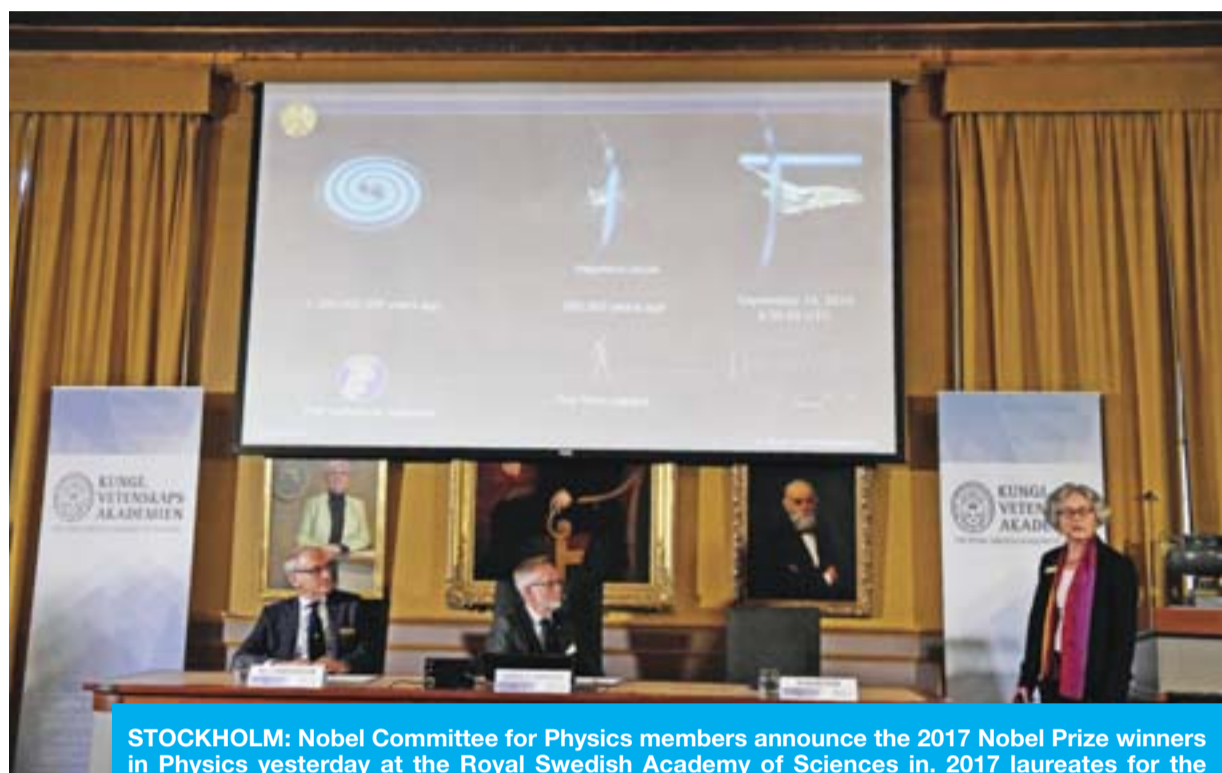
In 1984, Thorne, now 77, and Weiss, 85, co-created LIGO at the prestigious California Institute of Technology, which has taken home 18 Nobels since the prizes were first awarded in 1901. Barish, 81, joined the project in 1994 and helped bring it to completion. LIGO is now a collaboration between more than 1,000

researchers from 20 countries. The 2015 observation was of two black holes smashing into each other some 1.3 billion light-years away.

"Although the signal was extremely weak when it reached Earth, it is already promising a revolution in astrophysics," the Nobel academy said. "Gravitational waves are an entirely new way of following the most violent events in space and testing the limits of our knowledge." Gravitational waves are minuscule, and near-undetectable because they interact very weakly with matter and travel through the Universe at the speed of light unimpeded. The ripples emitted by a pair of merging black holes, for example, would stretch a one-million-kilometer ruler on Earth by less than the size of an atom. Since 2015, the enigmatic ripples have been detected three more times: Twice by LIGO and once by the Virgo detector located at the European Gravitational Observatory (EGO) in Cascina, Italy. "Einstein was convinced it would never be possible to measure them," the jury said. "The LIGO project's achievement was using a pair of gigantic laser interferometers to measure a change thousands of times smaller than an atomic nucleus, as the gravitational wave passed the Earth."

'Universe full of music'

Black holes emit no light, and can only be observed through gravitational waves that occur when they collide and violently merge—offering scientists a means of study-



STOCKHOLM: Nobel Committee for Physics members announce the 2017 Nobel Prize winners in Physics yesterday at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in. 2017 laureates for the Nobel Prize in Physics are: Rainer Weiss, Barry C Barish and Kip S Thorne. — AFP

ing them. "If we could hear all the waves and not only the strongest ones, the entire universe would be full of music, like birds chirping in a forest, with a louder tone here and a quieter one there," the academy said.

Weiss was awarded half the prize, which comes with nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.1 million or 940,000 euros), while Barish and Thorne shared the rest. "It's really wonderful. I view this more as a thing that recognizes the work of about a thousand people," Weiss said shortly after the announcement. "It took us a long time... two months... to convince ourselves that we had seen

(something) that came from the outside and was truly a gravitational wave."

Thorne said he had expected the discovery to be honored with a Nobel one day. "I didn't hope it would go to me personally, I hoped it would actually go to the entire collaboration ... which designed, built, and perfected the gravitational waves detector which made the discovery," he said. Caroline Crawford, an astronomer at Cambridge University, told AFP the discovery "holds the potential for a completely new way of observing parts of the cosmos, the parts... completely obscured from our view." — AFP

First global pact backing indigenous land rights launched

STOCKHOLM: Native peoples struggling to retain or regain stewardship of forests that sustained them for countless generations may finally have backing from an organization with both sway and money. The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility—the first and only global institution dedicated to securing the land rights of indigenous communities worldwide—was formally launched in Stockholm yesterday.

Funded by Sweden, Norway and the Ford Foundation, a major US philanthropy, the Tenure Facility has already provided grants and guidance for pilot projects in Peru, Mali, and Indonesia, helping local communities leverage rarely enforced laws to protect their land and resources. Disputes over land rights in tropical forests teeming with exploitable resources—from hard woods to precious stones to oil—can quickly escalate into deadly conflict, and local peoples more often than not wind up on the losing end.

More than 200 environmental campaigners, nearly half from indigenous tribes, were murdered around the world

in 2016 alone, according to watchdog NGO Global Witness. Restoring some measure of control to the original inhabitants of forests appropriated by corrupt governments or extraction industries has also proven an effective bulkhead against global warming, according to a 2014 global survey by the US-based World Resources Institute, a think tank. In Brazil, for example, deforestation in indigenous community forests from 2000 to 2012 was less than 1 percent, compared with 7 percent outside those areas.

'Unrelenting conflicts'

Tropical vegetation soaks up planet-warming CO2 emitted by the burning of fossil fuels. Destroying these forests outright not only reduces the area available to absorb carbon dioxide, it also releases CO2 into the atmosphere, accounting in recent decades—along with agriculture and livestock—for more than a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions.

"We see climate change and inequality as two of the greatest existential threats facing the planet," said Ford Foundation president Darren Walker. "Creating mechanisms that allow indigenous peoples and local communities to gain tenure over their land or forests is a way to tackle both these problems," he told AFP ahead of a conference keyed to the launch.

Walker has pledged five million dollars, and expects—based on other grants in the pipeline—the facility to have 100 million within a year. The project aims over the span of

a decade to boost forestland properly titled to indigenous peoples by 40 million hectares, an area twice the size of Spain. Such efforts, they calculate, would prevent deforestation of one million hectares and the release of 500 million tons of CO2, more than the annual emissions of Britain or Brazil. "The Tenure Facility provides a powerful solution to save the world's forests from the ground up," said Carin Jamtin, director general of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, a key funder.

Corruption and abuses

More than two billion people live on and manage half the world's land area in customary or traditional systems, yet indigenous communities have formal legal ownership of only 10 percent. And even where they do have title, corruption and abuses have led to protracted conflicts with local and national governments, companies and migrant workers. Native populations can even run afoul of major green initiatives to fight climate change or stem biodiversity loss. A controversial UN-backed program, for example, known as REDD+ — Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation—creates incentives to keep forests intact, paid for by rich nations or companies seeking to offset pollution under carbon trading schemes. But the projects that REDD+ finances can push aside the needs and rights of indigenous peoples who are often most directly affected by the changes set in motion, critics say. A peer-reviewed 2013 study—one of the few to exam-



RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian indigenous people stage a protest against a government oil fields auction, outside a hotel in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP

ine the impacts on local communities—concluded that less than half of 50-odd projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia did anything to alleviate the poverty of forest-dependent peoples. But many did enhance their land tenure rights, they concluded. — AFP

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What's On

LOYAC concludes art classes for Syrian refugee children

Bringing a smile to children's faces



LOYAC recently concluded the first drama, art and music classes held for Syrian refugee children at the Fa'our Refugees Camp at the Syrian-Lebanese borders. The classes were hosted for the first time and lasted for three months.

A special ceremony was held on the occasion and was attended by LOYAC's Chairperson Fare'a Al-Saqqaf and veteran Kuwaiti actress Soud Abdullah in addition to over twenty of LOYAC's young volunteers.

The ceremony also included some acts, scenes and famous songs performed by children in addition to an art gallery showing children's drawings done under the supervision of art teachers Ahmad, Carol and Marwa.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah said that she was glad to take part in such a humane activity that helped bring a smile to those children's faces. She also noted that she strongly believes that voluntary work enhances human values through art, the way LOYAC does.

Meanwhile, Saqqaf said that LOYAC teams had been working with the children for months to provide some education and primary services they needed so that they can get over some of their sufferings because of war. "We are looking forward to opening two more classes to teach the children how to write and read in addition to some math," she added.



ILOA receives 'Excellence in Quality' award

Indian Learners Own Academy (ILOA) bagged the 'Excellence in Quality' Award at the International Conference held in Lucerne, Switzerland in July 3, 2017. Europe Business Assembly (EBA) was proud to present ILOA, Kuwait as a leading educational industry provider.

ILOA was awarded with the European Quality Award for the high quality of the Academy's production and services, strong position in the national market and in international ratings, successful implementation of modern management technologies, high staff qualification and efficient marketing strategy. The award was received by Asha Sharma, Principal of ILOA in the presence of Chairman D.K Sharma.

ILOA truly believes that good education plays a crucial role in building a bright future for children. The school is committed to provide an atmosphere to its students where they all can imbibe good values and learn new things every day. The school celebrates this success achieved through the sheer hard work and excellent performances of both the students as well as teachers.

Recognition of ILOA's performance standards by national and International organizations holds a special and significant meaning for the management, staff, parents and students. Since its inception in 2010, the school set its focus on providing quality education to students. In order to achieve this, ILOA undertook conscious steps to instill efficiency and effectiveness in its management processes, operational methodologies and curriculum delivery.

ILOA was honored with several national and international awards for achieving excellence in school education. Recognized for imparting education using benchmarked quality practices,



ILOA is committed to a well-rounded and holistic approach for nurturing young minds for a better tomorrow.

Behind every high-achieving school is a great Principal. Creating a culture that gives every child the opportunity to thrive academically requires a high degree of leadership, dedication, motivation and hard-work. This dictum is true about Asha Sharma, one of the most successful CBSE Principals in the Middle East. With over 40 years of service in the field of education as a teacher and an administrator, she has been bestowed with several accolades and honors for her immense contribution to the

field of education. To begin with, she was awarded 'Dedicated Teachers Award' by Lions Club, Ghaziabad. In the year 2007, she received 'National Award for the Best Teacher' from the then President of India, Pratibha Patel, in recognition of meritorious service rendered in the field of education. Besides, she was also awarded 'National CBSE Mentoring Award' in September 2015 from HRD Minister Smriti Irani. In 2016, she received a prestigious award at the 7th International Education Summit in Delhi on 5 and 6 August for breaking new grounds in deep learning through Innovation in Teaching Pedagogy.

BAIA, BAS hold annual carnival

The British Academy of International Arts (BAIA) and the British Academy of Sport (BAS) held their annual Carnival on the BSK campus in Salwa over the weekend, attracting hundreds of families keen to attend the first big event of its kind in the new academic year. With a food court located to 'welcome' guests as they entered the campus, activities and games for children and some forty booths where there was something for everyone. As the sun set and the temperature dropped there was a wonderful carnival atmosphere to greet the German Ambassador Karlfried Bergner as he performed the official opening. The VIP party, led by Madam Vera Al-Mutawa MBE, Chairman, Sadiq Al-Mutawa toured the BAIA and BAS stands before making their way around the Carnival.

BAIA has the most extensive range of accredited and recreational dance courses in Kuwait. These include ballet, tap, jazz and modern dance, all leading to internationally recognized examinations. BAIA also offers a comprehensive range of theatre, music and art courses for children from three years so there was keen interest from children of all ages to sign up.

BAS too has an extensive range of sports activities on offer including swimming, gymnastics, karate, football, basketball, tennis, volleyball and Zumba. In addition, the annual basketball and volleyball tournaments between Embassy teams are an eagerly awaited fixture, as are the overseas educational trips that have proven very popular for a number of years.

The stage was always a focus for activity, with games and competitions arranged by Decathlon, the BAS yearly sponsor who provided numerous prizes for the winners. In addition, BAIA and BAS students put on a variety of wonderful displays in dance, Zumba and Karate. Masafi, the yearly sponsor for BAIA and BAS ensured that the spectators were never without a drink, providing a seemingly unlimited supply of water and juices. IHG Crownne Plaza, yearly sponsor for BAIA and BAS tempted people with their huge variety of BBQ foods and sandwiches whilst Skin Food, a Carnival sponsor were on hand with their range of organic cosmetic products.

Big thanks must go to Cozmo bowling and Kidzania who provided numerous prizes for many of the games. With such pleasant weather the evening was enjoyed by all, with the many newcomers to Kuwait seeing just how much there is on offer for them and their families from so many of Kuwait's leading companies.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1726



ACROSS

1. A strong-smelling plant from whose dried leaves a number of euphoriant and hallucinogenic drugs are prepared.
5. A salt used especially in baking powder.
11. God of death.
15. A collection of things (goods or works of art etc.) for public display.
16. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
17. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
18. A commercial leavening agent containing yeast cells.
19. A proteolytic enzyme obtained from the unripe papaya.
20. Type genus of the Majidae.
21. A smiler whose smile is offensively self-satisfied.
23. A feeling of intense anger.
24. The eleventh month of the civil year.
25. An awkward stupid person.
29. A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
31. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
32. Always the same.
34. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
37. Of or relating to acetone.
40. Large hawk of the northern hemisphere that feeds chiefly on small rodents and is beneficial to farmers.
43. Small genus of erect perennial shrub-by herbs.
44. Genus of sticky herbs with yellow flowers open in morning or evening but closed in bright light.
45. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
48. The capital and largest city of South Korea.
49. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
50. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
51. The extreme end of something.
52. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
55. The money risked on a gamble.
58. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
59. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
61. Irish abbeys.
65. A wind instrument.
69. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
70. Characteristic of or relating to winter.
73. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
74. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
75. A pungent colorless unsaturated liquid aldehyde made from propene.
77. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
78. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
79. Rootless carnivorous swamp plants having at the base of the stem a rosette of foliage and trap-leaves consisting of slender tubes swollen in the middle.
80. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

DOWN

1. The compass point that is one point south of southeast.
2. A set of questions or exercises evaluating skill or knowledge.
3. Small branch or division of a branch.
4. A Chad language spoken in Chad.
5. The capital of the state of Kansas.
6. The sixth month of the civil year.
7. Informal abbreviation of "representative".
8. The wife or widow of a czar.
9. Of or relating to or characteristic of Asia or the peoples of Asia or their languages or culture.
10. Reindeer or caribou.
11. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
12. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
13. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
14. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
22. The basic unit of money in Zambia.
26. (Sumerian) Evil storm god represented as a black bird.
27. A group of animals (a herd or flock) moving together.
28. Any member of the Amniota.
30. A waste pipe that carries away sewage or surface water.
33. United States inventor who manufactured the first elevator with a safety device (1811-1861).
35. American poet (born in England) (1907-1973).
36. Of a period of maximal use or demand or activity.
38. A member of a people inhabiting the Arctic (northern Canada or Greenland or Alaska or eastern Siberia).
39. Colony of the United Kingdom located on a limestone promontory at the southern tip of Spain.
41. United States financier (born in France) who helped finance the War of 1812 (1750-1831).
42. Fleshy spore-bearing inner mass of e.g. a puffball or stinkhorn.
46. In bed.
47. (British) Property that provides tax income for local governments.
53. A motley assortment of things.
54. Punish with an arbitrary penalty.
56. An island in the Aegean Sea in the Saronic Gulf.
57. Deeply moved.
60. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
62. Avatar of Vishnu.
63. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
64. A circular segment of a curve.
66. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
67. A series of steps to be carried out or goals to be accomplished.
68. Long-bodied long-tailed tropical American wildcat.
71. The molecular weight of a substance expressed in grams.
72. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
76. That is to say.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are willing to lend a helping hand to a friend today. Your psychological understanding of others is fine tuned and you are able to understand a situation or plea for help in short time. You have resources and can quickly access a situation and find avenues of help that will make a positive difference in this person's life. Feeling good about yourself this afternoon, you may take some time to browse through a bookstore or department store and enjoy the lights and activities around you. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much for now. You are happy to have friendly people around you this evening that basically have similar interests. Communication is interesting and inspiring. Laughter is easily enjoyed.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Legal issues are in the air. Just wave your hand above your head and you will pick a topic out of the air. Today, this strong inclination toward the legal, justice and balance type of issues may come to you through a volunteer situation that you see needs attention. This could be helping to do research for the pro bono projects that come about when the special-needs citizen needs counsel. Perhaps you could create a group of people that want to eventually work in the legal system and want to gain experience and to be helpful to those that cannot afford legal help. You feel a love of order and law—an appreciation for responsibility and duty. You could find you are appreciated for your ability to act and get things done. Express yourself your heart will be lifted.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are fulfilled by meeting challenges and overcoming obstacles today. You could be excited about working with someone new. Your directional abilities are in high focus. You find that you can think things through and really use your mind to make clear choices. Career decisions are straightforward and easy to make. A change in your environment is on the horizon. You could receive unexpected help from a senior or someone in command. A person or teacher could appear. Deep and penetrating analysis, particularly with a group or in relation to your situation, may be beneficial. Fun and sometimes mind-boggling conversations send you into some research hunting this evening. Perhaps you are fascinated by an awareness of some scientific discovery.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Challenges call for a check-up regarding your nutritional intake and your stamina capabilities. If these are not up to par, you could be left with a confused feeling and perhaps a headache. Before the day gets underway, make sure your nutrition is taken care of and your frame of mind is positive. You could be helping others learn how to live a less stressful life. Thinking things through, accounting for all the details, making careful measurements—these and similar experiences keep your mind active and involved. An interest in health and work may come into focus. You attract money today. This is a very good day for job-related events. There are opportunities to correct, change or improve on working situations. You are very motivated.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is a yearning to broaden your horizons and reach for the ultimate experience, although it is only a regular workday. Settle down and think about planning some adventure so that your day-to-day challenges will not seem so boring. Law, politics, education, travel and religion are some of the areas where an emotionally-charged drama will be played. This could be a difficult time to relax and remain calm as you may not appreciate the easy way or clear-cut option and may choose instead a more difficult path. Get out-of-doors and enjoy some fresh air this evening. Later, you will have time to be quiet and enjoy some relaxation time by yourself—regain some focus. Do a neighbor a favor this evening. Run an errand or fix a hinge.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Deep and penetrating analysis, particularly with a group or in relation to your situation, may be in order. Others could seek you out for your psychological insight and understanding. Consider making changes in your environment. Finding answers takes on a special significance now. This is another good day for requesting that someone return a loan. There is a heightened interest in getting things organized into a rational system. Partnerships, especially those involving business contacts, are agreeable for this next week—now is the time to get the presentation in order. There is an opportunity to attend a social event this evening. If you decide to go... You will be most elegant. Your caring attitude toward others attracts people to you.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

A young person may need your guidance and today is a good time to help this person think through some decisions. Helping those who cannot help themselves—and getting such help if you need it—is very important to you. A creative part of you is unleashed this afternoon and you spend a great deal of time with a hobby or invention that will sell very well if you decide to sell. You might consider getting a patent on your work so that only you can make a claim to your invention. There is a cornucopia of subjects in which you could delve into now that would help quench your need to escape. Take a day away from your daily work. Pump a little iron this evening and get the body energized and refreshed. Consider a light meal for tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This day begins and ends with positive communication. Friends may seek you out for your guidance regarding some future event, perhaps issues surrounding a reunion or some other gathering like a charity ball. You will be able to handle any of the questions without any difficulties and quick results benefit many. Getting several different groups together for committees will help make the event be more organized and presentable. Although all of this attention may make you feel important, you will be very happy to be in a less demanding situation. You can relax tonight. A date night may not be a late night but it has the potential of being a delightful evening. Perhaps you will enjoy a movie or a pizza dinner.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You will be able to dedicate more time to your loved ones this evening but for now, you may feel the push to complete tasks and get down to your day job. It is easy to reach burnout by stretching your physical energies—try to set a reasonable pace. Relationships—romantic, business, social—are the arena where this drama is played. Try a new approach with your loved one that would involve open communication. Plan a weekend getaway for the near future. In coming to know the other person, there is a better understanding of the individual self. Marriage is strongly indicated. Harmony is long lasting. You are coming to a period of greater than usual emphasis on emotional security, which is likely to manifest as putting down roots somehow.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

With you, dreams and ideals have become a way of life. You seek to bring them down to earth and make them real. You will, as a song says, never let your dreams depart. Yours is a path leading to a career in music, mysticism or the arts. You understand the forest behind the trees and the unity beyond all separateness. You could discover yourself through creativity and self-expression, especially at this time. Increased confidence and a more outgoing manner may be the key that opens new doors in your career. A kind of romantic thinking characterizes your approach to life this evening. This could mean a longing for a soul mate or a yearning to save the world; it could mean carrying a torch, as well. Secret loves, lost loves—all you need is love.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

There is a need to be respected—it is an emotionally charged issue at this time. Watch yourself move throughout the day and make note of how you respond, progress, solve problems, laugh and perhaps just how you relate to others, and you will either gain a confirmation that will help you gain confidence or you will see positive ways to make yourself known. This is the time of recognition and it doesn't necessarily mean the recognition of others. This afternoon it is important to read the directions when it comes to a technical problem. A handbook or the nearby hardware store is packed with resources you need. You are able to adjust, change or fix the technical problem; cheer. Tonight there are pleasant surprises from a family member.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are willing to work hard, particularly when you know you are only moments away from achieving the results you desire. Get your ideas out there. Business travel or conferences provide an excellent forum for your plans. This business travel may also allow you to meet others who are on a path similar to yours. Today you will meet influential people that will help you advance in your career. Everything seems to be working to your advantage. Be willing to return the favor to a young co-worker this afternoon. Clear decisions are getting easier to find; thank goodness. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and for having a good time. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Treasure Island

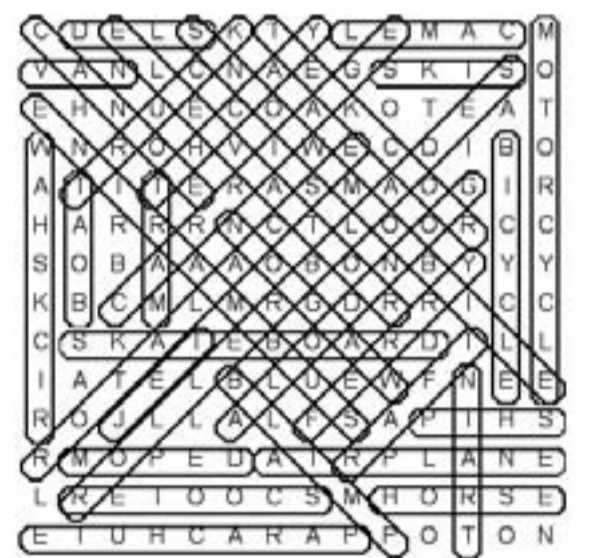
Find and circle all of the words and names from the book Treasure Island. The remaining 46 letters spell a secret message.

MUSKETTELLOMSNIATPACT
THEBLACKSPOTRNEAESSIT
EASCURCOSSNONNACLEQIT
CISSAHREVIATSAOCCOUAOL
AIACENTELEALNDAWISRAR
BSSSHANFVBDWGSRRNRBIE
IRTSRONOELMMHYETAEUKT
NATIEIONNEIOUTPPRRCOS
BEPNAAAGNBRSTRASSCOA
OLSTLUFEEEAENPISABM
YHPNNOTADRLLPHSNHANGR
YARNIETRRABLLLEOYEEOE
CNBCLKLSWIEENSRJTRLET
IDSEUIWNIBNOSHIPOTRLR
OSKSVTEAAAPBGMAROONEDA
WSLEAYLRHYOSURLAWUOIU
SESAPRALMWGUINEASSLQ
TERPNMLESEIREGORYLLOJ
YVACLBDIOESNJGODKCALBN
HCAEBSOCCNBNBURIEDGOLD

ADMIRAL BENDOW INN CAPE ISLAND QUARTERMASTER
APPLE BARREL CAPTAIN FLINT ISRAEL HANDS SAIL
ASHORE CHEST JIM HAWKINS SEAFAIRING
BEACH COAST JOLLY ROGER SEAFARING
BEN GURR COMPASS LOGBOOK SEAMEN
BILLY BOYES COVE LONG JOHN SILVER SHIP
BLACK DOG CREW HARBORED SKELETON
BUCCANEER CUTLASS MUTINY SQUIRE TRELAWNEY
BURIED GOLD DR. LIVESAY PARROT THE BLACK SPOT
CANNON BALLS GUINEAS PIRATES TREASURE
CANNONS HISPANIOLA PISTOL WALRUS

Yesterday's Solution

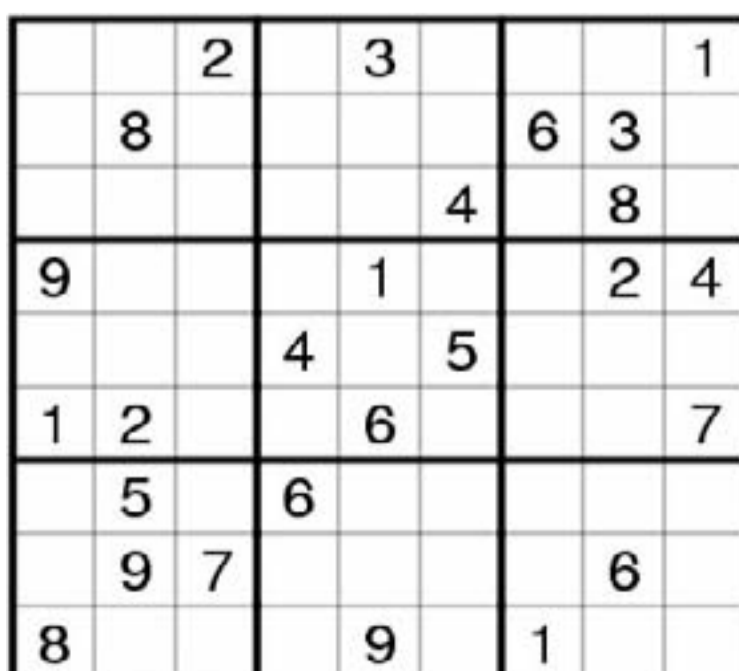
Transportation



- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|
| AIRPLANE | FERRY | RIKSHAW | SNOWMOBILE |
| BICYCLE | GONDOLA | ROCKET | SUBMARINE |
| BLIMP | HORSE | ROLLER BLADES | TRAIN |
| BOAT | JET | SCOOTER | TRAM |
| CAMEL | MOPED | SHIP | TRUCK |
| CARAGE | MOTORCYCLE | SKATEBOARD | VAN |
| CARRIAGE | PARACHUTE | SKIS | WAGON |
| ELEVATOR | RAFT | SLED | YACHT |
| ESCALATOR | | | |

The hidden transportation method is: HOT AIR BALLOON

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

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 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



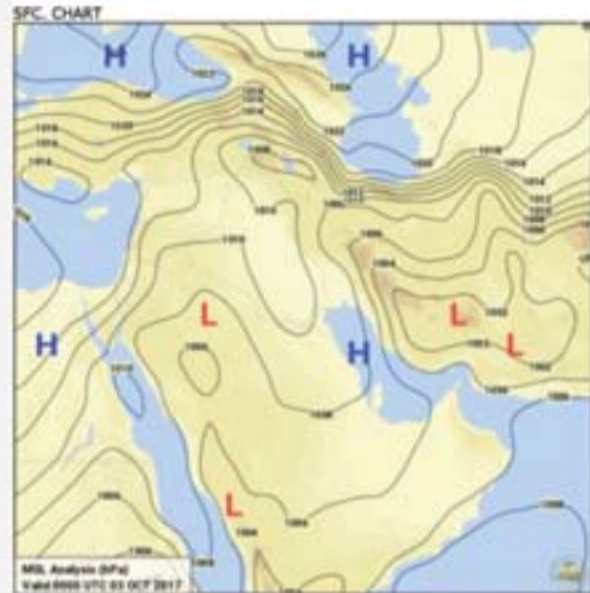
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
 Issued 03/10/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 41 °C

By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust.
By Night: Fair with light to moderate freshening over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h.



Four-Day Forecast

| | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Expected Weather | Hot | Hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas | Hot | Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas |
| Min Temp °C | 24 | 25 | 23 | 25 |
| Max Temp °C | 42 | 39 | 39 | 41 |
| Wind Direction | northerly westerly to variable | variable to northerly westerly | northerly westerly to northerly easterly | variable to south easterly |
| Wind Speed km/h | 08 - 30 | 10 - 40 | 10 - 32 | 06 - 26 |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

| Station | MIN °C | REC °C | Max °C EXP |
|----------------|--------|--------|------------|
| KUWAIT CITY | 29 | 40 | |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 28 | 41 | |
| ABDOLY | 24 | 41 | |
| BUBYAN | 25 | 41 | |
| JAHRA | 27 | 41 | |
| FALAKA ISLAND | 28 | 39 | |
| SALMIYAH | 29 | 38 | |
| AHMADI | 34 | 36 | |
| JAL ALIYAH | 23 | 41 | |
| QAROH ISLAND | 32 | 36 | |
| UMM AL-MARADEM | 32 | 36 | |
| NUWASSIB | 27 | 37 | |
| WAFRA | 26 | 40 | |
| SALMIY | 24 | 39 | |
| MUTRIBA | 24 | 41 | |

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 41 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 26 |
| Max Rel Hum (%) | 38 |
| Min Rel Hum (%) | 11 |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 39 N |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR | 0 mm |

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Sunrise | 05:42 |
| Sunset | 17:32 |

Prayer Times

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr | 04:23 |
| Sunrise | 05:42 |
| Zuhr | 11:37 |
| Aqr | 15:00 |
| Sunset | 17:32 |
| Isha | 18:49 |

AIRLINES

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| American Airlines | 22087425 |
| | 22087426 |
| Kuwait Airways | 171 |
| Jazeera Airways | 177 |
| 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 |

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Kuwait Times

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

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| Arrival Flights on Wednesday 4/10/2017 | | | | Departure Flights on Wednesday 4/10/2017 | | | |
|--|------|-------------------|-------|--|------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines | Flt | Route | Time | Airlines | Flt | Route | Time |
| THY | 772 | Istanbul | 00:10 | AIC | 988 | Hyderabad/Chennai | 00:05 |
| JZR | 553 | Alexandria | 00:15 | JAI | 573 | Mumbai | 00:30 |
| KAC | 786 | Jeddah | 00:30 | MSR | 2615 | Cairo | 00:30 |
| JZR | 267 | Beirut | 00:35 | MSC | 406 | Sohag | 00:30 |
| KAC | 102 | London | 00:55 | FDB | 072 | Dubai | 00:30 |
| BRZ | 211 | TBS | 01:00 | WAN | 341 | Sohag | 01:30 |
| DLH | 635 | Doha | 01:00 | THY | 773 | Istanbul | 01:40 |
| JZR | 539 | Cairo | 01:20 | KAC | 363 | Colombo | 01:55 |
| MSR | 618 | Alexandria | 01:35 | DLH | 635 | Frankfurt | 02:00 |
| UAE | 853 | Dubai | 01:40 | MSR | 619 | Alexandria | 02:35 |
| RJA | 642 | Amman | 01:45 | THY | 765 | Istanbul | 02:50 |
| THY | 1464 | Istanbul | 01:50 | KKK | 6505 | Istanbul | 02:55 |
| KAC | 6506 | Istanbul | 01:55 | ETH | 621 | Addis Ababa | 03:05 |
| KLM | 446 | Bahrain | 02:05 | PGT | 831 | Amman | 03:10 |
| PGT | 830 | Istanbul | 02:10 | UAE | 854 | Dubai | 03:30 |
| QTR | 1086 | Doha | 02:10 | KLM | 446 | Amsterdam | 03:30 |
| ETH | 620 | Addis Ababa | 02:15 | OMA | 644 | Muscat | 04:05 |
| GFA | 211 | Bahrain | 02:15 | QTR | 1087 | Doha | 04:10 |
| KAC | 418 | Manila | 02:50 | ETD | 306 | Abu Dhabi | 04:10 |
| OMA | 643 | Muscat | 03:05 | MSR | 613 | Dubai | 04:15 |
| ETD | 305 | Abu Dhabi | 03:10 | KAC | 417 | Manila | 04:20 |
| KAC | 382 | Delhi | 03:15 | JZR | 560 | Sohag | 04:45 |
| MSR | 612 | Cairo | 03:15 | RBG | 550 | Alexandria | 05:00 |
| FDB | 069 | Dubai | 03:15 | KAC | 103 | London | 05:00 |
| QTR | 1076 | Doha | 03:45 | QTR | 1077 | Doha | 05:30 |
| KAC | 544 | Cairo | 03:50 | KAC | 303 | Mumbai | 05:50 |
| KAC | 796 | Madinah | 03:55 | FEJ | 954 | Asyut | 05:55 |
| RBG | 559 | Alexandria | 04:10 | UAE | 874 | Dubai | 06:15 |
| KAC | 346 | Ahmedabad | 04:15 | RJA | 643 | Amman | 06:25 |
| UAE | 873 | Dubai | 04:15 | THY | 771 | Istanbul | 06:25 |
| KAC | 358 | Kochi | 04:50 | GFA | 212 | Bahrain | 06:50 |
| FEJ | 931 | Alexandria | 05:00 | FDB | 070 | Dubai | 07:05 |
| DHX | 170 | Bahrain | 05:10 | JZR | 164 | Dubai | 07:15 |
| THY | 770 | Istanbul | 05:25 | KAC | 171 | Frankfurt | 07:50 |
| KAC | 344 | Chennai | 05:30 | KAC | 501 | Beirut | 07:50 |
| KAC | 332 | Trivandrum | 05:40 | KAC | 613 | Bahrain | 07:55 |
| KAC | 362 | Colombo | 05:50 | BFW | 156 | London | 08:20 |
| BAW | 157 | London | 06:05 | FDB | 054 | Dubai | 08:30 |
| KAC | 284 | Dhaka | 06:35 | KAC | 741 | Dammam | 08:30 |
| KAC | 206 | Islamabad | 06:40 | KAC | 773 | Riyadh | 08:35 |
| WAN | 342 | Sohag | 06:40 | KAC | 539 | Sharm el-Sheikh | 08:40 |
| KAC | 302 | Mumbai | 06:55 | KAC | 661 | Abu Dhabi | 08:45 |
| KAC | 156 | Istanbul | 07:05 | BRZ | 212 | TBS | 09:00 |
| FDB | 053 | Dubai | 07:50 | KAC | 101 | London | 09:00 |
| KAC | 384 | Delhi | 08:00 | JZR | 902 | GYD | 09:00 |
| UAE | 855 | Dubai | 08:25 | KAC | 117 | New York | 09:15 |
| ETD | 301 | Abu Dhabi | 08:55 | KAC | 787 | Jeddah | 09:15 |
| ABY | 125 | Sharjah | 09:00 | KAC | 671 | Dubai | 09:15 |
| QTR | 1070 | Doha | 09:25 | KAC | 691 | Muscat | 09:30 |
| IRA | 665 | Shiraz | 09:25 | KAC | 561 | Amman | 09:30 |
| FDB | 055 | Dubai | 09:40 | JZR | 534 | Cairo | 09:30 |
| IRC | 6511 | ABD | 09:50 | ABY | 126 | Sharjah | 09:40 |
| IRM | 1188 | Mashhad | 09:55 | JZR | 482 | Istanbul | 09:40 |
| MSC | 415 | Sohag | 10:15 | UAE | 856 | Dubai | 09:50 |
| GFA | 213 | Bahrain | 10:40 | ETD | 302 | Abu Dhabi | 10:00 |
| MEA | 404 | Beirut | 10:55 | KAC | 541 | Cairo | 10:00 |
| WAN | 114 | Bahrain | 11:00 | KAC | 617 | Doha | 10:15 |
| QTR | 1074 | Doha | 11:00 | IRA | 664 | Shiraz | 10:25 |
| SYR | 341 | Damascus | 11:00 | KAC | 153 | Istanbul | 10:30 |
| AXB | 889 | Mangalore/Bahrain | 11:05 | QTR | 1071 | Doha | 10:35 |
| JZR | 561 | Sohag | 11:10 | FDB | 056 | Dubai | 10:35 |
| KAC | 614 | Bahrain | 11:15 | IRC | 6522 | Lamerd | 10:40 |
| KAC | 742 | Dammam | 11:45 | AAG | 146 | Qatar | 11:00 |
| JZR | 165 | Dubai | 11:50 | IRM | 1189 | Mashhad | 11:10 |
| IAW | 157 | Al Najaf | 12:00 | MSC | 416 | Sohag | 11:15 |
| KAC | 774 | Riyadh | 12:45 | GFA | 214 | Bahrain | 11:35 |
| UAE | 871 | Dubai | 12:45 | MEA | 405 | Beirut | 11:55 |
| THY | 766 | Istanbul | 12:50 | SYR | 342 | Latakia | 12:00 |
| FEJ | 953 | Asyut | 12:55 | JZR | 776 | Jeddah | 12:00 |
| KIS | 7136 | Mashhad | 13:00 | AXB | 890 | Mangalore | 12:05 |
| WAN | 954 | GYD | 13:00 | QTR | 1075 | Doha | 12:10 |
| MSR | 610 | Cairo | 13:00 | VIZ | 205 | QIA | 12:30 |
| KAC | 662 | Abu Dhabi | 13:15 | KAC | 511 | Mashhad | 12:45 |
| CLX | 792 | Luxembourg | 13:15 | KAC | 513 | Tehran | 12:45 |



Lovato thinks fame is 'weird'

The 25-year-old singer was thrust into the limelight after starring in Disney's 'Camp Rock' in 2008 and released her debut single 'This Is Me', and though Demi still can't really get her head around her celebrity status, she thinks she has learnt to "manipulate" her stardom to talk about issues and causes that are important to her. Speaking in Notion magazine, she said: "Fame is weird, but I manipulate it for the better. We already are in a very narcissistic career - 'look at me, look at me'. I use that as a way to use my voice for more than just singing. If you are not using

your voice and not standing up for the things you believe in, and not being vocal about certain topics, then you're just basking in the glory of a very egotistical career." And the 'Cool For The Summer' hitmaker believes there are a lot of artists who do not speak out about their beliefs and other important matters because they want to be "politically correct" or do not want to say anything that could be considered to be controversial which then could harm their career, something which Demi finds "frustrating". Demi has spoken very honestly and candidly about her battle

with alcohol and drug addiction, eating disorders and fight to stop self-harming with her completing a stint in rehab in 2011 to deal with her problems. The pop star - who also lives with bipolar disease - is always disappointed with her peers who are guarded as she believes those in the public eye have a responsibility to "do something good".

Kate Winslet was never attracted to DiCaprio

The pair played doomed lovers Rose Dewitt Bukater and Jack Dawson in James Cameron's 1997 disaster epic, but although their alter egos were struck by Cupid, Winslet didn't develop a little crush on DiCaprio - who is still one of Hollywood's most eligible bachelors. But Kate insists the lack of a romantic spark between them was a good thing because it has allowed them to maintain a friendship which has lasted 20 years. In an interview on UK TV show 'Lorraine', she revealed: "It was seven months of very intense work, we were both really very young. And luckily, and this was the fortunate thing, we never fancied each other! I know that's really annoying to hear, sorry. We really never did. So it did mean that we were able to have this ... be able to tease each other, which we still do, which is really amazing." Two decades on,

'Titanic' - which won 11 Academy Awards including the Oscars for Best Picture and Best Director for Cameron - is gaining a new audience of fans, including Kate's own children and their friends who can quote the film's famous lines. The 41-year-old British beauty - who has 16-year-old daughter Mia with her first husband Jim Threapleton, 13-year-old son Joe with second husband Sam Mendes and three-year-old son Bear with her current spouse Ned Rocknroll - said: "The lovely thing about 'Titanic' for me now, my children and their friends ... their friends say, 'Oh I love the bit in 'Titanic' when you did...' they are reciting lines from 'Titanic' that, I mean, I've long forgotten!"



Zendaya

has realized the 'power' of her own voice

The 21-year-old actress - who has emerged as one of the most sought-after actresses in Hollywood following her starring role in 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' - claims to have recognized her own influence as her social media following has grown. The outspoken star - who has 10 million followers on Twitter - explained: "I can genuinely say that I'm not the same person I was a year ago. As my social platforms grew, I realized that my voice was so much more important than I had originally thought. "I think if every young person understood the power of their voice, things would be a lot different. And it's becoming more popular to be outspoken." She also claimed to have benefited from being a lighter-skinned actress in Hollywood. Speaking to Glamour magazine, Zendaya reflected: "Can I honestly say I would be in the position I'm in if I weren't a lighter-skinned black woman? No." Zendaya said, too, that there's still a lot of work that needs to be done to encourage more minorities into the entertainment industry. She said: "A lot of people who aren't people of colour can't quite understand what it's like to grow up and not see yourself in mainstream media. And you know, there is so much work left to be done."



Russell Crowe launches range of tea bags

The 53-year-old actor handed out free boxes of Crowe's Tea to fans while he was touring with his band Indoor Garden Party, and Russell is said to be excited about his latest business opportunity. An insider explained: "Russell is excited about his new venture. The tea bags are proving a real hit too." Russell's product is expected to hit supermarket shelves in the near future, with fans having already given the tea bags their seal of approval. The source told the Daily Star newspaper: "They've gone down a storm at his recent gigs. We're certain they'll be hitting the supermarkets in no time." Russell has created the tasty beverage in conjunction with Yorkshire Tea and to mark their relationship, the Hollywood star even dropped in at the firm's headquarters in Harrogate in England to deliver a surprise performance. Yorkshire Tea marketing director Dom Dwight admitted to being caught completely by surprise by the acclaimed actor, who won an Academy Award for his starring role in the Ridley Scott-directed drama 'Gladiator'. He said: "It was a complete surprise for staff when Russell and the band parked up their tour bus for a tea break on their way to the City Varieties. "We can't thank them enough for dropping by and treating us to a performance."



Cindy Crawford refused to walk alongside daughter Kaia Gerber



The 51-year-old supermodel returned to the runway last month to star in Donatella Versace's showcase, but when the star's 16-year-old child asked if the pair would grace the catwalk together, Cindy snubbed her in favour of reuniting with models of her own age and the stars she worked with during the peak of her career, such as Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer, Helena Christensen and Carla Bruni. Speaking about the event, the brunette beauty said: "I was booked before Kaia - I don't think Donatella [Versace] even knew that Kaia was doing shows and we had been talking for months about how many of us could get there for that tribute to [her brother] Gianni. "When Kaia got the part she said, 'Wait, are we going out together?' I said, 'I hope not, I don't want to stand next to you, I want to stand with the women my age.'" Although mother and daughter did not grace the platform side by side, Cindy was honored to walk in the same show as Kaia, which she doesn't think will happen again. She added: "It was pretty cool, that probably won't happen again, to be in the same show." The fashion icon - who also has son Presley Gerber with her husband Rande Gerber - has revealed she gave Kaia tips on modeling and advised her not to opt for the "vacant stare and robotic walk" that she has noticed models doing.



Kelsea Ballerini refuses to cut her 'guilty pleasures'

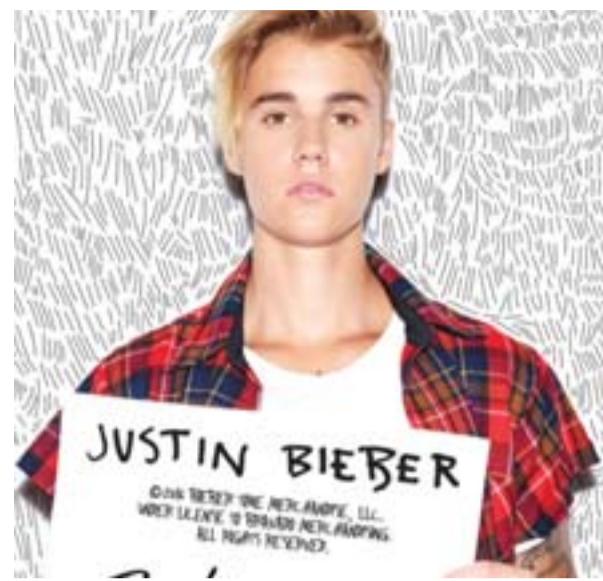
The 24-year-old singer and songwriter has admitted she boasts a healthy and balanced diet, which sees her eat clean and nutritious meals "eighty per cent" of the time, but she cannot entirely give up her sweet treats that she will indulge in "20 per cent". Speaking about her eating plan to PEOPLE, the blonde-haired beauty said: "Eighty percent healthy and 20 percent giving in to cravings. "I genuinely love food so I never want to completely cut my guilty pleasures out of my diet. I believe in the power of moderation." The 'Peter Pan' hitmaker has revealed she will tuck into an omelet every morning, will snack on nuts, she will enjoy a Mediterranean salad with sundried tomatoes and chickpeas for her lunch before eating roast chicken with steamed vegetables for her dinner with an occasional glass of wine after a performance. Kelsea got engaged to her partner Morgan Evans in December last year, and the star has revealed her fiancé often "steals" her skincare products. Speaking previously about her lover, she said: "My fiancé always steals any of my face and skincare stuff. I'll have it in my bag ready to leave and I'll leave, and it won't be in my bag anymore."

Bob Dylan pays tribute to his Tom Petty

The 76-year-old singer and his late friend - who passed away on Monday aged 66 after having his life support turned off following a cardiac arrest - co-founded supergroup Traveling Wilburys with George Harrison, Jeff Lynne and Roy Orbison, and the 'Mr. Tambourine Man' hitmaker has been "crushed" by his pal's death. He said in a statement to Rolling Stone magazine: "It's shocking, crushing news. I thought the world of Tom. He was a great performer, full of the light, a friend, and I'll never forget him." Several other big-name stars from the world of music have paid tribute to Tom - who was also known for his group Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers - including fellow music legend Billy Idol, 61. He wrote on Twitter: "Shocked & upset 2 hear about #tompetty 'we got lucky when we found u...'. RIP (sic) Meat Loaf, 70, praised the 'Free Fallin' hitmaker as a "great rocker" but insisted the star's hit music will ensure he "still lives with us". He wrote on Facebook: "More sad news today with



Passing another great Rocker Tom Petty, Great Writer with classic songs that marked a time in many peoples lives, loving fans who he also loved. The world lost a great one today. He still lives with us in his music. As his daughter said earlier today a normal guy who loved what he did. Our prayers go out to Tom and his family. (sic) He also wrote: "Gone too soon!! Tom lives on with the memories he left us, and the love he gave. Prayers to Tom and his family (sic)" KISS frontman Paul Stanley, 65, was also devastated about Tom's death, admitting he has "loved" the late star's music.



Bieber's reputation keeps Beverly Hills restricted

The 'Sorry' hitmaker has been offering as much as \$100,000 a month for accommodation in the sun-kissed Californian city, but homeowners in the exclusive area have reportedly spurned his offers on account of his previous behavior. A source explained: "Justin wants to rent a big estate, but many of the owners of the big Beverly Hills properties, which are for rent, have clubbed together to agree that nobody should rent to Justin." You would think that they would want the cache of having him at their homes - and Justin is offer-

ing \$100,000 a month for places that aren't anywhere near worth that. "But he and his entourage have a reputation of trashing his rental homes and then being difficult where it comes to paying for the repairs." As a result, Justin has instead taken to living in a hotel, leaving some of the guests open-mouthed as he's been casually walking by them on a daily basis. The insider told the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column: "He's become a resident at a hotel, where the well-heeled guests have been doing double takes seeing

him at breakfast on his own with his tattoos and baggy pants." In 2014, Justin was forced to pay a neighbor \$80,000 after he was proven to have thrown eggs from his own home in Calabasas.

Sofia Vergara sleeps in ceramic wraps

The 45-year-old actress has admitted she "loves" products, and when her husband Joe Manganiello is not home she will smother her body and hair in coconut oil, and will cover her body in the product, which helps to moisturize and relax the muscles. Speaking about her skincare regime to Us Weekly, the brunette beauty said: "But when I have time at home, I'll do masks, I will put coconut oil all over my hair. When Joe is out of town I sleep in ceramic wrap and coconut oil everywhere. I love products." And the Colombian style icon has revealed she feels "beautiful" or "clean" if she doesn't shower. She added: "If I don't shower I don't feel beautiful or clean, I feel like if I don't shower, I'm puffy." But the 'Modern Family' star - who portrays Gloria Delgado-Pritchett in the ABC series - has admitted her beauty regime changes depending on her work schedule. She explained: "It depends because usually I am up at 5am going to 'Modern Family', so by 6 or 6.30am I am in full make-up, dressed like Gloria, so that's different than my regular day when I do a little bit of foundation, tinted moisturiser." Sofia has launched a new underwear range titled EBY, which stands for "empowered by women", and sees 10 per cent of the proceeds of towards the Seven Bar Foundation that helps to aid underprivileged women across the globe. Speaking about her latest venture, Sofia said: "It's very special because it is a business that is empowering women to get their own business going. EBY means Empowering By You, it means by you going into your computer, subscribing to join EBY, getting your box of underwear that you will receive very month. We will be giving 10 per cent off the net sales of the underwear to empower women in different countries.



Enrique has rejected numerous judging gigs

The 42-year-old singer-songwriter has received multiple offers to appear on talent programs, such as 'The X Factor' or 'American Idol' - but Enrique has declined each and every opportunity because he would rather enjoy watching the shows from the comfort of his own living room. The 'Hero' hitmaker told The Sun newspaper: "I turned them all down. Not because I don't like the shows, because I actually watch the shows and enjoy them. "Whether it's 'X Factor' in the UK or 'American Idol' or 'The Voice' here in the US, it's still TV. "It takes quite a big chunk out of your time. To do that and tour at the same time, I don't think I could do it." In fact, it was previously claimed that Enrique's jam-packed schedule has meant he's never even introduced his long-time girlfriend, retired tennis star Anna Kournikova, to his dad. The



Spanish singer has been dating the blonde beauty since 2001, but because Anna, Enrique and his chart-topping dad Julio are rarely in the same country at the same time, they have never come face to face. The dark-haired hunk recently confessed: "They still haven't met, no. They have to meet at some point."



Sam Heughan works out 'every day'

The 37-year-old actor has admitted he has an intense fitness routine, but because of his hectic work schedule, which sees him jet off across the globe, he sometimes struggles to find the time to keep fit. Speaking to the Metro newspaper about his exercise plan, the Scottish hunk said: "Probably every day. "It's tough [to stay in shape] because I travel a lot. "I'm really into a healthy lifestyle". And Sam - who portrays Jamie Fraser in the popular series 'Outlander' - has been able to "relax" his fitness regime recently because he has not needed to go topless in the program recently. He added: "The last few months I've relaxed a bit because I didn't have to take my top off for the show or a magazine shoot." And the star "dreads" having to strip off for scenes because he has to undergo a lot of preparation in advance, and then has to sit for "three hours" to have a prosthetic piece attached to his back. When asked if he feels a pressure to look good, he said: "We have to prepare for those [topless] scenes. I dread them more because I have a full prosthetic on my back, which takes two to three hours to put on." The 'A Princess for Christmas' star set up the charity My Peak Challenge for raise funds to advance research for diseases such as leukemia and lymphoma, and the program includes a daily workout and meal plan for its subscribers. Speaking about the foundation, he said: "I created a charity fundraiser a couple of years ago called My Peak Challenge. We now have raised almost 375,000 for leukemia and lymphoma research. We supply almost 10,000 subscribers with a daily workout and meal plan."

Shelton's experience on 'The Voice' made him paternal



The 41-year-old country star - who has been dating his former on-screen colleague Gwen Stefani since 2015 - has admitted that mentoring the acts on the show has led him to feel more fatherly than the experience of helping to raise the blonde beauty's three young boys, Kingston, 11, Zuma, nine, and Apollo, three. Asked whether being around the boys had sparked a paternal instinct in him, Blake - who started dating Gwen after her split from Gavin Rossdale - shared: "'The Voice', I think, sparked that in me, if anything. "I never thought in a million years when I signed on to do that show that I would ever be so defensive when it comes to reading a blog or critique about one of my artists." [In the] first season or two, I couldn't help it. I would just lose my mind when I would see someone picking on a kid, you know." Blake - who was previously married to fellow music star Miranda Lambert - recently took his girlfriend, her kids and Gwen's entire family to Oklahoma, the state where he was born, for the grand opening of his new restaurant, Ole Red. And the singer admitted to relishing the experience of showing them around a place that remains so close to his heart.

Heidi Montag gave birth surrounded by \$27,000 crystals

The 'Hills' star and her husband Spencer Pratt splashed out on the impressive amount of crystals - which they have long believed represents spiritual protection and health - when they welcomed their first son, Gunner Stone, into the world on Sunday. Taking to Twitter, Spencer wrote: "Shout out @crystalarium1 for dropping off \$27,000 in crystals for the birth (sic)" And Crystalarium in West Hollywood, who supplied the crystals, tweeted from their own account: "Congrats to @heidimontag and @spencerpratt on their new arrival! "Sending love and blessings! We can't wait to meet Gunner Stone! ... We were honored to be a part of the birth! And we're super excited for your awesome family!! (sic)" Heidi had previously revealed why her husband Spencer wanted to have crystals in the delivery room when they wel-

comed their first child. She shared: "Spencer wants me to have crystals in the birthing room. They represent spiritual protection, health and a higher realm of love." The crystals were also present at the couple's baby shower and the couple couldn't believe how lucky they were to get pregnant so quickly. She added: "That we're even having a kid and that we got pregnant the first month trying and that Spencer and I are at this point in our lives ... it just felt like a really heaven sent thing." Speaking about the birth, Heidi shared: "We are so blessed to have a beautiful healthy baby boy. It was the hardest and most rewarding experience." And Spencer added: "[It's] officially the most lit day of my life."



Ford and Gosling go head to head in **BLADE RUNNER 2049**

Harrison Ford has a running joke that he can't remember Ryan Gosling's name. "I was delighted for a chance to work with the kid. What's his name?" Ford told The Associated Press earlier this year. He did it again recently on a talk show, this time sitting next to Gosling. "Ryan?" Ford asked his "Blade Runner 2049" co-star after a brief pause, dutifully playing the part of the "slightly aloof 75-year-old legend." "It's Ryan," responded Gosling, 36, in a deadpan voice, playing the "bemused co-star" role in the bit. Or perhaps it's not a bit at all. It's hard to tell with these two, who somehow manage to whiplash between sincerity, sarcasm and humor in a three-word response. In a recent interview with The AP it is clear, however, that Ford and Gosling are genuinely amused by one another, even if Ford might not actually know how old his co-star is.

AP: Did you two know each other before?

FORD: Him? No. I met him once or twice casually. But I knew his work. I loved his ambitions. I loved his choices. I loved the filmmakers he chose to work with when he could have had much more obvious choices and I loved what it produced ... But the producers had been thinking about him anyway so it didn't matter what I thought.

that he, at my age was, well, not beginning, he'd been doing it for a long time before, but at the same time you were a fully formed person before this whole other element got introduced. I guess I can't really say that...

FORD: You're being generous. I was a late bloomer. It took me a long time to get me to where you are. I don't know how old you are. I really don't. But I think I was about 25 or 26 when I was under contract at Columbia. However much past 25 you are ... It takes more now. You have to be a lot more real than the business is.

GOSLING: Really?

FORD: Back then it was more business than reality. They just wanted to twist you into a shape that resembled something else, something successful. They didn't give a rat's ass about what was individual about you. Anything that might potentially be interesting about you was just not of interest. The business has matured a lot since then and has attracted more mature artists.

AP: Is there anything that worries you about the state of Hollywood or where it's going?

FORD: I'm not a generalist. There is no such thing as Hollywood anyway. It's an imagination. There are movies being made all over the world, stories being told. Incredible films being made in countries you've never even heard of that are just as advanced and emotionally interesting. Hollywood is a state of mind. It's a tourist attraction. But, having said that, there are still enormous resources available for filmmakers. There are opportunities. There are people in the movie business who have a keen understanding of the business and an appreciation for the work and the work that the workers do. But the notion of Hollywood is kind of broken.

AP: What do you think, Ryan?

GOSLING: I'm learning. I'm taking notes too.

AP: Ryan, does this film have you thinking about whether you'd revisit any of your characters some 35 years later?

GOSLING: The thing is any actor would be lucky to create one character in their career that anyone would want to revisit, let alone multiple times, let alone multiple characters. It's pretty unparalleled what he's doing.

FORD: Participating in my own luck, that's what I'm doing. I grew up in a lucky time in "Hollywood."

GOSLING: Like I said, I'm just taking notes. — AP



In this Sept 21, 2017 file photo, actors Harrison Ford, left, and Ryan Gosling pose for photographers during the photo call for "Blade Runner 2049" in London. — AP photos

AP: You had some pretty harrowing stunts, including a big set piece in a water tank.

GOSLING: It was a lot like it looks like on camera.

FORD: Things go a lot slower when you're working with mechanical beasts and wave machines. The time between the time it takes to take the takes takes... Let me say that again: The time between the time it takes to take the takes, it's not the time it takes to take the takes, it's the time between it takes to take the takes that takes the time.

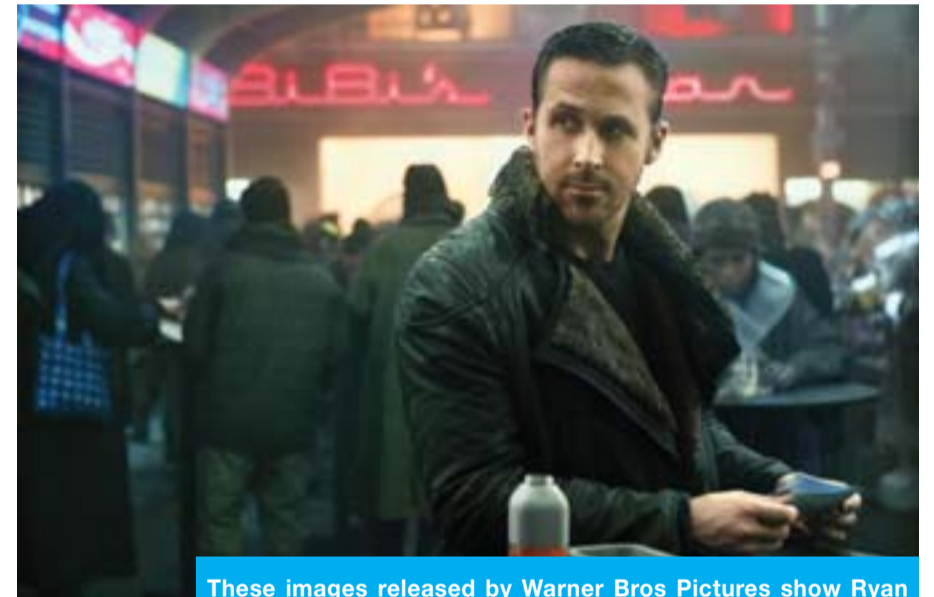
GOSLING: Is this what peyote feels like?

FORD: (laughs) I wouldn't know.

AP: Ryan now is basically the same age you were when you became very famous. Ryan, do you hope to follow in Harrison's footsteps and still be doing this when you're 75?

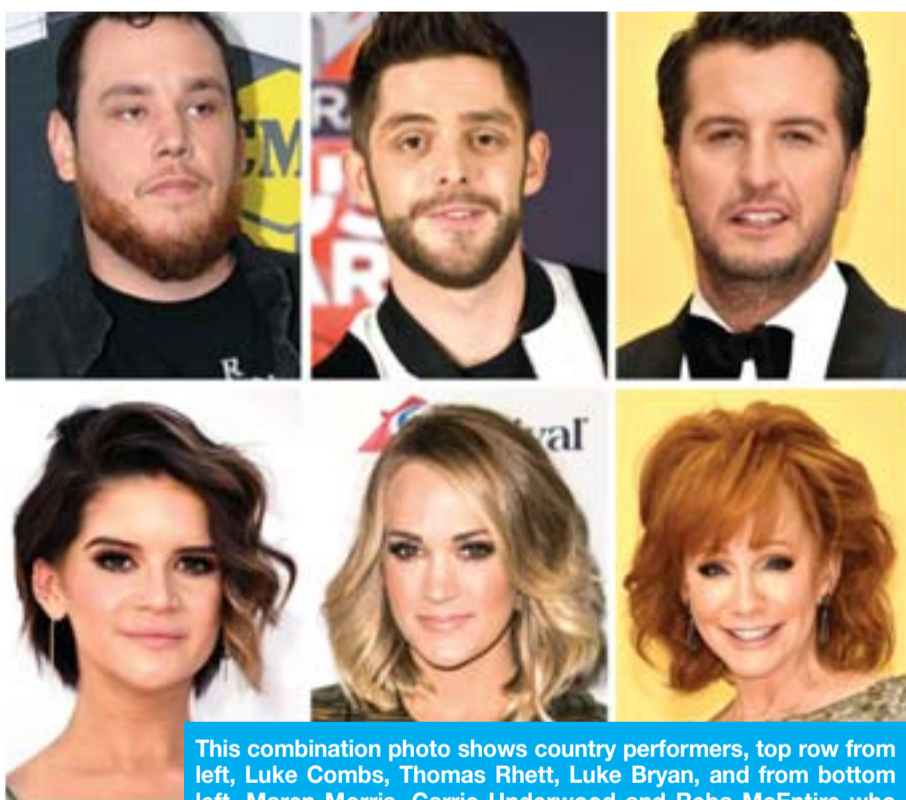
FORD: Let's call it tracks, not footsteps.

GOSLING: His experience is so unique to him. The fact



These images released by Warner Bros Pictures show Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford in scenes from "Blade Runner 2049."

Attack strikes **country music**, bastion of US traditionalism



This combination photo shows country performers, top row from left, Luke Combs, Thomas Rhett, Luke Bryan, and from bottom left, Maren Morris, Carrie Underwood and Reba McEntire who took to social media to express their sadness after the mass shooting in Las Vegas. — AP

In attacking a country music concert, the assailant in Las Vegas has targeted one of the more conservative segments of US culture in which guns have more often been a topic of celebration. Sunday evening's shooting, the deadliest in modern US history, struck a sold-out performance by chart-topping country singer Jason Aldean whose songs have championed the values and grievances of working-class America. Yet the stereotypical images of country are changing and Aldean is one of its more musically fluid stars with an openness to incorporating R&B and hip-hop influences. Once rooted in former Confederate states, country music has grown rapidly across the United States in the past decade. Aldean was headlining the three-day Route 91 Harvest festival on the Las Vegas Strip which was launched in 2014.

Aldean, who last year won the top prize at the Academy of Country Music Awards, has spoken to Middle America with songs such as "Fly Over States," a tale of men flying first-class from New York to Los Angeles who can't understand the heartland. On "They Don't Know," the title track of his last album, Aldean again speaks of outsiders who drive past farmers but "ain't seen the blood, sweat and tears it took to live their dreams."

Aldean, a 40-year-old Georgia native who recently put on sale the sprawling Tennessee ranch where he hunts deer and turkeys, last year told Rolling Stone Country that Donald Trump pulled off his election upset by speaking to the "every-day guy who is going to work and wanting a normal life for his family" but feels forgotten.

Whiter, older demographic

Authorities did not immediately assign a motive to 64-year-old gunman Stephen Paddock. Live music has increasingly become the target of attacks, with the genres varying widely. A May bombing struck a concert in Manchester, England of pop star Ariana Grande, whose fan base is full of young girls, while a devastating assault on a Paris club in 2015 hit the urbane crowd of rockers Eagles of Death Metal. Surveys have found that more than 90 percent of country listeners are white, with the music most popular in the Deep South and Great Plains, although the Nashville-based industry takes pains to stress that it is making inroads with minorities. A Nielsen study last year found that fans also skewed older, with the average person at a US country music show nearly 45 years old.—AP

Vietnamese brides say 'I do' to South Korea

When baby-faced Huynh Thi Thai Muoi left her home in rural Vietnam to begin a life in South Korea with a man she barely knew, she feared it was a gamble. She didn't speak the language, her new husband was nearly twice her age, and she knew little about her new home, but the 23-year-old high school dropout was looking for love—and a fresh start. "I want a new life. I want to challenge myself and see whether I can thrive or not," said Muoi, whose chubby, acne-marked cheeks make her look younger than she is.

Muoi was introduced to 43-year-old bachelor Kim Kyeong-Bok through her cousin, who is also married to a Korean, and the couple wed within days of meeting. She is one of some 40,000 Vietnamese brides in South Korea, a top destination for women looking for love and a ticket out of poverty. Many know little about the country beyond K-pop bands or Korean movies and end up marrying virtual strangers. But for Muoi, her new life in the city of Gwangju—and her new husband—have, so far, surpassed her hopes.

"My husband really loves me, more than I expected," she gushed. Despite the language barrier, Kim is teaching her to shop and cook, and hopes she will make friends at a nearby community centre for foreign brides. "When I first met her, I thought to myself, 'this is the woman who will become my wife'. I was very happy," explained Kim, who had rejected the first Vietnamese girl presented to him as a bride option.

Marriage gap

But Muoi is one of the lucky ones. Many other Vietnamese women have found their new lives

are not what they dreamed: thousands have returned home divorced and unhappy. "The women don't have enough information about either their husbands or what migrating and living in Korea would be like," said Youn Sim Kim, director of the Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy (KOCUN), an NGO in southern Can Tho province where many of the brides come from.

One in five Vietnamese-Korean couples filed for divorce in 2015, according to the latest data from Statistics Korea. "I thought life would be okay like it was in Vietnam, maybe the only difference would be the food," said Le Thi The, a divorcee now living in Can Tho. The honeymoon period abruptly ended days after she arrived and discovered her husband was not the man she thought he would be. "I asked him to come home and he got mad at me, he threw all my stuff out of the house," she said.

Most Vietnamese brides usually settle in rural areas in South Korea, a prospect that has become less attractive to eligible Korean women who have streamed into fast-growing cities to climb the career ladder. An increasing number say that marriage isn't a must. "In some of those areas there's a gender imbalance, whereby a lot of the South Korean women who are from the rural areas are migrating to urban centres, leaving a shortage," said Paul Priest, acting chief of mission at the International Organization for Migration in Vietnam. The bulk of women filling the marriage gap come from Vietnam's Mekong Delta or rural China, largely drawn to South Korea's dizzying pace of development of the past half century.

Lost everything

The headache continues for returnees to Vietnam since their divorces aren't legally recognized and their Korean-born children aren't immediately eligible to attend local schools. Mother-of-two Nguyen Thi Kim Han married a Korean man in 2007 to help her poor family. But he turned out to be a closeted gambling addict who emptied the family's bank account—twice.

"At first he was nice with a gentle manner, we didn't have that much money but it wasn't that important," she told AFP, sobbing. But she later discovered he lost all their money in poor trades on the stock market. "Not a single penny left... I was in shock," Han said. After he did it a second time, she took the girls back to Vietnam, but struggled to get them into school, eventually managing with KOCUN's help.

Established in 2011, the centre prepares brides-to-be for life in Korea, teaching them about climate and culture, language and local food, and also supports returnees. Most couples meet through illegal marriage brokers in Vietnam, notorious for arranging bride-viewing sessions for Korean men in seedy backrooms. But police in Vietnam have cracked down on the brokers, and the South Korean government has tightened visa rules, so such foreign marriages are starting to decline. — AP



Vietnamese bride Huynh Thi Thai Muoi (R) and her South Korean husband Kim Kyeong-Bok after their arrival at Incheon airport, west of Seoul.



Nguyen Thi Kim Han (R) sips on a juice as she sits with her two daughters near the Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy (KOCUN) in Can Tho. — AFP photos

P A R I S



Fashion Week

Models present the creations for Chanel during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



Models present the creations by Agnes b during the women's 2018 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP/AP photos



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017



A model wears a creation for the Chanel Spring/Summer 2018 ready-to-wear fashion collection presented in Paris. — AP

Tom Petty, iconic rocker with dark streak, dead at 66

Tom Petty, the Southern-accented rocker whose classic melodies and dark storytelling created 40 years of hit songs, died Monday of cardiac arrest, his family said. He was 66. Petty, who sold 80 million records, passed away Monday evening surrounded by loved ones after a confusing day in which several media outlets reported and then retracted premature news of his death. "On behalf of the Tom Petty family we are devastated to announce the untimely death of our father, husband, brother, leader and friend Tom Petty," a family statement said.

Early on Monday, Petty suffered cardiac arrest at his home in Malibu, exactly a week after he triumphantly put on what would be his career-capping concert. The rocker had wrapped up a tour celebrating 40 years of his band The Heartbreakers with three sold-out shows at the iconic Hollywood Bowl. He closed the encore with one of his earliest and best-known songs—

"American Girl," which tells of an ambitious girl "raised on promises" but now contemplating suicide, set to electric guitar harmonies from the golden age of rock 'n' roll. The song was one of many by Petty about struggling to overcome long odds. "I Won't Back Down," perhaps his best-known song, took on a second life as a US patriotic anthem after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The singer and guitarist—recognizable for his shoulder-length blonde hair—delivered his vocals in short punches that showed an underlying bitterness, such as on "You Don't Know How It Feels," or with a wistfulness as on "Free Fallin'," a breakup story that ends in loneliness for all. The rocker's characters—

small-town Americans full of aspirations but running into a wall of setbacks—reflected the hardscrabble early life of Petty.

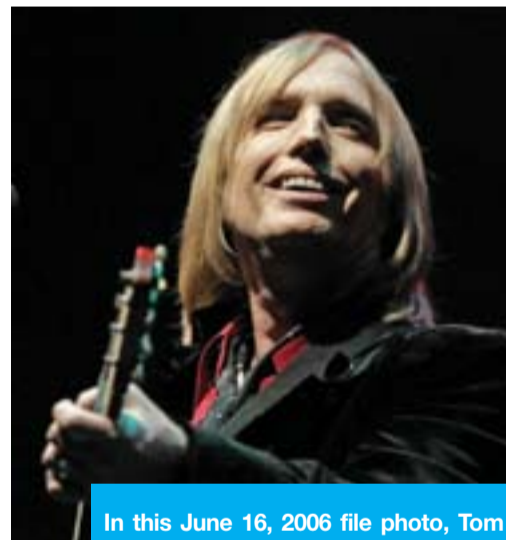
His grandfather was a logger from Georgia rumored to have fled south to Florida after axing a man to death in an argument. Petty was born in Gainesville in northern Florida to a belligerently drunk father who sold wholesale tobacco and candy. Petty recalled that his father, intoxicated and unimpressed by his son's passion for music, once smashed up the boy's record collection. The future rocker said he told him, "Dad, if you'll just leave me alone, I'll be a millionaire by the time I'm 35." And his remark proved prophetic.

Rock as early escape

Petty, speaking in 2015 to Men's Journal, credited his mother Kitty with saving him by reading to him, introducing him to pop standards and showing him "there was more to life than red-necks." But he remained haunted by his father and consumed by inner rage.

"Any authority I didn't agree with could just make me go crazy," he said of his early adulthood. He struggled with depression most of his life and formed an addiction to heroin, although later in life his only substance was marijuana and he calmed himself with transcendental meditation.

Petty embraced the American South, especially on his 1985 album "Southern Accents," but with a sound that was more Florida quirky than hillbilly. The album's song "Rebels" spoke of Southern mischief-ousness while the trippy "Don't Come Around Here



In this June 16, 2006 file photo, Tom Petty performs at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester.



In this Sept 17, 2017 file photo, Tom Petty of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers appears at KAABOO 2017 in San Diego. — AP/AFP photos

“ So odd and complex yet direct all at once ”

No More"—co-written with David A. Stewart of The Eurythmics and accompanied by an "Alice in Wonderland" themed video—cemented Petty's standing among stoners. "Don't Come Around Here No More" changed the way I looked at songwriting and production. So odd and complex yet direct all at once," the indie rocker and producer Jack Antonoff wrote on Twitter.

Advocate for artists

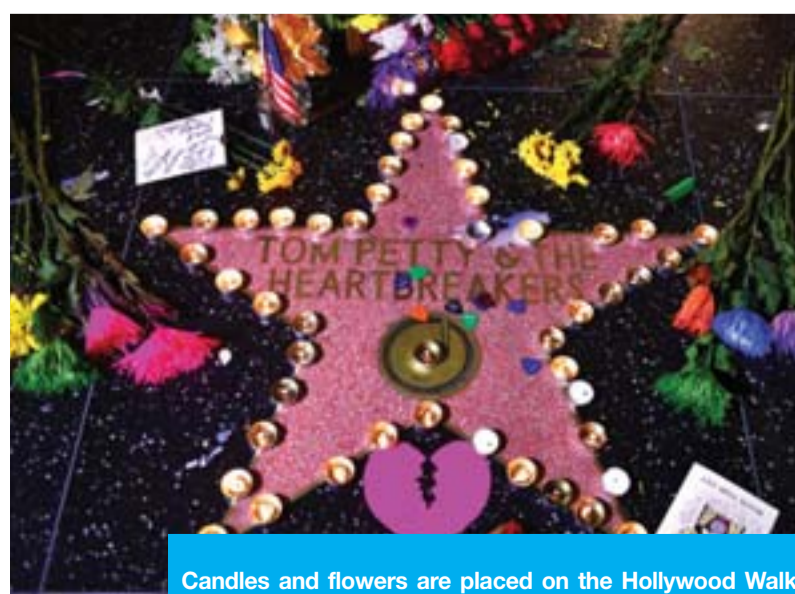
Touring the United States for "Southern Accents," he pinned up a Confederate flag on stage—a move he later regretted, telling Rolling Stone that "people just need to think about how it looks to a black person" as he likened the controversial symbol to a Nazi swastika. In a speech in February as he

was presented a lifetime achievement award at the Grammys, Petty said he owed his greatest debt to African Americans such as Chuck Berry who created rock 'n' roll. But he discovered rock 'n' roll thanks to Britain when he saw The Beatles perform on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1964.

"I had my eyes opened like so many others and I joined the conspiracy to put black music on the popular white radio," Petty said. In the late 1980s, Petty joined one of The Beatles, George Harrison, in a supergroup, the Traveling Wilburys, that also featured Bob Dylan. The project was short-lived after the death of another member, Roy Orbison.—AFP



In this file photo taken on February 2, 2008 shows musician Tom Petty performing during halftime at Super Bowl XLIII at the University of Phoenix Stadium.



Candles and flowers are placed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Star of the late Tom Petty in Hollywood.



This file photo taken on March 15, 2004 shows Tom Petty(R) and Dhani Harrison, the son of the late George Harrison, performing a song of George Harrison after the late Beatle was inducted during the 19th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.