

3 Foul odor leads to discovery of body



8 First lady vs first wife: Melania and Ivana spar



17 Oil slide weighs heavily on MENA growth forecast: IMF



16 Syria World Cup hopes end in extra-time loss to Australia



Zain finalizes telecoms tower deal, first of its kind in region

Zain agrees to sell and lease back mobile towers for \$165m

KUWAIT: Mobile Telecommunications Company KSCP (Zain), Kuwait's leading mobile operator, yesterday announced that it has entered into definite agreements to sell and lease back the passive physical infrastructure of its mobile tower portfolio in Kuwait for \$165 million to IHS Holding Limited (IHS), in partnership with Towershare Management Limited. The transaction will result in the formation of a new entity that will acquire and manage Zain's tower assets in Kuwait, with Zain assuming a minority shareholding in this newly formed entity.

The transaction has been approved by Kuwait's Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), and is still subject to other regulatory and statutory approvals, and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2018.

IHS is the largest independent tower operator in Europe, Middle East and Africa by tower count and the third largest independent multinational tower company globally. Zain has more than 1,600 mobile telecommunication towers located in prime and strategic locations across Kuwait and this transaction will enable Zain to focus on its core business and customers while accelerating Zain's investments in cutting-edge telecom technologies to help meet growing mobile data demand.

Under the terms of the transaction, Zain is selling only its passive, physical infrastructure to the new company and will retain its intelligent software, technology and intellectual property with respect to managing its network.

Upon completion, the transaction will be the first sale and leaseback of telecom towers in the Middle East region by a licensed mobile operator, and creates the first independent tower operator of scale in the region. This transaction is part of IHS' broader strategy to apply its operational expertise from its international



Vice-Chairman and Group CEO of Zain Bader Al-Kharafi is seen with Zain, IHS and Towershare Management officials.



Bader Al-Kharafi signs the telecom tower sell and leaseback agreement.

portfolio further throughout emerging markets. The newly formed entity will be responsible for maintaining and expanding Zain's tower footprint across Kuwait.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Vice-Chairman and Group CEO of Zain said, "This transaction is set to support Zain's transformational strategy in becoming a digital lifestyle provider as it will optimize operational efficiencies, enhance customer experience, and deliver greater value for its shareholders. This deal will unlock value that can be more efficiently deployed in new technologies and higher



Bader Al-Kharafi: Our dedication to explore all opportunities and become first movers is the key to our innovation

yielding investments for Zain, and at the same time pave the way for further network expansion and tower infrastructure sharing in Kuwait."

Kharafi added, "I'm very proud of Zain team for its professionalism in completing the first agreement of its kind in the MENA region. We are confident we have chosen the right partner in IHS, a company that possesses high caliber expertise with sound operational experience in diverse markets."

Continued on Page 11

Harbush, Adasani trade barbs; Hayef warns government

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A tit-for-tat war of words between opposition MPs Jamaan Al-Harbush and Riyadh Al-Adasani intensified yesterday, with the two lawmakers hurling new accusations against each other. The confrontation began when Harbush, a leading Islamist MP from the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), criticized Adasani for rushing a grilling request against the state minister for Cabinet affairs. Adasani responded by lashing out at Harbush and his group, and charged that they were collaborating with the prime minister to protect him from political questioning.

Harbush replied yesterday by calling on Adasani to review his position and accused him of deliberately misleading people. He also charged that Adasani was part of a concerted attack against the ICM and Islamists. Harbush also said that he did not oppose the grilling against the minister, but Adasani "normally changes facts against his rivals".

The lawmaker also denied that he nor his group made any secret deals with the prime minister and the government, adding the understanding over the revoked citizenships was public and known to all. Harbush also warned the government against backing down in the citizenship agreement, saying that MPs will resort to "other methods". He called on MPs to coordinate their political agenda. But Adasani did not like Harbush's comments, and warned that his response will come soon in a "grilling of the prime minister".

Islamist opposition MP Mohammad Hayef called yesterday for unity and cooperation between the government and the National Assembly in the wake of highly tense situation in the region. He said that a lack of cooperation between the two authorities will strain political relations and create tensions. Hayef said talks will be held with the prime minister about the need to resolve the issue of revoked citizenships before the start of the next Assembly term on Oct 24. The government had pledged to return citizenships that were withdrawn more than three years ago from opposition figures.

Hayef said that lawmakers do not aim at straining relations with the government and that the political detente lawmakers pledged before the Amir is still standing and had continued for a long period, which is sufficient to resolve the issue of the citizenships. The lawmaker however warned the government against not fulfilling its pledges, adding that failure to resolve the citizenship issue means that the government is not cooperating, and in this case, MPs have pledged to hold the government to account.



Riyadh Al-Adasani



Jamaan Al-Harbush

Catalan leader steps back from declaring outright independence

BARCELONA: Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont said yesterday he had accepted the "mandate of the people" for his region's independence from Spain but suspended the declaration to allow more time for talks with Madrid. In a speech to regional lawmakers in Barcelona, Puigdemont stopped short of declaring an outright split but left the door to secession open, leaving some political rivals scratching their heads. "I assume the mandate of the people for Catalonia to become an independent republic," he said.

But the 54-year-old asked the Catalan parliament to "suspend the effects of the independence declaration to initiate dialogue in the coming weeks". The central government fired back, with a spokesman rejecting what Madrid termed Catalonia's "tacit" independence declaration. Political leaders in Catalonia, Spain and Europe have come out against an independence declaration, concerned over the country's biggest upheaval since its transition to democracy in the 1970s.

EU nations are watching developments closely amid concern that Catalan independence could put further pressure on the bloc still dealing with the fallout from Britain's shock decision to leave. Police deployed en masse around the regional parliament, blocking public access to a park that houses the building as crowds watched the session on giant screens, waving Catalan flags and some brandishing signs reading "democracy".

Reaction among those who had hoped to witness a historic moment for a region deeply-divided over independence was mixed. "In essence we're happy but I



BARCELONA: Catalan regional government president Carles Puigdemont (right) acknowledges applause at the Catalan regional parliament yesterday. — AFP

was expecting more," said 66-year-old Pere Valldeu. Merce Hernandez, a 35-year-old architect, said: "I am very emotional, this is a historic day. I'm satisfied." Madrid has repeatedly said it would not negotiate on Catalonia's independence. "We call on Puigdemont not to do anything irreversible, not to pursue a path of no return and not to make any unilateral independence declaration," government spokesman Inigo Mendez de Vigo told reporters earlier yesterday.

Continued on Page 11

Marginal workers face axe; degree needed for iqama

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh told Al-Anbaa daily that expat university degree holders will have to provide their attested original certificates to renew their residency visas. Sabeeh added more categories could be later included in this condition once a related study is completed.

Responding to a question whether the residencies of some expats will no longer be renewed, Sabeeh said this was being considered, as expat

marginal laborers overburden the local market by seeking job opportunities all the time.

Sabeeh stressed that these decisions were meant to protect expat workers from being exploited. She noted that the new measures will also target Kuwaiti owners of companies using illegal methods and human trafficking to recruit expats and bring them to Kuwait. "These companies will be suspended, fined and referred for investigations," Sabeeh vowed.



Hind Al-Sabeeh

Indian child brides sold in 'package deals' to Gulf men

HYDERABAD, India: For years, Haji Khan - a lanky man in his thirties - moved inconspicuously in the bylanes of Hyderabad's Old City, scouring the streets for child brides for older men visiting from Gulf states, pocketing about 10,000 rupees (\$150) for each girl. Khan struck two kinds of deals: 'Pucca' meant long-term marriages where the girl would fly back with her husband to his home country, and 'time pass' marriages that lasted for the duration of the man's stay in India.

"We lined up 20 to 30 girls for each Arab in a hotel and he would select one. They (the men) gave the rejected girls 200

rupees (\$3) to go back home," said Khan, now a police informer. "The men came with old, used bridal clothes, soaps and nightgowns for the girl they would marry. Most marriages were 'time pass'," Khan told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Police in the southern Indian city, a hub for tech companies, last month busted a racket involving wealthy men from Gulf states such as Oman and UAE "marrying" teenage Muslim girls in Hyderabad for the duration of their stay in India. At the time of the marriage, the men signed postdated divorce documents, to be delivered to the brides after their new husbands had left the country.

The marriages were performed by a Muslim officiant, or qazi, who forged the bride's age to show her as an adult. The main qazi who performed these marriages in Hyderabad was arrested last month. "Most of the girls do not know that they will be abandoned within 15 or 20 days of the marriage. The men would come on tourist visas, perform a contract marriage and leave after a month," said V Satyanarayana, a deputy

Continued on Page 11

Amir receives Direct Investment Promotion Authority's annual report

Amir receives letter from Guinea-Bissau's President



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the annual report of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a letter from Guinea-Bissau's President Mario Vaz, delivered by President's Advisor Mamadou Sano.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace Minister of Commerce and Industry as well as Acting Minister of Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudan, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and members of the authority.

The KDIPA members handed His Highness Sheikh Sabah the authority's 2017 annual report. The KDIPA members later handed copies of the report to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Affairs Hassan Abul as well as Iraqi Minister of Transportation Kadem Al-Hamami and the accompanying delegation. Abul and Hamami later visited His Highness the Prime Minister as well.

His Highness the Amir also met with Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Faleh Al-Azb, President of the Arab Lawyers

Union (ALU) Sameh Ashour, and participants in the recent conference for the union held in Kuwait. The meetings were attended by Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister Azb and the ALU chief later met with His Highness the Prime Minister as well.

His Highness the Amir also received Advisor to the President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Mamadou Sano. Advisor Sano handed His Highness the Amir a written letter on ways to enhance bilateral relations from Guinea-Bissau's President Jose Mario Vaz. Present at the reception was First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Crown received Head of the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) Abdullah Saud Al-Abdulrazzaq, as well as CTC Deputy Head Faisal Humoud Al-Muzain. His Highness also received Director of Environmental Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullaah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the annual report of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority.

Foreign Minister hosts former UN chief



KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks yesterday with former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. In his encounter with the visiting former UN chief, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said that he was appreciative of his profound contributions during his stint as UN secretary general.

Meanwhile, the former UN secretary general commended His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad

Al-Sabah for his efforts to ensure that peace and security around the world remain intact. The meeting brought together a number of senior Kuwaiti foreign ministry officials.

Earlier yesterday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with President of the Swiss National Council Jurg Stahl and his accompanying delegation. Discussions between the two sides focused on ways to bolster ties, issues of mutual interest, as well as developments within the region and the world. Deputy Foreign Minister



President of the Swiss National Council Jurg Stahl arrives at the parliament's building yesterday for a meeting with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.

Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarrah and top staff at the Foreign Ministry attended the meeting.

Stahl and his delegation also held talks with Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem. They tackled bilateral ties between both nations, especially issues of parliamentary nature, as well as the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. They also discussed means of booting cooperation and coordination between the parliaments of both countries in the international parliamentary arenas.

The meeting was attended by National Assembly's Controller MP Nayef Merdas Al-Ajmi, Head of the accompanying honorary mission MP Askar Al-Enezi, and MP Humoud Al-Khedaur. It was also attended by Kuwait Ambassador to Switzerland Bader Al-Tunaib, and National Assembly's Secretary General Allam Al-Kandiri. Following the discussions, Ghanem held a lunch banquet for his Swiss counterpart and the accompanying delegation. Stahl and his delegation arrived to the country yesterday in an official two-day visit. — KUNA

'Kuwait mediation very important'

BRUSSELS: The chairperson of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula, Michele Alliot-Marie, underlined her full support to Kuwaiti mediation efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. "Kuwait mediation is very important. First of all it is accepted by both parties. That is a real necessity for mediation," she said Monday evening.

"Secondly we in the European Union know that we cannot be in the first role for that. We can help if asked. But the solution is a local solution," she added. A French politician, Alliot-Marie has served as France's foreign and European affairs minister from 2010 to 2011, minister of justice from 2009 to 2010, and minister of defense from 2002 to 2007. — KUNA



Michele Alliot-Marie

UNRWA chief lauds support by Arab Gulf countries

BRUSSELS: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl heaped praise yesterday on Arab Gulf countries for their continued support to the Palestinian people. "We have been quite successful in reaching out in particular to Saudi Arabia, to the UAE and Kuwait who are active supporters of UNRWA. Saudi Arabia today is the third largest donor to the organizations after the US and the EU," he told the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee in Brussels.

"I think that is a very significant sign. They have traditionally supported a lot of the reconstruction work, rebuilding homes and installations for example in the Gaza strip, helping us to renovate schools from Jordan to the West Bank and elsewhere," he noted.

"We are seeing increased support by Saudi Arabia and the UAE to our core activities, education, healthcare and others which is a very welcome in that regard," said the UNRWA chief who briefed the EP committee on the activities of UNRWA. He said that today there are 5.3 million Palestine refugees between the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. "This is a considerable number of people for whom we have direct responsibility to provide services," he said. He pointed out that UNRWA has 270,000 students in the Gaza strip in 260 schools. But 90 percent of those have never left the Gaza strip in their lives and 65 percent will not find a job in the Gaza strip.

"This is a time to create a political horizon for Palestinian youth in the region. There is an element of a time



BRUSSELS: UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl speaks after inaugurating an exhibition in the European Parliament which focuses on EU Support for UN Schools in the Middle East. — KUNA

bomb if one does not address many of the human consequences," warned Krahenbuhl. He thanked the EU for its strong support but added that UNRWA still has a shortfall of \$77 million. "We will be actively reaching to other countries in the Gulf and elsewhere to ensure that it will close this shortfall," he said. Meanwhile, David McAllister, Chair of the EP Committee, thanked

UNRWA for the important work to offer a decent life for the 5 million Palestinian refugees. He said that the EU considers UNRWA a crucial component for peace, security and development in the Middle East. The UNRWA chief also inaugurated a new exhibition in the European Parliament which focuses on EU Support for UN Schools in the Middle East. — KUNA

Local

7,366 reached retirement age in public sector, statistics show

75 percent public employees are citizens

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Recent statistics showed that the total number of citizens who have reached the age of retirement as of October was 7,366, including 373 who reached the retirement age during the last three months. The Civil Service Commission's (CSC) third quarterly statistical report about public employees showed that their total number is 342,783 including 147,325 males (42.9 percent) and 195,458 females (57.02 percent). They also include 257,230 citizens (75 percent), 4,427 GCC nationals, 49,425 Arabs and 31,701 non-Arab nationals.

Statistics also showed that the Ministry of Education had the largest number of civil servants with 111,321 employees, followed by the Ministry of Health with 62,823 employees and the Ministry of Electricity and Water with 20,533 employees, followed by the Interior Ministry and other ministries with 20,080 employees. In addition, statistics showed that 80,929 employees worked in teaching, 52,915 in administrative positions,

49,819 in medical service positions, 42,221 in engineering, 23,290 in financial and commercial positions and 590 in naval positions.

Moreover, statistics showed that public employees include 5,111 PhD holders, 11,032 Master's degree holders, 157,058 Bachelor's degree holders, 53,808 with two-year university education, 64,242 with high school certificates and 11,270 who did not finish primary school.

Teachers

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education's Undersecretary Haitham Al-Athari called for setting a

law to exclude education from the CSC law on grounds that the law was only set for administrative staff members, and that teachers should be differentiated in

Education Ministry has the largest number of civil servants



appointment, evaluation and promotion. Athari's appeal comes in light of recent statistics which showed an increase in the number of Kuwaiti teachers who request promotion to administrative posts shortly after hiring, seeking better benefits.

Interference

Chairman of the employees syndicate at Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Ammar Al-Ajmi condemned what he described as the interference of the

Public Authority of Manpower in syndicates' affairs. Ajmi issued a press statement noting that the syndicate was about to file a case at the public prosecutor's office against the authority, accusing it of signing an agreement between the oil union and KNPC, in presence of a representative from the syndicate. He added that the syndicate had previously condemned KNPC policies of appointing expats instead of citizens at the operations department.

Infrastructures

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) Mohammed Boshherhi stressed that housing projects were a priority for the government and that MEW was working accordingly. Speaking at a meeting held with representatives from the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and Kuwait Municipality to discuss executing the infrastructure of blocks 3 and 4 in South Khaitan, Boshherhi said MPW might be handed the responsibility of executing the project.

Foul odor leads to dead body's discovery

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and agencies

KUWAIT: Foul odor coming from inside a Salmiya apartment led police to discover the death of its dweller three days earlier. Fire operations received a call regarding the odor, so they broke the door and found the body, which was recovered by the coroner.

Bogus office

Residency Affairs Detectives busted a bogus domestic help office that operating illegally and gave fake receipts to people hiring domestic helpers. Officers raided the office and arrested 11 men, in addition to seven women who were discovered to be reported absconding by their sponsors. The detainees were sent to concerned authorities. Separately, detectives discovered 11 companies that have commercial licenses sponsoring 44 people, though they are closed and did not have any activities. Security restrictions were placed on the companies and those sponsored by them.

Forgery

Seven people were arrested for forgery in travel documents while 178 wanted people were detained at Kuwait International Airport last month, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. A statement released by the Relations and Security Information Department revealed that 1,102,280 passengers travelled through Kuwait International Airport during September. The number of arrivals was 685,368 including 237,342 Kuwaitis, while departures were 416,912, including 140,138 Kuwaitis. Thirteen people were allowed in the country after the deportation orders were lifted.

Campaign

Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department said a campaign was carried out in Salhiya and resulted in issuing 200 citations for violation of the law that bans littering on pavements.



KUWAIT: This photo provided by Kuwait Fire Services Directorate yesterday shows a firefighter breaking open the door of an apartment where a dead body was found.

Brewery busted

Ahmedi police busted a liquor brewery in Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area. Patrol officers roaming the area noticed a man and a woman trying to flee, but they were arrested. When questioned, they said they were running a 'liquor factory' in the area, where 89 full drums, four fermentation drums and 173 full bottles were found.

Electrocution

An Egyptian electrician was electrocuted to death while working in a Hadiya house and flung afar. Police received a call about his death, so they went to the house. Forensics personnel collected evidence, while police questioned other workers to find out the details of the accident.

Dangerous stunts

Several reckless drivers resisted Ahmedi

police while performing dangerous stunts in Wafra. Nine of them were arrested and their vehicles were impounded. Interior Ministry operations received a call about a group of reckless drivers who had blocked a road with the help of a crowd, then started performing stunts, endangering motorists. Police surrounded the area and some of the suspects resisted, but nine citizens and expats were arrested.

Smuggling foiled

Kuwait airport customs officers arrested an Asian who attempted to smuggle around four kilograms of marijuana in his luggage. The man seemed nervous when he arrived at the baggage claim area, so his bag was searched and the drug was found in it. The suspect will be sent to Drugs Control General Department.

Kuwait, Hungary look to expand ties



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Hungarian Foreign Ministry's Minister of State for Cultural and Science Diplomacy Istvan Igyarto. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met the visiting Hungarian Foreign Ministry's Minister of State for Cultural and Science Diplomacy Istvan Igyarto, along with his accompanying delegation yesterday, holding talks over bilateral relations. The encounter between

the two officials also delved into the latest regional and international happenings. Kuwait's assistant foreign minister for the deputy foreign minister's office affairs Ayham Al-Omar and Budapest's ambassador to Kuwait Mihaly Bayer were among the attendees at the meeting. — KUNA

Kuwaiti doctors save Parkinson's patients

KUWAIT: A group of Kuwaiti physicians have successfully conducted a pair of intricate procedures where a healing intestinal gel is pumped into patients with Parkinson's disease, without having to resort to other operations that often prove ineffective. The advanced procedure known as "Duodopa pump treatment" was instrumental in treating the most severe nervous system disorders, Dr Jassim Al-Hashel, the head of government-run Ibn Sina hospital's neurological disorders department, said yesterday. He added that the surgery could also help restore mobility for many patients suffering from Parkinson's disease, pointing out that the procedures were closely monitored by neurological specialists. — KUNA

Organized by **Kuwait Times** In cooperation with **Embassy of Canada to the State of Kuwait**

150

CELEBRATE #CANADA150

CELEBRATE CANADA

STUDENT ART COMPETITION

October 8th Till November 9th, 2017

Hello Artists

Welcome to the student art competition.

We hope you are ready to produce a beautiful painting and win valuable prizes.

The theme for your painting is

CELEBRATE #CANADA150

Awe-inspiring scenery, vibrant cities and a welcoming atmosphere all make Canada a popular tourist destination. As the largest country in North America, Canada is a vast land encompassing majestic mountains, spectacular coastlines, virgin forests, spacious prairies and Arctic tundra. While much of the nation is of British and French descent, Canada is home to a mosaic of multicultural communities.

Good Luck To You..

Sponsored by

- Competition is open to students from (6 - 9 years) (10 - 13 years) (14 years and above) and students with special needs.
- The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in the competition will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- Any school or individuals interested in participating are welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheet.
- Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be permitted for use in the competition.
- You may use any drawing material such as color pencils, paint or crayons.

All entries are non-returnable, and will be the property of Kuwait Times ©

* For more information and updates please visit

Ktimes Compet
 TimesComp
 kuwaittimescompetition

* you can send "subscribe" by what's app to +96599395118 to receive competitions news updates

Local

Parliament speaker expresses readiness to cooperate with govt

Governance in realms of legislation, finance and administration

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem expressed yesterday readiness by the legislative branch to cooperate with the government, and set governance implementation as a top national priority. Ghanem made the remarks in a speech during the opening ceremony of Governance Conference, held under the title "governance in the State of Kuwait in the realms of legislation, finance and administration."

The event is organized by the legislative and legal affairs committee of the National Assembly, in cooperation with Kuwait's State Audit Bureau, under Ghanem's auspices and attendance. The speaker stressed importance on transforming some of the proposed concepts to the legislative and into legal forms, as well as reforming current laws that would bridge legal and legislative gaps that ham-

“Implementing governance is no longer optional, but a must”

per the implementation of governance in the governmental and private sectors. He also called on reaching a comprehensive vision in order to implement the governance, which would counter corruption in the state's institutions. Governance became a dear need and not only optional, as most of the governments, companies and social entities worldwide are implementing and experiencing it, Ghanem affirmed.

Governance will reflect the values of reward, punishment, transparency, and wise ruling, he said. He expressed hope that the conference would contribute in transferring ideas to applicable visions. He also thanked the legislative and legal affairs committee of the National Assembly, and State's Audit Bureau, as well as all the participants who took part in the conference.



KUWAIT: Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks during the conference. — KUNA



MP Mohammad Al-Dalal delivers his speech.

Five themes

The conference involves five themes including the governance of development planning, the rules and principles of the governance implementation within the framework of the state's development plan, and governance in the roles of the legislative and judicial authorities.



A general view of the audience attending the conference.

The event brings together senior officials and parliamentarians, all of whom will delve into the correlation between solid governance and rapid development in this regard, said MP Mohammad Al-Dalal, who heads an ad hoc committee dealing with legislative legal affairs, adding that the conference would help prop up inspection bodies in the country.

He added that the conference will examine the government's contributions to anti-corruption efforts and measures to ensure transparency and integrity in the government sector.

Dalal said that the conference will bring together officials from UAE and Singapore to benefit from the experiences of the two advanced countries, pointing out to the experience of the UAE, which is considered the most pioneering in the Gulf region.

He noted that the governance will prove instrumental in improving performance within state institutions, particularly, in the fields of finance, legislation and administration. The governance contributes to improving performance of foundations including the private sector and civil society organizations. —KUNA

KAFO provides easier connection, collaboration with young achievers

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Amiri Diwan, in cooperation with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, held Kuwait's Achievers for Future Opportunities' first annual forum to celebrate the launch of KAFO's website on Monday at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. KAFO is the first national platform to ease the process of searching, connecting and collaborating with young achievers. The event included an exhibition, community discussions and networking sessions.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zein Al-Sabah noted that the first KAFO forum will be an annual forum that focuses on creative and innovative young nationals in various fields. "We give them this opportunity to present their projects and ideas. We hope that this forum will build new interactive industries to provide more income sources through encouraging the youth to work in the development sector," she said.

Dr Yousef Al-Ibrahim, Head of the Higher Supervising Committee of the Project, said KAFO consists of various activities highlighting the creativity of Kuwait youth. "A huge number of young people attended this forum, which is a platform with data about special and excellent individuals to create a connection between them, and from here came the



KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zein Al-Sabah (left) and Head of the Higher Supervising Committee of the Project Dr Yousef Al-Ibrahim listen to a participant as she speaks during the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

idea of KAFO," he said. "We will start with six forums, which includes meetings, to present creative people and their activities, in addition to using technology to create a virtual community for these young individuals. We need to encourage young people not only to find a job, but also to build this country. I believe that KAFO will be the tool to discover these people," added Ibrahim.

KAFO started as a platform with resumes of the par-

ticipants. "The goal was not just to set up a website, but to make it useful, so we re-built it. We bring together youth to voice their opinions, and accordingly, we changed the name and logo to KAFO (Kuwait's Achievers for Future Opportunities). In this way we introduced a traditional Kuwaiti word 'kafo' for 'eigners,'" explained Dr Fatma Al-Musawi, CEO of KAFO project.

Over 700 creative people and volunteers participat-

ed in developing KAFO. "We focused on having key content for public authorities. So we included CVs, connecting achievers, displaying opportunities of cooperation, searching for achievers and opportunities and exchanging experiences through communities. During the first phase, we focused on seven categories - leading businesses, humanitarian work, culture and arts, food and beverage, sports, media and science and technology," concluded Musawi.



Young people participate with their innovations in the forum.

Hydraulic fracturing to yield sublime oil products, says researcher

KUWAIT: A feasibility study of hydraulic fracturing, a technique designed to recover gas or oil from rock, would be instrumental in providing higher quality crude oil products, a leading researcher said yesterday. After a meeting that brought together Kuwaiti and Japanese oil experts to examine the prospect of hydraulic fracturing, Dr Hamza Al-Bazaz, tasked by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to preside over the study said that the project aims to find out how applicable such a technique is in Kuwait. He pointed out that the process of hydraulic fracturing could lead to top notch crude oil products that would have positive ripple effects across the global market.

Bazaz put a three-year timeframe on the feasibility study, which was the brainchild of Japanese oil experts who are heavily involved in the project. The Kuwaiti researcher noted that the Japanese contingent would be visiting Mina Abdullah refinery to explain how significant the breakthrough technique is. The meeting also featured a lecture given by a Japanese expert over the most cutting-edge oil extraction techniques, all of which could prove beneficial for the Kuwaiti oil industry. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti and Japanese oil experts meet to examine the prospect of hydraulic fracturing. — KUNA

Kuwait assures continued support for health relief efforts

ISLAMABAD: Kuwait is committed to global health and humanitarian relief efforts, Health Minister Jamal Al-Harbi told attendees of a World Health Organization (WHO) regional committee session yesterday. The minister stressed Kuwait's support for the integration of efforts to combat chronic diseases and detect cancer into national development plans with a focus on early detection.

This has been successfully implemented in Kuwait, he said, mentioning the United Nation's selection of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait as a humanitarian global leader and international center, respectively. The Eastern Mediterranean region is the source of more than half of the displaced people and refugees in the world, he said at the 64th session of the WHO Regional Committee in Islamabad.

For this reason, he demanded further efforts to transform commitments into regional action plans to guide the modernization of health programs and expressed optimism for a better future despite the magnitude of the challenges.

He also praised the efforts of the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean to focus on health information systems and include key indicators to monitor progress towards



Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi

achieving sustainable development goals, particularly on the basic indicators of member countries. Minister Harbi is amongst the high level representatives of 22 countries in WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region attending the event. —KUNA

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: An Arabian red fox is spotted on the outskirts of Jahra Nature Reserve. — KUNA

Kuwait reiterates stance on countries' right for self-determination



NEW YORK: First Secretary in Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the UN headquarters in New York Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attends a meeting held as part of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly. — KUNA

NEW YORK: Kuwait expressed its full support to the right of self-determination to all countries in deciding their own fate, in accordance with UN protocols. The remarks were made by First Secretary in Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the UN headquarters in New York Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during the meeting of the Special Committee on Decolonization, as part of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly late Monday.



Kuwaiti diplomat Abdullah Al-Sharrah speaks during the meeting.

Sheikh Jarrah expressed his deep concern over the failure of the UN and the international community to end all forms of colonization. He called on the UN to enforce the articles of its "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", adopted by the General Assembly in December 1960. He stressed on the importance of full cooperation by countries that control autonomous regions, through providing the UN with detailed reports on the political, economic and social conditions in these regions.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Jarrah said Kuwait welcomes the UN-brokered talks to resolve the Western Sahara between conflict parties. He also welcomed Morocco's initiative on granting Western Sahara the right of self-ruling. Moreover, the Kuwaiti official called on the UN to exert further and serious efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Although Palestine has an independent self-ruling and is not an autonomous, yet it is suffering a great deal of Israeli violations, he noted. Palestinians must be granted their full political rights including the right to decide their own fate and have their own independent state with Jerusalem as the capital, he added.

Sustainable development

Meanwhile, a number of Kuwaiti diplomats reiterated Kuwait's keenness on achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 through aiding struggling nations and intensifying the role of women in global development plans. Speaking at a session on economic and sustainable development part of the 72nd UN General Assembly, member of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission to the UN second secretary Abdullah Al-Sharrah affirmed that his country was keen aiding

less fortunate nations to achieve the SDG.

Nationally, Kuwait, under the guidelines set by its leadership, had worked relentlessly to develop the country on various domains. The tenets of Kuwait 2035 vision is set to achieve what the SDG is calling for, stated Sharrah. He indicated that turning Kuwait into a financial and economic hub would help the region to further develop, affirming that his country was eager to help other countries to march towards a bright global future.

Sharrah stressed that global coordination was necessary for the world to realize the SDG and indicated that without such cooperation, the world would not be able to achieve welfare for all people. The Kuwaiti diplomat called on developed states to fulfill their commitments to the UN ambitious plans by providing 0.7 percent of their gross national income to this noble cause.

Kuwaiti diplomatic attache Saba Al-Fuhaid said meanwhile that her country was keen involving women in the SDG 2030. Kuwait has always been on the forefront of allowing women to attain a leading role in their societies, affirmed the diplomat, adding that recent national statistics showed that there were around 161,000 women working public jobs. She indicated that enabling women to achieve their maximum potential was within the SDG 2030. Kuwait will continue its efforts to implement the UN development goals and will help other nations to reach similar feats, said Fuhaid. — KUNA

Kuwait Times
ESTABLISHED 1961

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW

* YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR ONE YEAR FOR ONLY KD 25 AND GET 3 Free TICKETS TO FLOW HOUSE KUWAIT VALUED AT KD 36

FLOW HOUSE KUWAIT

* This campaign is limited to participants in Kuwait only. Ministries and their departments, companies and NGOs cannot enter the festival.
* Kuwait Times' employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.

Call now
+965 248 33 199 - 248 333 58 Fax: +965 248 35 620 - 248 35 621
www.kuwaittimes.net



Tokyo's popular governor, Japan PM trade barbs

Happier marriages linked to healthier hearts

Page 8

Page 9



CALIFORNIA: Flames overtake a structure as nearby homes burn in the Napa wine region in California as multiple wind-driven fires continue to whip through the region. — AFP

California wildfires rage on; thousands evacuate

Wildfires kill 10; fire crews battle the blaze

NAPA: More than a dozen fast-moving wildfires tearing through California's wine country have killed at least 10 people, destroying hundreds of homes, authorities said Monday. Fanned by winds of over 50 miles an hour, the blazes have forced more than 20,000 people to evacuate in the country's heaviest populated state since they began Sunday night.

California's fire service said about 73,000 acres have been ravaged by the major infernos. "The Sheriff's Office confirms seven fire-related deaths from the Sonoma Co. fires. Our condolences to their friends and families," tweeted the sheriff of Sonoma County in the state's north. The previous toll had stood at three. At least 1,500 buildings were destroyed as the state declared an emergency in three counties ravaged by intense fires, mostly in its famous wine-producing regions.

Fourteen major fires are burning in total. Napa, Sonoma and Yuba counties are covered by Governor Jerry Brown's order. The counties are north of San Francisco Bay. An AFP correspondent in the Santa Rosa area witnessed multiple explosions from gas lines or gas tanks, in addition to charred out homes and a winery. Fire trucks were out in force in that area, he said. About 410 firefighters are working on blazes in Mendocino, a sheriff's spokesman in that county told the CBS news

network, adding that multiple fatalities were expected.

'Significant damage'

Another fire in Anaheim has surged to char 800 hectares and at least 200 fire fighters scrambled to try to contain it. Dozens of shelters were opened in schools and churches. Even livestock had shelter areas set up on some fair grounds. "We're going to have to start over completely," Dreema Goldberg, who fled her home—now a heap of ashes—at eight months pregnant, told NBC. Jesus Torres told CBS he barely had time to grab a few things and run from his home. "We could see the sky was getting red; we did not know it was fire until the last second because there was just smoke everywhere," he said. The Hilton Hotel in Santa Rosa said on Facebook that its staff and guests were evacuated safely.



About 73,000 acres ravaged by infernos

"The wildfires in Santa Rosa, California and the surrounding areas have forced the evacuation and temporary closure of Hilton Sonoma Wine Country," it said on Facebook. "All guests and associates of the Hotel have been safely evacuated and are not able to return until further notice. It is anticipated that the Hotel has sustained significant damage." Pacific Gas & Electric said more than 196,000 customers had initially lost electricity although half had had their power restored. "As of 3.00 pm, we have about 99,000 customers out of power throughout our service area, with the majority of them in Sonoma and Napa counties," it said.

'Everything gone'

Coffey Park, a sprawling Santa Rosa neighborhood with dozens of homes, was also charred in the strong

winds and low humidity fire experts said were more like fires in southern California. Cheri Sharp told Oregon-based TV news channel KOB1 her home of 26 years in Santa Rosa was among those destroyed. "All our pictures are gone. Everything, everything is gone. We've got a fire pit. It's pretty awful," she said.

"But we're all healthy and safe, and we have to try and be grateful for that. But it's pretty awful." Marian Williams of Kenwood, in Sonoma County, told NBC Bay Area she joined a convoy of neighbors driving through the flames before dawn as one of the fires reached the area's vineyards. "It was an inferno like you've never seen before," Williams told the station. Governor Brown in April declared the official end of the state's drought that lasted more than five years.

But the state is still dealing with the Santa Ana winds, a meteorological phenomenon which brings dry winds down from the high mountains east of the coastal areas—a recipe for perfect wildfire conditions. Forest fires are common in the western United States during dry, hot summer months. Last month, a massive fire described as the biggest in the history of Los Angeles forced hundreds to evacuate their homes. Early Monday, the fires could be smelled in San Francisco, about 60 kilometers from the closest. — AFP

Rohingya feel like prisoners in giant Bangladesh camp

KUTUPALONG: Hasina Begum's earliest memory is of watching the jungle cut down to expand the camp in Bangladesh that is the only home the 31-year-old Rohingya refugee has ever known. Begum is one of about 300,000 Rohingya who escaped turmoil in Myanmar before the latest eruption of violence brought another half a million refugees to Bangladesh, pushing already overcrowded camps to breaking point. She was just five when her family fled persecution of the Muslim minority in Myanmar and has become trapped in the poverty of the refugee camps.

"My children sometimes ask me what their future will be. I don't know what to tell them," said the widowed mother of four in her dark, damp hut in Kutupalong camp near the Myanmar border. "There is no happiness here," she said. "If we had a decent house and enough to eat it would be wonderful. But we live in a camp, there is not enough to eat, so really there is no happiness here." The influx of about 520,000 Rohingya in the past six weeks has made the situation even worse, overturning the environment and human eco-system in Kutupalong, where elephants once roamed.

The elephants are gone, trees and any other plant life have been razed to make way for the tidal wave of

humanity that has taken over the hills around what was once a tiny village on the Bangladesh border with Myanmar. Hafez Ahmed, who sells bamboo on the roadside, arrived at Kutupalong 27 years ago. "When I came here, it was an area of green hills, uninhabited, covered with jungle. There were elephants here," he said. The nearest elephants are now dozens of kilometers away. Behind him the tented city spreads further each day from one hill to another.

'Not a life'

The Rohingya, whether they fled unrest in Rakhine state in 1978, 1991-92 or this year, do not feel wanted anywhere. Myanmar considers them migrants from Bangladesh and refuses to give them nationality—even though many lived in Rakhine for generations. Bangladesh wants Myanmar to take back the Rohingya. It does not let the refugees work or move outside the camps. They are forced to live off UN and charity aid, waiting for a return to Rakhine that will probably never materialize.

Some manage to get work as black market laborers. A small bribe to local police allows occasional trips outside the camp, said Mohammed Idriss, who has been at Kutupalong since 1992. "It is the life of a prisoner," he said as he started to cry. "I have been here so long, this is not a life." Bangladesh authorities want to extend the existing camps around Kutupalong into a refugee city for the 800,000 Rohingya that the United Nations has warned will be dangerously overcrowded. The camp already has its own archaeology which sets out the different waves of refugees.

The oldest residents have huts with mud walls but suc-



UKHIA, Bangladesh: Newly arrived Rohingya refugees rest by the side of the road on their way to the Thangkhal refugee camp at Balukhali in the Bangladeshi district of Ukhiya yesterday. — AFP

cessive newcomers were forced to find shelter further away from the key roads, their homes even more basic. Those who arrived since August 25 have had to live in tents pitched on monsoon-soaked mud. Few will admit any hope that they will be allowed to return to Rakhine,

even if Myanmar has said it will take back refugees whose identities are "verified". "Bangladesh will send back a few, Myanmar will agree to take them, but in six months, it will all start again," predicted Kafait Ulah, who has spent all but eight of his 34 years in Kutupalong. — AFP

International

'I feel like I'm going crazy': Migrant health crumbles

Self-harm, attempted suicide on the rise in Greece

ATHENS: A mental health emergency is unfolding in migrant camps on Greece's islands, fuelled by poor living conditions, neglect and violence, charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said yesterday. Medical staff have seen a sharp increase in people trying to get help after attempting suicide, harming themselves or suffering psychotic episodes, it said in a report.

More than 13,000 migrants and refugees, mostly Syrians and Iraqis fleeing years of war, are living in five camps on Greek islands close to Turkey, government figures show. Four of those camps are holding two to three times as many people as they were designed for. "Every day our teams treat patients who tell us that they would prefer to have died in their country than be trapped here," said Jayne Grimes, manager of MSF's mental health activities on the island of Samos.

The charity said six or seven new patients had visited its clinic on the nearby island of Lesbos each week over the summer following suicide attempts, self-harm or psychotic episodes, 50 percent more than the previous three months. Violence which many experienced on the journey or in Greece was one factor aggravating mental distress, MSF said. "I know I need to find hope, but when the night falls and I see where I am, I feel like I'm going crazy," it quoted a Syrian

man as saying. The 25-year-old said he was haunted by the images of people dying of hunger in front of him in the long-besieged town of Madaya. "I still remember the taste of the leaves and the smell of death," he said. On Samos, more than 3,000 people are crammed into facilities designed to hold 700, and about 400 live in the woods. In one Lesbos camp, about 1,500 people are in makeshift shelters or tents without flooring or heating, the UN refugee agency says. In August, MSF found nearly three-quarters of new mental health patients on Lesbos needed to be referred to a psychiatrist, up from just over a third in the nine months from October 2016 to June 2017.

The report quoted a 41-year-old man, who said he had been tortured in a Syrian prison. When he visited a Lesbos hospital, he said he was told he would have to wait eight months to see a psychiatrist. "When I heard that, I felt like dying," he said. A 29-year-old Syrian woman, on Lesbos with her family, told the MSF researchers the uncertainty over the future was "crushing us. It is killing us inside." While the number of arrivals to Greece has slowed significantly since a European Union deal with Turkey to block the route in March last year, a recent sharp rise in arrivals has put pressure on government-run facilities.— Reuters



Violence and poor conditions aggravate distress



OUISTREHAM: A Sudanese migrant sleeps on a bench near the ferry terminal at the harbor of Ouistreham, near Caen, northwestern France.—AFP

The rise of Kim Jong-Un's sister and image maker



Kim Yo-Jong (left), vice department director of the Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea (WPK) and younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (right), inspect the Sin Islet defense company in Kangwon province. —AFP

SEOUL: With her elevation to North Korea's powerful politburo, leader Kim Jong-Un's little sister—and chief image-maker has established herself as the most powerful woman in the nuclear-armed state's political hierarchy. Kim Yo-Jong's promotion to membership of the North's top decision-making body underlines, analysts say, the level of trust her brother places in one of his closest aides and confidantes. Ruling North Korea has always been a family business, but one where the substantial personal benefits on offer are matched by the potential for a catastrophic—and sometimes fatal—fall from grace.

Kim Jong-Un's half-brother, Jong-Nam died in agony at a Malaysian airport earlier this year, poisoned by nerve agent—wielding assassins in a hit that North Korea watchers say must have been given the nod by the leader himself. Yo-Jong is believed to be in her late 20s, making her the youngest member of the reshuffled Workers' Party politburo that was unveiled at the weekend. She is the only one of Kim Jong-Un's siblings to hold an official title and in a family tree complicated by their father Kim Jong-Il's various marriages and partnerships—enjoys a special relationship with her brother in that they also share the same mother.

"They share a life-long bond and her promotion to the politburo means Kim Jong-Un has complete trust in her," said Professor Yang Moo-Jin of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul. "She could be the one to take over from Kim in the event of his absence," Yang said. Like her brother, Yo-Jong was partly educated

in Switzerland and her first explicit appearance in North Korea's state media came in 2009 when she accompanied her father on a visit to an agricultural university.

She became a regular member of Kim Jong-Il's entourage until his death in 2011 and featured prominently in official photos of the funeral, mourning alongside her brother. After Kim Jong-Un took over the leadership, her public career in the party propaganda department progressed in leaps and bounds and, in 2014, she was listed as a "vice department director" in the party's central committee. According to Michael Madden, editor of the North Korea Leadership Watch website, her official propaganda role made her "the leading image maker for her brother and (North Korea) as a whole."

With the exception of Kim Jong-Un's wife, Ri Sol-Ju, Yo-Jong is the only relative with whom the supreme leader is known to have a close relationship. External recognition of her position and influence came earlier this year when she was named among

seven North Korean officials targeted with US sanctions for "ongoing and serious human rights abuses and censorship activities." Cheong Seong-Chang a senior researcher at the Sejong Institute think-tank in Seoul said her promotion to the politburo presaged a more visible presence at the top of the top of the political hierarchy. "She is expected to play increasingly greater roles down the road," Cheong said.

North Korea watchers have long speculated that Yo-Jong was being groomed to play the same leadership supporting role as her once powerful aunt, Kim Kyong-Hui. Kyong-Hui was a close aide to her own brother and late leader Kim Jong-Il for decades, assuming senior positions in the party and becoming a four-star general in 2010. But she largely disappeared from public view after her husband Jang Song-Thaek was executed in 2013 for charges including treason. She and Jang had been seen as the ultimate Pyongyang power couple, and instrumental in smoothing Kim Jong-Un's transition to power, before Jang fell from grace.— AFP

it from us," he said. Commons make up more than a third of India's total land area. They include grazing grounds, some forest land, ponds, rivers and other areas that all members of a rural community can access and use. They provide food, water, fodder, firewood and livelihoods to rural communities, particularly the poor, while also helping recharge groundwater and maintain the land's ecological balance.

As the population grew and demand for land rose, commons were taken over for industrial and development projects, including roads, mines, power plants and homes. "Access to the commons and its resources has long been a customary right of rural communities," said Shantanu Sinha Roy, a manager at advocacy Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) which helped Hastinapur regain control of its commons. "But that right has been increasingly denied. When communities regain control, their livelihoods improve, and the land regains its original character, with the soil and water conserved," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Insecure rights

The majority of land conflicts in India are related to common land, according to a study by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Common land in India has deteriorated by about half over the last five decades because of encroachments, insecure tenure rights for local communities and a lack of trust in communities in managing them, according to data from FES. Many were classified as "wastelands" or government land and diverted for quarrying, biofuel cultivation, mines and other commercial purposes, displacing and depriving local communities.—Reuters

Thousands turn out for Myanmar interfaith prayer

YANGON: Tens of thousands of people filled a football stadium in Yangon for an interfaith prayer ceremony yesterday, a show of unity in a country seared by ethnically-charged violence against the Muslim Rohingya on its western border.

Buddhist monks, nuns, Christians Hindus and Muslims were among those that poured into the arena to pray for peace in Myanmar's western Rakhine state—the epicenter of brutal communal bloodshed that erupted in late August.

The border region was plunged into crisis after Rohingya militants attacked police posts, sparking a military backlash that has driven more than half a million of the Muslim minority from their homes. The mass exodus of refugees has shocked and alarmed the globe, with the UN accusing the army of waging an ethnic cleansing campaign against a group that has faced years of persecution. But the conflict is viewed differently inside mainly Buddhist Myanmar, where the Rohingya are widely loathed and branded as foreign invaders, despite their long roots in the country.—AFP



CROSSROADS RESTAURANT

SIMPLY FISH

Crossroads Restaurant is your fish market! Tantalize your taste buds with a huge selection of fresh fish and seafood buffet. Choose your favorite fish and have it cooked to your order along with your choice of seafood salads and other sumptuous specialties.

Seafood Night is every Wednesday from 7pm to 11pm at Crossroads Restaurant. The buffet is priced at 14.9KD per person.

For reservations or more information, please call 2245 5550

JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait City
Al Shuhada Street, P.O. Box 26302 Safat 13124 Kuwait
Tel: (965) 2245 5550 - Fax: (965) 2243 8391
mhrs.kw@jw.com | restaurants@marriott.com
jwmarriottkuwait.com
dining@jwmarriottkuwait.com



Villagers in Rajasthan reclaim common land with maps and petitions

HASTINAPUR: It took residents of Hastinapur village in the Indian state of Rajasthan three years of poring over maps, demarcating boundaries, and numerous petitions and visits to local officials to regain control of their traditional common land. But the wait - and the effort - were worth it, they say. The 35 hectares of land now registered to the community have changed the lives of the 50 families because they are now able to safely graze their cattle, meet most of their need of fodder and firewood, and supplement their incomes.

The lush green grounds teeming with native trees and scrub were once arid, encroached by a neighboring village. They are testament to the success the state has had with restoring the commons even as industrial demand for land rises. "Before we got back the land, the women had to walk some distance to graze the cattle, cut firewood, and we had to buy additional fodder," Gopal Jat, a village elder, said as he sat in the shade of a leafy jamun tree.

"Now we can graze our cattle without worries, the women and children need not go anywhere else for fodder or firewood, and we earn some money from selling produce. It took time, but this is our land now, no one can take

International

Gunmen kill 2 in attack on university convoy in Kenya

Opposition to boycott parliament; poll re-run in doubt

MOMBASA: Two staff members of a Kenyan university were killed south of Mombasa yesterday when gunmen fired on vehicles carrying them and students to their campus, the area police chief said. The identity of the gunmen was unclear. Police in the coastal county of Kwale, where the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM) has a campus, said they could be robbers or militants. Security is poor in the area and the convoy had a police escort. Somali Islamist militants Al Shabaab frequently carry out attacks along the Kenyan coast and have been recruiting new members there.

In 2015, Al Shabaab gunmen killed 148 students at a university in Kenya's Garissa town near the Kenya-Somali border, an attack that provoked shock and outrage in Kenya and abroad. Two staff members of the university were killed yesterday's attack, and a driver and two policemen were wounded, area police chief Joseph Chebusit said. "A bus carrying students of TUM was ferrying them from their hostels to the campus in Ukunda for classes and was being escorted by a van that had some staff of the college and two escort police officers," the policeman said.

"Armed men numbering about 10 emerged from the bushes and started firing at the van in front. As a result two ladies who are staff of TUM were killed in the van. The driver of the van and two police officers were injured," he said. "We have information that the attackers had other accomplices along the road who were monitoring the movement of the two vehicles and communicating with them to enable the attack," he added. "For now we are treating it as a crime like any other as we continue with investigations but that does not mean we are ruling out Al Shabaab."

Poll re-run in doubt

Separately, Kenyan opposition lawmakers said yesterday

they would boycott parliament over proposed election law amendments ahead of a re-run of a presidential vote on Oct 26, a contest experts say looks increasingly unlikely to happen. The poll pitting President Uhuru Kenyatta against opposition leader Raila Odinga must be held by the end of October, according to a Supreme Court ruling. Judges ordered the re-run after nullifying Kenyatta's win in Aug. 8 polls due to procedural irregularities.

If the election is not held, it is unclear who would lead Kenya, a regional trade and transport hub. The East African nation's free market and staunch alliance with Western nations make it a favored investment and tourism destination and the region's richest economy. But months of political uncertainty have blunted growth and raised fears that street protests could spill over into violence. At least 37 people were killed in protests following the August vote, a Kenyan rights group said on Monday. Most were killed by police, the group said.

Yesterday, opposition lawmakers said they would boycott parliament over proposed amendments to the election laws introduced by the ruling party, which has a majority in both houses. The amendments say if a candidate boycotts an election, the remaining candidate automatically wins. Ruling party legislators say they are trying to head off a constitutional crisis if Odinga pulls out of the election at the last minute. He has repeatedly said he will boycott the polls if some officials at the election board are not replaced.

"With fifteen days to the next election, we are not going to participate in a process where the Jubilee government is shifting the goal posts of an election and the candidate is the one to assent to the law," opposition senator Mutula Kilonzo said at a news conference. Opposition lawmakers announced a boycott of parliament when

Motive and identity of attackers unclear



MOMBASA: Armed security officers at the scene of shooting where two women were shot dead in Ukunda town, south coast of Mombasa yesterday.— AP

Kenyatta opened it in September, saying he no longer had the authority after his election was voided. Since then, they have been turning up for the minimum amount of time required to avoid their seats being declared vacant.

Britain's Africa Minister, Rory Stewart, released a statement at the weekend saying "The UK is concerned by the increasingly unstable political situation in Kenya ... Neither threats to boycott the election nor changes to the electoral legislation at this stage are helpful." While

Kenyatta has been travelling around the country campaigning, Odinga has held few rallies. His campaign announced this week he would be flying to London for a day to deliver a lecture. With two weeks to go to the election, Odinga spokesman Dennis Onyango was unable to provide Odinga's campaign schedule to Reuters. Murithi Mutiga, a senior analyst for the Horn of Africa, said the lack of action suggested a boycott of the polls was likely.— Agencies

Liberia votes to replace Africa's 1st female leader

MONROVIA: Liberians began voting yesterday to replace President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, in a contest set to complete the country's first democratic transition of power in more than 70 years. Voting opened at 8:00 am in the small West African nation, although there were delays in some polling stations, capping a campaign hailed for vibrant and violence-free debates and rallies. Africa's first female elected head of state, Sirleaf is stepping aside after a maximum two six-year terms.

In an eve-of-election speech, she urged a peaceful vote, and for the results to be respected by all. "The future of the country is in your hands, no one is entitled to your vote, not because of party, ethnicity, religion or tribal affiliation," Sirleaf, a co-winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, declared. The country's 2.18 million registered voters are choosing from a crowded field of 20 presidential candidates—although just one of them is a woman—and will also elect 73 seats in the House of Representatives (lower chamber).

Among the frontrunners are footballing icon George Weah, incumbent Vice President Joseph Boakai, long-time opposition figure Charles Brumskine and former Coca-Cola executive Alexander Cummings. Also waiting in the wings with potentially significant vote shares are telecoms tycoon Benoni Urey and former central bank governor Mills Jones. Back-to-back civil wars, the 2014-16 Ebola crisis and slumped commodity prices have left Liberia among the world's poorest nations, while corruption remains entrenched. Christmas Kamara, a market trader waiting to vote in Liberia's biggest slum, Westpoint, said she felt betrayed by the government during the Ebola crisis and would not vote for Boakai.

"We need healthcare and hospitals," she said. "Our people are dying because of the lack of hospitals," Kamara added, shaking her head and recalling the rioting that broke out in 2014 when the crisis was at its height. In Monrovia, the poorest voters seem to overwhelmingly favor Weah, although his choice for vice-president Jewel Howard-Taylor, the ex-wife of Liberian warlord Charles Taylor, may hit his support in other areas of the country. The ghosts of Liberia's bloody past are hard to avoid in this election. Ex-rebel leader Prince Johnson is also running for president, though a fifth of Liberia's registered voters are aged 18-22 and are less likely, analysts say, to vote along the ethnic or tribal lines that divided the nation during the war.

The first official results are expected within 48 hours after voting closes at 6:00 pm. If no candidate wins 50 percent of the presidential vote, then a run-off of the top two contenders will be held on November 7 — an outcome analysts say is a near certainty. Sirleaf's Unity Party swept the vote in 2005 and 2011, results that Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) contested in court. Boakai, Weah's most significant rival, has undertaken a delicate balancing act to promote his record in government while distancing himself from Sirleaf to define his own vision.

Martin Saylee, a 28-year-old sociology student and a Boakai voter said while voting at the University of Liberia that the vice president could deliver job creation. "Boakai is the most qualified. He is the one I believe will take this country to another level," Saylee told AFP. Upstart businessman Cummings has eaten into Weah's support among Liberia's youth, and his fans were also out in force across polling stations. "We need a new breed of leaders. Mr Cummings is educated and that is what Liberians need most. Education brings insight," pastor Fred Slocum told AFP, joining a line hundreds of people long at William V.S. Tubman high school.—AFP

Happier marriages linked to healthier hearts, study says

PARIS: Men whose marriages grow stronger over the years have healthier cholesterol and blood pressure than peers whose unions fall apart, said a study yesterday that hinted at unexpected health perks of relationship counseling. Researchers got more than 600 men in Britain to rate the "quality" of their marriage at two points in time—when their child was three, and then again aged nine. The men could describe their union as consistently good, consistently bad, improving, or deteriorating.

Another 12 years later, the team measured the participants' health. They analyzed such measures as blood pressure, resting heart rate, weight, cholesterol, and blood sugar—potential risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Men who had described their marriages as "improving" had better cholesterol readings and a healthier weight years later, the team reported in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. Unions described as "deteriorating", on the other hand, "were associated with worsening diastolic blood pressure." "Changes in the quality of a marital relationship appear to predict CVD (cardiovascular disease) risk," the study authors concluded.

Little change, however, was noted for men who had reported being in a consistently good or consistently bad marriage, said the team, and speculated this may be due to "habituation" to their situation. The researchers warned their study was merely observational and could not show conclusively that an improving marriage results in better health. But assuming this was the case, "then marriage

Melania vs Ivana: First wife 'seeking attention'

WASHINGTON: US First Lady Melania Trump accused her husband's first wife Ivana of making "attention-seeking and self-serving noise" Monday, after the former Mrs Trump jokingly referred to herself as the first lady while trying to sell her memoirs. In an interview with ABC News to promote her new book—"Raising Trump"—the 68-year-old Ivana Trump attempted a little joke when describing her longstanding relationship with the 45th US president. "I have the direct number to White House but I don't really want to call him there because Melania is there, and I don't really want to cause any kind of jealousy or something like that because I'm basically first Trump wife, OK? I'm first lady, OK?" she told ABC, with a laugh.

Melania Trump, 47 and normally very reserved, was not amused. "Mrs Trump has made the White House a home for Barron and the president," said a tersely worded statement from her spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham, published by CNN. Barron is the Trumps' young son. "She loves living in Washington, DC, and is hon-



NEW YORK: Combo photo shows Ivana Trump and US First Lady Melania Trump (right).—AFP

ored by her role as First Lady of the United States." "She plans to use her title and role to help children, not sell books," Grisham said. She added: "There is clearly no substance to this statement from an ex. This is unfortunately only attention-seeking and self-serving noise."

Ivana Trump is the mother of Trump's three eldest children: Donald Jr, Ivanka and Eric. The former real estate magnate has two other children: Tiffany, with his second wife, Marla Maples, and 11-



INCHEON: Vietnamese bride Muoi and her South Korean husband Kim Yung-Bo after their arrival at Incheon airport, west of Seoul. There are some 40,000 Vietnamese brides in South Korea, a top destination for women looking for love and a ticket out of poverty.— AFP

counseling for couples with deteriorating relationships may have added benefits in terms of physical health over and above psychological well-being," the authors wrote.

Given that the men were still relatively young when taking part in the study, it is too early to know how their relative health risks would translate into actual disease.

Previous studies had already shown married men to have a lower risk, on average, for cardiovascular disease such as heart attack or stroke. "Further research needs to determine if effective marriage counseling, or when appropriate, abandoning a deteriorating relationship, has longer-term physical health benefits," said the team.—AFP

Austria burqa, niqab ban confuses police

VIENNA: Austria's new ban on the full Islamic veil and any face-concealing item is causing confusion, with a man in a shark costume the latest to be ensnared, authorities admitted yesterday. "This is a new law so naturally there are certain unclear situations and grey areas that need to be ironed out," Manfred Reinthaler from Vienna police told public radio. "At the same time there is no legal precedence." Austria is the latest European country to ban the wearing of the full Islamic veil, known as the burqa or the niqab, in public places. The law came into force on October 1.

But in order to avoid being sued for discrimination, the government outlawed at the same time any item of clothing that covers the face. Government guidelines set out a number of exceptions including masks and disguises at cultural events, work wear such as medical masks, and scarves in cold weather. But the shark costume case—a mascot for the McShark computer chain—and officers reportedly stopping a girl cycling in a scarf show that some police remain bewildered. "Lawmakers did not set out the temperature (when a scarf could be worn)," said interior ministry spokesman Karl-Heinz Grundboeck.

There is no central register so the total number of fines of up to 150 euros (\$177) levied so far is unclear, Grundboeck added. The ban on the full-face veil, which remains a rare sight in Austria, was seen as the latest effort by the two governing centrist parties to halt a rise in support for the anti-immigration Freedom Party. Polls suggest that the far-right party will garner around 25 percent support in elections on Sunday and may become junior coalition partners to Sebastian Kurz's conservatives.—AFP

International

Australia's High Court sits to resolve MPs' citizenship crisis

'Citizenship seven' face court in political saga

CANBERRA: Australia's High Court began a three-day hearing yesterday to determine the eligibility of seven lawmakers who may hold dual citizenship, a case that could determine whether the government is able to maintain its razor-thin majority. Australia's parliament was rocked by revelations in August that the seven politicians, including the deputy prime minister and two other Cabinet members in Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's coalition government, are dual citizens.

That means they are potentially ineligible to hold elected office under Australia's constitution. Turnbull's unpopular centre-right government holds just a one-seat majority in parliament, meaning its future could rest on the outcome of the citizenship crisis. The seven lawmakers accept they were dual nationals at the time of their election last year but the government argues that five of them, including all three Cabinet members, should be cleared because they were unaware that they had contravened the constitutional requirement at the time.

Australian Solicitor-General Stephen Donaghue urged the seven justices of the High Court not to interpret the constitution literally. Donaghue said instead the constitution should only disqualify politicians if they had prior knowledge that they may be dual citizens but did not take

"reasonable steps" to investigate and renounce their second citizenship where needed. A ruling could come as soon as Thursday.

Should the High Court rule Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, the sole lower house lawmaker caught up in the crisis, is ineligible, Turnbull will then need to win the support of one of three independent lawmakers to keep his minority government. Joyce acquired dual citizenship from his New Zealand-born father. He said in a submission to the court he believed that his father had renounced his New Zealand citizenship before he was born. He did not know until he was 10 that his father was still a New Zealand citizen, Joyce said.

Ruling to determine whether govt can keep the majority

Turnbull's government is already in a minority in the upper house Senate and, should the High Court disqualify all seven lawmakers, he will face a government reshuffle after losing two more Cabinet members who are senators. Support for Turnbull continues to languish near a six-month low, but political analysts believe he might receive a boost if he is able to win passage of a same-sex marriage bill. Turnbull's government won High Court approval last month to stage a non-binding postal survey on the issue, which is widely popular among Australians. Results of that poll will be announced on Nov 15. — Reuters



SYDNEY: A cruise liner is seen docked in Sydney harbor yesterday. — AFP

Tokyo's popular governor, Japan PM trade barbs

TOKYO: Tokyo's popular governor Yuriko Koike and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe traded barbs yesterday as the gloves came off for the official start of a snap election campaign in the world's third-largest economy. Conservative premier Abe, 63, is facing an unexpected and fierce challenge from the media-savvy Koike, who has upended the sleepy world of Japanese politics with her upstart "Party of Hope."

Addressing hundreds of commuters at a busy Tokyo station via loudspeaker, Koike called on supporters to "end the politics of Abe," lashing out at the long-serving premier over recent scandals that have weighed on his popularity. "The political status quo has continued while politics itself has lost the public's confidence," charged the former TV anchorwoman, 65.

Abe cut a contrasting figure by kicking off his offensive in the bucolic farming country of Fukushima, signaling his commitment to rebuilding the region hard hit by the 2011 nuclear power plant meltdown. He pledged a major expansion of social programs, including offering free early-childhood education in a bid to get more women into work, while also talking tough on North Korea. In an obvious dig at Koike, he urged voters to consider his policies, rather than catchy soundbites. "Slogans do not open the way to the future. Policies unlock the future. We must not lose," he said.

The 12-day campaign will be fought around reviving Japan's once world-beating economy and the ever-present threat of North Korea which has threatened to "sink" the country into the sea. Koike's "Party of Hope" has swallowed up and replaced most of the main opposition party in the space of a week, transforming Japan's staid political landscape. But surveys suggest her bandwagon is grinding



TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) gestures as he answers questions beside Tokyo Governor and head of the Party of Hope Yuriko Koike during a debate. — AFP

to a halt as she refuses to run herself for PM in the election, focusing on stewarding the world's most populous city with three years until Tokyo hosts the Olympic Games.

A poll in the top-selling Yomiuri daily suggested that 32 percent of voters plan to vote for Abe's conservative LDP with 13 percent for the Party of Hope down six percentage points from the previous poll in late September. On the streets of Tokyo, Abe's message that the election is about the coming generations appeared to resonate. "At my age, what interests me is the future of my children and my grandchildren. We need to prepare a better world for them," said 76-year-old pensioner Sumiko Sakai.

Referendum on Abe

Abe is seeking a fresh term at the helm of the Asian economic powerhouse and key US regional ally and unexpectedly called a snap election to capitalize on a weak and fractured opposition. But Koike stole his limelight by

launching her party, attacking Abe's government for being too slow to reform the country, weighed down by an ageing population, deflation and a huge debt mountain. Abe's trademark "Abenomics" policy—a vow to kick deflation and achieve two-percent inflation with stable growth—has largely fallen flat. Critics argue that Abe called the early election to divert attention from a string of scandals, including allegations of favoritism to a friend in a business deal—which the premier strongly denies.

And analysts say the October 22 vote is effectively a referendum on Abe, who has enjoyed unrivalled political strength for the past five years in part because of a lack of credible opposition, while his key policies remained controversial or unpopular. For her part, Koike says her new group promotes "compassionate conservatism" and hopes to distinguish herself from Abe by pledging a phase-out of nuclear power by 2030 and a freeze on a planned sales tax hike. —AFP

Could an independent Catalonia stay in EU?

BRUSSELS: Catalan leaders say they want to remain part of the European Union in the event of independence from Spain, but the path to continuing membership or rejoining the bloc is not clear. Brussels has stuck to its line that an independent Catalonia would automatically be out and have to reapply to join, but some experts say pragmatism may yet trump dogma.

Recognizing Catalonia

The October 1 referendum produced a 90 percent vote for secession, but because it was held in defiance of Spain's Constitutional Court rulings that it was unlawful, from the EU's point of view it amounts to a deeply flawed mandate. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has made it clear Brussels would only respect a vote for independence if it was held in line with the Spanish constitution. EU members "will not recognize Catalonia as a state if it is created in violation of the law and particularly the Spanish constitution", said Jean-Claude Piris, an expert in European law.

Prodi doctrine

The EU's treaties do not specifically state what happens if part of a member state secedes, but since 2004 the commission has stuck to the "Prodi doctrine", named after former president Romano Prodi. This says that a region breaking away from a member state would automatically cease to be part of the EU on the day of its independence, and would have to follow the usual membership process to rejoin. Membership talks for Catalonia would likely be different from those currently under way for candidate countries such as the Balkan states and Turkey, which have to harmonize their legislation and foreign policy as well as bring human rights standards up to EU standards.

Catalonia has sought to get ahead on this point by

passing a law last month that said all EU laws would apply in its territory even if it was no longer a member. Questions have also been raised about the legal solidity of the Prodi doctrine and whether the relevant treaty clauses could be open to different interpretation. A European Commission spokesman said Friday that "this is the way we read the treaty, this is our position" but acknowledged that "everybody has his or her right to his or her own opinion".

Room for pragmatism?

Senior French judge Yves Gounin warned in a 2014 article on independence movements that taking a headline approach—kicking a newly seceded territory out of the bloc—could backfire on the EU. "Europe would have every-

thing to lose by putting these states in quarantine its investors could no longer invest there, its young people could not study there, its workers could not move freely," Gounin wrote. Instead, he suggested that "realism" should trump "orthodoxy", arguing that "the most reasonable solution would be to negotiate independence and EU membership simultaneously". But something like a precedent for this exists from the Scottish referendum of 2014 - which was held with London's blessing—and it is not promising for Catalan separatists. To avoid a rupture, the Scottish government said that in the event of a "yes" vote, it would start pre-independence talks with the EU "to settle the terms of an independent Scotland's continuing membership". —AFP



People with Catalan flags gather during a rally in Barcelona yesterday. — AP

News in brief

Trump teases Tillerson

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has dismissed reports that Rex Tillerson once called him a "moron"—but just to make it clear that he's smarter than his secretary of state he has suggested taking IQ tests to prove it. Last week, Tillerson was forced to deny an NBC News report that he had called the president a moron after a July meeting at the Pentagon, holding a news conference to insist: "He's smart." Nevertheless, something about the incident still seems to bother Trump, who was due to have lunch with Tillerson at the White House later yesterday. "I think it's fake news," Trump told Forbes magazine. "But if he did that, I guess we'll have to compare IQ tests. And I can tell you who is going to win." The report came just days after Trump upbraided the former ExxonMobil CEO for "wasting his time" trying to negotiate with North Korea.

18 Yemeni rebels killed

ADEN: Eighteen Yemeni rebels have been killed in fighting around the Saudi border over the past 24 hours, Yemeni army officers said yesterday. Clashes flared this week around the Red Sea port of Mudi and the nearby Saudi border town of Huthaira, spilling over into the rebel heartland of Saada inland. The Yemeni army officers said loyalist forces had managed to wrest control of several rebel-held towns straddling the border. Saudi officials contacted by AFP did not respond to requests for comment. The rebels control most of northern Yemen, including the Red Sea coast. But the government controls several pockets near the Saudi border, including the port of Mudi. A Saudi-led coalition intervened in support of the government in 2015. More than 8,500 civilians have since been killed, with both sides in the conflict being accused of not doing enough to avoid civilian casualties.

Islamist leaders nabbed

DHAKA: Bangladesh police have detained several top leaders of the country's largest Islamist party in a crackdown against the opposition that the government blames for inciting militancy but which says it is being unfairly targeted. Eight leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, including party chief Maqbul Ahmad and secretary general Shafiqur Rahman, were detained in Dhaka on Monday night, police said. They were formally arrested yesterday and ordered held on remand for 10 days while police investigate. The detentions followed information that the leaders were meeting "to plot and carry out some destructive activities", a senior police official said. Jamaat-e-Islami denied the allegations and called for demonstrations on Tuesday to protest. It said in a statement that its leaders were in an informal meeting. "The government is continuously arresting our innocent activists just to stay in power," the party said. The detentions follow a years-long crackdown on the opposition by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government and come ahead of general elections expected next year.

Thieves rob jewelers

LONDON: A band of thieves smashed their way into a royal jewelers in central London on Monday evening, making off on mopeds with a valuable haul, police said. The gang used weapons including an axe and bats to break into Mappin and Webb jewelers on Regent Street, in the heart of London's shopping district. A trio of thieves stole "a high value of jewelry items" while three accomplices "waited outside on revved-up scooters throughout the raid", London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement. The force did not give a figure for total losses at Mappin and Webb, where numerous pieces of jewelry run into the tens of thousands of pounds (dollars, euros). The high-end store has been a supplier to the British royal family for more than a century and the company's master craftsman is the custodian of the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London. After the raid the mopeds sped off in separate directions, with one racing towards Oxford Street before crashing into a female pedestrian who was not seriously injured.

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

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

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

FOCUS

Could new slavery numbers complicate efforts to end it?

Despite being widely hailed as a turning point in the global fight to end modern slavery, a new estimate of the number of people living as slaves worldwide could in fact complicate efforts to tackle the crime, several academics have warned. About 40 million people were trapped as slaves last year - mostly women and girls - in forced labour and forced marriages, according to the first collaboration by leading anti-slavery groups to count the victims of the lucrative crime worldwide.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free Foundation and International Organization for Migration (IOM) jointly agreed on the estimate, having previously used different data, definitions and methodologies to reach their own figures. But they cautioned this number was a conservative estimate. Many activists hope the estimate, published last month, will galvanize rights groups and governments as they strive to meet a global goal of eradicating modern slavery by 2030 - part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted two years ago.

Yet some academics say the limitations of the data, such as a lack of surveys in the Gulf states and conflict-hit nations like Libya and Syria, and the inclusion of forced marriages for the first time, may divide the global anti-slavery movement. "One of the main problems here is that 'fighting slavery' now means all kinds of different things and relates to all kinds of different issues," Joel Quirk, head of political studies at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, said by email. "Instead of a single cause and category upon which everyone is agreed, we instead have multiple ... problems which have been uneasily thrown together under the rubric of fighting 'modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labor'," Quirk added.

Political Subtexts

Among the estimated 40.3 million victims of modern slavery last year, 24.9 million were forced to work in factories, on building sites, farms and fishing boats, and as domestic or sex workers, while 15.4 million were trapped in forced marriages. This compares with Walk Free's 2016 estimate of 45.8 million people living as slaves, and an ILO figure of 21 million held in forced labor, but both organizations said the new number does not show either progress or failure in the anti-slavery fight.

Some critics have questioned the difference - of about 20 million people - between Walk Free's 2016 figure of 45.8 million victims - which did not include forced marriage - and the joint estimate's number of people kept in forced labor - 24.9 million. This disparity is due to the more comprehensive methodology used to calculate the latest, joint estimate, according to Kevin Bales, professor of contemporary slavery at Britain's University of Nottingham and a member of Walk Free's statistical team.

However, the new estimate may represent a compromise between the ILO and the Walk Free, as to meet halfway and to not discredit their previous, separate efforts, according to Quirk. "This type of political horse trading is a long way away from the language of neutral and careful analysis, but there are nonetheless lots of political subtexts and currents which sit behind the numbers," Quirk told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The ILO and Walk Free conducted surveys in 48 countries and interviewed more than 71,000 people with findings supplemented by data from the IOM. The ILO and IOM are both UN agencies. The full breakdown of the methodology has yet to be released.

Forced Marriage Frustration

Experts behind the new figure said forced marriage could be seen as 'sexual slavery' - with many girls and women abducted, raped and treated like property - and its inclusion in the estimate would draw much needed attention to the issue globally. Yet this addition may in fact muddy efforts to end slavery, and could also shift public perceptions, according to Jessie Brunner, a researcher and slavery expert at Stanford University.

About three in four slaves were women and girls and one in four was a child in 2016, with modern slavery most prevalent in Africa followed by Asia and Pacific, according to the estimate. In the old ILO figure of 21 million people trapped in forced labor, women and girls accounted for 55 percent of the victims. "The anti-trafficking movement has made significant progress in the past few years toward broadening public understanding of the issue of modern slavery beyond solely forced sexual exploitation of women and girls," Brunner said. "The inclusion of forced marriage in the new estimate, albeit a relevant addition, could potentially curb this progress owing to the heavy skewing toward women and girls."

Opening Up

The United Nations last week defended the new estimate after local media reported that India's intelligence agency advised Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discredit the research, saying it may tarnish the country's image and exports. ILO officials rejected claims that India was being targeted by the data, saying that there were no national figures in the data, and that the estimate did not "single out any country". —Reuters



King's visit consolidates Russia's power

Saudi King Salman swept into Moscow with a vast entourage for a first ever visit that underscored Russia's growing power in the Middle East, despite deep differences between the two oil giants over Syria. The Saudi king brought 1,500 people to Moscow and had a plane fly in fresh food supplies from Riyadh every day during his four-day visit last week, the first by a Saudi monarch. President Vladimir Putin welcomed the king in a lavish Kremlin ceremony and Moscow was covered in billboards greeting the monarch in both Arabic and Russian.

The world's largest energy exporters did not let the fact they have for decades been at loggerheads over conflicts in the Muslim world, from Afghanistan to Chechnya, prevent them from striking a slew of arms and energy deals worth billions of dollars. Saudi Arabia, a longstanding US ally, signed preliminary agreements to buy Russia's S-400 air defense systems and anti-tank guided missile systems and receive "cutting edge technologies", as well as draw up investment and energy deals, the state's military firm, Saudi Arabian Military Industries, said.

Yet the two oil producers find themselves backing opposite sides of the Syrian civil war. Saudi Arabia supports the Syrian rebels fighting Bashar al-Assad, while Moscow has teamed up with Riyadh's nemesis Iran to save the Damascus regime. While the Saudis blame Assad for a conflict that has left over 330,000 dead since 2011, the visit was a sign that Riyadh has come to terms with the major role Russia now plays in the Middle East.

"For Putin, the king's visit showed that he acknowledges this role," Alexander Shumilin of the Middle East

Conflicts Centre in Moscow told AFP. Moscow's air campaign in Syria, launched in 2015, was widely seen as a game changer in the conflict that - at least for now - appears to have secured Assad's grip over his war-torn country. Now, the Kremlin is seeking support for a political settlement in Syria that guarantees Assad's role. At the same time, Moscow wants the Saudis to help fund reconstruction projects in Syria, giving Russian companies beneficial deals, says Vladimir Frolov, an independent foreign policy analyst based in Moscow.



Saudi Arabia has sought to diversify global relationships

US less involved

Saudi Arabia has sought to diversify its global relationships since Washington has reduced its role in the region. "America has become less interested in the Middle East and Russia is taking advantage of that," says Fyodor Lukyanov, of the Council on Foreign and Defence Policy in Moscow. Saudi Arabia's grievances

with Washington date back to the Barack Obama era. Like other US allies in the region, Riyadh wanted regime change in Damascus and became disillusioned when Obama refused to take decisive action against Assad.

"America discredited itself, and Russia is coming out of a long period of stagnation," says pro-Kremlin analyst Alexander Filonik of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow could also act as a convenient partner in supporting change inside the Saudi regime. While Russia will not replace Washington as the region's primary security provider, Frolov says, the Saudis could look to Moscow as a more reliable ally in case of an Arab Spring-inspired popular uprising. "They saw the US betray their ally Hosni Mubarak in Egypt in the name of promoting democracy," says Frolov.

Dispute over Iran

For the Saudis, the visit to Moscow was also an attempt to sway Putin to use his position to diminish Iranian influence in the Middle East. "For Saudi Arabia, not letting Iran get stronger in the region is a priority," says Shumilin. "Nobody knows how Putin will act on this, he is in the middle of major players heading in different directions," he adds. Frolov suggests Russia is too dependent on Iranian boots on the ground in Syria to afford a serious rupture with Tehran. "The Saudis will be disappointed with Putin on this and it might affect their economic deals with Russia," he says. Despite their clear differences, Salman's visit confirmed the Kremlin's military campaign in Syria has secured its long-term role as a serious player in the Middle East. —AFP

Columbus Day latest US debate over history, race

Should Christopher Columbus still be honored? Coming on the heels of a growing movement to take down statues commemorating the pro-slavery Confederate Army from the civil war, it's a question many US cities are now asking themselves. On Monday, crowds filled New York streets to recognize the so-called "man who discovered America", even as he is increasingly denounced as embodying the genocide of indigenous Americans. Ruth Edelstein-Friedman watched from a folding camping chair while the traditional Columbus Day parade wound along a damp Fifth Avenue. "We brought our children. We wanted them to see the parade and the statues and everything before they get rid of them," the retiree said.

A government holiday in the United States, Columbus Day is named for the explorer, from what is now Italy, who landed in the present-day Bahamas in 1492. For Edelstein-Friedman and her husband Eduardo, who travelled specially from Miami, homages to Columbus could soon be a thing of the past. And the controversy has only escalated following the August clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia where a liberal protester was killed at a white supremacist rally seeking to prevent the removal of statue of General Robert E Lee, who led the southern Confederacy during the 19th century American Civil War.

However, no one has yet announced the

end of the New York parade which, in good weather, draws more than a million spectators. It is as much a celebration of New York's powerful Italian-American community, which is represented at its highest levels by Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo. Both men proudly marched in Monday's parade. US President Donald Trump brushed aside criticism on Monday by describing the arrival of Columbus as "a transformative event that undeniably and fundamentally changed the course of human history and set the stage for the development of our great nation".

Unlike his predecessor Barack Obama, Trump cited no possible failings in the "discovery" of America. Dozens of US cities have already replaced Columbus Day with one honoring indigenous people, after a 1992 initiative from the leftist bastion of Berkeley, California. Over the past two years more than 50 cities across the country have followed. These include Los Angeles, the country's second-biggest city which voted in August to honor indigenous people and not the explorer. New York's parade continues but, even there, the fate of its Columbus statues is uncertain. One was erected in 1892 at the top of a 23-m column above Columbus Circle at the foot of Central Park.

'Genocide' or 'revisionism'

Last month somebody vandalized another Columbus monument, smaller and in the center of the park. One of its hands was covered in red paint to protest the blood that the explorer had on his own hands, while graffiti on the plinth read: "Hate will not be tolerated." On Monday a handful of protesters, who have arrived several times, gathered in front of the Columbus Circle statue to denounce "genocide" and "slavery". Police now guard the statue daily. —AFP

Americans and their guns: It's complicated

From muskets to machine guns, Americans have a relationship with firearms that is as old - and as complicated - as the country itself. That intimate connection with guns is under renewed scrutiny after the worst mass shooting in recent US history left 58 people dead in Las Vegas. The United States is a nation born of a bloody revolution, scarred by a grisly Civil War and decimation of the native population and reared on tales of rugged Wild West heroes.

Guns are a big part of the story. "I don't think we're alone in the world in loving guns but clearly Americans have a fascination with guns and love their guns," said Adam Winkler, author of "Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America". "I think it may stem, in part, from the fact that we're a country that idealizes the founding, where armed revolutionaries decided to fight against a tyrannical government," said Winkler, a professor of constitutional law at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). "We're also a nation whose identity is very much tied up with things like the Wild West and the Frontier where there was definitely a gun culture," he told AFP.

"The gun has a more or less central place in the national mythology," agreed A J Somerset, whose book "Arms: The Culture and Credo of the Gun" also examined gun ownership in the United States. "The whole mythology that comes out of the American Revolution places the rifle front and center," said Somerset, a gun

owner himself and former member of the Canadian armed forces. But it wasn't until several decades after the 1775-1783 American Revolution that the gun really became a national symbol, Somerset said.

'A gun was a tool'

"In the middle of the 19th century, you had this sudden burst of innovation in firearms that gives you the Colt revolver, the breech-loading rifle, which leads to the repeating rifle, the Winchester, and so on," he said. "This revolution in firearms technology happens to coincide with the great period of American westward expansion," Somerset said in a telephone interview. "And it's at that point that the country really starts to make a myth out of its relationship with the gun."

There are currently more than 300 million guns in the United States - more than one per American - and firearms are involved in some 30,000 deaths a year, nearly two-thirds of them suicides. About four in 10 Americans live in a home with a gun, according to a June survey by the Pew Research Center, with 67 percent of gun owners saying self-protection is a major reason for having a firearm.

Owning a gun is seen by many Americans as a fundamental right enshrined in the Second Amendment to the US Constitution which states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

For the early Americans, "a gun was a tool," said David Courtwright, a history professor at the University of North Florida and author of "Violent Land: Single Men and Social Disorder from the Frontier to the Inner City." "If you were a cowboy on a cattle drive you might pull out a gun and shoot a rattlesnake," Courtwright said. "It was a rare household on the frontier that was not equipped with some kind of a firearm and some people think that legacy still plays out (today)," he said. —AFP



Visitors attend the 'Hull Fair', one of Europe's largest annual travelling fairs, in Hull, northeast England on Monday. Showmen and women have brought their rides and stalls to the city for more than 700 years, first appearing in 1278. — AFP

Catalan leader steps back from declaring...

Continued from Page 1

A source from the central government's representative office in Catalonia said security had been tightened at Catalan airports and railway stations in anticipation of possible protests at Puigdemont's possible independence announcement. At stake is the future of a region of 7.5 million people deeply divided over independence, one of Spain's economic powerhouses whose drive to break away has raised concern for stability in the European Union.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has vowed to use everything in his power to prevent independence and has even refused to rule out imposing direct rule over the semi-autonomous region - an unprecedented move many fear could lead to unrest. EU President Donald Tusk also urged Puigdemont against making a decision that would make "dialogue impossible". But the Catalan president says the independence referendum that took place on Oct 1 despite a court ban justifies splitting from Madrid. Around 90 percent of those who cast bal-

lots voted for independence but the poll was poorly monitored and many Catalans opposed to secession boycotted an illegal plebiscite that was witnessed a violent police crackdown.

On Monday, Ada Colau, the popular mayor of Barcelona, warned that a unilateral declaration of independence would put "social cohesion" at risk. Pro-unity and pro-independence supporters have staged mass rallies in Barcelona over the past week, highlighting divisions in Catalonia. Anger over the police violence during the referendum swung some Catalans over to the independence camp. But both Madrid and the Catalan executive have come under fire for their dogged response to the crisis and a lack of dialogue.

Carolina Palles, a 53-year-old flower vendor in Barcelona's popular La Ramblas boulevard, said it was "a sad day", almost two months after the seaside city was hit by a deadly terror attack. Against independence, she was angry at both camps. "Rajoy's government handled things very badly," she said, accusing the separatists "of persisting until the very end, like martyrs".

The crisis has also caused deep uncertainty for businesses in one of the wealthiest regions in the eurozone's fourth largest economy. Spain's stock market shed nearly 1.0 percent ahead of yesterday's session and a string of companies have already moved their legal

the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa region, will act as a catalyst in strengthening Zain's and Kuwait's digital strategy."

Kharafi concluded by noting his appreciation of Director General for Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Sheikh Dr Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for "his efforts in attracting foreign investment in Kuwait and his support in facilitating and helping to overcome obstacles in the transaction process."

Issam Darwish, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of IHS commented, "We are delighted to partner with Zain on this agreement which will expand our operating footprint into the Middle East. We look forward to a long-term partnership with Zain, where we can demonstrate our strong operating capabilities and service offering in support of their customers. We expect significant growth in wireless phone and data usage in a number of emerging markets over the next few years and we believe, given the significant experience we have gained in our African operations, we are well positioned to meet the growing needs of wireless network operators in these countries." Citigroup acted as exclusive financial advisor to Zain on this transaction.

UAE: Qatar must shun 'extremism' to host World Cup

DUBAI: A senior United Arab Emirates official said Qatar's hosting of the 2022 World Cup should depend on it rejecting "extremism and terrorism", in comments drawing the football tournament into in the worst diplomatic row between rich Gulf monarchies in years. The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain severed diplomatic, trade and travel ties with Qatar in June, accusing it of sponsoring hardline Islamist groups, a charge Doha denies. Egypt, the Arab world's most populous state, also joined the boycott.

Kuwaiti and US attempts to ease the row have yielded little progress and media outlets backed by the opposing sides have unleashed a war of words that has aggravated tensions in the US-allied Gulf. "Qatar's hosting of World Cup 2022 should include a repudiation of policies supporting extremism & terrorism. Doha should review its record," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash wrote on Twitter. "Hosting World Cup 2022 should not be tainted by support of extremist individuals & (organisations)/ terror-

ist figures, review of Qatar's policies a must," he added.

The World Cup is the centerpiece of a carefully crafted strategy to project Qatar onto the global stage via sport. In the run-up, Qatar is scheduled to host events across different sports aimed at improving infrastructure and expertise. Although the countries boycotting Qatar would not have a direct way of halting the World Cup, they are major powers in regional sport and could interfere with Qatar's wider plans. Egypt is the top-ranked football team in Africa, and Saudi Arabia and the UAE are both in Asia's top eight.

Last month officials from the states boycotting Qatar did not turn up to the draw for a Middle East soccer tournament in Doha and said they wanted to postpone the competition that could be an early test for the World Cup hosts. Qatari officials could not be immediately reached for comment on Gargash's remarks. Qatar has previously said that the rift has not affected its preparations to host the tournament and that alternative sources for construction materials had been secured.

Football's governing body FIFA has said it has been in regular contact with Qatar since the row erupted. Gargash made his comments after a former Dubai police chief wrote on Twitter this week that the Gulf crisis could end if Doha forfeited hosting the World Cup. Gargash said the official, Dhahi Khalfan, had been misunderstood in media coverage. — Reuters

Indian child brides sold in 'package...'

Continued from Page 1

commissioner of police in Hyderabad who is investigating the issue.

In the few cases when the young brides did accompany their husbands back to their home country, they were forced into domestic servitude or sexual slavery, police said. About 30 people including brokers, qazis, prospective bridegrooms from Oman and Qatar and hotel owners were arrested last month and charged with human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, said police officials.

In the crackdown, 14 girls, all under 18, were rescued before they had been married off. Nearly half the brokers arrested were women who had been victims of the crime themselves, police said. "Contract marriages in this part of Hyderabad have been going on for many years, but it has now become an organized, international trade (of girls), involving agents and qazis from different Indian cities and also the Gulf," Satyanarayana said.

Girls are easy to source and most marriages are performed after the festival of Eid which agents said is "season time" when tourists from the Gulf visit Hyderabad - which has links to Gulf Arab states dating back centuries. In the 19th century, men from what is now Saudi Arabia and Oman were recruited as soldiers by the Nizam (ruler) of Hyderabad - then a princely state in southern India. Their descendants continue to live in the city and older generations recall "good marriages" of Hyderabad girls to young Arab men visiting relatives in the city in the 1970s and 80s.

The trend turned into a business in recent years after a qazi was sanctioned by the government to perform "Arab marriages". "They think they will see the Burj Khalifa (Dubai's landmark skyscraper) and live in palatial homes like Atlantis (hotel) if they marry an Arab. They are ignorant of the consequences," Satyanarayana said.

Growing up in a one-room tenement that she shared with her five siblings and parents, an offer to marry a rich man seemed like the perfect escape for one seventh grader who did not want to reveal her identity. "I was 14 and our neighbor told us that a rich Arab boy was looking for a bride. We went to meet him. He was not a boy. He was 62," the girl told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The broker convinced me that my life would change if I married him. I was promised gold, money and a house for my parents. I believed him."

She was married in a no-frills ceremony to the man who paid her mother 30,000 rupees (\$460). He paid another 50,000 rupees to the brokers and the qazi who performed the wedding - his second such "marriage" in five days. "The girl and the man had already spent a day at a hotel when we rescued her after his first wife, also a

teenager, alerted the police," said Rafia Bano, legal officer with Hyderabad District Child Protection Unit.

Following the marriage, the family moved house - unable to cope with the volley of uncomfortable questions that their neighbors and friends asked them. The girl resumed her studies, is now in the 11th grade and divorced. In the narrow streets that snake through the bustling Old City of Hyderabad - where the majority of residents are Muslim - there are countless stories of girls married as children, only to be sexually abused and divorced a few days later.

But government data underestimates the problem - Rafia Bano's office has recorded only seven cases in the last three years - as campaigners and police say a sex tourism industry under the garb of marriage is flourishing. In interviews with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, agents, qazis and police said brides were offered in "package deals" of 30,000 rupees or more, depending on the marriage duration. The packages included paperwork for the marriage, such as visa formalities if the bride was flying with her husband, or a hotel booking if it was a short-term stay.

The police have seized blank nikahnamas (marriage certificates) and divorce papers from the offices of qazis who were arrested in Hyderabad and Mumbai. "They are rich men from the Gulf and they know people are poor in Hyderabad, and girls available. Since they cannot touch a woman outside of marriage, they marry the girl and sign a blank paper for divorce at the time of marriage," said Qadir Ali, a fourth generation qazi in Hyderabad. "They are spoiling the name of Islam for their desire."

Hyderabad - once known for its polished pearls and the famous 16th century monument of Charminar - emerged as a major tech hub in the early 2000s, with Indian firms and global giants including Facebook and Google setting up offices in the city. But barely 20 km from the city's shiny IT district are the narrow lanes of the Old City where girls often drop out of school when they reach puberty.

Tabassum, 15, left school to help her mother stick glittering beads on bangles that tourists buy in the bazaar near Charminar, becoming easy prey for marriage agents. Her mother, Zareena, didn't think she was harming her daughter when she showed her to an old Omani man for marriage. "We are poor people and I had heard of girls getting married and getting a good life," she said. But in a rare act of defiance, Tabassum ran away and the marriage was called off. "This is a business," said Jameela Nishat, founder of charity Shaheen that works with victims of contract marriages. "The sale of one girl feeds many families."

Former agent Haji Khan is familiar with both sides of the business. "I made 50,000 rupees in one month last year. The money is good. But it is very sad for the girls," he said. He knows. His own wife was forced into a contract marriage, and was rescued three years ago by Khan who paid 100,000 rupees for her release. But he continued to source child brides for other Arab men until recently turning police informer. "It's the games we play for money," he said. — Reuters

Zain finalizes telecoms tower...

Continued from Page 1

The company has an ambitious team that is focused on expanding their operations across the Middle East and Africa."

Kharafi made special note of thanks to Kuwait's Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), and its Chairman and CEO Eng Salim Al-Othaina noting the positive impact their vision is having on the development of the ICT sector and raising the level of organizational efficiency of this vital sector in Kuwait. "CITRA has contributed significantly to the promotion of the telecommunications industry in the Kuwaiti market in keeping abreast of the recent developments in the mobile telecommunications services across the global markets. They are working hard to strengthen plans to build the information society and develop the country's telecommunications infrastructure, and we hope that this transaction,

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

Anniversary Offers

114 قبل
139
25

89 قبل
99
10

36 قبل
41
5

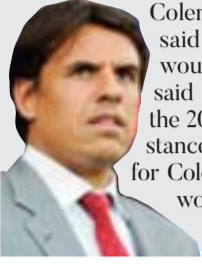
Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Sports

Wales players urge Coleman to stay on

CARDIFF: Senior Wales players have urged manager Chris Coleman to stay on despite the heartbreak of failing to qualify for next year's World Cup finals in Russia, a report said yesterday. Britain's Press Association said Coleman met with key players including the injured Gareth Bale at the team hotel following their 1-0 defeat to the Republic of Ireland in Cardiff on Monday. The squad have reportedly given their unanimous support to Coleman and it is also understood that the Football Association of Wales is hoping Coleman extends his near six-year stay at the helm. Coleman said in the immediate aftermath of the Ireland defeat that he would hold talks with the FAW over his future. The manager said after Wales had reached the semi-finals of Euro 2016 that the 2018 World Cup campaign would be his last in charge but his stance appears to have softened. Defender Chris Gunter called for Coleman to stay. "I think everyone in Wales, fans and players, would want to see him stay on 100 percent," he said. —AFP



Women's soccer championship to be launched today: Hayat

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairwoman of the Women Soccer Committee at Kuwait Football Association Fatima Hayat said the committee is witnessing a notable activity, be it under the former transitional committee that was headed by Fawaz Al-Hasawi or the current one under Ibrahim Al-Shihab.

Hayat said that in 2010 former player Farah Boodai organized a league for women football, and materialized at the same time, and continued until now. Hayat said the women's championship will be launched today, (Wednesday), at Jaber stadium with the support of KFA. She said the championship will be of the home and away system, with teams made of seven players only, and the championship will conclude in the middle of March 2018. She said there are plans to hold the championship officially in two years, and each team will have 11 players.

Dean Jones named as interim Afghan coach

KABUL: Former Australia batsman and cricket commentator Dean Jones will coach Afghanistan in their upcoming Hong Kong tour, officials said yesterday, in the latest sign of the team's rising fortunes. Jones, who visited Kabul last month to commentate on the Shpageeza Twenty20 tournament, will take charge for Afghanistan's four-day Intercontinental Cup game from October 20-23, and could become a permanent fixture, the Afghan cricket board said. "(The) Afghanistan Cricket Board has appointed Dean Jones, a prominent former Australian cricketer and commentator, as its head coach for the four-day Intercontinental games in Hong Kong," it said in a statement. "Both parties will consider a long-term agreement after the games," it added. Jones said in a Twitter message that he was happy to lead Afghanistan's cricket team in Hong Kong. "I am pleased to announce that I will be Afghanistan interim Head Coach for their Tour to Hong Kong #shouldbefun," he said. —AFP



Bellinger and Dodgers beat D-backs 3-1 to return to NLCS

Astros beat Red Sox in Game 4, advance to ALCS

PHOENIX: Rookie Cody Bellinger homered and drove in two runs, Yu Darvish pitched five strong innings, and the Los Angeles Dodgers swept their way into the National League Championship Series with a 3-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks in Game 3 of the NL Division Series on Monday. Bellinger and Austin Barnes homered off Zack Greinke (0-1). Darvish (1-0) gave up one run and struck out seven in five-plus innings to send the Dodgers to the NLCS against the winner of the Chicago Cubs-Washington Nationals series. The Cubs beat the Dodgers in six games in the NLCS last year. Bellinger, the likely NL Rookie of the Year, had 39 regular-season homers but was 1-for-12 in the NLDS before his opposite-field homer made it 2-0 in the fifth inning. Barnes' homer gave Darvish a 3-1 lead in the sixth inning, and the Dodgers used four relievers to hold on. Kenley Jansen recorded his second save of the series.



Yankees look to rally from a 2-0 deficit to win

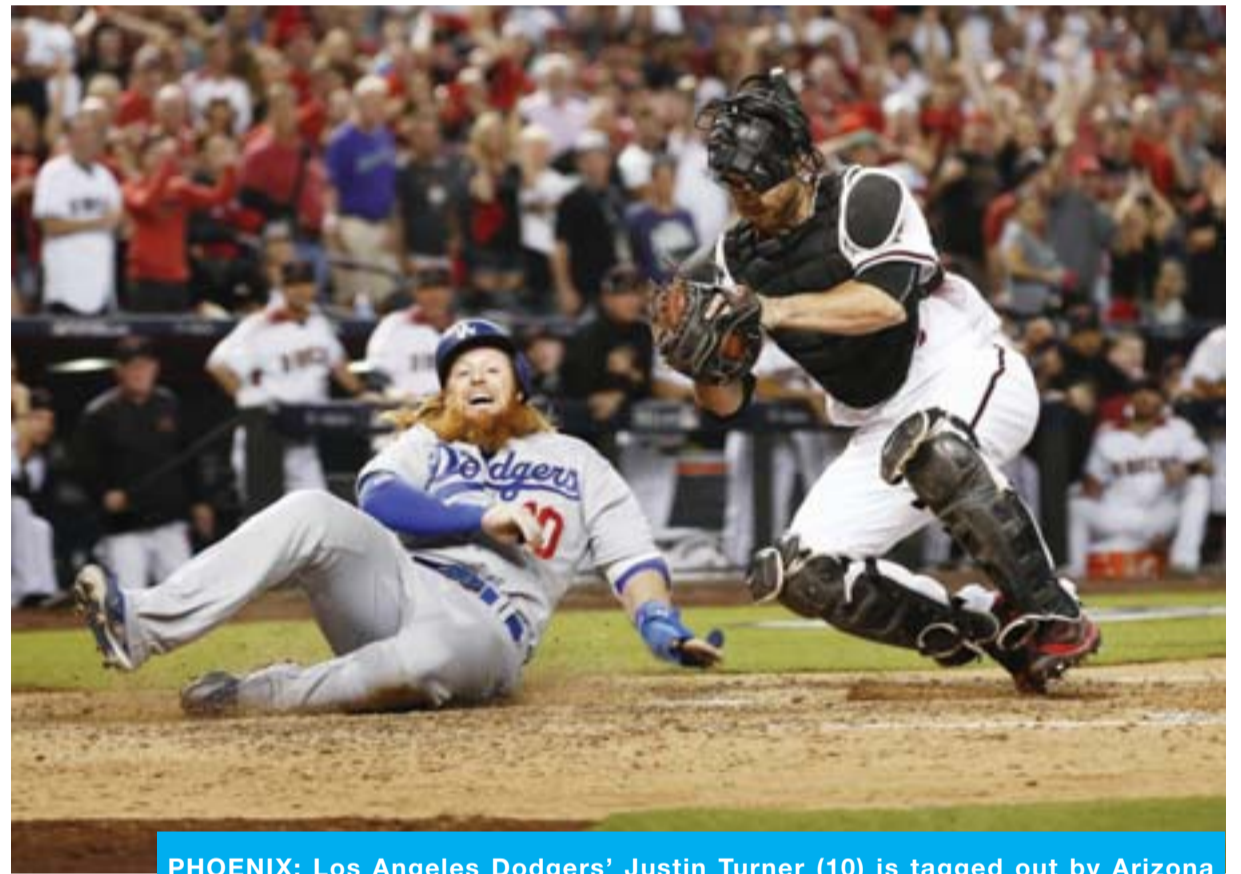
drove in the go-ahead run on a two-out single to left field in the eighth inning off Boston's Craig Kimbrel, who relieved starter-turned-reliever Chris Sale (0-2) in the eighth after Houston tied it.

Evan Gattis reached second on a hard-hit bouncer down the third base line with one out in the inning off Sale, but was sent back to first because it was errantly picked up by a ball girl. After Cameron Maybin entered as a pinch runner for Gattis, George Springer drew a walk off Kimbrel before Reddick's big hit. Pinch hitter Carlos Beltran doubled in a critical two-out insurance run in the ninth. Rafael Devers cut the Astros' deficit to one with an inside-the-park home run, his second of the playoffs, to lead off the Boston ninth against

closer Ken Giles. Giles proceeded to strike out Jackie Bradley Jr. and got Dustin Pedroia to ground out to complete the six-out save.

CUBS 2, NATIONALS 1

Anthony Rizzo delivered a go-ahead, two-out RBI single in the eighth inning as the Chicago Cubs beat the Washington Nationals 2-1 in Game 3 of the National League Division Series on Monday. The victory gave the defending World Series champions a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series heading into Game 4 today at Wrigley Field. Rizzo dropped a bloop single into shallow center field off Oliver Perez to score pinch-runner Leonys Martin, who replaced Tommy La Stella after he led off the eighth inning with a walk. Cubs closer Wade Davis preserved the victory with a scoreless ninth inning. Carl Edwards Jr. (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Brandon Kintzler (0-1) took the loss.



PHOENIX: Los Angeles Dodgers' Justin Turner (10) is tagged out by Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Chris Iannetta during the ninth inning of game 3 of baseball's National League Division Series against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Monday. —AP

YANKEES 7, INDIANS 3

Aaron Judge capped a four-run second inning with a two-run double, and New York capitalized on shoddy defense by Cleveland to even the AL Division Series at two games apiece. The decisive Game 5 is Wednesday in Cleveland, where the Indians will be looking to snap a five-game losing streak in elimination games. The

Yankees will look to rally from a 2-0 deficit to win an ALDS for the second time. Yankees starter Luis Severino (1-0) allowed three runs on four hits and a walk in seven innings, pitching most of the night with a sizable lead. After getting one out on Oct. 3 in the AL wild-card game against the Minnesota Twins, he bounced back Monday to strike out nine and throw 113 pitches. — Reuters



Venus Williams

Venus shakes off rust with cruise against Ozaki

HONG KONG: Venus Williams raced through her opening match in the WTA Hong Kong Open yesterday with a 6-2, 6-2 win against Risa Ozaki. The world number five took just 74 minutes to see off Japan's Ozaki in hot and humid conditions in Victoria Park.

It was an ideal way for Williams to shake off any rust in her first match since losing to Sloane Stephens in the US Open semi-final a month ago. Williams punctuated the performance with some trademark power winners and sent down seven aces to overwhelm the world number 95 in just 74 minutes. "Four weeks goes by pretty fast and the first match is never perfect," said Williams, who dropped her own serve twice.

"It was a hard-fought match despite the score and it was a great way to start. I hit a lot of balls and hopefully can play my way into this tournament." Williams, 37 but seemingly ageless, has enjoyed a magnificent season, reaching two Grand Slam finals to qualify for the WTA Tour Finals in Singapore for the first time since 2009. But Williams said

she could not afford to think about the season-ending event in Singapore, which begins in just under two weeks. "It's not here yet. So this tournament is definitely first in my head," she said. "There's a lot of depth in this draw and I'm going to have to work my way through this." The second seed faces another Japanese opponent in Naomi Osaka in the second round. Osaka overcame Chilean qualifier Alexa Guarachi 7-5, 6-4 in their first-round encounter yesterday.

World number 19 Elena Vesnina of Russia became the first seed to crash out when she was stunned 6-3, 6-4 by Thailand's world number 130 Luksika Kumkhum. Kumkhum ousted the fifth seed in just 69 minutes and will face China's Wang Qiang in the second round.

Fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska swept past local wildcard Zhang Ling 6-1, 6-2 to set up a second-round meeting with former US Open champion Sam Stosur. The Polish world number 18 was below her best, managing to land just 56 percent of first serves, but a double break in each set was enough for her to win in just 69 minutes on her Hong Kong debut.

"I've known Sam for many years, although we didn't play for a while. I think it's going to be a really good match," Radwanska told reporters. Australian seventh seed Daria Gavrilova set up a match against Shelby Rogers of the US in the second round after coming through in straight sets against qualifier Miyu Kato of Japan 6-1, 7-6 (7/4). Sixth seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia also progressed safely with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Timea Babos of Hungary and will face American qualifier Jacqueline Cako. — AFP

Kyrgios walks out on match in Shanghai after losing first set

SHANGHAI: A year after being fined for "tanking" a match at the Shanghai Masters, Nick Kyrgios quit another one altogether. The temperamental Australian argued several times with the chair umpire during his first-round match against Steve Johnson yesterday. After losing the tiebreaker 7-6 (5), Kyrgios shook hands with Johnson at the net and then with the chair umpire before packing his bags and walking off court.

Serving at 30-30 in the 12th game of the first set, a forehand by Kyrgios was called out. The Australian challenged the call and it was overruled. Kyrgios then hit two balls in anger and was assessed a code violation warning. At the change of ends in the tiebreaker, Kyrgios was leading 4-2 but was annoyed that fans were being allowed to come into the court. Kyrgios lost the next point and then started to complain and curse, which earned him an audible obscenity code violation. He was docked a point, which made the score 4-4.

When the set was done, so was Kyrgios. He left the court without explanation, avoided a news conference, and took to Twitter to firstly apologize for his actions then give his reasons.

"I've been battling a stomach bug for the past 24 hours and I tried to be ready but I was really struggling on the court today which I think was pretty evident from the first point," he wrote. "My shoulder started to hurt in the practice today which didn't help either and once I lost the first set I was just not strong enough to continue because I've not eaten much the past 24 hours." The ATP said it was investigating. Kyrgios added he would decide today whether to play his scheduled doubles. Last year, Kyrgios was suspended by the men's tour for tanking a match and insulting fans following a second-round loss to German qualifier Mischa Zverev at the Shanghai Masters. Kyrgios gave little effort during the 6-3, 6-1 loss, even patting easy serves over the net and turning away before his oppo-



BEIJING: Nick Kyrgios of Australia during his men's singles championship match. — AP

nent's serve crossed the net.

Kyrgios arrived in Shanghai this time after losing the China Open final to Rafael Nadal 6-2, 6-1 on Sunday. Also, John Isner beat Serbian qualifier Dusan Lajovic 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) on a day with temperatures soaring past 32 degrees C (90 degrees F).

"The conditions were brutal," Isner said. "It felt like Atlanta in August. That could've been the hottest match I played all year." American Jack Sock, the 14th seed, retired in his match because of dehydration with Ukrainian qualifier Alexandr Dolgoplov leading 4-6, 6-1, 2-1.

Also, Marin Cilic, a Wimbledon finalist this year, defeated Kyle Edmund of Britain 6-3, 7-6 (5) in the second round. Juan Martin del Potro also made the third round. US Open finalist Kevin Anderson began by defeating Adrian Mannarino 6-3, 6-1, and Ryan Harrison of the US beat local wild card Zhang Ze 6-2, 6-3. — AP

Sports

Matthews scores in OT, Maple Leafs rally to beat Blackhawks

Smith makes 43 saves to lift Flames over Ducks

NHL results/standings						
Calgary 2, Anaheim 0; Winnipeg 5, Edmonton 2; Tampa Bay 4, Washington 3 (OT); Toronto 4, Chicago 3 (OT); New Jersey 6, Buffalo 2; Colorado 4, Boston 0; St. Louis 3, NY Islanders 2 (SO).						
Western Conference						
Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
St. Louis	3	0	0	12	8	6
Chicago	2	0	1	18	6	5
Colorado	2	1	0	9	6	4
Winnipeg	1	2	0	10	15	2
Minnesota	0	1	1	6	9	1
Dallas	0	2	0	3	6	0
Nashville	0	2	0	3	8	0
Pacific Division						
Los Angeles	2	0	0	6	1	4
Las Vegas	2	0	0	4	2	4
Calgary	2	1	0	8	6	4
Anaheim	1	1	1	7	9	3
Vancouver	1	0	0	3	2	2
Edmonton	1	2	0	7	8	2
Arizona	0	1	1	5	7	1
San Jose	0	2	0	4	9	0
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Toronto	3	0	0	19	10	6
Detroit	2	0	0	6	3	4
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	13	11	4
Florida	1	1	0	8	9	2
Boston	1	1	0	4	7	2
Ottawa	0	0	2	5	7	2
Montreal	1	2	0	4	10	2
Buffalo	0	2	1	7	15	1
Metropolitan Division						
Washington	2	0	1	14	9	5
New Jersey	2	0	0	10	3	4
Philadelphia	2	1	0	8	7	4
NY Islanders	1	1	1	8	11	3
Pittsburgh	1	1	1	9	15	3
Carolina	1	0	0	5	4	2
Columbus	1	1	0	6	5	2
NY Rangers	1	2	0	9	12	2

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

TORONTO: Auston Matthews scored in overtime as the Toronto Maple Leafs came from behind to beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-3 on Monday night. Nikita Zaitsev, Connor Brown and James van Riemsdyk also scored for the Maple Leafs, who have won their first three games. Jan Rutta, Jonathan Toews and Richard Panik had goals for the Blackhawks. Frederik Andersen made 18 saves for the win while Anton Forsberg stopped 39 shots.

FLAMES 2, DUCKS 0

Mike Smith made 43 saves and Calgary ended a 25-game skid at Honda Center with a win over Anaheim. Calgary got goals from Sean Monahan and Mikael Backlund. It hadn't won at Anaheim since Jan. 19, 2004. John Gibson stopped 27 shots for the Ducks.

BLUES 3, ISLANDERS 2, OT

Brayden Schenn and Vladimir Tarasenko scored shootout goals to lift St. Louis over New York, the third straight win to start the season for the Blues. Andrew Ladd and Anders Lee had scored for the Islanders in the third period to send the game into overtime, Lee's goal coming at the 19-minute mark. Tarasenko scored twice in the second period for the Blues, who were seemingly in control until Ladd scored for the home team at 13:04 of the third period to ruin Jake Allen's shutout bid. Allen, who made 40 saves, denied Jordan Eberle and Anthony Beauvillier in the shootout.

AVALANCHE 4, BRUINS 0

Semyon Varlamov stopped 29 shots, Nail Yakupov scored two goals and Colorado continued its recent success in Boston. Sven Andrighetto and J.T. Compher scored first-period goals for the Avalanche, who improved to 11-0-0-1 in their past 12 games in Boston since the most recent loss coming on March 30, 1998. Colorado completed its season-opening three-game road trip at 2-1. Boston split its first two games - both at home. Tuukka Rask made 19 saves for the Bruins.

LIGHTNING 4, OILERS 3, OT

Brayden Point scored on a power play in overtime. Tampa Bay held high-scoring Alex Ovechkin pointless and the Lightning beat Washington. Point redirected Nikita Kucherov's shot at 3:08 and that came after the Capitals were assessed a too many men on the ice penalty. Ovechkin entered with seven goals in Washington's first two games this season. Tampa Bay



EDMONTON: Matthew Benning #83 of the Edmonton Oilers battles Nic Petan #19 of the Winnipeg Jets at Rogers Place on Monday in Edmonton, Canada. — AFP

got goals from Alex Killorn, and Chris Kunitz, and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 23 saves. T.J. Oshie had two goals and an assist, while Nicklas Backstrom added a goal and two assists for the Capitals. Philipp Grubauer stopped 36 shots in his first game of the season.

DEVILS 6, SABRES 2

Rookie Jesper Bratt and Marcus Johansson each had two goals and an assist and New Jersey beat Buffalo. Brian Gibbons added a goal and an assist, Taylor Hall had two assists, and Stefan Noesen also scored. New Jersey is 2-0 for the first time in three seasons. No. 1 overall pick Nico Hischier recorded his first NHL point and Cory Schneider made 23 saves for the Devils.

Evander Kane scored twice for the winless Sabres, who were booed off the ice after all three periods. Chad Johnson stopped 16 of 22 shots before being replaced by Robin Lehner (nine saves) in the third period.

JETS 5, OILERS 2

Nikolaj Ehlers had a hat trick and an assist and Winnipeg captured its first win of the season by beating Edmonton. Mark Scheifele and Dmitry Kulikov also scored for the Jets. Leon Draisaitl and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had a goal each for the Oilers, who have lost two straight. Connor Hellebuyck picked up the win in net by making 37 saves. Cam Talbot turned away 38-of-43 shots in defeat. — AP

Starc urges Aussie fans to 'get stuck into' Ben Stokes

SYDNEY: Fast bowler Mitchell Starc has urged Australian fans to "get stuck into" England bad boy Ben Stokes if he makes the trip for the upcoming Ashes, calling for them to be "very loud". Test vice-captain Stokes was arrested last month in Britain on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm and suspended from internationals until further notice following an apparent fight outside a nightclub. He was released without charge but remains under investigation. Stokes was included in the Ashes squad but the England and Wales Cricket Board on Friday said he would not travel with the rest of the players when they leave on October 28.

No final decision on his involvement has been made, but if he does play the powerful allrounder faces a hostile

reception. "You can only imagine," Starc said in the Sydney Morning Herald yesterday on what reception awaits Stokes.

"I guess I'd love if he was out here. I'd love for the Australian crowd to get stuck into him the way the Poms (English) get stuck into our blokes over there. "Regardless of whether he's here or not, I think the atmosphere is going to be great at all the grounds.

"I'm really looking forward to that atmosphere and if Ben is playing I'm sure it's going to be hyped up and really loud. But I'm sure Ben knows how to cope with that sort of stuff if he does play."

Stokes' absence would be a huge blow for England, who have lost two out of their past three tours Down Under 5-0 and are desperate to hit the ground running in the first Test in Brisbane on November 23. Starc has been subjected to taunting from beyond the boundary in England in the past, while other Australian players have also been the butt of English sledging.

He is encouraging crowds in Australia to give the tourists a hostile welcome with or without Stokes, believing it can make a material difference to the performance of some players. — AFP

Aussie batsman Khawaja reveals racial abuse

SYDNEY: Australia batsman Usman Khawaja has revealed he was racially abused so much growing up that he refused to support the national side, and claimed "racism" once played a role in selections for the team.

The 30-year-old, who immigrated as a child, battled the odds to become Australia's first Pakistan-born national player and is now established as one of the country's leading Test batsmen. But it wasn't an easy journey, and Khawaja wrote on the playersvoice.com.au website that he was vilified over his race from a young age, making him resent Australian sporting teams.

"Getting sledged by opposition players and their parents was the norm. Some of them said it just quietly enough for only me to hear," he wrote on the website, where sportspeople can air their views.

"It still hurt, but I would never show it. Most of the time it was when I scored runs. "It is for this reason why so many of my friends, most of whom were born outside Australia, didn't support Australia in sporting contests. I didn't either."

The abuse ultimately made him stronger, but Khawaja said it was an intimidating environment to play the game he loved. He said he was brought up to be humble and polite "but when I watched the Aussie team, I saw men who were hard-nosed, confident, almost brutish".

"The same type of men who would sledge me about my heritage growing up," he added. As he got older, he said Australia also grew up and "I started to understand that the minority of Australians who did treat me this way were just that, a minority".

"By high school I was a diehard Australian team supporter. But, from a pathways perspective, the damage had been done. "Not to me, but to some of the other immigrant kids who potentially could have gone on to play for Australia. They chose not to pursue a dream because of the negative experiences they had endured."

At one point Khawaja was the only Asian first-class



Usman Khawaja

player in Australia, something he attributed to his strong-willed family. "It's no surprise it has taken Australia cricket so long for coloured players to come through the system," he said.

"There is no doubt racism and politics played a large role in selections in the past. "I've heard a few stories from past Anglo-Saxon players where this seems to be the case. It would just be the times that they lived in."

Khawaja said Australian cricket and society has come a long way and it is now easier for cricketers from all backgrounds to come through the system. But he is reluctant to take any credit for opening doors.

"Maybe it was inevitable with the growing multicultural community in Australia. Maybe it was a few friendly faces at the highest level. We will never know," he said. — AFP



DUBAI: Sri Lanka's Lahiru Gamage celebrates dismissal of Pakistan's Asad Shafiq during their last day at Second Test cricket match against Pakistan in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, yesterday. — AP

Five-wicket Perera stars in Sri Lanka series victory

DUBAI: Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera finished with five wickets to help Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by 68 runs in the second Test in Dubai yesterday and take the series 2-0. Perera had figures of 5-98 as Pakistan, chasing a tough 317 to win, were bowled out for 248 in the second hour of fifth and final day at Dubai stadium. Asad Shafiq fought hard during his 112-run knock-his 11th Test hundred — and together with his skipper Sarfraz Ahmed (68) added 173 for the sixth wicket.

But once their partnership was broken Sri Lanka, having already won the first Test by 21 runs in Abu Dhabi, quickly closed in on the victory. This is Pakistan's first series defeat at their adopted home of United Arab Emirates (UAE) in seven years. They had won five of the previous nine, with four drawn.

Pakistan were forced to play in the neutral venues of the UAE following the deadly terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore in 2009. This is also Pakistan's first home defeat since losing to South Africa 1-0 in 2007, a series held on their grounds, and only the second white-wash in their history.

They previously suffered a 3-0 defeat against Australia, a series also played at neutral venues in Colombo and UAE in 2002. Sri Lankan captain Dinesh Chandimal, whose team lost to India 3-0 in August, hailed "a team performance".

"They put their heart and soul in the practice sessions. "It was a tough series against India but we learnt a lot from it. The boys executed the game plan really well in this series. We knew when we came today that Dilruwan and Rangana (Herath) would do the job." Pakistan skipper Ahmed was left reeling a tough series. "It was a tough series for us. We came close in both matches, but we haven't played good cricket and that's why we have lost the series," said Ahmed.

Shafiq was the ninth man out when he edged paceman Suranga Lakmal to slip where Kusal Mendis took a low diving catch to end all Pakistan's hopes of an upset win. Shafiq's 253-minute knock had 10 boundaries but he again failed to help Pakistan cross the line, just like his 137 in the lost cause against Australia at Brisbane last year.

Pakistan had looked to the overnight partnership of Shafiq and Ahmed to guide them to the winning target after resuming at 198-5, needing another 119 for victory. Both Shafiq and Ahmed had lucky escapes but Perera finally broke the resistance when Ahmed was caught off a miscued sweep at deep fine leg by Nuwan Pradeep. Ahmed hit five boundaries during his 130-ball knock. Shafiq brought up his hundred with a paddled sweep single off Perera and was reprimed on the same score when Dimuth Karunaratne dropped a low catch of the same bowler. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

DUBAI: Complete scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second day-night Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Dubai Stadium yesterday:		
Sri Lanka 1st innings 482 (D. Karunaratne 196; D. Chandimal 62, D. Perera 58, N. Dickwell 52; Yasir Shah 6-184)		
Pakistan 1st innings 262 (Azhar Ali 59, Haris Sohail 56; Perera 3-72, Herath 3-84)		
Sri Lanka 2nd innings 96 (K. Mendis 29; Wahab Riaz 4-41, Haris Sohail 3-1)		
Pakistan 2nd innings (198-5)		
Shan Masood c Dickwell b Perera	21	
Sami Aslam c Mendis b Gamage	1	
Azhar Ali c Silva b Pradeep	17	
Haris Sohail c Dickwell b Perera	10	
Asad Shafiq c Mendis b Lakmal	112	
Babar Azam c Silva b Perera	0	
Sarfraz Ahmed c Pradeep b Perera	68	
Mohammad Amir lbw b Perera	4	
Yasir Shah st Dickwell b Herath	5	
Wahab Riaz c Chandimal b Herath	1	
Mohammad Abbas not out	3	
Extras: (lb1, nb5)	6	
Total: (all out; 90.2 overs)	248	
Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Aslam), 2-36 (Ali), 3-49 (Sohail), 4-52 (Masood), 5-52 (Azam), 6-225 (Ahmed), 7-230 (Amir), 8-244 (Shah), 9-244 (Shafiq)		
Bowling: Lakmal 14-4-35-1, Gamage 16-5-29-1 (nb3), Herath 22-2-3-57-2.		
Pradeep 11-3-21-1 (Inb), Perera 26-1-98-5, Mendis 1-0-7-0 (Inb)		
Result: Sri Lanka win by 68 runs.		

Sports

New generation of young stars sweeps Egypt to World Cup

Mohamed Salah is the Pharaohs' star man

CAIRO: Many of Egypt's footballers were not even born when the Pharaohs last played in a World Cup, but the new generation of young stars have steered them to Russia 2018. Mohamed Salah, Ramadan Sobhi, and Ahmed Hegazy—all 26 or under — helped end Egypt's 28-year wait by beating Congo 2-1 on Sunday, catapulting them back on to football's biggest stage. The tens of thousands of fans who packed into the Borg El Arab Stadium in Alexandria had fallen silent in the 87th minute after Congo drew level at 1-1, a scoreline which would have at least delayed the home side's qualification. But Liverpool midfielder Mohamed Salah, 25, scored his second goal from a penalty deep into injury time, sparking jubilation in the stands and parties on the streets until the early hours.

Salah is the Pharaohs' star man. Known for agility and speed, his transfer in June from Roma to Liverpool was estimated at between 45 and 50 million euros (\$52 to \$59 million). "Mohamed Salah is the most important player of the team," said Khaled Baioumy, a sports columnist and a regular guest on television sports programmes. "The quality of the current team is comparable to that of Western teams. Qualifying for the World Cup attests to that, but the competition will be very tough," said Baioumy.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Trained by Argentinean coach Hector Cuper, the team

excelled at the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations, losing in the February final to Cameroon after a seven-year absence from the competition.

Standout 20-year-old Ramadan Sobhi is developing at Premier League side Stoke City, while Mahmoud Hassan, 23, nicknamed Trezeguet for his likeness to the French veteran, and Mahmoud Abdel-Moneim, 23, known as Kahraba — "electricity" in Arabic—have also shone in recent matches. However, the team will face tougher challenges next year in Russia, according to Karim Said, a sports analyst on the channel ON Sport, and managing editor of the football website Yallakora.

"To face teams of that quality is totally different from facing African teams," he said, adding the new generation must prove they can form a solid team with a good understanding on the pitch. Egypt's previous greats, such as Mohamed Aboutrika and Mohamed Barakat, knew each other well having played together for the same club in Cairo, Al Ahly.

But Said warned the current crop of young players, with 44-year-old captain Essam El Hadary in goal, could face communication problems because they play for different teams across Egypt, Europe, and the Gulf. "The current team does not come from the same club, there is diversity, they are not together," he said. "And playing among a national selection is completely different from playing in a club where contact is constant." — AFP

Team will face tougher challenges in Russia



ALEXANDRIA: File photo shows Egypt and Congo players fight for the ball during the 2018 World Cup group E qualifying soccer match at the Borg El Arab Stadium in Alexandria. — AP

Spain regains its confidence ahead of World Cup

MADRID: Spain earned more than a World Cup berth when it won the difficult Group G. The national team's successful qualifying campaign, in a group which also included four-time world champion Italy, restored much of La Roja's confidence following disappointing performances in recent competitions.

Spain will head to next year's tournament in Russia as one of the title contenders thanks to the impressive qualifying run that erased many of the doubts surrounding the team following early exits from the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 European Championship. The eliminations raised questions about whether Spain could successfully revamp its aging squad, but promising coach Julen Lopetegui and a group of talented young players showed the team is on the right track.

"Our qualifying campaign was brilliant," Lopetegui said after Spain defeated Israel 1-0 on Monday to win the group with 28 points from 10 matches, five points more than second-place Italy.

TOUGHT TO BEAT

Spain was in control from the start, winning all but one of its 10 matches. The team's only setback was a 1-1 draw against Italy last year in Turin, a result that eventually set up a showdown in Madrid last month. Spain dominated in a 3-0 victory that gave Lopetegui's team a commanding three-point lead with three games left. The win over Israel in the final qualifier extended Spain's unbeaten streak in World Cup qualifying to 63 games, a run that dates back to 1993.

GOOD BALANCE

Spain was nearly perfect both on offense and defense, outscoring opponents 36-3 in its 10 qualifiers. Almost half of the goals scored by the team came in the two 8-0 victories over Liechtenstein, but it also easily defeated Macedonia 4-0, Israel 4-1 and Albania 3-0. Only Germany and Belgium scored more goals than Spain ahead of the final round of matches on Tuesday, and La Roja's defense was the best among all teams along with England's.

YOUNG TALENT

Spain was led by some youngsters who could be peaking by the time the World Cup begins. The team's leading scorer in the qualifying campaign was Isco, the 25-year-old Real Madrid player who scored five goals in seven matches, including two in the decisive win over Italy last month. Chelsea's 24-year-old Alvaro Morata and Madrid's 21-year-old Marco Asensio also were important. Other youngsters helping Spain include Barcelona's Gerard Deulofeu and Atletico Madrid's Saul Niguez.

TESTED CORE

Lopetegui hasn't completely given up on the veterans who helped the team succeed in recent years. Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets and David Silva remain with an important role in Spain's midfield, and Sergio Ramos and Gerard Pique are still crucial in the defense. Lopetegui may also turn to some veteran forwards such as Iago Aspas and Aritz Aduriz, and even 35-year-old David Villa has not been ruled out.

STEADY COACH

The always-calm Lopetegui was coming off a disappointing stint with FC Porto when he was hired by Spain following Euro 2016. He arrived credentialed by his good work with Spain's youth teams, and it quickly translated into the senior squad, which remains unbeaten since he took over.—AP

Gareth Bale at crossroads after Wales heartbreak

CARDIFF: A powerless spectator as Wales's World Cup dreams were crushed by the Republic of Ireland, Real Madrid star Gareth Bale has arrived at a crucial tipping point in his career. Sidelined by the latest in a succession of calf injuries, Bale could only watch forlornly from the stands at Cardiff City Stadium on Monday as Ireland's 1-0 win gave them a World Cup play-off berth at Wales's expense. Having turned 28 in July, and with his fortunes tied to a country that last qualified for the World Cup in 1958, Bale has missed out on his best chance of playing at football's biggest event.

He was the undisputed figurehead of Wales's successful qualifying campaign for Euro 2016 and then starred with three goals as Chris Coleman's side confounded every expectation by reaching the semi-finals in France. But his injury woes have obliged other players to step up in recent months, with 17-year-old Liverpool forward Ben Woodburn and Derby County's Tom Lawrence among the unlikely players to have answered the Welsh call. The loss to Ireland leaves Bale and the other members of Wales's "Golden Generation" contemplating the demotivating thought that Euro 2016 may have been as good as it will ever get for them.

Bale can at least console himself that once he has recovered from his latest injury, his place in Coleman's starting XI will be waiting for him, but the same cannot be said at Madrid.

With three Champions League triumphs in the past four seasons, Bale is already arguably Britain's most successful footballing export, and yet he is under greater pressure at the Bernabeu than ever before. Isco exploited an ankle injury sustained by Bale to move ahead of the Welshman in the pecking order last season and 21-year-old Marco Asensio's emergence as the new darling of Spanish football has further compli-

cated matters. Bale managed just 19 league appearances last season as Zinedine Zidane's men streaked to the Spanish league title and has started only four times in the league in the current campaign.

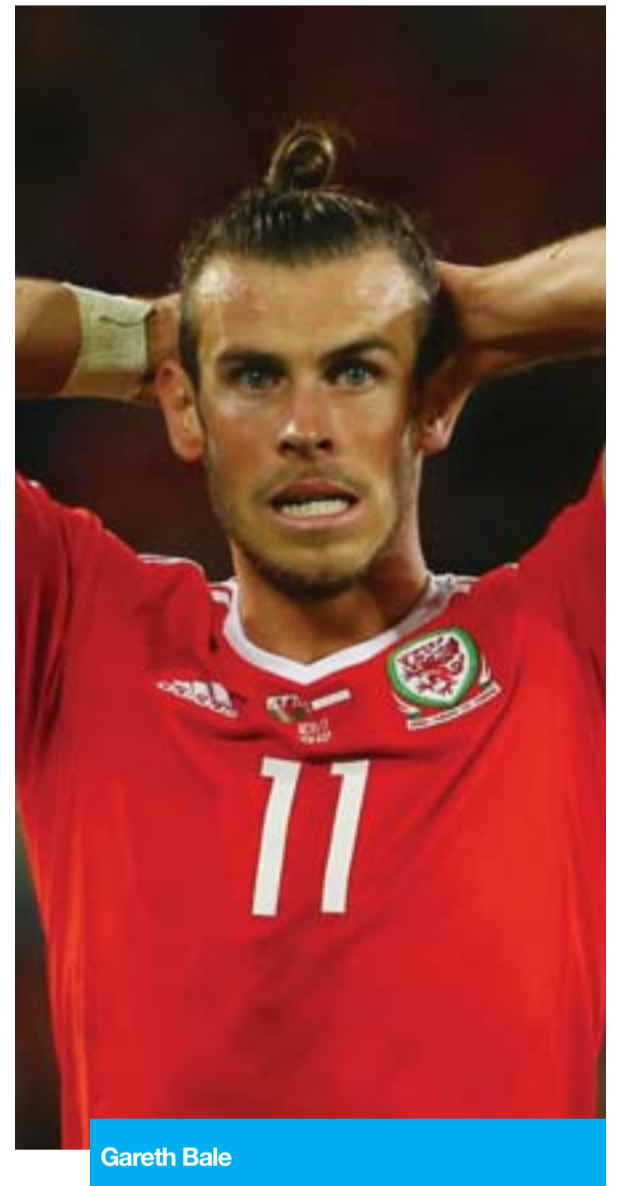
'ISOLATION'

In a snapshot of his difficulties, he scored a sublime volley on his last outing as Madrid won 3-1 at Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League, only to then succumb to the 11th calf injury of his time in Spain. Compounding Bale's situation is his uncomfortable relationship with Madrid's fans.

He became a firm favourite after his world-record move from Tottenham Hotspur in 2013, his goals in the Copa del Rey and Champions League finals helping him to engrave his name in Madrid folklore in his very first campaign. But he has since become a target of the Bernabeu boo boys, who believe he has benefited from favoritism and reproach him for his failure to learn Spanish. "Bale is beginning his fifth year at Madrid and he still finds it very difficult to express himself in Spanish," the former Madrid striker and coach Jorge Valdano said earlier this season.

"Football is a game of mutual understanding. Isolation in the dressing room also becomes isolation within the team. "There is a big connection between how you adapt socially and how you adapt on the pitch. And you must also say that very few players have had the support, from both the institution and the coaches, that Bale has had." Bale has received public backing from Zidane and his team-mates and is known to be a favourite of Madrid president Florentino Perez's.

But he continues to be linked with a return to England with Manchester United and having seen Wales's fairytale three-year journey come to an end, he now finds himself at a crossroads. —AFP



Gareth Bale

NFL results/standings

Minnesota 20, Chicago 17; Buffalo 16, Cincinnati 20; NY Jets 17, Cleveland 14; Carolina 27, Detroit 24; San Francisco 23, Indianapolis 26; Tennessee 10, Miami 16; LA Chargers 27, NY Giants 22; Arizona 7, Philadelphia 34; Jacksonville 30, Pittsburgh 9; Baltimore 30, Oakland 17; Seattle 16, LA Rams 10; Green Bay 35, Dallas 31; Kansas City 42, Houston 34; New England 19, Tampa Bay 14.

American Football Conference						National Football Conference							
AFC East						NFC East							
W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA								
New England	3	2	0	.600	148	142	Philadelphia	4	1	0	.800	137	99
NY Jets	3	2	0	.600	92	106	Washington	2	2	0	.500	91	89
Buffalo	3	2	0	.600	89	74	Dallas	2	3	0	.400	125	132
Miami	2	2	0	.500	41	67	NY Giants	0	5	0	.000	82	122
AFC North						NFC North							
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	90	97	Green Bay	4	1	0	.800	137	112
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	99	89	Detroit	3	2	0	.600	123	97
Cincinnati	2	3	0	.400	84	83	Minnesota	3	2	0	.600	99	93
Cleveland	0	5	0	.000	77	124	Chicago	1	4	0	.200	78	124
AFC South						NFC South							
Jacksonville	3	2	0	.600	139	83	Carolina	4	1	0	.800	105	94
Houston	2	3	0	.400	144	130	Atlanta	3	1	0	.750	104	89
Indianapolis	2	3	0	.400	97	159	New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	93	78
Tennessee	2	3	0	.400	110	142	Tampa Bay	2	2	0	.500	85	83
AFC West						NFC West							
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	16	111	Seattle	3	2	0	.600	110	87
Denver	3	1	0	.750	98	74	LA Rams	3	2	0	.600	152	121
Oakland	2	3	0	.400	108	109	Arizona	2	3	0	.400	81	125
LA Chargers	1	4	0	.200	99	115	San Francisco	0	5	0	.000	89	120

Late field goal lifts Vikings past Chicago Bears

CHICAGO: Kai Forbath kicked a 26-yard field goal with 12 seconds remaining, lifting the Minnesota Vikings to a 20-17 win over the Chicago Bears on Monday. Vikings quarterback Case Keenum came off the bench to complete 17 of 21 passes for 140 yards and a touchdown. He replaced Sam Bradford, who struggled badly in the first half. Minnesota (3-2) earned its first road win of the season.

Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky completed 12 of 25 passes for 119 yards and a touchdown in his NFL debut. The rookie threw an interception to Vikings safety Harrison Smith deep in Bears territory to set up the go-ahead score.

Chicago (1-4) dropped its second consecutive game. Keenum rejuvenated the Vikings' offense. He opened the second half with a 13-play, 75-yard drive that culminated with a 13-yard touchdown pass to tight end Kyle Rudolph. The play extended the Vikings' lead to 10-2. A fake punt pulled the Bears within 10-9. Punter Pat O'Donnell caught a long snap and calmly lobbed a pass to Benny Cunningham, who spun off a tackle and raced 38 yards to the end zone. Minnesota made it 17-9 on a 58-yard touchdown run by Jerick McKinnon late in the third quarter. McKinnon burst through the right side of the offensive line for his first touchdown of the season. Chicago evened the score at 17 on a touchdown and a two-point conversion with 12:24 to go in the

fourth quarter. Trubisky spotted tight end Zach Miller in the end zone and fired a 20-yard pass that deflected off the outstretched hand of Vikings safety Andrew Sendejo and landed in Miller's hands.

Moments later, Trubisky ran for a two-point conversion on a trick play that fooled the Vikings' defense. The Bears' defense recorded a safety to open the scoring with 1:31 remaining in the first quarter. Defensive

end Leonard Floyd sacked Bradford in the end zone to give Chicago a 2-0 advantage. Minnesota grabbed a 3-2 lead on a 26-yard field goal by Forbath with 1:02 remaining in the first half. Vikings defensive end Everson Griffen set up the score with a strip-sack in the red zone. Bradford completed 5 of 11 passes for 36 yards. McKinnon produced 95 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries. — Reuters

Sports

More history for Iceland, Serbia clinch World Cup spot

Iceland's second successive appearance at a major tournament

PARIS: Iceland qualified for the World Cup for the first time after beating Kosovo 2-0 on Monday, while Serbia clinched a spot at next year's finals with a 1-0 win over Georgia. Everton midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson and Johann Gudmundsson scored in Reykjavik as Iceland, with a population of just 330,000, became the smallest country to advance to the World Cup finals.

It is the tiny northern European island nation's second successive appearance at a major tournament after their shock win over England in a surprise run to the Euro 2016 quarter-finals.

Iceland needed all three points to secure top spot in European qualifying Group I as Croatia, who sacked coach Ante Cacic last week, downed Ukraine 2-0 in Kiev in the fight to claim second place.

Andrej Kramatic struck twice in the second half to send Croatia into next month's play-offs as Zlatko Dalic took charge of his first match following the 1-1 draw with Finland that prompted the dismissal of Cacic. Aleksandar Prijovic scored after coming on as a second-half substitute to cement Serbia's place in Russia, ending an eight-year major finals absence. Prijovic struck the winner on 74 minutes in Belgrade as Serbia finished top of Group D, with the Republic of Ireland heading to the play-offs after a 1-0 victory over

Wales in Cardiff.

"I think we deserved this, although it turned out that the last step was the most difficult one, but we succeeded," coach Slavoljub Muslin said. Prijovic said the goal was the most important in his career. "It was a dream since (my) childhood to score an important goal for the state," he said.

James McClean broke Welsh hearts with a thunderous 57th-minute strike to keep Irish dreams alive as they leapfrogged their opponents, without the injured Gareth Bale, into second place.

Ireland remain on course for a first World Cup finals appearance since 2002, as surprise Euro 2016 semi-finalists Wales saw their dream of a first trip to the tournament since 1958 turn to dust. "The players were magnificent playing away from home at a very good Welsh side. To win on their territory was a great result for us," Ireland manager Martin O'Neill told Sky Sports.

"We are in the play-offs. Whenever the draw is made we will take our chance."

Asier Illarramendi netted the only goal in Jerusalem as Spain completed their successful qualifying campaign

with a 1-0 win over Israel, while Antonio Candreva grabbed a second-half winner for Italy in a 1-0 victory away to Albania in Group G. — AP



REYKJAVIK: Iceland's Hordur Bjorgvin Magnusson, right, goes for header with Kosovo's Amir Rrahmani second right, during the World Cup Group I qualifying soccer match between Iceland and Kosovo in Reykjavik, Iceland. — AP

Italy beat Albania to secure top seed status in playoff

MILAN: Italy scraped past Albania 1-0 in its last World Cup qualifier, another poor effort which will do little to inspire confidence in coach Gian Piero Ventura and his team.

Italy was already guaranteed second spot and a playoff berth from Europe Group G, and Antonio Candreva's second-half goal ensured it of top-seed status in the draw.

The Azzurri finished five points behind Spain, which won in Israel 1-0. Macedonia beat Liechtenstein 4-0 in the match between the two bottom sides in the group. "I didn't celebrate when Candreva scored, it seemed right that we were in front, but I was happy, above all for the lads," Ventura said. "We have some limitations at the moment but today there was the desire to try and do things."

"These were the aims that we set ourselves before. We took another small step forward but we continue to give the ball away. ... But I'm happy for them, this is a good group, with a few limitations because of certain absences."

Italy and Ventura came under fire on Friday following a dismal 1-1 draw at home to Macedonia. Without injured key players such as Claudio Marchisio, Daniele De Rossi, Marco Verratti and Andrea Belotti, Ventura opted to employ an experimental 4-2-4 formation in Shkoder. However, the Italian visitors struggled to create anything of note and Ciro Immobile had their only shot on target of the first half but it was saved by goalkeeper Etrit Berisha.

Italy was denied what looked a clear cut penalty shortly before halftime when Eder's cross was stopped by the arm of Freddie Veseli but the referee waved off Azzurri appeals.



SHKODER: Albania's goalkeeper Etrit Berisha, left, saves a shot by Italy's Ciro Immobile, right, as Albania's Frederic Veseli looks on during the World Cup Group G qualifying soccer match between Albania and Italy at Loro Boriçi stadium, in Shkoder. — AP

Albania grew in confidence and almost scored just after the hour mark but Gianluigi Buffon reacted well to parry Eros Grezda's swerving effort - and then shouted in fury at Italy defender Davide Zappacosta.

AWFUL RECORD

Italy broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute when Leonardo Spinazzola put in a precise cross from the left to

the far post for Candreva to fire into the roof of the net.

Liechtenstein concluded one of the worst qualifying campaigns ever with a 4-0 loss to Macedonia. It finished bottom of the group after losing all 10 of its matches and with a record of 39 goals against and just one for.

Visar Musliu and Aleksandar Trajkovski netted in the first half for Macedonia and Enis Bardi and Arijan Ademi extended the hosts' lead after the interval. — AP

McClean breaks Welsh hearts as Ireland reach play-offs

CARDIFF: The Republic of Ireland claimed a World Cup play-off spot at Wales' expense after James McClean's crisp second-half strike earned his side a 1-0 victory in Cardiff on Monday.

The West Bromwich Albion winger's goal moved Ireland above Wales into second place in Group D below Serbia, meaning Martin O'Neill's men will be one of the eight teams in the European play-off draw on October 17.

"The performance of the players was absolutely fantastic," said Ireland manager O'Neill.

"We had to withstand a lot of pressure, which you would expect. But we had to win tonight in Cardiff and we've done exactly that. "James scores a great goal for us and then we have to withstand more pressure. Some great, great performances all round. And so we go to the play-offs." While Ireland remain on course for a first World Cup finals appearance since 2002, surprise Euro 2016 semi-finalists Wales saw their dream of a first appearance at the tournament since 1958 turn to dust.

Bereft of Real Madrid star Gareth Bale, and robbed of Joe Allen by a suspected concussion in the first half, Wales fell to their first defeat in the group and their first loss in a competitive home game in over four years.

The tense game at Cardiff City Stadium stands to be Chris Coleman's last as Wales manager in a competitive fixture, the architect of last year's Euro heroics having pledged to stand down after the current World Cup cycle. "We just came up a bit short tonight," Coleman said. "Our imagination, offensively, we didn't quite have enough. "I can't say right now about my future because I'm not thinking about it. The dressing room is full of devastated play-



CARDIFF: Wales' Ashley Williams, center, and Republic of Ireland's Ciaran Clark, right, battle for the ball during the World Cup 2018 Group D qualifying soccer match between Wales and Republic of Ireland at the Cardiff City Stadium, Cardiff. — AP

ers and staff. "The whole nation will be mourning because that elusive World Cup has passed us by again."

Brought into the Wales team in place of Sam Vokes, Hal Robson-Kanu went close early on with a header from a Joe Ledley corner, before Aaron Ramsey saw a crisp drive tipped over by Ireland goalkeeper Darren Randolph.

Wales dominated possession in the first half, creating concern among the green hordes inside the stadium and obliging Ireland to feed off scraps in the final third.

A chance fell to Jeff Hendrick when Cyrus Christie's long throw-in was not cleared, but the Burnley man mis-cued, and Shane Duffy drilled a low shot across the face of the Welsh goal.

Allen and Ramsey were setting the tempo for Wales with their neat footwork and incisive passing, only for the Stoke City midfielder to be forced off in the 37th minute after being caught in a sandwich between McClean and

David Meyler. Jonny Williams came on and the loss of one of Wales' key orchestrators enabled Ireland to gain a foothold for the first time.

Wales started the second half brightly and it took a brilliant acrobatic save from Randolph to prevent Robson-Kanu putting them in front with a header from Jonny Williams's right-wing cross.

But in the 57th minute Ireland struck, Hendrick charging down Ashley Williams's clearance and crossing from the right, Harry Arter dummied and McClean slamming a right-foot shot past a motionless Wayne Hennessey.

It was the first time Wales had fallen behind in the qualifying campaign. Coleman sent on 17-year-old Liverpool forward Ben Woodburn and Vokes, but

Ireland survived heavy late pressure to extend their unbeaten record against their Celtic cousins to eight games and stay in the hunt for Russia. — AP

Klopp perfect for Liverpool, says former CEO

LONDON: Juergen Klopp is the perfect manager to help Liverpool fulfil their ambitions on the pitch despite not being able to match the spending power of the Premier League's richest sides, former chief executive Christian Purslow has said.

The German's success over seven years at Borussia Dortmund, where he challenged the dominance of Bayern Munich, prompted Liverpool's American owners Fenway Sports Group to hire him to spearhead their project.

Twice a Bundesliga champion with Borussia Dortmund, who he also guided to the 2013 Champions League final, Klopp is yet to win a major trophy at the Anfield club but Purslow said he was under no pressure from the hierarchy.

"He's two years into this job that looked to be perfect for Juergen Klopp," Purslow told Sky Sports. "There are great similarities between what he achieved at Dortmund, what he was expected to achieve - which was to compete with an absolute behemoth in Bayern Munich, while spending less money, both on wages and in the transfer market."

"That is the job description at Liverpool," Purslow said Liverpool's bitter Premier League rivals Manchester United, who visit Anfield on Saturday, earn far more revenue than the Merseyside club, adding that Klopp would need time to repeat his Bundesliga success in England.

"There are revenue differences between Manchester United and Liverpool. Liverpool's are still superb but they are a fraction of Manchester United," he added.

"And yet the Liverpool manager is expected to compete with United and beat them, exactly as Klopp did - winning two league titles in Germany against Bayern Munich with a fraction of their spending. "He is perfect for Liverpool. It is an innately difficult project, to compete with less money." Liverpool, seventh on 12 points, have struggled to convert their goal-scoring opportunities this season but will be fired up for Saturday's fixture against a free-scoring United side, who have won six of seven and drawn just once this campaign. — Reuters



Juergen Klopp

12 Bellinger and Dodgers beat D-backs 3-1 to return to NLCS



13 Five-wicket Perera stars in Sri Lanka series victory



15 More history for Iceland, Serbia clinch World Cup spot



SYDNEY: Australia's Aaron Mooy, second left, is surrounded by Syrian defenders during their Soccer World Cup qualifying match in Sydney, Australia, yesterday. — AP

Cahill's winner dashes Syria dreams

Australia progress 3-2 on aggregate after extra time

SYDNEY: Tim Cahill scored an extra-time winner to keep Australia's World Cup hopes alive with a 2-1 win in the Asian qualifying playoff yesterday which dashed war-torn Syria's fairytale bid to reach the finals for the first time.

Syria fought right until the end of the 120-minute match and Omar Al Somah could have secured their passage on the away goals rule at the death, only for his brilliantly struck free kick to hit Mat Ryan's right post and bounce away.

The 3-2 aggregate victory sends the Socceroos into an intercontinental playoff in November against the fourth-placed team in North and Central America and Caribbean (CONCACAF) qualifying with a World Cup spot on the line.

The United States, Panama and Honduras, the three teams who could provide the opposition, play their final qualifiers later. The Syrians had battled the odds to even get into the playoff, having been forced to play all their "home" matches in Malaysia because of the civil war in their own nation.

Without five first-choice players through injury or suspension, they also had to play most of extra time with 10 men after midfielder Mahmoud Al Mawas was dismissed for two yellow cards. "I think (it might have been different) if we had stayed with 11 players and hadn't had that red card and not hit the post at the end," Syria coach Ayman Hakeem told reporters. "I am very proud of my boys with what they have achieved so far and that's going to be continuing moving forward as well." Cahill scored Australia's opener in the 13th minute but it was not until 96 minutes later that he notched up his 50th international goal to keep alive his country's hopes of a fourth successive appearance at the World Cup finals.

“ I am very proud of my boys ”

It made for another nervous night for Australian fans as the Socceroos once again failed to find a way to get the scoreboard to reflect their dominance. "We always find a difficult way to do things ... but we got through, I think we deserved to get through," Australia coach Ange Postecoglou said.

"Timmy was Timmy, that's why he's the greatest ever." The Syrians made the perfect start in the sixth minute to cancel out Australia's away goal advantage from the 1-1 first-leg draw. Tamer Haj Mohamad dispossessed Mark Milligan in midfield and he fed Al Somah, who outpaced the Australian defence and planted the ball high into the net with his left foot. The Asian champions were back on terms in 13th

minute when Mathew Leckie broke down the right and delivered a pinpoint cross that 37-year-old Cahill headed home. Australia dominated the remainder of the first half, with Syrian skipper Zaher Medani blocking a Cahill shot and goalkeeper Ibrahim Alma denying James Troisi and Leckie.

DROPPED MIDFIELDER

Alma again had to be at his best to stop a fierce Rogic strike from the edge of the box after 70 minutes and the Celtic midfielder curled a shot just wide of the far post from the ensuing corner. Once Al Mawas was sent off for a second foul on Aaron Mooy four minutes into the first period of extra time, it appeared only a matter of time before the Australians would break down the already weary visitors.

Robbie Kruse finally carved out the decisive chance in the 109th minute when his perfectly weighted cross to the far post found Cahill, who headed the ball into the top left-hand corner of the net to the delight of the majority of the 42,000 crowd. — Reuters

Behrendorff helps Australia level Twenty20 series

GUWAHATI: Fast bowler Jason Behrendorff led an inspired bowling effort to help Australia down India by eight wickets in the second Twenty20 international and level the series in Guwahati yesterday. Behrendorff, playing his second match after making his debut in Ranchi last week, claimed four wickets to bowl out India for 118 before the visitors chased down the total with 27 balls to spare.

Moises Henriques, who hit 62 after being promoted to number three, and Travis Head, who made 48, put together an unbeaten 109-run partnership to keep the three-match series alive. Australia lost two early wickets including skipper David Warner, but the 119-run target proved too little for the Indian bowlers to put pressure on the new batsmen. The right-left batting combination of Henriques and Head

played sensible cricket to deny the hosts any further chance of creating trouble.

Henriques hit four fours and four sixes during his 46-ball knock while Head also attacked the Indian wrist spinners with some good footwork. Pacemen Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah took a wicket each while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav went wicketless for his 46 runs.

But it was Behrendorff's left-arm pace that set up the match for Australia after the lanky bowler returned impressive figures of 4-21.

The 27-year-old Behrendorff rattled the Indian top-order, reducing them to 27-4 after getting opener Rohit Sharma and skipper Virat Kohli, for nought, in the first over of the innings.

Kedar Jadhav and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who made 13, then tried to stem the rot during their 33-run partnership but leg-spinner Adam Zampa broke through the duo's defences. Zampa got Dhoni stumped on a classic leg-spinner and then bowled Jadhav with the googly.

Hardik Pandya hit a 23-ball 25 to take India across the 100-run mark, which had seemed tough at 70-7, but the batsman's dismissal saw the innings fold on the last ball. Pacemen Nathan Coulter-Nile, Andre Tye and Marcus Stoinis took a wicket each. The final game will be played in Hyderabad on Friday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

GUWAHATI, India: Final scoreboard of the second Twenty20 international between India and Australia in Guwahati yesterday:

India	Bowling: Behrendorff 4-0-21-4, Coulter-Nile 4-0-23-1 (w2), Tye 4-0-30-1 (nb1), Zampa 4-0-19-2 (w1), Stoinis 4-0-20-1 (w1)
R. Sharma lbw b Behrendorff	8
S. Dhawan c Warner b Behrendorff	2
V. Kohli c & b Behrendorff	0
M. Pandey c Paine b Behrendorff	6
K. Jadhav b Zampa	27
M.S. Dhoni st Paine b Zampa	13
H. Pandya c Christian (sub) b Stoinis	25
B. Kumar c Henriques b Coulter-Nile	1
K. Yadav c Paine b Tye	16
J. Bumrah run out (Paine)	7
Y. Chahal not out	3
Extras (lb5, nb1, w4)	10
Total (all out; 20 overs)	118
Fall of wickets: 1-8 (Sharma), 2-8 (Kohli), 3-16 (Pandey), 4-27 (Dhawan), 5-60 (Dhoni), 6-67 (Jadhav), 7-70 (Kumar), 8-103 (Pandya), 9-115 (Bumrah), 10-118 (Yadav)	
Australia (target 119)	
A. Finch c Kohli b Kumar	8
D. Warner c Kohli b Bumrah	2
M. Henriques not out	62
T. Head not out	48
Extras (w2)	2
Total (2 wickets, 15.3 overs)	122
Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Warner), 2-13 (Finch)	
Did not bat: G. Maxwell, M. Stoinis, T. Paine, N. Coulter-Nile, A. Tye, A. Zampa, J. Behrendorff.	
Bowling: Kumar 3-0-9-1 (w1), Bumrah 3-0-25-1, Pandya 2-0-13-0, Yadav 4-0-46-0, Chahal 3.3-0-29-0.	
Result: Australia beat India by 8 wickets.	

Business

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017

18 IMF raises global growth forecasts, calls for reforms**21** Etisalat, Mercedes-Benz Cars ME debut a vision of future mobility**22** ICT govt and industry leaders discuss ME's digital maturity

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways displays its brand new livery yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Jazeera Airways unveils bold new livery

Airline upgrades cabin interiors, introduces stylish crew uniforms

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways yesterday unveiled a brand new livery for its fleet, new cabin interiors and stylish new crew uniforms ahead of new route launches. The aircraft livery and cabin interiors will be rolled out across the fleet during the next three months and completed by the end of the year, while travelers will begin to see the new uniforms starting today.

The new livery will feature eye-catching tailfin designs unique to each aircraft in the airline's fleet, giving each aircraft its own identity while being united under the airline's new brand.

The airline is based in Kuwait and operates a fleet of seven Airbus A320s with a network of 20 destinations.

Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai said, "Today is an exciting day for the Middle East's aviation sector, our staff, and our customers. The new livery provides the airline with a modern and dynamic image to support the continued growth of the airline's business, as we expand to new markets. And the new interiors reflect the airline's commitment to offering the best product for short-haul travelers in the Middle East. The stylish new uniforms complete our new look which will be a source of pride for our crew as they deliver a great service to our customers."

Boodai added, "Today's event is the latest initiative in a series of back-to-back investments to enhance our business proposition and offer more value for our cus-

tomers, both in-flight and on-ground. It has been an exciting few years for our people and our customers. We've invested in new facilities for travelers, including the first remote check-in service in Kuwait; Park & Fly, new website and booking apps, and self-check-in facilities. All leading up to today's announcement of our in-flight investment and the coming launch of our dedicated state-of-the-art terminal at KIA."

The new terminal with its award-winning design will offer short and long-term parking, valet services and a baggage home-delivery service, in addition to multiple check-in options including conventional check-in counters, self-check-in bag drops, remote check-in, mobile check-in, and an electronic immigration pass.

In July, Jazeera Airways launched a new brand identity, a new website, and mobile platforms.

Jazeera Airways CEO Rohit Ramachandran said, "Our new booking and travel experience ushers Jazeera Airways into a new phase of network growth and starts a conversation with the new regional travelers, who are young, practical, spontaneous, and connected. This new travel segment appreciates Jazeera's efficiency, reliability, and great value fares. The new regional traveler segment is fundamentally changing the Middle East's travel market and Jazeera Airways is well-positioned to capitalize on this segment and ahead of our peers."

protracted adjustment to lower commodity revenues," the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook for October. Iran's growth is forecast to slide to 3.5 percent this year down from a strong 12.5 percent in 2016.

Iraq's economy, which experienced healthy 11 percent growth in 2016, is expected to fall into negative territory and shrink by 0.4 percent this year. The Saudi economy, the largest in the region, is forecast to end 2017 flat down from 1.7 percent growth last year.

Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran are the top oil producers and exporters in the Middle East. Riyadh is the world's top oil exporter. Kuwait's economy is projected to shrink the most among oil exporters, by 2.1 percent, while the economies of the United Arab Emirates and Algeria will grow at a modest rate, the IMF said. In all, the growth of MENA oil exporters Iran, Iraq, Algeria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council



KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai and CEO Rohit Ramachandran pose for a photograph with the airline's cabin crew in their new stylish uniform.

The new livery was unveiled at Kuwait International Airport during an event held at the airline's business lounge that was attended by leaders of Kuwait's travel trade, key suppliers, media, and other stakeholders.

Operated in 2005, Jazeera Airways is a Boursa Kuwait-listed company serving popular destinations in the Middle East. The airline operates a fleet of Airbus A320 aircraft with two class cabins comprising a

Business Class and an Economy Class. Business Class travelers get both an upgraded experience and exclusivity, starting with exclusive check-in lines, business lounge access, up to 60 kilograms in free baggage allowance, and an exclusive on-board cabin. The airline's Economy Class offers travelers free baggage allowance of 40 kilograms and free on-board meals with a changing menu every month.

Oil slide weighs heavily on MENA growth forecast: IMF

DUBAI: A massive slide in the economic growth of Middle East top oil exporters is weighing heavily on the outlook for the entire region, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday. "Fuel exporters are particularly hard hit by the

(GCC) states is forecast to end this year at 1.7 percent from 5.6 percent in 2016. MENA growth as a whole is projected to more than halve in 2017, from 5.1 percent to 2.2 percent, "on the back of a slowdown in the Islamic Republic of Iran's economy after very fast growth in 2016 and cuts in oil production in oil exporters", the IMF said. It projected the price of oil to average \$50.3 a barrel in 2017, higher than the previous year, but will remain in the 50s until 2022.

Regional oil exporters have lost hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue since crude prices began to slump in mid-2014. As a result, they have posted budget shortfalls and some have resorted to painful reforms. The IMF welcomed Saudi Arabia's reform package, although it has already sent the kingdom's economy into the red in the first two quarters of the year.

In contrast to these exporters, economic growth in oil-

importing nations—which include Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and others—is forecast to improve to 4.3 percent this year from 3.6 percent in 2016, the IMF said.

The IMF had a better outlook for 2018, forecasting a rebound in growth to 3.2 percent compared with just three percent in its July outlook. The adjustment is due to stronger domestic demand in oil-importing countries and an expected rise in oil output.

The diplomatic rift between OPEC member Qatar—also the world's top exporter of liquefied natural gas—and a Saudi-led Arab bloc has not affected oil and gas markets, as Qatar's exports have continued, the IMF said. However, the report warned of the impact of ongoing conflicts, both domestic and regional. "Internal and cross-border conflict in parts of the Middle East still weighed on economic activity," it said. — AFP



New corporate branding marks 12th anniversary

Business

IMF raises global growth forecasts, calls for reforms

Advanced economies to grow at 2.2%

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund yesterday bumped up its global growth forecasts, saying an upswing in the world economy would likely gather pace into next year. But the global crisis lender called on governments to strike while the iron was hot, saying dangers for the current recovery lurked on the horizon and ambitious reforms were necessary for continued poverty reduction.

Global economic output should increase by 3.6 percent this year and by 3.7 percent in 2018, up marginally from forecasts published three months ago but well above growth seen in 2016, the IMF said in the latest update to a semi-annual report on the world economy.

The new projections come as the IMF stages annual meetings this week with the World Bank.

"The picture is very different from early last year, when the world economy faced faltering growth and financial market turbulence," IMF Research Director Maurice Obstfeld said yesterday in prepared remarks. But Obstfeld said the current moment presented a fleeting opportunity to act, pointing to recent IMF warnings about sluggish growth in advanced economies, sharpening divides between rich and poor and bloated sovereign debt levels.

Meanwhile, weak oil prices along with violence and strife in the Middle East and Latin America threatened to undermine progress while—despite the mainly rosy forecasts—nearly one in five countries in the world was still expected to see negative per capita income growth this year.

"The recovery is still incomplete in important respects and the window for action the current

cyclical upswing offers will not be open forever," Obstfeld said.

In the latest version of its World Economic Outlook, the IMF now predicts advanced economies will grow by 2.2 percent this year — 0.2 percentage points faster than a July estimate—before slowing to two percent growth next year.

Action 'while times are good'

Emerging and developing countries are forecast to grow at a more robust 4.6 percent, unchanged from July's prediction. Rising global trade and exports should life the Eurozone as a whole, pushing regional growth to 2.1 percent this year, up from the 1.8 percent recorded last year.

Global lender asks govts to strike while the iron is hot



The IMF now believes GDP growth will slow this year and next, sliding three tenths to 1.5 percent by 2018. Economic activity is strengthening in the US, with the 2017 forecast moving up a tenth of a percentage point since July's estimate to 2.2 percent, slowing to two percent next year. But the Trump administration's policy proposals for tax cuts and stimulus appear mired in uncertainty.

The IMF moved Russia's forecast for the year up by a sharp four tenths to 1.8 percent, marking a turnaround after two years of recession as oil prices stabilize and market confidence improves.

To meet their stated goal of doubling real GDP growth between 2010 and 2020, Chinese officials are



SEOUL: International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde answers a reporter's question during a news conference in Seoul. —AP

expected to maintain high levels of public investment and pro-growth policies, with growth due to rise by 6.8 percent this year and 6.5 percent the next.

But economic shocks and slow-burning dangers from different directions could make all of this short-lived, according to the IMF. Faster-than-expected interest rate hikes in the United States or Europe, commercial credit troubles in China, persistently low inflation in the developed world, a whole-sale rollback of post-crisis financial industry rules, a sudden shift

toward protectionism and geopolitical tensions could all weigh on growth-making reforms much harder.

Obstfeld said all of this called for action "that should take place now, while times are good."

Countries that are near full employment should pay down public debts. Those with budget surpluses should spend on education and infrastructure. Central banks should raise interest rates smoothly and governments should invest in job training to bring down youth unemployment, Obstfeld said. —AFP

Catalan economy rattled by independence push

BARCELONA: The political uncertainty caused by Catalonia's independence push is hitting small businesses and people's savings accounts after pushing several big firms and banks to relocate elsewhere in Spain. The prospect of an independent Catalonia has already prompted two major banks—Sabadell and CaixaBank—and other listed firms to move their registered headquarters to other parts of Spain. The exodus continued on Monday as real estate business Colonial and toll-road company Abertis became the latest big names to move their base from the wealthy northeastern region. The transfers come ahead of a Tuesday speech by Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont that separatists hope will include a unilateral declaration of independence.

Catalonia, a region of 7.5 million people about the size of Belgium, generates about 20 percent of Spain's economic output and 25 percent of its exports. It is home to 40 percent of Spain's companies which employ over 200 people, experts say. As a separate country its gross domestic product would be about as big as Portugal's or Finland's. Signs have popped up that the uncertainty over Catalonia's future has started to have an impact on small firms as well. "We got a call from a customer who was interested in our services but when we said we were based in Barcelona, that was a problem," Maria Hinojosa, an employee of a financial consultancy told AFP. Pedro Gomez, who works at a Barcelona real estate firm, said the independence push had "dampened interest" in buying property. —AFP

China says will have no problem meeting 2017 growth target



A Chinese employee making stuffed dinosaur toys as they are prepared to export for the upcoming Christmas festive season, at a toy factory in Lianyungang in China's eastern Jiangsu province. —AFP

BEIJING: China will have no problem meeting its economic growth target of around 6.5 percent this year, and may even beat it, the head of the Statistics Bureau said yesterday, confirming widespread market expectations. Steps taken by the government to rein in the overheated property market have also been effective and will remain in place, Ning Jizhe told reporters in a briefing in Beijing.

Analysts have expected that full-year growth would meet or exceed the government's target after the world's second-largest economy expanded by a stronger-than-expected 6.9 percent in the

first half, fueled by heavy government infrastructure spending and a property boom.

If growth does beat last year's 6.7 percent — the lowest in 26 years — it would mark the first acceleration in the growth rate in seven years. As fears of the economy suffering a hardlanding have faded, policymakers have become readier to tackle mounting debt and push forward difficult structural reforms. Ning's comments came just a week before a five-yearly Communist Party Congress which will be closely watched for any leadership reshuffle and cues on broad policy directions. —Reuters

Egypt's inflation dips in September

CAIRO: Egypt's key inflation indicators eased in September as the local market absorbed the impact of government fuel and energy price hikes earlier in the year, and analysts expect consumer prices to dip further in the coming months. Annual urban consumer price inflation fell to 31.6 percent year-on-year in September from 31.9 percent in August, the official CAPMAS statistics agency said yesterday. Core inflation, which strips out volatile items like food, decreased to 33.26 percent from 34.86 percent, the central bank said.

Inflation soared in July to its highest since 1986 after the government cut fuel and energy subsidies. The cuts were a condition of a \$12 billion, three-year loan program agreed last November with the IMF, which included subsidy cuts, tax increases and looser capital controls. "The decline in core inflation ... confirms our expectation that the inflationary impact of energy and utilities price hikes is tapering off and demand-driven inflation is declining," said Reham El-Dessouki, an economist at Arqam Capital. The central bank raised its key interest rates by 200 basis points in a surprise move in July, seeking to ease the inflationary pressure, but has kept them steady since.

Analysts are watching inflation and other signals the central bank may soon move to cut benchmark interest rates. Egypt has raised banks' reserve requirements, tightening monetary policy in what economists said may signal a cut soon.

"Egyptian inflation edged down further in September and we expect it to fall sharply in the coming months, prompting the central bank to start cutting interest rates," London-based Capital Economics said in a statement yesterday. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.691
Indian Rupees	4.636
Pakistani Rupees	2.872
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Nepali Rupees	2.906
Singapore Dollar	223.620
Hongkong Dollar	38.824
Bangladesh Taka	3.701
Philippine Peso	5.896
Thai Baht	9.085

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.854
Qatari Riyal	83.276
Omani Riyal	787.422
Bahraini Dinar	805.100
UAE Dirham	82.550

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.850
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.135
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217
Tunisian Dinar	123.670
Jordanian Dinar	427.660
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.020
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.476

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.000
--------------------	---------

Euro	358.150
Sterling Pound	400.410
Canadian dollar	242.790
Turkish lira	82.560
Swiss Franc	311.090
Australian Dollar	237.250
US Dollar Buying	301.800

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	302.650
Canadian Dollar	242.400
Sterling Pound	399.995
Euro	357.765
Swiss Frank	297.720
Bahrain Dinar	803.260
UAE Dirhams	82.790
Qatari Riyals	83.615
Saudi Riyals	81.565
Jordanian Dinar	428.150
Egyptian Pound	17.188
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Indian Rupees	4.641
Pakistani Rupees	2.872
Bangladesh Taka	3.718
Philippines Peso	5.900
Cyprus pound	18.010

Japanese Yen	3.685
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.904
Malaysian Ringgit	72.456
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.295
Thai Bhat	10.070
Turkish Lira	82.415

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.392023	0.402023
Czech Korune	0.005752	0.017752
Danish Krone	0.043819	0.048819
Euro	0.350928	0.359928
Georgian Lari	0.121846	0.121846
Norwegian Krone	0.033985	0.039165
Romanian Leu	0.077868	0.077868
Russian ruble	0.005187	0.005187
Slovakia	0.009034	0.019034
Swedish Krona	0.033304	0.038304
Swiss Franc	0.303005	0.3144005
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.227431	0.239431
New Zealand Dollar	0.207756	0.217256
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.236415	0.245415
US Dollars	0.298900	0.303320
US Dollars Mint	0.299400	0.303320

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003249	0.003833
Chinese Yuan	0.044234	0.047734
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036733	0.039483
Indian Rupee	0.004202	0.004890
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002604	0.002784
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067976	0.073976
Nepalese Rupee	0.003023	0.003193
Pakistan Rupee	0.002733	0.003023
Philippine Peso	0.005836	0.006138
Singapore Dollar	0.217435	0.227435
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001607	0.002187
Taiwan	0.009866	0.010046
Thai Baht	0.008745	0.009295
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796613	0.805113
Egyptian Pound	0.014222	0.020130
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Jordanian Dinar	0.422755	0.431755
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021220	0.045220
Omani Riyal	0.780593	0.786273
Qatar Riyal	0.078937	0.083877
Saudi Riyal	0.079713	0.081013
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.118767	0.126767
Turkish Lira	0.077478	0.087778
UAE Dirhams	0.081026	0.082726
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

Business

Honda Alghanim launches October offers with 0% interest and no down payment

Chance to own one of the Odyssey J, Pilot or Civic cars



KUWAIT: Honda Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Honda cars, motorcycles and marine equipment in Kuwait, launched its October offers campaign, giving customers an unprecedented opportunity to own one of its renowned Odyssey J, Pilot or Civic cars at 0 percent interest installments over five years and without giving a down payment.

The October campaign from Honda Alghanim brings exclusive offers as well on the Accord's Sedan starting at KD5,999 and Coupe starting at KD6,999, giving customers the chance to own one of these two models at competitive prices!

Known for being the ideal vehicles, suiting the lifestyle of every segment of customers, Honda Alghanim ensures great value, strong performance, and an unrivaled after-sale service for all its customers.

About the Honda cars available at 0 percent interest and without a down payment:

Odyssey J

Ranked among the best family cars for 2017, the Odyssey J is known for its safety, value, reputation, driving manners, comfort and convenience, cargo versatility, technology, and fit of various rear-facing and forward-facing child safety car seats when choosing the vehicles that best meet the needs of today's families.

Pilot

The Pilot was designed to be stylish, useful and trouble-free when driving, with its sporty and refined design redefining the modern family SUV. The Pilot is built for comfort with seating for as many as eight persons, not compromising on the premium features throughout the interior and exterior of the vehicle.

Civic

The iconic Honda Civic has set an all-new standard in compact car style and performance with its sleek, sporty lines and improved power-to-weight ratio that has proven to be every driver's daily delight. While the spacious, dual-zone automatic climate control and premium-grade cabin is loaded with premium features for class-above comfort and convenience, the exterior features boast color-coordinated power side mirrors. Convenience was a key factor in the redesigned Honda Civic; from the cap-less fuel system, electric parking brake and aerodynamic wing spoiler to the Smart Entry engine start and stop button and 7-inch touchscreen audio display, the Honda Civic is truly the ideal car for the youth who yearn for a smooth and comfortably stylish drive that reflects their lifestyle.

Accord's Sedan and Coupe models

The 2017 Accord has just been named one

0% INTEREST FOR 5 YEARS WITH NO DOWNPAYMENT

All New **CIVIC** **HONDA**

0% INTEREST FOR 5 YEARS WITH NO DOWNPAYMENT

All New **PILOT** **HONDA**

of Card and Driver's 10 best for the 31st time. The signature Honda vehicle upholds a legacy that Honda started in 1976. With further design refinements and even more efficient performance, the Accord 2017 is available as either a two-door coupe or a four-door sedan, and continues to offer four- and six-cylinder engine choices.

Honda Alghanim also offers a large carline range catering to the different needs of audiences that can be viewed at the Honda Alghanim showrooms.

Customers can take any of these cars on a test drive by visiting one of the two Honda Alghanim showrooms located in Al-Rai and Shuwaikh. The Honda Alghanim showroom in Al-Rai area operates from 9:00am to 10:00pm, Saturday to Thursday, and from 9:30am to 10:00pm on Fridays. The Shuwaikh showroom operates from 9:00am to 10:00pm every day.

The cars service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs. The service center operates 7 days a week from Saturday to Wednesday from 7:30am to 8:30pm, from 7:30am to 6:30pm on Thursdays, and from 2:00pm to 7:00pm on Fridays.

For more information, news and updates, follow Honda Alghanim on social media @AlghanimHondaKW or call 1822777.



Business

Catalonia keeps European stocks down

LONDON: World shares ground out a fresh record high yesterday, making it almost 50 for the year, although Europe traded cautiously as markets waited to see whether Spain's Catalonia region would push for independence later in the day. Japan and South Korea returned from extended breaks to give Asia a lift as Wall Street looked set to open higher, but the Catalan uncertainty meant the euro zone's main bourses and Spanish bond markets spent the day in the red.

Catalonia's secessionist leader Carles Puigdemont is due to address the region's parliament in Barcelona around 1600 GMT and could ask the assembly to vote on a unilateral declaration of independence from Madrid. It is Spain's biggest political crisis since an attempted military coup in 1981 and Madrid's IBEX stocks index was 1 percent lower in early afternoon trade. It is now down almost 9 percent since May, though a sharp rise in the euro has also taken a toll.

"We have not witnessed any relevant statement or signal by the separatists that would hint at a change of strategy ahead of today's discussion in the Catalan parliament," economists at Barclays wrote. "Consequently, at this point, it seems likely that Catalan President Carles Puigdemont

remains on track to announce a unilateral declaration of independence as early as today."

The euro remained resilient. It hopped to a one-week high of almost \$1.18 as data showed German exports surged in August. Traders were also still upbeat after one of the European Central Bank's German policymakers called for an end to its stimulus. There was also help from a weaker dollar which was down for a third straight day. The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against six major rivals, dropped 0.3 percent to 93.366 and away from Friday's almost 3-month peak. It gave the Turkish lira a breather after it had been sent sprawling to a nine-month low on Monday after the United States and Turkey scaled back visa services. Mexico's peso hovered at its weakest in more than four months too, ahead of the latest round of talks over the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on Wednesday.

"Mexican asset prices have been very well supported this year so we think there needs to be a little bit of caution," said UBP's EM macro and FX strategist Koon Chow.

"There is not much of a cushion for bad news now and NAFTA talks are unlikely to bring any good news."

Korea path

Futures markets pointed to Wall Street breaking a two-day run of falls with the third quarter earnings season now gathering steam. Bond markets, meanwhile, were waiting to see if 10-year Treasuries would get above 2.4 percent ahead of another Fed rate hike that is now seen as almost nailed on for December. Minneapolis Federal Reserve President Neil Kashkari and his Dallas counterpart, Robert Kaplan, are due to make speeches later ahead of the minutes from the Fed's September meeting, which will be published today.

Overnight, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan had climbed 0.6 percent, boosted by a 1.6 percent jump in Korea as shares of firms such as Samsung which have been closed for the past week, caught up with some of the global rally. Japan's Nikkei brushed off a weak start to finish 0.6 percent higher too, though China stocks dipped as investors cashed in some of the gains that took them to a 21-month high in the previous session.

China's Statistics Bureau yesterday said the country would have no problem meeting its economic growth target of around 6.5 percent this year, and might even beat it. Such an

outcome had been widely expected after a robust start to the year. The offshore Chinese yuan rate surged to its strongest level in more than two weeks. The central bank had also set a firmer-than-expected official rate, suggesting authorities are keen to keep the currency in check ahead of next week's key national leadership meeting.

The stocks gains came in spite of tensions on the Korean peninsula. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in a phone call on Monday that any further escalation of the situation was unacceptable.

China had also called for restraint. US President Donald Trump warned over the weekend that "only one thing will work" in dealing with Pyongyang, hinting that military action was on his mind. In commodities, Brent oil prices pushed back above \$56 a barrel after top producer Saudi Arabia signalled it would trim its exports and as OPEC flagged ongoing efforts to try to restore the longer-term "balance" of the market. Brent jumped 50 cents to \$56.31 a barrel, while a 54 cents rise took US crude back to \$50 a barrel. "The kingdom expects all other participants in the (agreement) to follow suit and to maintain the high levels of overall conformity," a Saudi oil Ministry spokesman said.—Reuters

Defiance in Britain over new £1 coin as deadline looms



LONDON: British one pound sterling coins are arranged for a photograph in central London.—AFP

LONDON: Britain's old one-pound coin is being phased out completely on Sunday but businesses complain they have been given too little time to switch to the new one and many are planning to defy the deadline.

Around 1.2 billion old round coins have been withdrawn from circulation but about 500 million are remaining with less than a week to go. "The changeover period has been fairly short," said Mike Cherry, National Chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses.

"It would help if small firms knew they were allowed a short transition period to collect the old coins if they wish to, and are willing to bank them." Poundland, a chain of shops where almost all items cost £1, extended the period during which its customers would still be able to pay with the old coin until October 31. The country's main banks, Barclays, Natwest, Lloyds and Santander and the Post Office have also announced that they will continue to accept the round coin after October 15.

'A sense of value'

The Royal Mint, the official agency that makes the British currency, created the new coin in an attempt to combat fraud, with 3 percent of the old coins—or £45 million—deemed to be counterfeit. The outgoing round coin, of which two billion were minted, first appeared in 1983 in an attempt to cut costs by replacing the one-pound note.

The new coin, of which 1.5 billion copies have been made, is "the safest in the world," said Kevin Clancy, director of the Royal Mint Museum. Security features on the new coin include 12 sides, a bi-metallic composition, a hologram and tiny lettering called "microtext" around part of the design.

Two different colored metal alloys, based on nickel and copper, also make it

easier to distinguish between fakes and genuine coins. The new piece, at 2.8 millimetres thick, will be thinner than its 3.15 mm predecessor, but will remain the thickest British coin in circulation.

"The idea of having a thicker coin, back in 1983, when the round one pound coin was introduced, was to give it a sense of value," said Clancy. "With the new one pound coin, we continued with that approach". The coin will also have a new design on its "tail" side, created by 15-year-old David Pearce, who won a competition organized by the Treasury. His drawing depicts a rose, a leek, a thistle and a clover—the symbols of the four nations of the United Kingdom—surrounded by a royal crown.

On the opposite side is a new portrait of Elizabeth II, the fifth to decorate a British coin.

Supermarket trolleys

The new coin, which was put into circulation on March 27, is supposed to fully replace the old one, which will no longer be legal tender, on October 15. The authorities have therefore intensified efforts to encourage people either to spend their old coins or change them at the bank.

But many institutions across the country may still accept payments with the old coin after the cut-off date, although they will no longer be able to use it when giving change to customers. The transition to the new currency could nevertheless cause some difficulties.

Supermarkets Tesco and Sainsbury's have not yet adapted their trolleys to take the new coin, according to the Daily Telegraph. Rail travellers are also expected to face problems, with automatic ticket machines of certain companies, including Southern, Great Northern and the Gatwick Express, not able to take the new coins.—AFP

Poland's ruling party tightens grip on big state firms

WARSAW: When presidential aide Malgorzata Sadurska joined the board of Poland's biggest and oldest insurance company this summer, her lack of business experience was no obstacle. Her main qualification to help run state-owned Powszechny Zaklad Ubezpieczen (PZU) was something else—loyalty to the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party.

What PZU needs is "a person who knows the PiS program and is a guarantee that it will be implemented," parliamentary deputy Marek Suski told radio RMF FM as the conservative PiS took to the airwaves to explain her appointment in June. Her task, he said, was "to implement the program of the government, which is to repair Poland."

Sadurska, 41, is one of hundreds of loyalists brought in to state companies by PiS to

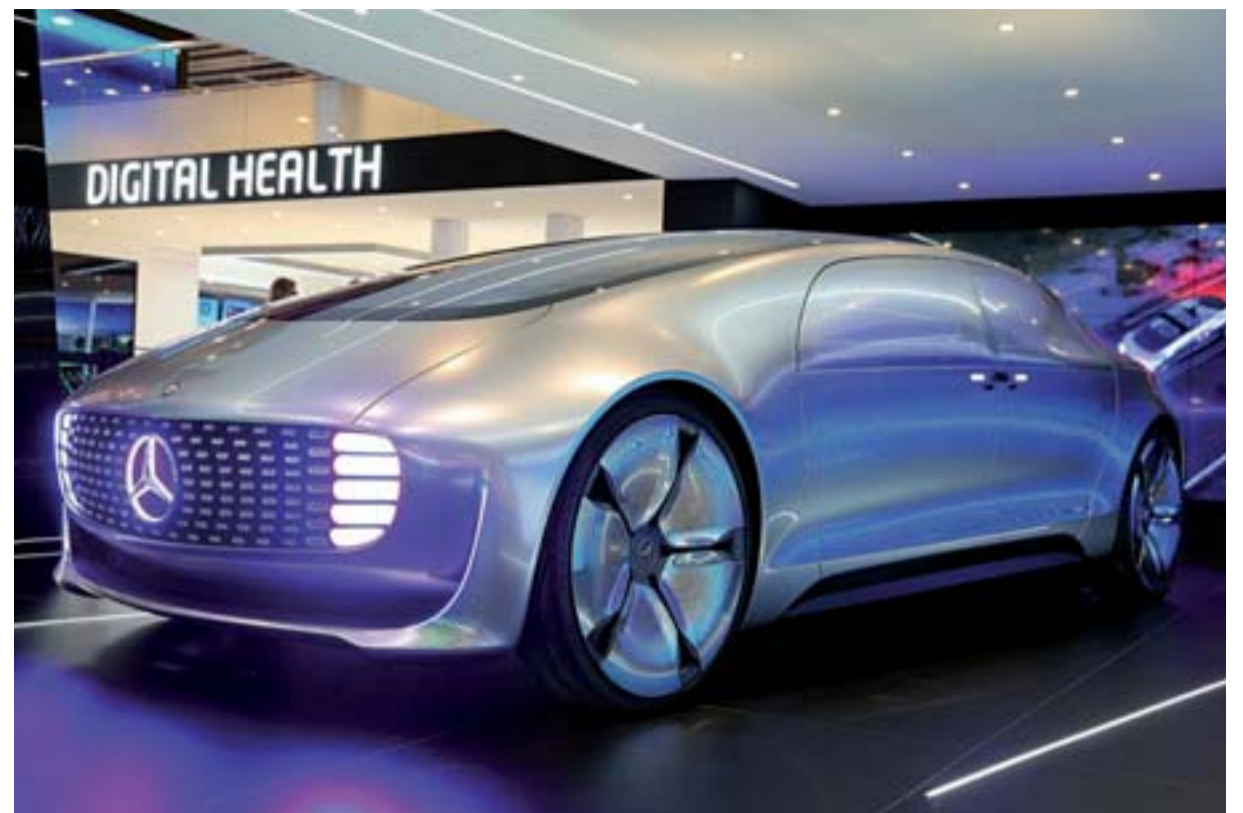
tighten its grip on big business and help it implement its conservative, nationalist-minded policies since it returned to power in 2015 after an eight-year absence. The aim is not only to ensure loyalty in major companies and give PiS a say in their personnel, investment and policy decisions.

It has also enabled PiS to use such firms as vehicles to buy out foreign interests in the banking and energy sectors, with a US-owned news channel, TVN24, seen by some business leaders as a likely next target because it is critical of the government. Opponents fear public procurement and financing rules are being blurred, giving PiS access to large advertising budgets which can be used to fund publicity campaigns or events that promote the party's agenda.

This, they fear, will deepen the concerns of Poland's European Union partners about what they see as an assault on the rule of law and democracy since PiS set its sights on asserting its power over the economy, the judiciary and the media. Aleksander Laszek, chief economist at the Civil Development Forum (FOR), a Warsaw-based economic policy think tank known for its liberal view on the economy, said the PiS moves to assert control of big business were "exceptionally strong and brazen." —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report							Global								
Tuesday 10 October 2017															
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing												
Price Index	▼ -35.97	6,613.22	6,649.19	Volume	145,881,187										
Weighted Index	▼ -4.61	432.60	437.21	Value (KWD)	26,054,396										
KXS 15	▼ -15.82	1,010.01	1,025.83	Number of Trades	4,944										
Trades							Trades								
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	365	365	1,000	365	1	365	▲ 14.0	SOKOUC	51	49.6	148,310	74,033	56	51	▼ -0.2
NAPESCO	800	757	5,004	3,848	7	757	▼ -43.0	KRE	64	60	3,580,165	222,677	73	62	▼ -1.6
ENERGYH	37.0	36.0	94,737	3,447	8	36.5	▲ 0.5	URC	96	95	290	28	2	95	▲ 5.0
GPI	34.0	33.5	2,879,309	97,026	86	33.8	▼ -0.4	NRE	135	130	825,260	108,391	25	134	▼ -2.0
ABAR	84	75	3,523	295	4	84	▲ 0.0	SRE	364	364	1,000	364	2	364	▼ -1.0
Oil & Gas	2,983,973	104,861	106	963.60	▼ -18.80			TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	402	▲ 0.0
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	▲ 0.0	AREEC	193	190	92,000	14,853	6	190	▲ 0.0
BPCC	675	670	363,400	256,883	15	670	▲ 0.0	MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	▲ 0.0
ALKOUT	610	610	2,184	1,332	1	610	▲ 0.0	ARABREC	37.5	36.1	910,608	33,653	35	37.2	▼ -0.2
ALQURAN	342	335	24,927	8,352	4	342	▲ 7.0	ERESCO	39.6	38.5	100,050	3,852	6	39.6	▲ 0.3
Basic Materials	410,611	266,568	20	1312.44	▲ 9.50			MABANEI	805	800	44,235	35,422	8	805	▲ 5.0
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	445	▲ 0.0	INJAZZAT	87	87	1,000	87	1	87	▲ 6.0
CABLE	502	486	564,400	280,847	68	492	▼ -3.0	INVESTORS	22.8	22.0	6,333,894	540,045	79	22.1	▼ -0.7
SHIP	217	214	20,030	4,287	3	217	▲ 3.0	IRC	33.3	32.4	185,000	5,358	4	32.5	▼ 0.0
PCEM	1,000	1,000	22,812	22,812	1	1,000	▲ 0.0	ALTUARIA	97	92	1,570,945	148,441	39	96	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	▲ 0.0	SANAM	35.1	35.1	8,500	298	1	35.1	▲ 0.0
MRC	110	103	31,100	3,241	8	109	▼ -3.0	AAYANR	83	82	62,000	5,124	6	83	▲ 0.0
ADICO	270	264	118,260	31,471	7	265	▼ -1.0	ADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0	ALADARIA	38.0	36.1	4,100	148	2	38.0	▼ -0.5
NOCB	174	174	35,505	6,178	1	174	▲ 0.0	MAZAYA	115	114	1,437,369	164,326	23	115	▼ -1.0
EQUIPMENT	43.0	41.2	362,600	15,067	26	42.2	▼ -0.8	THEMAR	85	85	2,202	188	2	85	▲ 14.2
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0	TUJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0
GYPJUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0	TAAAMEER	35.5	33.8	648,099	22,181	20	33.9	▼ -0.8
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	▲ 0.0	ARKAN	84	83	87,000	7,272	7	84	▼ -1.5
ADLY	680	625	922,185	776,619	97	642	▼ -41.0	ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	164	▲ 0.0
EDU	307	307	10	3	1	307	▼ -3.0	ABYAR	25.8	23.2	20,864,101	503,871	398	24.1	▼ -1.9
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▲ 0.0	MUNSHAAT	68	66	2,292,836	153,333	81	67	▼ -1.1
KGL	63	61	162,005	9,886	7	63	▲ 0.5	FIRSTDUBAI	47.6	47.6	10,000	476	1	47.6	▲ 0.6
KCPK	155	150	30,000	4,575	3	155	▲ 5.0	KBT	49.4	48.7	248,250	12,176	13	49.4	▼ -0.1
HUMANSOFT	4,179	4,060	11,461	47,878	8	4,174	▼ -6.0	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	306	▲ 0.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.0	MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.3	▲ 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	▲ 0.0	ALMUDJON	38.8	37.0	39,011	1,443	4	37.0	▲ 0.0
SHOOTING	26.1	25.4	176,590	4,503	13	26.1	▲ 0.1	MARAKEZ	37.7	30.8	42,700	1,362	12	37.7	▲ 0.1
COG	506	480	3,500	1,706	2	506	▼ -1.0	REMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	▲ 0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0	Mahaer	80	80	1	0	1	80	▲ 3.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	615	▲ 0.0	Real Estate	40,851,716	1,859,401	906	952.83	▲ 2.90		
ALAFCC	385	383	1,073,590	412,267	52	384	▲ 0.0	KINV	116	111	528,581	60,405	65	115	▲ 1.0
MUBARRAD	74	72	322,200	23,458	15	73	▼ -0.1	FACIL	186	186	230,000	42,780	6	186	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	95	54	878,369	47,734	40	54	▲ -6.1	IFA	38.0	37.0	142,005	5,378	10	37.8	▲ 0.1
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 0.0	NNV	113	109	8,325,157	917,172	205	110	▼ -3.0
GCEM	84	84	1,000	84	1	84	▲ 1.4	KPROJ	355	355	68,100	24,176	5	355	▼ -5.0
QIC	82	81	100,120	8,117	4	82	▲ 1.0	COAST	45.6	44.5	2,242,807	101,076	90	44.8	▼ -0.8
FCEM	74	72	1,111,200	80,540	23	73	▼ -3.0	SECH	60	58	2,655,778	154,963	78	58	▼ -1.1
RKWC	81	81	75,000	6,075	3	81	▲ 0.0	ARZAN	34.5	33.0	64,683	2,169	9	34.5	▲ 0.4
SPEC	88	81	800	70	5	88	▲ 3.0	MARKAZ	110	104	27,000	2,844	4	104	▼ -6.0
Industrials	6,022,697	1,787,418	388	1763.56	▼ -5.40			KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.5	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	75	75	1	0	1	75	▼ -14.9	ALAMAN	55	53	430,710	23,190	6	55	▼ -1.5
CATL	265	265	5,000	1,325	1	265	▲ 0.0	ALOLA	47.0	46.2	308,336	14,321	15	46.4	▼ -0.5
DANAH	70	70	215,000	15,049	4	70	▼ -0.1	ALMAL	34.3	32.0	333,984	10,921	19	33.4	▼ -1.6
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,980	▲ 0.0	GH	25.4	24.0	226,170	5,514	15	25.2	▼ -0.2

Business



Etisalat, Mercedes-Benz Cars ME debut a vision of future mobility

Regional premiere of F 015 at GITEX Technology Week 2017

DUBAI: Taking GITEX Technology Week into the fast lane, the Middle East's leading telecommunications operator Etisalat, in collaboration with Mercedes-Benz Cars Middle East, is showcasing a revolutionary interpretation of future mobility, with the regional debut of the Mercedes-Benz F 015.

The autonomous driving research vehicle Mercedes-Benz F 015 is displayed at the Etisalat stand at GITEX Technology Week 2017, giving visitors a glimpse of what the future of mobility will look like. The Mercedes-Benz F 015 transforms the vehicle from a mode of transport to a comfortable mobile living space - a lavish, intuitive and connected oasis. The vehicle uses sensor technology that continuously scans the vehicle's surroundings, ensuring seamless and continuous communication and interaction between the vehicle, its passengers and the outside world.

Dr Ahmed Bin Ali, Senior Vice President Corporate Communication, Etisalat Group commented: "Etisalat's long term objective is to move into the digital future by taking the lead in innovation to bring futuristic



technologies like Internet of Things (IoT) from around the world to UAE and the region. In the automobile sector, Mercedes-Benz has definitely led the way with a strong vision for the future supporting our long-term goals and Dubai government's strategic direction for Smart Driverless Mobility."



Lennart Mueller-Teut, Head of Marketing & Communications, Mercedes-Benz Cars Middle East, said: "The collaboration with Etisalat is the perfect platform for us to introduce our vision of future mobility to the region. Mercedes-Benz has been a pioneer of automotive technology for decades, and it

is our mission to pave the way for the future of autonomous driving. The F 015 fundamentally reinterprets what a car is, completely changing the user experience, for ultimate luxury in motion. Mercedes-Benz aims to fulfil its promise of autonomous driving by providing solutions to dynamically shape the future of mobility."

Mercedes-Benz plays a leading role in the mobility of the future through its CASE strategy - based on the four pillars of Connected, Autonomous, Shared and Electric Drive. The focus of the brand is no longer solely on the vehicle as a product, but extends to other services that enhance and ease all forms of mobility. Mercedes-Benz is the only automotive brand investing in all three technologies - hybrid drive, electric motor and fuel cells, demonstrating its exceptional solutions for diverse needs.

The 2,000 sq m Etisalat stand includes over 1,500 sq m of LED screens to showcase state of the art technologies. GITEX Technology Week will take place until 12th October at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Burgan Bank announces winner of the Al-Thuraya salary account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday Yousef Ahmad Salem Al-Abduljader as the lucky winner of the Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw. The winner was presented with a Nissan Patrol SUV.

The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month. With every KD 10 available in the account, the customer receives one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year. Customers wishing to open the Al-Thuraya account can do so by simply visiting the nearest Burgan Bank branch and obtain all the necessary details.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a grow-



ing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

As Brexit looms, UK exports to EU getting more crucial

LONDON: The European Union's importance to British exporting firms appears to be growing, official figures showed yesterday, a development that could focus the minds of those negotiating the country's exit from the bloc. Figures published by the Office for National Statistics show that exports to the EU rose by 4.1 percent in the three months to August from the previous three-month period, largely through sales of machinery and transport equipment, compared with an 8.8 percent fall with countries from outside the EU, almost half of which was due to lower fuel exports.

That divergence contrasts with one of the main arguments put forward by those backing Brexit in last year's referendum campaign: that the EU market is diminishing in importance and the country's long-term interests would be better served by promoting links with the rest of the world, particularly the fast-growing economies such as China and India.

"These figures indicate how important it is for the U.K. to make progress with Brexit negotiations as leaving the EU without a deal could have far-reaching negative consequences for exporters," said Oliver Kolodseike, senior economist at the Centre for Economics and Business Research in London. Brexit discussions have made little headway since Prime Minister Theresa May formally launched the two-year countdown in March. Representatives from both the British government and the EU are in the midst of their latest round of talks in Brussels. On Monday, May, who is struggling to get her Conservative Party united on a Brexit approach, raised the prospect of a 'no-deal' scenario, whereby Britain crashes out of the EU in March 2019 without a new set of trade arrangements with the bloc.

That could see tariffs slapped on British goods - and vice versa - a development that would likely weigh on both sides' economies, at least in the near-term.

The figures from the statistics agency also highlighted Britain's importance to the EU. Britain imported 22.7 billion pounds of goods (\$30 billion) from the EU in August and exported 14.3 billion pounds to the bloc. May has consistently said that getting a trade deal

would be beneficial for both sides. From non-EU countries, Britain imports goods worth 19.7 billion pounds, 6 billion more than it exports to those markets. "The EU's dependence on the UK as an export market may help the prime minister to reach a good trade agreement with the EU," said Kolodseike. —AP

“Brexit deal crucial for Britain”

Ireland finds extra cash for 'modest' budget boost

DUBLIN: Ireland's finance minister sought to raise over 800 million euros in extra revenue in a budget yesterday to give taxpayers a "modest" break and help tackle a housing crisis.

He also sought to balance the state's books for the first time in a decade. Ireland started reversing years of savage spending cuts and tax hikes in 2014 - about the time its economy began to rebound sharply from a deep financial crisis. But hemmed in by European Union borrowing rules, Paschal Donohoe initially had far fewer resources this year than in those expansionary budgets.

In the event, he boosted the budget package to 1.2 billion euros from the mere 350 million available chiefly through a 4 percentage point increase in stamp duty on commercial property, ensuring income tax cuts will not go into one pocket and come out the other.

"On this budget day we build on progress that would have looked impossible only a few short years ago," Donohoe told parliament in his first budget speech as finance minister.

While Ireland's economy has posted the fastest growth in Europe for the past three years, sluggish sentiment surveys suggest many consumers are seeing few benefits amid increasing living costs, particularly in rents and rising house prices. By increasing

the relatively low threshold at which people hit the higher rate of income tax and trimming the amount they actually pay, Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said an average family would be a "modest" 500 to 600 euros better off a year.

Varadkar knows that with the agreement with their main rivals to back the minority administration set to expire in just over a year's time, the small boosts will likely be the last to filter through to voters' pay packets before the next election. The government stuck to its ratio of over 2:1 in favor of spending increase over tax cuts, increasing current spending in line with the 3.5 percent growth in the economy as services try to keep pace with a population that is also the fastest growing in the EU.

But Donohoe focused much of his speech on housing as the government scrambles to boost a chronic under-supply across the country, including a significant increase in a planned levy on vacant sites that owners fail to build on. He will also siphon off 750 million euros from the state's sovereign wealth fund, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, to start a new body that will offer debt finance to builders and be staffed by executives from the state's "bad bank", NAMA.

After last year's "Brexit proof" budget was criticized by business for not doing enough to shield it from key trade partner Britain's departure from the



DUBLIN: Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe emerges from his office at Government Buildings for a photocall with the 2018 budget in Dublin yesterday.—AFP

EU, a new 300 million euro Brexit loan scheme was introduced to help small and medium businesses with short-term working capital. The government has said

previously that it can only consider major interventions such as asking for specific EU assistance when the shape of Brexit becomes clearer. —Reuters

Technology

Enjoy unique drive with CTS-V, the most powerful Cadillac ever

All V models now come with optional Carbon Black Sport Package



KUWAIT: Engineered with high performance and everyday usability, the Cadillac 2017 CTS-V. Built with precise craftsmanship and ingenious technology the new 2017 model delivers outstanding performance and track capabilities.

Almost every exterior panel on the Cadillac CTS-V is unique, from the fascia and front fender, to the hood, rear spoiler and rocker molding - and every one was designed to support the car's capability, contributing to lift reduction, enhanced cooling, and improved aero management. The various elements give the sporty line-up an athletic stance, wide body and low height. The 2017 CTS-V provides a more confident feel through the greater aerodynamic performance created by the carbon fiber packages, hood vent and rear dif-

fuser. Furthermore, the Brembo brake system was developed to give the driver durability, consistency and the capability to experience a track-day feel straight from the factory.

The CTS-V dual-purpose capabilities carry over on to its interior, where the design and relationship of key components are focused on performance-driving ergonomics. Handcrafted cut-and-sew elements, decorative stitching and authentic materials all make up the luxury interiors. In addition, the vehicle features technology upgrade for a boosted and more connected ride. The 2017 CTS-V comprehensive collection of technologies includes Apple CarPlay advanced smartphone integration, so the driver can stay connected whilst on the move. CTS-V also comes with a Bose Surround Sound sys-

tem with 13 Speakers providing the ultimate listening experience. The vehicle boasts upgrades in safety and parking assist technology helping drivers spend more time with their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.

The 2017 Cadillac CTS-V is powered by a supercharged 6.2L V-8 engine SAE certified at 640 horsepower (477 kW) and 630 lb-ft of torque (855 Nm). The new CTS-V is capable of 0-100 performance in 3.7 seconds and a top speed of 320km/h. Cadillac has been a leading luxury auto brand since 1902. Today Cadillac is growing globally, driven by an expanding product portfolio featuring dramatic design and technology. Described as luxurious, having a bold and daring personality, being tough and strong as well as safe and pow-

erful, Cadillac has maintained an iconic presence for over 85 years in the Middle East.

Premium care program

Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive furthers Cadillac's superiority by showcasing the company's commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience by offering customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance for 4 years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for 4 years (unlimited mileage) plus a courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability.



In this frame from NASA TV, Astronauts Mark Vande Hei and Randy Bresnik, right, emerge from the International Space Station yesterday. The astronauts went out on a spacewalk to grease the robot arm's new hand. — AP

Astronauts go spacewalking to grease robot arm's new hand

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla: NASA astronauts took another spacewalk outside the International Space Station yesterday, this time to grease the robot arm's new hand.

Commander Randy Bresnik ventured out for the second time in less than a week, along with Mark Vande Hei. The pair replaced the latching mechanism on one end of the 58-foot robot arm last Thursday. The mechanism malfunctioned in August.

Yesterday's work involved using a grease gun, which resembles a caulking gun, to keep the latching mechanism working smoothly. The two-part lube job is expected to spill into next week, in a third spacewalk.

These latches, or hands, are located on each end of the Canadian-built robot arm. They're used to grab arriving US cargo ships and also allow the robot arm to move around the orbiting lab.

Launched in 2001 with the rest of the robot arm, the original latches were showing their age. NASA plans to replace the latching mechanism on the opposite end of the arm early next year.

"I have a little bit of adrenaline going on right now," Vande Hei said as he got to work more than 250 miles above Rio de Janeiro. "That view is amazing." Six men live at the orbiting lab: three Americans, two Russians and one Italian. As the space station approached Italy, Mission Control urged the spacewalkers to take some photos for their crewmate, Paolo Nespoli. — AP

ICT govt and industry leaders gather to discuss ME's digital maturity at Huawei event

KUWAIT: Leading government and subject matter experts gathered in Dubai on Oct. 8 to address prescient regional issues on digital transformation at Huawei's second annual Middle East Innovation Day. Held concurrently to the opening day of GITEX 2017, the leading global ICT solutions provider's Middle East edition of the global event was themed "Exploration, Lights the Way Forward", and hosted a high-profile panel of international and regional government and industry representatives.

Keynote speakers for the event were Ugo Valenti, CEO of Smart City Expo World Congress, Dr. Mohammed A Al Amer, Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Bahrain, Edward Zhou, Vice President of Global Affairs, Huawei Technologies, and Spacelee /Li Xiangyu, Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications, Huawei Middle East.

Dr Al Amer addressed the duty of governments in the region to work to create an environment that enables the digital economy to grow and flourish, identifying the need to foster digital education, enact the proper regulatory framework, and in unifying the concepts of IT and ICT. Other keynotes explored themes such as the importance of the rise in urbanization to the digital project, the importance of industrial digitization and open collaboration, and the state of digital development in the GCC.

Highlight

A key highlight of the event was the launch of an insightful new research report titled, "National Transformation in the Middle East - A Digital Journey."

The joint Huawei-Deloitte white paper assesses the digital transformation initiatives being undertaken by government entities in the GCC region in the context of global trends.

The panel discussion, entitled "ICT Innovation Drives the Middle East region Future" included Jawad Jalal Abbassi, Head of MENA Government and Regulatory Affairs, GSMA; David Garcia-Torre, Director of IoT, Etisalat; Engineer Ahmed Kajoor, IT Director Dubai Municipality; Lloyd Gazzett, Vice President - Business Technology Customer Success, Dubai Airports; Valenti of Smart City Expo World Congress; and Alaa ElShimi, Managing Director and Vice President, Huawei Middle East. The discussion was moderated by Joe Kelly, Vice



Report on Mideast digital journey Released

President of International Media Affairs for Huawei. Their discussion focused on role of ICT innovations in supporting the development of key sectors and industries, openness and perseverance in driving digital transformation and building sustainable knowledge-based economies in the region. The panel also addressed some of the continued challenges and best practices from across the world to address them.

The panelists explored a variety of topics such as the necessity to keep pace with technological innovation, how to integrate ICT further into pedagogical practices, and the need to integrate data sharing techniques across sectors and industries. They discussed the technological as well as regulatory challenges, identifying solutions and expressing an exciting and hopeful vision for the future of digital transformation in the region. "The 21st Century is fast becoming the century of cities. The growing universality of the cloud, AI and blockchain are nothing short of a revolution in the way we live. This transformation is allowing us to build smart cities, but to truly reach our potential we have to empower cities to be as sustainable, mobile, safe and healthy as possible," said Ugo Valenti of Smart City Expo World Congress.

"Mobile is already playing a significant role in driving efficiencies, productivity and economic growth across the Middle East and North Africa region, contributing to employment as well as innovation," commented Jawad Abbassi, Head of MENA, GSMA. "However, it is crucial that governments put the right regulatory frameworks in place to encourage competition, investment and innovation so that everyone can benefit from the digital age."

"ICT innovation is at the heart of Dubai Municipality's mission to build the most advanced, sustainable city in the world. Developing a smart, integrated IT infrastructure depends on experimentation and exploration, which

features in dedicated lanes. This dramatic improvement is a pre-condition for developing and testing future autonomous cars, experts said.

Shares of Nvidia were indicated 3.8 percent higher in pre-market US trading at \$192.37. The high-flying stock has gained 80 percent this year. "NVIDIA is one step ahead. But you can be sure you can expect (rival chip-makers) Intel, NXP and Renesas not to be too far behind," said Luca De Ambroggi, principal automotive electronics analyst with industry market research firm IHS Markit.

US computer chip giant Intel and its Mobileye automotive unit are working with German carmaker BMW and US auto supplier Delphi on their own autonomous driving platform due out in 2021.

NXP has agreed to be acquired by Qualcomm to form the world's largest auto electronics supplier. Japanese chipmaker Renesas is a has a strong presence in micro-controllers used to run key car functions.

in turn depends on building effective partnerships," said Ahmed Kajoor, IT Director at Dubai Municipality. "Our pioneer-ship benefits from the excellent work being done by partners like Huawei and Deloitte, with their work contributing to our understanding of how best to continue building Dubai as a safe, happy, sustainable and competitive city of the future. Both Dubai Municipality and the Dubai government writ large will benefit from the excellent work being done."

Diverse

"It has been fantastic to gather such a diverse and knowledgeable group of experts and leaders to discuss the key issues and challenges of digital transformation in the region. The Middle East is a historic center of exploration and innovation, and we are incredibly excited to leverage this heritage and tackle the challenges faced in order to realize the full spectrum of digital realities here," said Spacelee /Li Xiangyu of Huawei Middle East. "Huawei remains committed to driving the digital ecosystems, and to continue to push for active and open collaboration with local partners in order to serve the region's national visions and deliver on the promise of digital transformation."

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



The panel of the Huawei Innovation Day



Edward Zhou

NVIDIA unveils next-generation platform for fully autonomous cars

LONDON: Silicon Valley graphics chipmaker NVIDIA unveiled yesterday the first computer chips for developing fully autonomous vehicles and said it had more than 25 customers working to build a new class of driverless cars, robotaxis and long-haul trucks.

Deutsche Post DHL Group, the world's largest mail and

logistics company, and ZF, a top automotive parts supplier, plan to deploy a fleet of autonomous delivery trucks based on the new chips, starting in 2019, NVIDIA said. The third generation of NVIDIA's Drive PX automotive line, code-named Pegasus, is a multi-chip platform the size of car license plates with datacenter-class processing power.

Pegasus can handle 320 trillion operations per second, representing roughly a 13-fold increase over the calculating power of the current PX 2 line. A single NVIDIA Xavier-class processor can be used for level 3 semi-autonomous driving, while a combination of multiple mobile and graphics processors would run level 5 full-scale driverless cars, the company said.

A level 5 vehicle is capable of navigating roads without any driver input and in its purest form would have no steering wheel or brakes. A level 3 car still needs a steering wheel and a driver who can take over if the car encounters a problem, while level 4 promises driverless

NVIDIA's automotive director Danny Shapiro said in an interview that many of the first 25 customers using the Pegasus platform would focus on robotaxis, which will be built without steering wheels or brakes and used only on dedicated routes. Bigger name automakers will announce vehicles running on Pegasus at their own product launches in coming months, he said.

The Pegasus line will be available by the middle of 2018 for automakers to begin developing vehicles and testing software algorithms needed to control future driverless cars, NVIDIA executives told a developers' conference in Munich yesterday.

The deal between Deutsche Post, ZF and NVIDIA will include future Deutsche Post StreetScooter delivery trucks. In Munich, the three partners are showcasing a prototype StreetScooter running NVIDIA Drive PX chips used to control sensors including six cameras, one radar and one lidar, or 3D laser camera. — Reuters

Health

Mass cholera vaccinations kick off in Rohingya camps

Bangladesh struggling to cope with mass influx

THANGKHALI: The United Nations launched one of its biggest ever cholera vaccination drives in the vast refugee camps of southeast Bangladesh yesterday amid fears of an outbreak among nearly a million Rohingya now living there. Thousands of Rohingya men and women lined up in intense heat at makeshift health centers, many with young children in their arms, to receive the oral vaccine against the disease.

The UN is working with the Bangladesh government to vaccinate 650,000 people living in the sprawling camps against cholera, which spreads through dirty water and can kill if left untreated. "These people lack most of the basic services-toilets, water sanitation and everything," UNICEF spokesman A M Sakil Faizullah said. "When we have this kind of situation, there's a heavy possibility of a cholera outbreak." Nearly 520,000 Rohingya Muslims have arrived in Bangladesh since late August, fleeing a military crackdown in mainly Buddhist neighboring Myanmar that the UN has said likely amounts to ethnic cleansing.



UN launches one of its biggest ever cholera vaccination

Poor and over-populated Bangladesh has struggled to cope with the mass influx of people, many of whom have to travel for days or even weeks to reach safety and arrive exhausted and malnourished. The influx had slowed in recent weeks, but now appears to have picked up again and an estimated 11,000 new refugees arrived on Monday. The UN refugee agency said yesterday it was working with the Bangladesh authorities to set up a transit centre in preparation for a fresh influx from Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Dozens feared drowned

Many of the new arrivals are from the Buthidaung

district of Rakhine which lies relatively far from the border. They told AFP the army in Myanmar had prevented them from buying food, making it impossible for them to stay. An AFP photographer at the scene on Monday saw one distraught man arrive carrying the limp body of his infant son who had died as they crossed the Naf river that divides the two countries. Dozens more are feared to have drowned when a boat packed with desperate refugees sank late on Sunday night.

Bangladesh police said yesterday they had found 14 more bodies, taking the number of confirmed dead to 28, with scores more missing. Across the border in Myanmar, hundreds of Rohingya were massed on the riverbank awaiting the opportunity to leave. "We want to go to Bangladesh. It's over for us here. We have to cross quickly but we don't have the money to pay for the boat," one Rohingya father of four told an AFP reporter in Rakhine state. The family had walked for several days from Buthidaung to reach the riverbank, where hundreds more Rohingya were waiting to escape. The majority were children.

'Huge undertaking'

The treatment of the Muslim minority has sparked international condemnation of Myanmar and its de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate. Yesterday her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), held a peace rally in Yangon attended by around 40,000 people. NLD lawmaker Win Maung said ahead of the ceremony it would show the world that people of different faiths could live in harmony in Myanmar. "We deeply regret the reaction from international countries based on the news without truth," said the lawmaker.

World Health Organization (WHO) workers and local volunteers will vaccinate 650,000 Rohingya over the coming weeks and then follow up with a second dose of



UKHIA, Bangladesh: Rohingya refugees wait in line during a food distribution at the Thangkhal refugee camp in the Bangladeshi district of Ukhiya yesterday. —AFP

the vaccine for an estimated 250,000 children aged between one and five. It the second biggest such campaign ever, after 800,000 people were immunized against the disease in Haiti in November. The WHO's Bangladesh representative N Paranietharan called it a "huge undertaking" and said he was confident an outbreak would be averted. He said thousands of Bangladeshis living near the refugee camps would also be vaccinated.

Cholera was a major killer in Bangladesh until in the 1970s, but the country has seen major improvements

in sanitation facilities since then. The Rohingya are a stateless Muslim minority who have long faced persecution in Myanmar, which regards them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The UN says more than 600,000 have arrived in the last year, swelling camps that were already home to between 300,000 and 400,000 refugees. Bangladesh has allocated land to accommodate some 800,000 refugees in one massive camp, but the UN has warned that such a large concentration in one area could promote the spread of disease. —AFP

Cost of capturing CO2 declines, scientists say

MORGANTOWN: Technology now in limited use removes about 90 percent of carbon dioxide from the smokestacks of coal-fired power plants, but energy experts say cost remains the chief obstacle to bringing the "clean coal" touted by President Donald Trump into the mainstream. They cite recent advances in applying the longstanding technology, despite some earlier setbacks, but say the US power sector needs bigger tax credits or other incentives to close the cost gap for using them.

"What we have now is a public policy challenge, or call it a political challenge if you will, in that next phase which is to deploy this technology more widely and bring the cost down, (which) requires a whole new set of policies that go beyond R&D to actual deployment incentives," said Brad Crabtree, vice president for fossil fuels at the Great Plains Institute.

The US has successfully cut other smokestack pollutants,

including sulfur, nitrogen and mercury. But carbon dioxide is a bigger challenge because there is so much of it. Coal- and gas-fired electrical generators produce about 30 percent of CO2 from human activity. Other industries like cement, steel and fertilizer manufacturing add another 20 to 25 percent. Farming and vehicles are also major contributors.

John Thompson of the nonprofit Clean Air Task Force said there would be no way to limit the rise in global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels without taming carbon emissions. The world has already warmed about 1.1 degrees Celsius since the Industrial Revolution. Scientists say every fraction of a degree change in average temperatures can lead to noticeable swings in local weather patterns. "If you don't tackle that you really can't constrain warming on the planet to one-and-a-half to two degrees on anybody's likely scenarios," he said.

In Congress, bills that now have 64 bipartisan sponsors would raise carbon-capture tax credits from \$10 or \$20 per metric ton depending on use to \$35 or \$50. Advocates want it added to the current tax overhaul proposal. Sen Shelley Moore Capito, a West Virginia Republican and co-sponsor, said carbon capture would help protect the coal industry and expand oil production as well as reduce emissions. As for chances of passage, she said Thursday that it's "too early in the process to know whether those priorities can advance together or separately." —AP

Kenya's herders torch an invader

KAKUMA, Kenya: Turkana County is one of Kenya's most arid regions, but land near the town of Kakuma sports a dense thicket of thorny trees. That's not good news. The plant is Prosopis juliflora, a fast-growing invasive species that has wreaked havoc by taking over land once used for pasture, choking rivers and overwhelming indigenous trees in this part of northwest Kenya. But a clever plot is now underway to clear the invader - by turning it into charcoal for an energy-starved refugee camp nearby, while providing jobs for local people.

More than 180,000 refugees, many from Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan, live at Kakuma camp, which was established in 1991 on the outskirts of the town of Kakuma. Today they use 23,000 tonnes of charcoal each month, some of it created by felling trees nearby. The loss of trees is a problem for the region, not least because it allows the invasive thorn trees to spread into denuded areas, experts say.

The invader - called "mathenge" - has colonized a huge portion of land used by Turkana pastoralists as grazing for their livestock, said Paul Esekun, an energy and environmental officer at

Lokado, a local community organization. "The Prosopis seed can survive in the ground for 10 years, and once it germinates its roots go very deep into the ground," Esekun said. But now, in an effort backed by Lokado, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency, residents that are battling to find grazing for their cattle can now also earn cash hacking down the invasive trees and turning them into charcoal.

Efficient Kilns

Along the Tarach river, which cuts across the refugee camp and meanders west towards the village of Morongole, Peter Palal and 32 members of the Morongole Environmental Group are at work making charcoal. "This area used to have many different trees but now it is only mathenge that is found here," said Palal, the chairman of the group, named for the village where they live. In a small clearing near the river, two cylindrical metal kilns rise about five feet above the ground. One has firewood in it, and Palal paces around, inspecting it. The kilns are two of more than 20 that have been supplied to 10 groups in the Kakuma area by the county government and the FAO. The project got it start after an analysis of natural resources by the county in 2015 recommended using mathenge to make charcoal on a commercial scale to improve employment prospects for young people and boost the local economy. —Reuters

CLINIC

PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

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

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

What's On



St Joseph choir group members pose for a photo after a Tagalog mass held on Friday October 1, 2017.

Movenpick brings best of French 'Bistronomie' to its restaurants



Movenpick Hotels and Resorts is bringing the best of "bistro" and "gastronomy" to its restaurants around the world in its latest "Bistronomie" food promotion, which runs from October 20 to November 20, 2017. Taking inspiration from a trend that started in France two decades ago and has now become a global culinary movement, the hospitality group's talented chefs have created seven exclusive "Bistronomie" dishes.

The "Bistronomie" concept was conceived in the 1990s when young French chefs with haute cuisine training re-interpreted classic dishes and served them in a new breed of casual, less stuffy, "bistro"-style restaurants. Today, "Bistronomie" is synonymous with high-quality French cuisine with a twist and Movenpick, which is renowned for its culinary expertise, has mastered it.

Made from the best quality ingredients and prepared to perfection, the sev-

en dishes on its new "Bistronomie" menu include "Salade Nicoise", "Plateau de Fruits de Mer" (Seafood platter), "Moules Marinières" (Mussels with garlic and sweet cream butter), "Cabillaud a la Bordelaise" (Cod fillet), "Pot au Feu a la Bourgeoise" (Beef topside hot pot) and "Cordon-bleu au Comte" (Veal rump steak).

In line with the company's commitment to offering personalised experiences, the individual preferences and tastes of guests have been taken into consideration, with vegetarian options available - "Pot au Feu Vegetarien" (Vegetable hot pot) - for example. In addition, some dishes such as the seafood platter are customisable to include specific ingredients selected by diners.

Guests with a sweet tooth are also in for a treat with Movenpick's version of "Cafe Gourmand" - a French take on the British "afternoon tea". The

"Bistronomie" "Cafe Gourmand" combines aromatic Movenpick coffee with "Reine de Saba" ("Queen of Sheba"), an irresistible chocolate cake baked with Movenpick's very own 72 percent cocoa Swiss chocolate.

"When it comes to gastronomy, Movenpick is a pioneer, known for its culinary innovation and ability to create classic dishes with a twist, which is very much akin to the "Bistronomie" movement," said Olivier Chavy, President and CEO of Movenpick Hotels and Resorts.

Thomas Hollenstein, Director of Food and Beverage Europe, Movenpick Hotels and Resorts, who has led the team of chefs developing the "Bistronomie" dishes, added: "We have encapsulated the essence of French cuisine, but in a fresh and exciting form and importantly, acknowledging the personal tastes of our discerning diners and guests around the world."

ASSE-Kuwait chapter commemorates World Ozone

As part of our continuous efforts to enhance the awareness on world recognized HSE events and International days, to spread the HSE updates which will protect people, property and Environment, ASSE Kuwait Chapter is commemorating the International Days since its inception in the year 2000. An event was organized to commemorate Ozone Day at KOC tent on September 16, 2017 this year.

ASSE- Kuwait Chapter lead by Chairman Fadhel-Al Ali, is a non-profit organization which always strives to excel in providing quality trainings and consultation in the field of Health Safety and Environment all across different public and private sectors in Kuwait.

Sunil Sadanandan, Secretary of ASSE Kuwait chapter briefed about the significance of the Ozone Day and the importance of organizing such events. Muhammad Alamgir, President of ASSE Kuwait



chapter, Lafi Al-Fehaid, Senior member of ASSE Kuwait Chapter, Ashok Garlapati, Advisory Committee member of ASSE Kuwait Chapter and Global Region Vice President, Mohammad Amjad Al-Saleh, Managing Director of Reliance Worldwide Catering Company, welcomed the participants with a note on the Ozone theme.

Mazharuddin Shaik, Head of HSE Events committee shared a presentation on Ozone layer and requested the participants to take steps to protect the Ozone layer. Ramkumar Nachupally, a member of HSE events committee gave a note on the theme and introduced the speaker Dr Eng Sultan Al-Salem

During the key note presentation Dr Sultan Al-Salem, PhD MSc BSc (Chemical Engineering), Associate Research Scientist, Environment and Life

Sciences Research Centre of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, delivered an extraordinary presentation which evoked all the participants by showing related technical data. More than 150 participants participated from various sectors (Government Sectors, Oil and Gas Companies, Contractors and, HSE Consultancies).

Aamir Rasheed Vice President of ASSE Kuwait chapter in his closing Remarks thanked the speaker Dr Eng Sultan Al-Salem, Mohammad Amjad Al-Saleh, MD of M/S Reliance Worldwide catering MD. He also thanked for all the participants for their interest shown towards HSE programs arranged by chapter. At the end of program delicious dinner served which was sponsored by M/S Reliance Worldwide catering.

La Dolce Vita... authentic Italian night

Enjoy a delightful experience in our authentic Italian night every Wednesday, where you can enjoy a variety of delicious Italian dishes from the buffet and the live coking station under the name of "La Dolce Vita", accompanied with live music performance from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Flavors Restaurant. The Italian evening with the music and Gina every Wednesday evening. In Safir Hotel and Residence Kuwait - AlFintas

Safir Hotel and Residence Kuwait - Fintas offers Italian lovers a variety of Italian music and entertainment every Wednesday night, La Dolce Vita, where you can take a trip to the enchanting Italian countryside to enjoy a buffet of Italian dishes, pizza and pasta, as well as



the music of Gina at Flavors Restaurant, 7 pm to 11 pm. Our valued guests are always welcomed to try our new creative night, and to spend a wonderful time and share their beautiful moments with us here at Safir Hotel and Residences Kuwait - Fintas.

Gulf Bank offers discounts at Wendy's

As part of its Dining Program, launched in July 2017, Gulf Bank announced in cooperation with Wendy's restaurants, to offer its credit cardholders an opportunity to enjoy instant 15 percent discounts, when

purchasing at any of Wendy's restaurant using their Gulf Bank's credit cards. Gulf Bank customers can enjoy various discounts and privileges at reputable and renowned restaurants and coffee shops in Kuwait through Gulf Bank 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 includes all type of cuisines, when using their credit cards on all transactions.

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. To find out more about Gulf Bank's promo-

tions and offers, please visit the bank's bilingual website at www.gulfbank.com or check out its social media channels.

PAAET welcomes new teachers



The teaching staff members' association at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's (PAAET) applied education faculties organized a reception recently for the new members on the occasion of the new academic year. The reception, held at PAAET headquarters in Adailiya, was attended by PAAET Director Dr Ahmad Al-Athari and the Association's Vice Chairman Dr Fawaz Al-Rasheedi.

TV

AM MOVIES ACTION
00:05 Montana
02:00 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials

ANIMAL PLANET HD
00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Rugged Justice

BBC FIRST
00:55 Line Of Duty
02:00 The Corner

crime & investigation network
00:00 The Jail Atlanta: 60 Days In

COMEDY CENTRAL
00:05 Josh Widdicombe - And Another Thing

Disney Junior
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster

Discovery Family
00:30 Playhouse Masters

ID
00:30 Ghost Asylum

Disney Channel HD
00:00 Hank Zipzer

Disney Channel
00:00 Hank Zipzer

Disney Junior
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster

food
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

Discovery Channel HD
00:20 Street Customs Berlin

Disney Channel
06:00 Disney II

E! HD
00:10 WAGs Miami

Disney Junior
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster

food
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

Discovery Channel HD
00:20 Street Customs Berlin

Disney Channel
06:00 Disney II

E! HD
00:10 WAGs Miami

NAT GEO people HD
00:45 The Shelbourne

NAT GEO people HD
00:45 The Shelbourne

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD
00:10 Big Fish, Texas

NAT GEO WILD HD
23:45 Exploring Malaysia

nick HD
00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

nick HD
00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig

nick jr.
00:01 Max & Ruby

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD
00:10 Big Fish, Texas

NAT GEO WILD HD
23:45 Exploring Malaysia

AM MOVIES HD FAMILY
00:35 D3: The Mighty Ducks

AM MOVIES HD COMEDY
01:30 Dirty Work

AM MOVIES HD
01:40 Freddy Frogface

nick jr.
00:01 Max & Ruby

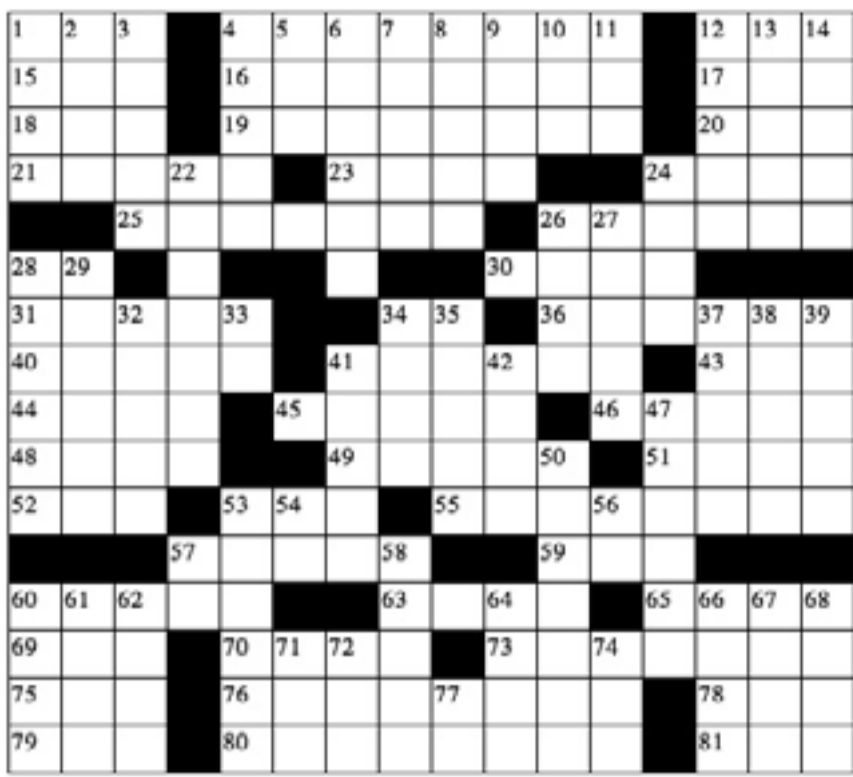
DISCOVERY SCIENCE
00:30 How Do They Do It?

STAR VISIONS HD
01:45 Man To Man

STAR WORLD HD
00:00 Grey's Anatomy

TLC
00:20 Diagnose Me

CROSSWORD 1732



ACROSS

1. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
4. Identify the location or place of.
12. An internationally recognized distress signal in radio code.
15. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
16. A bacterial toxin that has been weakened until it is no longer toxic but is strong enough to induce the formation of antibodies and immunity to the specific disease caused by the toxin.
17. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
18. A decree that prohibits something.
19. Any of several tropical American birds of the genus *Procnias* having a bell-like call.
20. (meaning literally "born") Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
21. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
23. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
25. Imagination unrestricted by reality.
28. The ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle.
30. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
31. (British abbreviation) "he accepted it on appro".
36. A Japanese woman trained to entertain men with conversation and singing and dancing.
40. Big-eyed scud.
43. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
44. The act of scanning.
45. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
46. Coils of worsted yarn.
48. Situated in or facing or moving toward the east.
49. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
51. The basic unit of money in Peru.
52. Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
55. Of communal life sequestered from the world under religious vows.
59. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
60. Obvious and dull.
63. A river in central Europe that arises in northwestern Czechoslovakia and flows northward through Germany to empty into the North Sea.
65. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
69. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
70. English essayist (1775-1834).
73. A tricyclic antidepressant (trade names Imavate and Tofranil) used to treat clinical depression.
75. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
76. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
78. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
79. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
80. Generalized edema with accumulation of serum in subcutaneous connective tissue.
81. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
2. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
3. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
4. Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).
5. Used of a single unit or thing.
6. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
7. (Greek mythology) A Titan who was forced by Zeus to bear the sky on his shoulders.
8. A large entrance or reception room or area.
9. A monocotyledonous genus of the family Iridaceae.
10. Term of address for a man.
11. Either extremity of something that has length.
12. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
13. A naturally occurring glyceride of oleic acid that is found in fats and oils.
14. An ancient upright stone slab bearing markings.
22. Continually changing especially as from one abode or occupation to another.
24. The basic unit of money in China.
26. A one-piece cloak worn by men in ancient Rome.
27. Optical instrument consisting of a pair of lenses for correcting defective vision.
29. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
32. The protoplasm of the germ cells that contains chromosomes and genes.
33. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
34. Possessing material wealth.
35. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
37. A distinctive odor that is pleasant.
38. A republic in the West Indies on the western part of the island of Hispaniola.
39. Of or related to the anion or characterized by developing an anion.
41. Genus of tropical plants with creeping rootstocks and small umbellate flowers.
42. Edible starchy tuberous root of taro plants.
47. The third month of the civil year.
50. Relating to anemia or suffering from anemia.
53. Polish labor leader and statesman (born in 1943).
54. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
56. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
57. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
58. The process of shedding tears (usually accompanied by sobs or other inarticulate sounds).
61. A city in northern India.
62. United States writer noted for his droll epigrams (1902-1971).
64. The basic unit of money in Ethiopia.
66. An informal term for a father.
67. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
68. Flat tableland with steep edges.
71. A nurse who has enough training to be licensed by a state to provide routine care for the sick.
72. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
74. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
77. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is not perhaps the best time to make important decisions that affect your living situation or life circumstances. Your thinking process may undergo some transformation or change at this time. There is a natural sense of growth and development. Concentrating and getting down to the important issues is the best path to take right now. There is a community affair this evening that will bring a positive end to a confusing day. You strive to attain ideals of the highest order. You bring imagination to group goals. You dream of what is best for all people. Inspired, you could be quite creative—even inventive. One of your most creative times begins this week. Your artistic talents are sure to be noticed, so now is the time to write, dance and create.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a significant day you can use to your best advantage. A day that is not too lazy or too stressful, a time for accomplishing tasks or setting things up to work in your favor. Delays and inconveniences may try your patience from time to time; proof your work and confirm appointments. This afternoon, you will find an item that has been lost from a long time ago. Short trips or a planned vacation can be enjoyed soon. Acknowledging a person's dilemma will encourage frankness. This communication could lead to ideas of ways you or this person could earn an income. There are present energies that will work in favor of putting together a few plans for a small business partnership. Tonight is your turn to cook and you concentrate on dessert.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

If you need a loan, this is a good day to request one. This is a perfect time to be assertive and move forward in your career. You have all the energy you could want today and it should be easy to channel your energies in the right direction. The path you need to take is open and clear. Communicating and being understood are important to you and this day seems to be a high point for you as you learn new communication techniques and skills. Being clearly understood and respected for your ideas frequently are important issues in your life. Your timing should be perfect and you will remain focused but ever the type of caring person that can be flexible. People love to be around you and the young ones in your family bring much laughter tonight.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This may be a challenging day where you can use your skills and expertise to solve problems and feel successful. Any professional advice you might need is available. You may have to pay close attention to the negative feelings and talk them into a more positive place. Change is important and your adapting to whatever is changing is even more important at this time. Radical and inventive ideas hold the key to realizing your ambitions and advancing your status—a shakeup is in the works. This mood could carry into your living space—careful. Low-profile activities will help you adjust to any large changes just now. You and a friend draw close this afternoon. Sharing your thoughts and ideas helps you feel lighter.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are very much like a genius. Some of the things you think and say are obviously brilliant. You have such an outpouring of insights that having a conversation with you can be a real experience. Your mind works like lightning. Words and thoughts take form, illuminating whatever subject is at hand. You really do have very different ideas and you express yourself in creative ways. There may also be a sustained interest in communication, computers, electronics and all that is electrical. This is a good day to start a diet, or perhaps, a new and positive habit. All the energies are working in your favor for this to be a successful endeavor. One example of favorable outcome is your method of investing—which is working out successfully just now.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your public image has improved and you may find higher-ups are taking another look at your potential. The good life and all that is fine and luxurious are what you value. You could enjoy making your own way and finding solutions to whatever problems you have. Business decisions are straightforward and easy to make. You make your way through ideas, concepts and your ability to communicate and express yourself to others. Everything may be pouring in at once and it's all good news. Your career direction receives encouragement and life's difficult situations seem to flow past you with little frustration. A relationship with a difficult older person may become more positive now. Whistle a happy tune!



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This could be a challenging day but it is one that opens up opportunities for improvement and positive changes. You may find that you have to look into unusual places for answers to current projects. Some sort of temporary obstacle may appear. There is an opportunity to pull on some past project and revise, revamp and refresh the old into something new. This is a time to rebuild, improve and refine. New information about a physical complaint or hindrance is exciting and progressive. You want to know more and may be able to attend a lecture by the author or inventor to learn more. This may mean you know someone that can be helped by some forward-moving application. A friend will go with you if you ask. Tonight is a good time to socialize.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Outer circumstances tend to work in your favor this day. You may find that you are more organized than before—able to reach new levels of self-discipline. This is a smooth time during which events seem to arrange themselves favorably. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on greater importance. Everything seems to work together to bring out your unique qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands you and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions or inventions; you certainly have the mind for achievement. Coming to grips with the past or getting in touch with the mystical and the spiritual are some of the things that give a sense of completeness—a new understanding.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

This is a vital day with much energy and lots of action. You may feel focused and even a bit radiant. You could find yourself in the public eye with people gathered around you to find out the next project or answer to the present quandaries in the workplace. You are successful at getting your instructions over to others. All sorts of financial or business opportunities are opening up to you at this time. It is known that you are an understanding person and you handle difficult matters with compassion and patience. A fascination with some new idea or a person that pushes a new idea makes you want to expand your horizons and study new possibilities. Do not shrink back into the everyday concerns without making new plans.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You could find that you are appreciated for your ability to respond quickly when others need help. You may learn some new techniques that will teach others to help themselves. You will find that your time will not be your own if you agree too quickly each time someone needs your guidance or helping hand. Communications with others are positive and your friends and co-workers find you witty. Others appreciate your independence. This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may discover. You feel successful. It can be easy now to separate and get rid of that which does not advance your goals. The results are solid goals that support you.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Some trigger is ignited that creates in you a tease to purchase items that you think will enhance your life. Material things and the whole concept of value take on more importance today; fortunately you remember that you are saving for something special. When dealing and working with others, you are good at helping others spend money. The higher-ups in your department are happy you enjoy socializing with the patrons. The patrons sense your earnest intent to be helpful. Today is all about helping your customers to be happy. Someone may come up with a contest to see which clerk can sell the most. You have been hoping for just such an opportunity to show off your talents. This evening you enjoy the evening and notice a change in the air.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You have an uncanny ability to get beyond the status quo, always coming up with new ways of doing things. You can take the most mundane stuff and find a new angle. Unpredictable and spontaneous, you seldom lean on other people's experience, preferring to create as you go. All will agree that you are very original, unconventional and possess deep and accurate insights. Contacts you make this day could make a big difference in your professional future, so get out there and shake hands, looking people in the eye at every opportunity. This fall season may bring a variety of party invitations—networking when appropriate is important. Love and money mix together beautifully this evening.

Wordsearch Puzzle

USA States

Find and circle all of the USA States that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - an Adlai Stevenson quotation. Note: VIRGINIA and WEST VIRGINIA do not overlap. The same goes for KANSAS and ARKANSAS.

V I M N P H A W A I I D N A L S I E D O H R O
I W A O A E A M E S O U T H D A K O T A S R R
R Y I S I I N I A R K A N S A S C A N I L A E
G O N A G H N N Y A K S A R B E N A O O W A G
I M E S R B O D S T N O M R E V T N U E T O O
N I S N O C S I W Y M M A Y N I I S O T K N
I N A A E B E A A L I C A O L S T S U L O M
A G N K G A E N D L C V N M L I V E C A N P M
I R I E M S T A I H A I A I A I N I H D E E A
P N L Y T I V O I C L B N R N R T O D A W N R
P D O I E E S G K O A E A G I C M S E W H Y Y
I A R D N S A S R A W L I M E A E U L A A K L
S D A P A N R A O Y D I N I A P E O A S M C A
S I C K S R C E O U I H N F I E S A W H P U N
I R H I S H O R J A R O T D O T S N A I S T D
S O T S T A K L W C I A R J R E O R N H N U
S L R U S T L O O T E H O N D E N Z E G I E O
I F O F T U I A H C O N E R I N N I S T R K K
M S N M A S S A C H U S E T T S E R A O E S H
S A X E T N E W M E X I C O E T T A A N K E S

ALABAMA	INDIANA	NEBRASKA	SOUTH CAROLINA
ALASKA	IOWA	NEVADA	SOUTH DAKOTA
ARIZONA	KANSAS	NEW HAMPSHIRE	TENNESSEE
ARKANSAS	KENTUCKY	NEW JERSEY	TEXAS
CALIFORNIA	LOUISIANA	NEW MEXICO	UTAH
COLORADO	MAINE	NEW YORK	VERMONT
CONNECTICUT	MARYLAND	NORTH CAROLINA	VIRGINIA
DELAWARE	MASSACHUSETTS	NORTH DAKOTA	WASHINGTON
FLORIDA	MICHIGAN	OHIO	WEST VIRGINIA
GEORGIA	MINNESOTA	OKLAHOMA	WISCONSIN
HAWAII	MISSISSIPPI	OREGON	WYOMING
IDAHOO	MISSOURI	PENNSYLVANIA	
ILLINOIS	MONTANA	RHODE ISLAND	

Yesterday's Solution

USA State Capitals

ALBANY (New York) DOVER (Delaware) OKLAHOMA CITY (Oklahoma)

ANAPOLIS (Maryland) FRANKFORT (Kentucky) OLYMPIA (Washington)

ATLANTA (Georgia) HARRISBURG (Pennsylvania) PRINCETON (Arizona)

AUGUSTA (Maine) HARTFORD (Connecticut) PIKES (South Dakota)

AUSTIN (Texas) HELENA (Montana) PROVIDENCE (Rhode Island)

BATON ROUGE (Louisiana) HONOLULU (Hawaii) RALEIGH (North Carolina)

BISMARCK (North Dakota) INDIANAPOLIS (Indiana) RICHMOND (Virginia)

BOISE (Idaho) JACKSON (Mississippi) SACRAMENTO (California)

BOSTON (Massachusetts) JEFFERSON CITY (Missouri) SALT LAKE CITY (Utah)

CARSON CITY (Nevada) JUNEAU (Alaska) SANTA FE (New Mexico)

CHARLESTON (West Virginia) LANSING (Michigan) SPRINGFIELD (Illinois)

CHEYENNE (Wyoming) LINCOLN (Nebraska) ST. PAUL (Minnesota)

COLUMBIA (South Carolina) LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas) TALLAHASSEE (Florida)

COLUMBUS (Ohio) MADISON (Wisconsin) TOPEKA (Kansas)

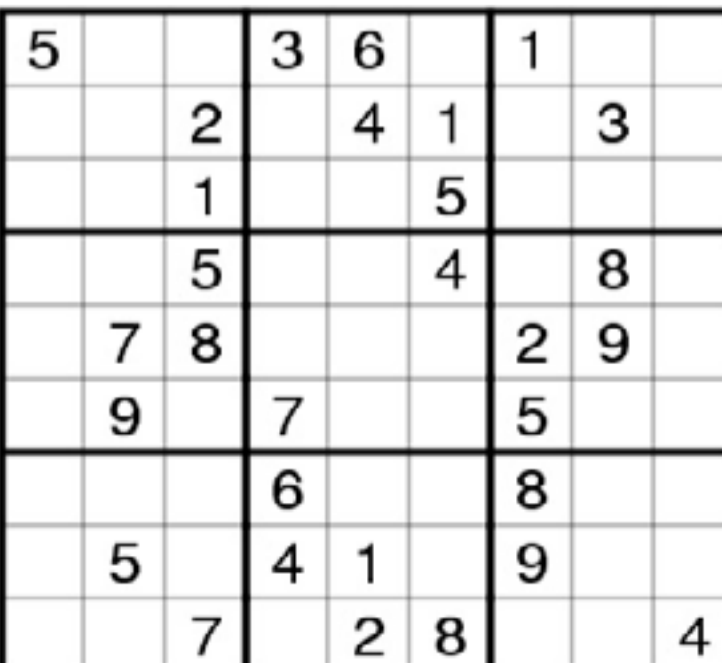
CONCORD (New Hampshire) MONTGOMERY (Alabama) TRENTON (New Jersey)

DENVER (Colorado) MONTPELIER (Vermont) DES MOINES (Iowa)

SAFVILLIE (Tennessee)

The hidden sentence is: A CITIZEN OF AMERICA WILL CROSS THE OCEAN TO FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY, BUT WON'T CROSS THE STREET TO VOTE IN A NATIONAL ELECTION.

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Find your perfect Croatian island



Croatia has 1246 islands, and while many of them are mere rocks jutting out of the Adriatic that still leaves dozens of excellent options to agonize over while you're planning your summer escape. Here are some tailored options, listed from north to south, to get you started.

Best for escaping the crowds: Cres

For an English speaker, the biggest stress about Cres is trying to master its name (it's pronounced 'tress'). The largest of the Croatian islands, Cres is a blissfully under-populated, steeply contoured, green expanse punctuated by pebble beaches and tiny walled settlements. Only Cres Town has over 100 inhabitants, but with a population of around 3000 it's hardly the big smoke. This Venetian harbour town is a good place to base yourself, but for even more peace and quiet, try historic Osor, the seaside village of Valun or the hilltop hamlets of Beli and Lubenice.



Blissful, undeveloped Vis, the furthest inhabited island

Best for active holidays: Brac
Croatia's third-biggest island is home to the nation's most famous beach, Zlatni Rat, a spit of white pebbles that tapers gracefully into the sea near the attractive holiday town of Bol. Not only does Bol have some excellent restaurants, hotels, campsites and a custom-built hostel, there's a smorgasbord of activities on offer including tennis, windsurfing, diving, parasailing, kayaking and mountain biking. Base yourself here for hikes to the island's highest peak, Vidova Gora (778m), and the isolated Blaca Hermitage. Supetar, Brac's biggest town, also offers diving, boating and beaches. It's worth hiring a car or, if you're hardy, a bike to explore the pretty harbour towns of Pucisca and Milna, and the villages of the rocky interior.

Best for secluded coves: Vis
Blissful, undeveloped Vis is the furthest inhabited island from the mainland. Its two ancient towns drape themselves seductively along the water's edge, while the mountainous interior is crisscrossed with hiking trails and dotted with taverns serving rustic meals. Of the many little beaches, some sandy and some pebbly, tucked into the crimped coastline, the most spectacular is Stiniva, set within a circle of cliffs with only a narrow opening to the sea.-www.lonelyplanet.com

Best all-rounder: Losinj

Joined to Cres by a short bridge over a Roman-built canal, Losinj offers a potpourri of attractions including museums, historic churches, pebble beaches, kayak and catamaran hire, cycling and walking tracks, diving and windsurfing. The main town, Mali Losinj, is large enough to support a range of resorts, hotels, restaurants and even a modicum of nightlife. Neighbouring Veli Losinj also has some



good places to eat and a Marine Education Centre dedicated to protecting the resident population of dolphins and sea turtles.

Best for young families: Rab

Much is made of Rab's sandy beaches, and they certainly look irresistible in photos. However, they're also extremely shallow - painfully so, if you're an adult after a decent swim, but heaven for toddlers. Paradise Beach in Lopar is the best of them, with gelato stands and pizzerias at hand to replenish little bellies after a productive day spent building sandcastles and splashing in the shallows. Older holidaymakers can hit the biking and hiking trails, dive to historic shipwrecks and soak up the beauty of Rab Town's venerable architecture.

Best for yachters: Kornati Islands

With no ferry services and a total population of around 20 people, the best way to experience the barren beauty of this cluster of 140 islands and islets is under sail. The 89 southernmost islands and their surrounding waters are afforded environmental protection as part of Kornati National Park. Accommodation is limited to only a handful of rental cottages but, despite this, there are a surprising number of restaurants catering to the passing boat traffic.

Lifestyle | Gossip

David Beckham earns more than £1 million a month

The former footballer - who hung up his boots from the beautiful game four years ago - is one of the world's highest-earning retired athletes thanks to his image rights company, Footwork Productions Ltd, which reportedly scores him a staggering £35,000 a day. According to The Sun newspaper, the 42-year-old star pocketed £12.7 million last year thanks to deals with the likes of H&M, Adidas and Haig Club whisky. In the past five years, the former England foot-

ball captain - who is estimated to be worth around £165 million - is said to have netted dividends of around £45 million. David and wife Victoria - who have children Brooklyn, 18, Romeo, 15, Cruz, 12, and six-year-old Harper - recently splashed out £6 million on a countryside mansion in Oxfordshire, south west England, and they are now spending thousands to build a rural retreat in the grounds. The show-biz power couple are forking out for a two-tiered outdoor

space which will include an orchard containing 23 different types of tree. David will also be able to try out a whole different ball game after he was granted planning permission for a 60ft croquet lawn, and the outdoor space will feature two vegetable patches and a natural swimming pool within a courtyard.



Nicole Scherzinger uses coconut oil as a deodorant

The 39-year-old singer has admitted she uses the cosmetic and cooking product for "everything", as she applies it under her arms, on her face and body, as well as on the ends of her brown locks. Speaking to New! magazine about her beauty essentials, the Pussycat Dolls band member said: "I use coconut oil as a deodorant as well as a face and body moisturizer, and on the ends of my hair, too. Basically, I use it for everything." And the "The X Factor" judge wants to release her own range of coconut oil that are fitted in "little accessible tubes" because she thinks it is a product "every girl" needs to have on them. She continued: "I think I should crate little accessible tubes as I think it should be in every girl's handbag." And the "Right There" hitmaker has revealed she also swears by MAC's Patent Polish lip product in the colour Patentpink, which doubles up as a blusher as well as a lipstick. Speaking about her make-up hacks, she said: "I adore this gooey version of a lipstick. It looks like a big pencil and it's great because you can put it on your lips and cheeks for as a dewy sun-kissed look."



Ricky Martin and his fiancée deliver humanitarian aid to Puerto Rico



The 45-year-old singer and Jwan Yosef arrived on the Caribbean island on Monday with supplies for residents after Hurricane Maria devastated the land mass, leaving its 3.4 million islanders without power and thousands homeless. Jwan posted a selfie of the pair in front of the plane and added the caption: "We flew this @fedex cargo plane with aid to the western part of Puerto Rico THANK U @fedex for joining us in this alliance #hurricanemaria #puertorico (sic)" Just last week, Ricky, who was born in the country's capital city San Juan, flew to the

island with fellow performers Luis Fonsi, Nicky Jam, and Chayanne. Luis posted a picture of the quartet in the jet on his Instagram account and wrote: "United more than ever for Puerto Rico (sic)" Ricky has raised nearly \$3 million for the relief effort in Puerto Rico, where residents are in need of food, fuel and water. The official death toll from the natural disaster stands at 36, but it is expected to rise.

Chris Hemsworth feels lucky because of his wife Elsa Pataky

The 34-year-old actor is thankful his spouse - with whom he has five-year-old daughter India, and three-year-old twin sons Sasha and Tristan - has stuck by him while he focused on his career and he couldn't ask for a better partner. He gushed: "We got together, we fell in love, and then my career happened and it was all consuming." "Thank God that she stuck through that period where I was focused on just that, you know? "I think once I felt like, 'Oh OK, I might work again and get another job', I started to relax a bit and saw what's more important about life is my wife and kids, and my wife in particular who "sacrificed everything to kind of let me chase this crazy dream. "It was great to have that realization, she's the best, she gave up all of that and is with the kids every day and is the greatest mother in the world. And I'm the luckiest guy in the world." While Elsa's own career has taken a back seat to the "Thor: Ragnarok" star's, she has recently filmed war drama 'Horse Soldiers' with her husband and the couple treated the shoot as a "little holiday" because they rarely get time away from their kids. Chris told 'Entertainment Tonight': "It felt like a little holiday, you know? Because the kids stayed in L.A. and Elsa and I got to go to Albuquerque, [New Mexico] for a week and kind of work together and hang out. You have kids and that's everything." "That period for us was a great opportunity to just kind of hang out and work together. We didn't have to do much rehearsing as far as playing husband and wife."



Rachel Bilson's home ransacked by burglars

The 36-year-old actress has had between \$40,000 and \$50,000 worth of shoes, handbags and jewelry snatched from her property in Los Angeles after cunning thieves managed to break into mansion around lunchtime on Friday. The former "The OC" star reportedly left her home at around 10am and returned four hours later to find her place turned upside down and some possessions missing. Police have told TMZ that there's a possibility the criminals entered her home through a sliding glass door, which may have been left unlocked, when Rachel was out. However, Rachel isn't the first celebrity to fall

victim to burglary as she joins a long list of stars, including Alanis Morissette, Michael B. Jordan, Kendall Jenner, Jason Derulo and Scott Disick, to have had their houses broken into in the plush area this year. A source said at the time: "She's full-time back in L.A. He's in Toronto. They've been on the outs for a couple of months. They are completely, officially done." The news came as a shock to fans as Rachel - who already has two-year-old daughter Briar Rose with Hayden - recently revealed she is considering adding to her brood.



Gigi Hadid praises younger sister Bella as an inspiration

The 22-year-old model took to Instagram on Monday to celebrate her sister and fellow model hitting the milestone age of 21, and in a sweet tribute, she claimed she is "so so proud" of her "forever cool" sister. Posting a throwback picture of a young Gigi feeding Bella her bottle, she wrote: "HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY MY ANGELIC SISTER @BELLAHADID !!! There are no words for how much I love you. You know I've been trying to protect u from the world since day one, and 21 years later u comfort and inspire me more than you'll ever know. You have always marched to your own drum, and you make me so so proud. You are loving, kind, driven, perseverant, and forever cool af. You have a

power to empathize with everyone & love always, and you make so many people happy in doing so! So excited to celebrate tonight - Cheers to YOU Bella Kai I LOVE U MY LIL SISSYPOP (sic)" The post comes after the blonde beauty - who is in a relationship with Zayn Malik - took to the photo sharing website the day previous to remind her followers that her "forever bestie" would be turning 21 soon. She wrote: "TOMORROW WILL BE 21 YEARS SINCE I MET MY FOREVER BESTIE @bellahadid (me wearing all red on your actual day of birth is MAJOR and possibly the reason it's your favorite color) (sic)"



Daisy Lowe is reportedly dating artist John Leigh

The 28-year-old model is believed to have struck up a relationship with the creative soul over the summer after meeting through mutual friends, and sources say she has already introduced him to her mother Pearl Lowe and step-dad Danny Goffey. A source told The Sun newspaper: "It has been a while since Daisy had a serious boyfriend and she has grown really close to John. "They have been secretly dating for months and really enjoy each other's company. "He really has no interest in being famous or anything, and although he has fallen for Daisy, he doesn't want his relationship to affect his work. "She has proved a real source of inspiration though and he has been taking lots of photos of her since they got together." According to the publication, John - who works under the name of

Karborn - is 32, and describes himself as "a prototype artist, film-maker and designer working with traditional and new, often entirely self-invented and experimental processes." Last year, Daisy split from her then-boyfriend Frankie Wade, after she claimed she was too busy with her training for celebrity dance competition 'Strictly Come Dancing', but now that her schedule has cleared, it seems she's back on the dating scene once again. She said at the time: At the beginning, which is supposed to be the most joyful honeymoon period, I had nothing to give him. We could have coped with the pressure if we had been together for ages and had known all of the ins and outs of each other.



Shock Iraq torture photos raise ethical dilemmas



A photo by the Bayeux-Calvados Awards for war correspondents, and taken by Iraqi photographer Ali Arkady, from the VII Photo agency, as part of his cover of the Mosul battle entitled 'Kissing Death.'

They are like the infamous images from Abu Ghraib prison, only worse. Iraqi civilians in Mosul facing rape, torture and murder from members of their own army who had retaken the city from the Islamic State. "They are the most sinister, upsetting pictures I have seen in my entire life," the veteran BBC war correspondent Jeremy Bowen said of the images taken by Kurdish photographer Ali Arkady. This weekend the brutal series of pictures called "Kissing Death" Arkady took last year while embedded with members of an Iraqi special forces unit, won France's top prize for war correspondents.

The photographs were not just "really strong" said Bowen, who chaired the Bayeux-Calvados jury, "they were evil". But it wasn't only their content that disturbed the jury. Arkady, 34, admitted to being pressured into hitting two suspects during a torture session to save his own skin, actions of which he said he was "not proud". But other war photographers asked whether a line had been crossed? While Bowen insisted that "the service he did by taking those pictures is more powerful than the fact he made some mistakes", others were not so sure.

Another member of the jury, who asked not be named, told AFP that he was disturbed by the ethical issues the "shocking" pictures raised. "The story is not clear. A lot of people think he has been very brave in telling this story... but I think we are not sending the right message in rewarding this type of work," he added.

He admitted his mistakes

Arkady was forced to flee Iraq with his family earlier this year, bringing with him images and films which he said proved war crimes were committed by the Emergency Response Division (ERD) which he had followed for two months. Arkady said he kept working with the unit after the torture began partly from guilt because he had painted the soldiers as heroes in an earlier

report for the US television network, ABC.

"What began for Ali as a positive story about Shia and Sunni Iraqi soldiers fighting on the same side against a mutual enemy, turned into a horrific journey that included torture, rape, killing and the stealing of innocent Iraqi civilians by the ERD," said the US-based photo agency, VII, who helped get him out of Iraq. "I'd seen two heroes (the unit's commanders) do something bad," Arkady said. "They started torturing people, raping women. Everything changed in my mind. I was confused. I decided to investigate more."

Bowen, who has spent decades reporting from the Middle East, said the fact that Arkady had exposed abuses that would otherwise have gone unreported was the overriding factor. "I think it is very important he admitted the mistakes he made. In moral terms, he is not a torturer," he said. Award-winning British war photographer Sean Smith of The Guardian, who was not on the jury, said he "would not condemn" Arkady either. For him, however, "the system which put him in that position—where often inexperienced locally hired freelance 'stringers' provide the coverage" from dangerous war zones, is the real problem.

Whole system compromised

"The whole thing has got so compromised because major news organizations are sending fewer and fewer experienced people," he said. "There is no one there. Virtually all the coverage is coming from stringers and social media," he said. Stringers often go "from not covering any-

thing to covering extreme stuff. They just feed the machine" of photo agencies that want to show "they are still in the business even if they don't cover most things anymore."

"And then when something goes wrong, the guy becomes a scapegoat and everyone becomes very self-righteous." VII co-founder Gary Knight said that the agency did not know what Arkady had uncovered while he was working on the story. "We did not pressure Ali to publish the images,

“Most sinister, upsetting pictures I have seen in my entire life”

the opposite is true," said Knight. "We suggested that he think long and hard... because we knew that he would have to leave the country for his own security — possibly forever—if he did," he added.

Knight said he and the agency's other acclaimed war

photographers Christopher Morris and Ron Haviv had mentored "Ali for years to offer him support and advice". Smith said although Arkady should not have taken part in torture, photographers were sometimes put in desperate positions. "If you go with people like that you can't say, 'I don't agree with what you are doing.' You blend in and disappear, you may even end up getting drunk with them." For there is always "a very real danger you can end up dumped by the side of a road with a bullet in your head", he said.—AFP



Iraqi photographer Ali Arkady receives the Photo Prize award during the closing ceremony of the 2017 Bayeux-Calvados Awards for war correspondents in Bayeux, northwestern France. — AFP photos

New Fifty Shades novel from Christian's point of view

Once again, E L James is letting Christian Grey speak for himself. Vintage Books announced yesterday that the next "Fifty Shades" novel, "Darker: Fifty Shades Darker as Told by Christian" will come out Nov 28. "Grey," published in 2015, also was told from Christian's point of view. James said in

a statement that the new book would give readers a "darker and more haunted" take on Christian. James' original "Fifty Shades" trilogy, the sexually graphic saga of Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele, has sold millions of copies. — AP



In this file photo, author E L James arrives at the amfAR Inspiration Gala in Los Angeles. — AP

Original Bananarama line-up announces first US tour

It took a kitchen sing-song to get '80s British pop group Bananarama back together and out on the road after 30 years. The girl group's original members - Sarah Dallin, Keren Woodward and Siobhan Fahey - say they are touring the US for the first time in February. Fahey left the band in 1988 to form Shakespears Sister, and Dallin and Woodward have been performing as a duo in recent years. They were joined briefly by Jacquie O'Sullivan, who took part in a 1989 world tour but left in 1991.

"We were having a dance around Siobhan's kitchen a few years ago," Woodward told The Associated Press in an interview. "And I said to her, 'you just don't understand the love and how it feels when you are getting your songs sung' and I

just thought it was such a shame she had never experienced it with us and it just seemed like such a crying shame really."

Fahey, who now lives in Los Angeles, said she was excited to perform the band's songs live. "I am re-familiarizing myself with our body of work over the summer," she said. "I was so proud, it is really something to celebrate." Rehearsals began this week and tickets go on sale Friday. Some British tour dates have already sold out. "It has been a constant love wave actually this time around. Times have changed and people seem to appreciate us a lot more this time," says Fahey.

Bananarama's stateside success began with "Cruel Summer" of 1983, which became a hit after the track was picked to appear on the

soundtrack for "Karate Kid." The group said it realized how big the song had become when Mike Tyson once sang the lyrics to them as they walked past him in his limo. Further hits included "Venus," "I Heard A Rumor" and "Robert DeNiro's Waiting," which led to a London meeting with the Oscar-winning actor.

The group was once named by the Guinness World Records as the most successful girl group of all time. The group's North American tour begins in Los Angeles on 20 February, taking in San Francisco, New York and Toronto, Canada.—AP



In this photo, members of 'Bananarama' from left, Siobhan Fahey, Sara Dallin, and Keren Woodward, pose for a portrait in London to promote their new tour. — AP

Great pumpkins! Grower wins trifecta of giant food titles



In this photo provided by Susan Jutras, Joe Jutras stands with his world record breaking, 2,118-pound squash, following a weigh-in at Frerichs Farm in Warren, Rhode Island. — AP

A Rhode Island grower is first in the world to achieve a trifecta in the hobby of growing gargantuan foods: world records for heaviest pumpkin, longest long gourd and now, heaviest squash. After previously breaking two records, Joe Jutras got his third during the weekend when he smashed the giant squash record with one that weighed more than a ton. His green squash tipped the scales at 2,118 pounds during a weigh-in at Frerichs Farm in Warren on Saturday.

His other titles came in 2006, when he broke the record for longest gourd, with a 126.5-inch gourd, and in 2007, when he broke the record for largest pumpkin, with a fruit that weighed in at 1,689 pounds. Both previous records have since been surpassed, but Jutras is the only grower so far to break world records in the three most competitive categories. "It feels great," Jutras said Monday. "It's really been a goal of mine to try to achieve this."

Jutras has been working on the trifecta for a decade, since his pumpkin win. He was close to the goal a few years ago, but then a squash on track to break the record split. Now 62, Jutras recently retired from his work as a high-end cabinet maker to devote more time to his

hobby. Jutras noted that others had won multiple world records for fruits and vegetables before, but in categories such as carrots that are not as competitive.

He credits a new soil cultivation technique and a seed from last year's world record breaker for this year's win. Ron Wallace, a multi-time pumpkin record breaker, called Jutras' feat "unbelievable." He said Jutras' accomplishment showed the best of the hobby. "It's about people competing and pushing the boundaries," he said. Jutras said his fruit is headed to New York City, where it will be on display this month at the New York Botanical Garden.

In February, he'll receive a coveted "green jacket" honor for his squash record at the annual convention in Oregon of the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth, considered the NFL of giant fruit and vegetable growing. Asked what he plans to do next after achieving the trifecta, he said he's been thinking about the bushel gourd. "I think the record now is about 279 pounds," Jutras said. "That might be something I might want to get into a bit." —AP

Lifestyle | Features

Asterix returns in chariot race series through Italy

Asterix is to ride again in the 37th book in the legendary comic series, its publishers said Monday. "Asterix and the Chariot Race" will hit the bookshelves on October 19 recounting the adventures of the shrewd Gallic hero and his rotund sidekick Obelix during a mad dash down the length of the Italian peninsula, it takes place in 50 BC with Julius Caesar trying to prove "that all of Italy is in thrall to Rome" even though "many regions are determined to maintain their independence."

To burnish Roman glory and showcase the "dazzling excellence of Roman roads" Caesar invites teams from all over the known world to compete in the race. There is only one catch—"the Roman competitor must absolutely cross the finishing first," the publishers said. Caesar's charioteer and the latest Asterix baddie is a masked villain called Coronavirus, named after the SARS virus which caused a worldwide health alert in 2002.

Writers Jean-Yves Ferri and Didier Conrad, who have penned the last three Asterix stories, said this time they wanted Obelix to take the limelight. "It's very much Obelix driving the chariot and the story," said Conrad as the book's publication date was announced in Paris. Although details of the story are still under wraps, it features Bretons, Picts (Scots), Goths and Phoenicians as well as the two Gauls.

Five million copies of "Asterix and the Chariot Race" have been printed for the first edition, with two million alone to go on sale in France. Albert Uderzo, now 90, who created the characters in 1959 with Rene Goscinny, told reporters in a video message that the "story really touched me because as well as cartoons I love cars." More than 370 million Asterix books have been sold since Goscinny and Uderzo first brought him to life in the Franco-Belgium comic Pilote.—AFP



French cartoonist Didier Conrad, left, and French writer and designer Jean-Yves Ferri pose with effigies of comic book characters Asterix and Obelix during a press conference for the release of the comic's new album 'Asterix et la transitalique' in Paris. — AFP

Rock loner Daniel Johnston closes out with friends

With his painfully raw lyrical delivery and battles with mental illness, Daniel Johnston is one of rock's ultimate loners. But for what may be his last concerts, he has found plenty of friends to celebrate his legacy. In between stints in psychiatric care for severe manic depression, Johnston has given a new meaning to lo-fi with decade's worth of homemade recordings in which he pours out stories of personal pain and unrequited love set to classic, Beatles-inspired pop.

The 56-year-old, who lives with care of his family in the small town of Waller in eastern Texas, has embarked on a tour that Dick Johnston, his brother and manager, describes as Daniel's last. The songwriter, who composes on piano and has traditionally performed on guitar, has put aside instruments for the tour and sings with bands that have taken inspiration from him and picked out setslists from Johnston's 121-song repertoire.

Johnston closes the tour next month in Seattle and Vancouver with members of Built to Spill, the guitar-swirling alternative rockers, and earlier in Washington performed with artists from Fugazi, who helped define the late hardcore US punk scene. In New York on Saturday night, Johnston was backed up by members of two art pop bands, Beirut and Cibo Matto, who brought a new texture to his songs with string interludes and thunderous drums.

Johnston—a world away from Waller, Texas at a theater in bustling Times Square—took the stage to a standing ovation after a screening of "The Devil and Daniel Johnston," the award-winning 2005 documentary on his troubled but prodigiously creative life.



This file photo shows US artist Daniel Johnston performing in Bourges, during the 34th edition of Le Printemps De Bourges rock pop festival. — AFP

Nervous and rawly earnest

His typical unruly mop of hair now gray and cropped short, Johnston clenched the microphone with both hands and his arms shook incessantly out of apparent nervousness. He belted out 14 songs in a little under 45 minutes, his voice as ever clear and robust in the high ranges, but with little traditional sense of keeping in-tune.

Staring down at notes on his stand, Johnston offered only cursory greetings and did not make even a moment of eye contact with the audience—who nonetheless applauded enthusiastically and quickly recognized his tunes, including the muffled snippet of home-cassette noise that presages the organ on his early song "Walking the Cow." The back-up band helped the solitary songwriter build the moods around his music—"Speeding Motorcycle" took on an apt rock feel, while "Like a Monkey in the Zoo" brought in a touch of the blues.

High-profile guests are not new for Johnston, whose songs have been covered by an array of artists such as Pearl Jam, Tom Waits and Beck. His career enjoyed a major boost when the late Kurt Cobain appeared on MTV in one of Johnston's T-shirts, leading to a surge of interest in the outsider artist who at the height of Nirvana's fame was institutionalized. Before the announced retirement from touring, Johnston had appeared to be in improving health and in the 2000s traveled to play in Europe and Japan.

A prolific sketcher, he has also found growing interest in his paintings with the latest exhibition taking place this month in Tokyo. Johnston's supposedly final New York performance was significantly less eventful than his first major trip to the metropolis in 1988. Invited to record with alternative rockers Sonic Youth, Johnston punched the band's drummer Steve Shelley and was forced into a hospital-only to escape and show up as an opening act at famed underground club CBGB.—AFP

New Star Wars trailer: A hint at Leia's fate?

Lucasfilm debuted its highly anticipated second trailer for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" on Monday, hinting at dark times ahead for the Resistance and possibly even the end of Leia. The footage from the eighth installment in the blockbuster space opera, due for release on December 15, dropped during ESPN's Monday Night Football halftime show. The 154-second clip follows a trailer released in April which teased Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) teaching Rey the ways of the Force.

This time around more plot was unveiled, with Luke telling Rey (Daisy Ridley) he'd only seen power like hers once before—and while it didn't scare him enough then, it does now. Fans speculated on social media that he could be talking about his nephew and Rey's nemesis Kylo Ren, who is seen in a TIE fighter with his mother General Leia Organa in his sights, his eyes welling up as he prepares to open fire. Carrie Fisher—who has played the character since she was known simply as Princess Leia in the original 1977-83 trilogy—died in December, having already wrapped her scenes for "The Last Jedi."

Lucasfilm chief Kathleen Kennedy has said Fisher will not appear in the as-yet untitled ninth episode, due for release in 2019 — leading some observers to conclude that the new trailer was showing her final moments. Elsewhere Poe Dameron and Finn are shown battling the evil First Order and then there is a glimpse of Rey, apparently a prisoner of Supreme Leader Snoke, asking Kylo to "show me my place in all this" as-shock, horror—he offers her his hand.

The marketing around the film has been controversial, with director Rian Johnson ("Looper," "Brick") recently warning fans via Twitter that those wanting to go into the theater "clean" should "absolutely avoid" watching the new clip. He appeared to have softened his stance by the time the footage dropped, however, tweeting: "FORGET EVERYTHING I SAID AND WATCH IT WATCH IT."

Blown away

It had almost half a million views and more than 21,000 comments on YouTube within two hours of being posted, with #TheLastJedi quickly becoming the top trending hashtag worldwide on Twitter. The reaction among critics was

effusive, with Ryan Parker, a film writer for the The Hollywood Reporter, enthusing that he was "blown away." "I don't think I have ever been so hyped for a 'Star Wars' film than I am right now. It was the perfect mix of everything I was hoping it would be," he said.

"We got more Luke, but not too much, some looks at Leia that really hurt my heart and some more insight into where this all is going." For Rolling Stone's Sean Collins, the "hints at a heel turn from Rey with those grim fourth-wall-breaking shots of Carrie Fisher's warrior princess on the verge of death, at the hands of her own son no less" pre-announced a movie strong in the dark side of the Force. "The Last Jedi"—filmed on the west coast of Ireland and at Pinewood Studios near London—sees the return of the characters introduced in 2015's seventh installment.

Introducing the cast at a fan event earlier this year Johnson unveiled a new star, Kelly Marie Tran, who plays Rose, a maintenance worker who is part of the Resistance. The actress revealed that she had told her family she was doing "an indie movie in Canada"—such has been the secrecy surrounding the film. Hamill tweeted on Monday that he was racing home to watch the trailer but told fans he was "not sure if I'll make the Kessel Run in 12 parsecs!!!"—a reference to a famous line from the original "Star Wars."—AFP

Joon Moon, finding a vintage soul in rock

Composing songs initially just for voice and piano, the veteran musicians behind Joon Moon quickly knew they could create a richer sound—something more vintage from the earlier days of rock and soul. The French-American trio, whose members hail from different musical backgrounds, has pulled together their influences in an album that is at once open in approach, tight in production and smoky in texture.



While crafted as pop songs, Joon Moon's debut album, "Moonshine Corner," takes an unusual instrumental approach with songs that are guided by double-bass, feature no keyboards manufactured after the 1970s, and bring in occasional Latin percussion and Middle Eastern lutes. Songwriter Julien

Decoret—who has performed in classical orchestras, produced house music and played string bass in globe-trotting French bossa nova cover band Nouvelle Vague—said Joon Moon became a laboratory for studio experimentation.

"It isn't just a detail, it was like a dogma we had—steering our influences and merging them together in a way that felt personal," Decoret told AFP before a recent show in New York to launch "Moonshine Corner." "People all have automatic reflexes. But for this, we just tried to respond to whatever pleased us," he said.

Joon Moon—the name, which could be mistaken for Korean, comes from a typographical error in original moniker "June Moon" which the band decided to keep—brings Decoret together with his sometime collaborator Raphael Chassin, best known as the drummer for French pop star Vanessa Paradis. Chassin built rhythms around Decoret's compositions on piano, an experience he found exciting after working in more electronic-driven music. "This was completely the reverse. There were songs and we figured out how to dress them up," he said.

Getting right 'I Might Be Wrong'

Defining the sound of Joon Moon is singer Krystle Warren, whose deep, rich voice brings to the songs a soulful, lounge feel. The Kansas City native, who has notably sung with the neo-disco duo Hercules and Love Affair, grew up both with African American church music and loving The Beatles. To the surprise of Chassin and Decoret, she also had a love of French pop which she would find on import. She voiced regret that music nowadays is more global.

"I quite like that golden period where this was the song in this territory and this was the song in that territory, so we all had our own experiences with the same artist," she said. The most striking musical interpretation on the album is a cover of Radiohead's "I Might Be Wrong" which keeps the dreaminess of the original but with a sharply different approach. While "I Might Be Wrong" was one of the most guitar-driven tracks on the British experimental rockers' 2001 album "Amnesiac," Joon Moon recreates the song on piano, turning down the tempo for a jazz feel.

Another difference: The cover is in French. Decoret wanted to record the entire album in English but blessed the idea by Warren, who speaks little French herself but rewrote the lyrics with the help of her wife, a French teacher. Decoret felt that the song, much like Joon Moon, was about musical open-mindedness. "I think the version of Radiohead is on the North Pole and we are on the South Pole," he said.—AFP

UK actress felt 'violated' after Weinstein encounter

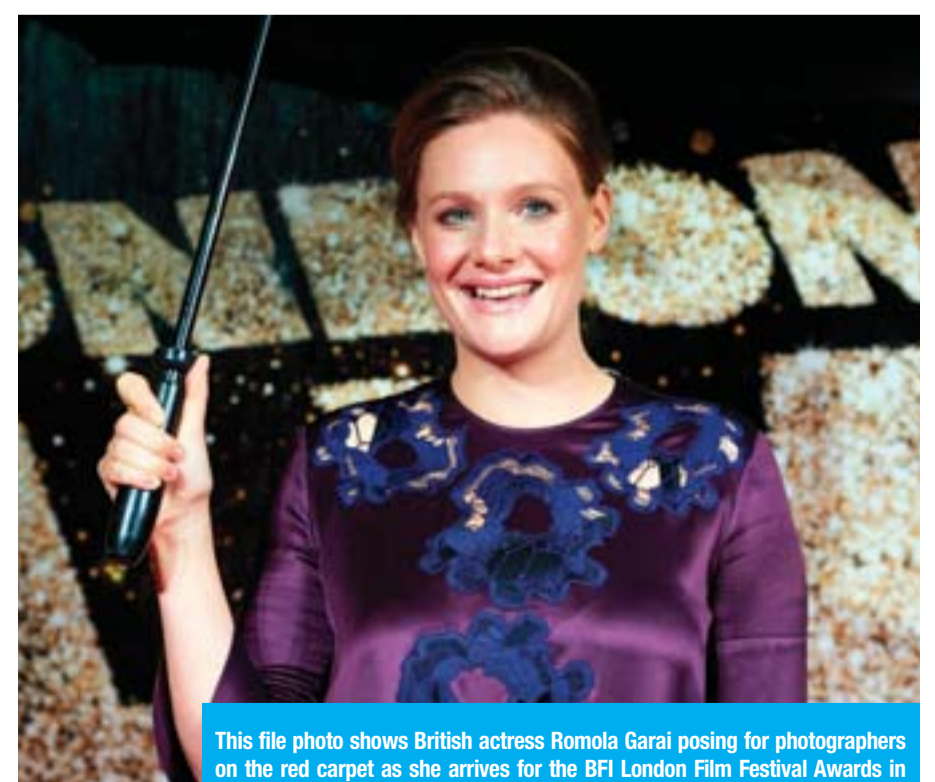
British actress Romola Garai said she felt "violated" following a meeting with Harvey Weinstein in his London hotel room when she was 18 in which he was in a bathrobe, the Guardian newspaper reported yesterday. Garai, best known for her role in "Atonement", said she had already been hired for a part but was told to audition privately with the Hollywood mogul because "you had to be personally approved by him." "Like every other woman in the industry, I've had an 'audition' with Harvey Weinstein," she told the paper.

"So I had to go to his hotel room in the Savoy and he answered the door in his bathrobe. I was only 18. I felt violated by it," the 35-year-old actress added. Garai said that once she was in the room the two had a brief discussion about film but she felt "belittled" by his "abuse of power." "The point was that he could get a young woman to do that, that I didn't have a choice, that it was humiliating for me and that he had the power."

She said she had not previously raised the incident because film business insiders

would be "shocked I even thought it was an issue." Weinstein was fired on Sunday from his own film studio, three days after a bombshell New York Times report alleged that the Oscar-winning executive producer behind such hits as "The King's Speech" and "The Artist" had preyed on young women hoping to break into the industry.

Weinstein's accusers—who reportedly include celebrities such as Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd—say the 65-year-old tycoon had promised to help advance their careers in exchange for sexual favours, pressuring them to massage him and watch him naked. Weinstein has expressed regret for his behaviour towards women, saying: "I own my mistakes." Movie legends Meryl Streep and Judi Dench led a chorus of outrage including from actors Seth Rogan, Lena Dunham and Patricia Arquette, director James Gunn and fellow producer Judd Apatow.—AFP



This file photo shows British actress Romola Garai posing for photographers on the red carpet as she arrives for the BFI London Film Festival Awards in central London. — AFP

Myanmar climbers take latest yoga trend to new heights

First there was beer and paddleboard yoga. Then someone added goats to the mix. Now fitness buffs in Myanmar are taking the latest body-bending trend to whole new heights—pulling off yoga poses on a climbing wall. Khin Myat Thu Zar zips up to the top of a wall at a newly opened climbing centre in Yangon with ease. But her climb isn't finished yet. With the support of a rope partner she flips upside down, her feet gripping two climbing wall holds in an inverted split that would make the couch potatoes of the world wince at just the thought.

"Much more strength is needed to do this kind of yoga and the mind has to be entirely stable," she told AFP after a climb intermixed with an array of elaborate poses. "You need to be courageous," she added. The 32-year-old former lawyer has been teaching yoga in Myanmar professionally for the last five years. She started climbing six months ago as a way to strengthen her muscles and decided to marry the two hobbies together.

"The feeling on the wall is very different from (yoga) on the ground," she beamed, while admitting climbing yoga was not for the faint hearted and carried some risks. "If we do something wrong, it can hurt and it is dangerous." Most of her students hail from Myanmar's rapidly growing middle classes, who have been devouring global trends since the once isolated country abandoned outright military rule six years ago.

Lifestyle options that many in the west might have taken

for granted—from fast fast food joints and hipster cafes to nightclubs—are still seen as novel in Myanmar. Now yoga studios, climbing walls and tight-fitting gym clothes, trends almost unheard of under cloistered military rule, are breaking through. "Things are changing," Khin Myat Thu Zar said, when asked whether the skin-tight gear turned heads in a country that remains deeply conservative and where women are not encouraged to show flesh.

"Sportswear fashion is a new trend now in Myanmar," she explained. At \$12 for an hour long session, her climbing yoga classes are inevitably only affordable for the wealthy in a country where the average annual salary is just \$1,250. But there is no shortage of willing participants. At a recent session, some half a dozen women and two men warmed up before trying their hand at various yoga positions on the wall.

Myint Myat Sandy, a 25-year-old student, said she wanted to use climbing to boost her fitness and improve her yoga skills on the ground. "The way we do climbing yoga, it builds up strength in your hands," she said. Sandar Win, a bodybuilder in her 40s, says it is inner peace she is after. She explained: "I love the feeling I get at the end of a yoga session. My mind is totally at peace." — AFP

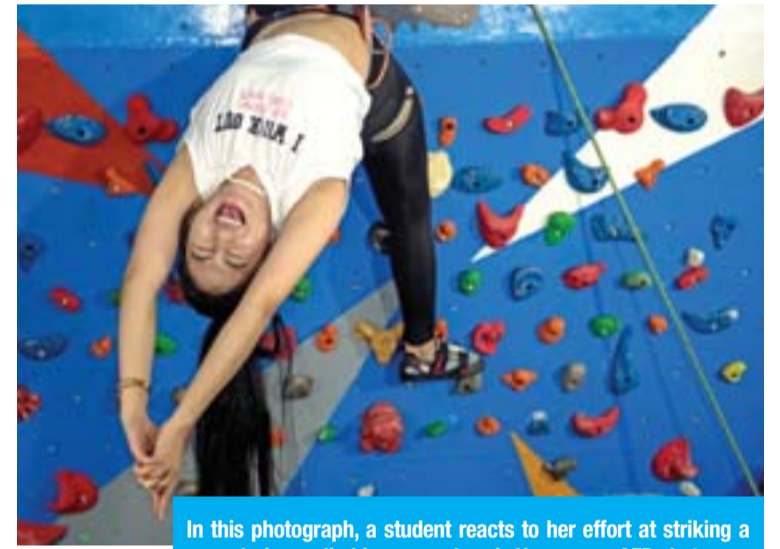
“Feeling on the wall is different from yoga on the ground”



In this photograph, Khin Myat Thu Zar, gives directions to a student trying to perform a yoga pose on a climbing wall.



In this photograph, Khin Myat Thu Zar, center, performs a yoga pose on a climbing wall during a class



In this photograph, a student reacts to her effort at striking a pose during a climbing yoga class in Yangon. — AFP photos

Ivory Coast's museum gets new lease of life

It has been buffeted by the pendulum swing of domestic politics and suffered looting that left it without some of its most precious items. But Ivory Coast's Museum of Civilizations is now back, and determined to recover its place as one of the richest museums of African art in the world—a place of "incomparable wealth," as Senegal's late post-president Leopold Sedar Senghor said in a 1971 visit. Looted four decades later during a political and military showdown, the museum shut its doors for a two-year refurbishment, reopening in July with redecorated rooms, modern lighting and a new conference centre, restaurant and garden.

The first exhibition since the renovation is rightfully called "Renaissance." It places the spotlight on a selection of a hundred of the museum's finest pieces, from the Paleolithic era to contemporary art. "We can consider ourselves lucky to have such a beautiful collection," museum director Sylvie Memel Kassi said. "It's an asset—a collection of 15,000 pieces from across every region."

But she still mourns the pillage that occurred in 2011, during a post-electoral time of anarchy in the Ivorian economic capital, Abidjan, that claimed some 3,000 lives. "That really left us with a bitter taste in the mouth," she said. "The items that were looted were major works: sacred pieces, objects made of wax... Our estimate is that almost four billion CFA francs (six million euros) were lost, Memel Kassi said.

Phantom collection

In the coming months, the museum plans to put on a "ghost collection" exhibition to keep the memory of the vanished pieces alive and to promote recognition of illicit trafficking in historical objects, which circulate in a market financed by many private collectors who are often not overly troubled by origins. Founded in 1942 when France was the colonial power in much of west Africa, the museum is itself a work of art with 20 columns finely sculpted in wood.

The renovated premises give special place to contemporary artists with a hall set aside for people like Ivorian sculptor Jems Koko Bi, while the garden displays recent work. "We deliberately speak of the museum of civilizations," the director said. "We wanted to show that the artists whose

creations are today regarded as 'ancient works' are the very same as Africans producing contemporary work.

"We're living through a renaissance even at national level with cultural and artistic development... We have the ancient aspect in the museum collections and the contemporary work in the creations of young sculptors." The museum is also planning an exhibition to highlight ties between Picasso and Ivorian sculpture on the heels of a "Primitive Picasso" show at the Quai Branly, the Paris museum dedicated to the indigenous art and cultures of Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas, which opened in 2006.

More than 10,000 people have visited the museum in Abidjan since it reopened, but the curator hopes to raise this figure tenfold over the course of the year, since tourists are returning to the country. Engaging students and schoolchildren in the collection is also a priority. "The museum is also the memory of a people," Memel Kassi observed. "It's important to see it discovered by the Ivorians." —AFP



Busan film festival ready for action despite turmoil

Organizers of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) say they are confident they can cast off the politics that has overshadowed the influential event as its 22nd edition kicks off on Thursday. The annual festival, which has long championed independent Asian cinema, is determined to "preserve its identity" despite being embroiled in high drama of its own for the past three years, said founder Kim Dong-Ho. Kim, 80, was brought back to help run BIFF in 2015 after previous festival boss Lee Yong-kwan was charged with fraud and removed from his post.

That scandal came after the festival decided in 2014 to stick with the screening of a contentious documentary despite pressure from Busan Mayor Suh Byung-soo to withdraw it from the program. The film in question, "Diving Bell: The Truth Shall Not Sink With Sewol", was critical of the South Korean government's handling of the Sewol ferry disaster that year which claimed around 300 lives. Government funding cuts followed and then boycotts by leading Korean cinema groups such as the Directors' Guild of Korea, which pointed a finger at political meddling.

"Although this year's festival is still facing unsolved problems, we are determined to encourage up-and-coming Asian directors, support new Asian films and further our role in the film industry," said Kim. Industry insiders had questioned whether BIFF could repair the damage to its reputation—a point raised by festival staff earlier this year when they demanded Kim and festival director Kang Soo-yeon resign over lack of action on the various troubles. The pair have since acquiesced to those demands and will hand over the reins at the end of this year's edition of the festival, which runs from October 12 to 21.

Young talent

Amid the turmoil, BIFF's programmers have still managed to line up around 300 films and 100 world premieres for this year's festival, which will open against a backdrop of unprecedented growth across Asian film markets. While Hollywood has suffered a summer that saw box office receipts drop by some 16 percent, a series of domestic hits has driven the Chinese market up by 10 percent, while South Korea is on target for a record 2017.

BIFF has this year attracted international guests including two-time Oscar-winning filmmaker Oliver Stone, who will head the jury for the festival's main New Currents award for first- or second-time Asian directors. Fellow Hollywood A-lister Darren Aronofsky will also make an appearance as he tours the festival circuit with his horror "Mother!" and Hong Kong action maestro John Woo will bring his latest thriller "Manhunt" to the Korean port city.

Other notables flying in from across the region include Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda and China's Jia Zhangke. BIFF opens Thursday with the premiere of Korean director Shin Su-won's revenge thriller "Glass Garden". It will close with the historical drama "Love Education" from

Taiwanese director Sylvia Chang—the first time female directors have book-ended the festival. Other highlights include the world premiere of Jeon Jae-eun's "Butterfly Sleep" starring Japanese superstar Miho Nakayama, as well as a new award for rising Asian directors in memory of BIFF co-founder Kim Ji-Seok, who passed away while attending the Cannes festival in May.

Rising Korean filmmakers will be showcased in the 27-film Korean Cinema Today section while this year's New Currents features 10 films representing Asian nations, with much interest surrounding the Chinese comedy "One Night on the Wharf" by acclaimed artist-turned-filmmaker Han Dong. There will be politics at play as always in the festival's Wide Angle documentary section with productions in competition including one that looks at the controversial THAAD missile defence deployment in South Korea—the Park Baed-directed "Soseongri".

"After some hard times we still believe that highlighting and focusing on young Korean and Asian talent, and discovering and supporting them, is what we do best and is the future for BIFF," said festival programmer Kim Young-woo. —AFP



South Korean animator Han Yeo-ul poses for photos during an interview with AFP at the 18th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan. — AFP photos



This undated photo released by BIFF in the southeastern port city of Busan shows Bangladeshi director Abu Shahed Emon.

Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017



The Roemer town hall is in preparation for the Frankfurt Book Fair, which starts today, Frankfurt, Germany. — AP

Streep, Dench voice outrage at Weinstein sex revelations

Movie legends Meryl Streep and Judi Dench led a chorus of outrage Monday following the revelation that Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed women for decades, as Hollywood stood accused of covering up a pattern of misconduct that finally cost the film mogul his job. Weinstein was fired late Sunday from his own film studio, three days after a bombshell New York Times report alleged that the Oscar-winning producer behind such hits as "The King's Speech" and "The Artist" had preyed on young women hoping to break into the film industry.

Weinstein's accusers—who reportedly include celebrities such as Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd—say the 65-year-old tycoon had promised to help advance their careers in exchange for sexual favors, pressuring them to massage him and watch him naked. The Weinstein Company's board said it had sacked him "in light of new information about misconduct" in the explosive Times article, which detailed decades of legal settlements stemming from harassment allegations. Variety magazine reported Monday that Paramount Network had subsequently dropped Weinstein as an executive producer on two upcoming drama series, "Waco" and "Yellowstone."



This file photo shows Producer Harvey Weinstein, left, and actress Meryl Streep attending the 18th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos

Who knew?

As the firestorm of controversy escalated, a string of entertainment industry figures have spoken out to condemn Weinstein—including actors Seth Rogen, Lena Dunham and Patricia Arquette, director James Gunn and fellow producer Judd Apatow. Streep—who famously called Weinstein "God" in an Oscars acceptance speech—broke her silence in a statement first published by the Huffington Post, in which she said she was "appalled" by the "disgraceful" news and insisted "not everybody" knew about the allegations. "I don't believe that all the investigative reporters... would have neglected for decades to write about it," she added.

Fellow Oscar winner Judi Dench, who has credited much of her success to Weinstein and once revealed she had a fake tattoo of his initials applied to her buttocks, said in a statement to Newsweek she was "horrified" and also denied any knowledge of the accusations. George Clooney also broke his silence and called Weinstein's behavior "indefensible." Clooney said he had heard rumors starting in the 90s about women sleeping with Weinstein in exchange for acting roles, but that he had dismissed them as ploys to dismiss the actresses' talent. But tough questions were also being asked about what some suspect was a collective effort to protect the movie mogul and father-of-two, one of Hollywood's most influential powerbrokers who was able to make or break careers.

In a statement to the New York Times, the actress Glenn Close acknowledged that "for many years" she had been aware of rumors of inappropriate behavior by Weinstein. "Harvey has always been decent to me, but now that the rumors are being substantiated, I feel angry and darkly sad," she wrote. The New York Times wrote that of the more than 40 entertainment industry players it contacted for comment after breaking the story last week, almost all refused to speak on the record.

"We read the reports about his temper and volatility, but we had also heard stories that he was, to put it bluntly, gross: the kind of guy who promised to make someone a star in exchange for sex, and leveraged his power in the industry to make sure no one talked about it," wrote BuzzFeed journalist Anne Helen Petersen. Sharon Waxman, creator of showbiz website The Wrap, meanwhile accused the New York Times itself of initially covering up the scandal. In an editorial, she said the newspaper sent her to investigate allegations of sexual misconduct by Weinstein in 2004 — a story she said did not run following "intense pressure" from the producer.



This file photo shows Harvey Weinstein, left, and fashion designer Georgina Chapman attending the 2017 Vanity Fair Oscar Party hosted by Graydon Carter at Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills, California.

The Times disputed her account in a statement to AFP, defending its "meticulously reported investigation" of Weinstein's settlements for harassment and stating that "in general the only reason a story or specific information would be held is if it did not meet our standards for publication." The Wrap reported Monday night that the damage to The Weinstein Company is so great that it is expected to change its name. The site quoted an individual with knowledge of the company. "TWC will need a new name," this person told The Wrap.

Hollywood powerhouse fades

Five of The Weinstein Company's nine all-male board members have so far resigned over the scandal. It was not immediately clear what would happen to Weinstein's share in the firm. The tycoon, who was said to have been fighting to remain at the company, last week issued a bizarre statement apologizing for his actions without addressing any specific allegations, misquoting the rapper Jay Z, and appearing in part to justify his behavior. He also said he was hoping for a second chance while acknowledging he had "work to do to earn it."

Republicans have pounced on the scandal involving a staunch Democratic campaign fundraiser, while many Democrats have vowed to give their contributions from Weinstein to charity. President Donald Trump—who himself faced multiple allegations of sexual misconduct before winning the White House—declared himself "not at all surprised" by the revelations about Weinstein. Weinstein's lawyer Charles Harder said the Times' report "relies on mostly hearsay accounts and a faulty report, apparently stolen from an employee personnel file, which has been debunked by nine different eyewitnesses." The lawyer is preparing a lawsuit against the newspaper, and has vowed to donate any proceeds to women's organizations.—AFP

I feel angry and darkly sad